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The Curability of Tuberculosis.

At the International Congress held recently Professor Von Behring made a statement in reference to a new cure for tuberculosis which he claims to have discovered. Professor Von Behring is reported as saying: "In the course of the last two years I have recognized with certainty the existence of a curative principle completely different from the anti-toxic principle. The new principle plays an essential role in the operation of the immunity derived from my bovo vaccine, which has proved effective against animal tuberculosis during the past four years. It reposes upon the impregnation of the living cells of the organism with a substance originating from a tuberculosis virus which substance I designate 'T. C.'" Prof. Behring then gave a lengthy, technical description of how 'T. C.' was introduced into the cellular organism, and said it had already given marked results in the treatment of animals. The professor expressed confident belief that his researches would permit similar curative results in humans, though he was unable to say how soon positive results would be obtained. American delegates were interested listeners to Prof. Behring's statement. Later they were asked whether the present state of medical science held out the hope of a permanent cure of tuberculosis. Dr. Lawrence F. Flick of Philadelphia, on behalf of the American delegation, said: "The present state of medical science holds out a good prospect of a permanent cure of tuberculosis when the disease is taken in its early stages. This, however, is not through a specific remedy, but by proper alimentation and open air life with exercise duly restricted. If the present knowledge concerning the means of preventing tuberculosis was generally applied, it is safe to say that tuberculosis would be stamped out of civilized countries within twenty-five years."

A good many people in this country appear to have "money to burn." At least they do virtually burn it, and that without any profit to themselves or to the country generally, except that, incidentally, the burning of their money results in the payment of a not insignificant percentage of the country's taxes. And there are others who dispose of larger sums of money in a way that is much less profitable to themselves and to their fellow citizens than if they used it for the purposes of a bon fire. And they too must be credited with paying incidentally a considerable part of the nation's taxes. A despatch from Ottawa says: The drinkers and smokers of Canada last year contributed to the Dominion exchequer in customs and excise duties a sum which amounts to \$3.00 for every man, woman and child in the Dominion. The returns of the Inland Revenue Department show the consumption of spirits last year to have been 1,031 gallons per head of population. This is an increase over the year before, when the consumption was .852 per capita. However, the consumption of spirits is slightly on the decrease, as in the 'seventies' it was frequently above a gallon and a half per head, and in later years it had generally run below a gallon. The consumption of beer is increasing. Last year it was 4,822 gallons per head, about the same as the year before. The average since sixty-nine has been 3,231 gallons. In the 'seventies' the consumption averaged about two gallons per head. The wine consumption last year was .09 gallon per head the average since sixty-nine is .122 gallon. Tobacco was last year consumed to the extent of 2,686 pounds per head. The year before it was 2,765, and the average since sixty-nine 2,184 pounds. The statement of quantity and excise and custom payment last year per head is:

	Amount	Customs and excise.
Spirits	1,031 gals	\$1,842
Beer	4,822 gals	207
Wine	.090 gals	.040
Tobacco	2,686 lbs	1,005

Sir Henry Irving. Sir Henry Irving, the eminent actor, died very suddenly at Bradford, England, on Friday evening the 13th instant. He had been playing for several successive evenings at Bradford and was apparently in good health, but returning to his hotel on Friday evening he was seized with some affection of the heart and in a few minutes passed away. In Sir Henry Irving's death the English stage has lost its most re-

gular figure, its most distinguished ornament, whose ability approached, if it did not reach the measure of genius. He was not only a great actor, but also a great manager. He loved and respected his profession. His ideal of the stage, its mission and its possibilities was a high and noble one, and he sought with all the ardor of his strong nature and his eminent ability to realize that ideal in his work. No man of his generation has done so much to elevate the stage, or perhaps we should rather say to arrest its downward trend. If all who devote their talents to the stage, had equally high ideal and were striving with equal faithfulness to realize them, there would be comparatively little reason to complain of its influence upon society. Unfortunately the fact is far otherwise. Sir Henry Irving was born at Keinton near Glastonbury, on Feb. 6, 1838, and entered the dramatic profession at the age of eighteen. His early years on the stage were marked by a hard struggle and it was not until about the year 1866 that he came into prominence in London. He was knighted by the late Queen in 1895 and enjoyed the distinction of being the first member of the theatrical profession to receive that honor. Irving's real name was Henry Brodribb and he assumed the name by which he was known by royal license in 1857. He first toured in America in 1853 and but for a serious illness, which overtook him a year ago, would have made a farewell tour on this continent last season.

Sir William Mulock Retires.

It is announced that Sir William Mulock has resigned from the Postmaster-Generalship and that he will also retire from the House of Commons. It is announced that Sir William has been appointed Chief Justice of the Exchequer Division of the High Court of Ontario, which office carries with it a salary of \$10,000. It is understood that his successor as head of the Post Office Department will be Mr. A. B. Aylesworth, K. C., the eminent Toronto lawyer. It is supposed that Mr. Aylesworth will also succeed Sir William in the House of Commons, as member for North York. The retirement of Sir William Mulock is said to be due, not to any disagreement with the Government or its policy, or to a dislike of public life, but to the condition of his health. He suffers, it is said, from a rheumatic condition, which is intensified by the severe strain of public life, and his physicians accordingly advise that it is necessary for him to seek employment less exacting and making smaller demands upon the nervous system, if he is to retain a fair measure of health. In the retirement of Sir William Mulock, the Laurier Cabinet certainly loses one of its ablest members. He is a parliamentarian of long experience, and a Cabinet minister of distinction. He has represented the North Riding of York in Parliament continually since the general election of 1882. After fourteen years service in the opposition ranks, he was made Postmaster General when the Laurier Government came into office in 1896. His most conspicuous reforms in that branch of the public service have included the reduction of the domestic letter rate from three to two cents, his important part in the realization of imperial penny postage and his success as an administrator in converting the annual departmental deficit of something like half a million dollars into a comfortable surplus. Mr. Aylesworth, who is fifty-one years of age, stands high in his profession, was a member of the Alaskan Boundary tribunal, and won general applause in Canada by his out-spoken protest against what he regarded as an invasion of the rights of this country. He is recognized as a very able lawyer. Whether he will make an equally able Postmaster-General remains to be seen.

A Forestry Convention.

The call for a Forestry Convention, on the motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to assemble in Ottawa, next January, is doubtless a move in the right direction. Canada's forest wealth is great, but it is not inexhaustible, and it is subject to unnecessary depletion both by forest fires and by careless methods of lumbering. Forestry is a practical science in connection with which much valuable knowledge has been acquired both as to the planting and the preservation of forests. The time may not yet have arrived in this country for the planting of forest trees on an extensive scale, although there is no doubt that in certain sections of the country planting could be done with great advantage, and forests now started

would in the course of a generation become a valuable national or provincial asset. The matter, however, which most urgently demands attention in this connection is the preservation of existing forests from fire. Every year vast wealth is lost to the Dominion from this cause. Fires arise principally from three causes, from railway locomotives, on lines running through wooded sections of country, the careless use of fire by hunters and others touring the woods, and settlers burning brush for the purpose of clearing land. There can be no doubt the more general employment of forest rangers in the different Provinces, whose business it should be to watch for the beginnings of fires and to see that the laws against the setting of fires in wooded sections were strictly enforced, would result in very large saving to the country. There are other interests, of course, less directly at stake in the preservation of the forests, but still abundantly worthy of being considered. Where a country is denuded of its forests the streams dry up, involving the loss of valuable water-powers and an injurious effect upon agriculture. The calling of a Convention for the discussion of this subject of forestry in relation to the interest of this country and in the light of fullest knowledge available is to be highly commended.

World wide Penny Postage.

In a recent issue the London 'Times' devoted more than a page to the publication of a plea by J. Henniker Heaton, M. P. and others, for universal penny postage. The agitation is one in which Mr. Heaton has been engaged for many years and he makes a powerful argument in support of the scheme. The present rate of postage is excessive, Mr. Heaton says, and the excessive postal surplus he believes is bad financially and grossly unjust. It is the taxpayer's clutch on the windpipe of commerce, an embargo on neighborly amenities, and an impediment to free intercourse between the mother country and her sons and daughters over the sea. In place of it penny postage can be substituted, with the absolute certainty that in three or four years, thanks to the development of correspondence under the lower rate, the several Governments would be receiving quite as satisfactory returns from foreign postage as they do now. The people of all the principal foreign countries are in hearty sympathy, Mr. Heaton says, with the project for a world wide penny postage, and at least two countries are willing to adopt the proposal forthwith. Mr. Heaton suggests that it may suit England to introduce the reform gradually if the timid reformers decline to accept the whole burden. "In June last," says Mr. Heaton, "I spent several days with a great American public man discussing the scheme; I refer to Mr. John Wanamaker, ex-Postmaster-General of the United States. He visited the American Ambassador, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, and I know the result of their deliberations will give new interest to the movement, and show an example of public spirit deserving of the highest praise." A long list of names also is submitted by Mr. Heaton of prominent men of all classes who have enrolled themselves as members of a universal penny postage league, and have promised to do all in their power to further its aims. The 'Times' editorially supports the scheme, and urges its readers to aid it with all the means in their power. The 'Times' expresses the hope that out of this present agitation may come at least penny postage between the United States and England. It trusts that Whitelaw Reid will do a great deal to bring about this arrangement, and it believes, too, that Mr. Heaton's efforts will appeal to the generous mind of President Roosevelt.

According to the London 'Chronicle', King Leopold is secretly making overtures to various political nobilities with the view to procuring the immediate annexation of the Congo Free State by Belgium. The proposal will be engineered on the patriotic ground that Great Britain is seeking territorial aggrandizement at the Congo State's expense, but the real reason is that King Leopold and his friends, who for years have bled the state to death, see that their game is up. This is largely owing to the exposure by Great Britain and France of the administrative system of the state, which has led to the extermination of the population of large areas and reducing it in other ways by from 75 to 85 per cent. It is doubtful, however, whether Belgium will consent to annexation; owing to her realization of the frightful task it will be to remedy the ravages of the last ten years.