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Small-Pox and Vaccination.

Our many references to the possibility that it required another serious outbreak of small-pox to arouse the sleeping world to the importance of vaccination have been, we regret to say, justified. One of the most loathsome and deadly of infectious diseases seems to be on the eve of a recrudescence. Late English papers report that cases of this terrible scourge are cropping up all over the country, and there are evidences of a similar epidemic on the Continent and in the East. Much as we desire to avoid creating useless alarm at the situation, there is too much reason to fear that small-pox is about to claim victims in Canada. A word of warning is, at all events, in order, and the wise will take the precaution that medical science has provided—vaccination.

"Every Man and Boy."

Through the kindness of Mr. R. Hope Atkinson, we are permitted to print the following interesting extracts from a letter received by him. The letter bears date of the 9th ultimo, and is from the manager of a large life insurance association at Cape Town. Explaining his inability to deliver a letter to another insurance manager resident at Johannesburg, the Cape Town gentleman writes:—

"A letter from you addressed to Mr. arrived by last mail. It cannot be delivered at present, for there is no communication with the Transvaal, and it is uncertain when postal arrangements will be re-established. Shal I retain it until delivery is possible? Mr., I understand, remained in Johannesburg; but, recently, many of those who thought themselves secure in official positions in the Transvaal have been ordered to the front, and may now be fighting against us. Personally, I think this is very likely. Let me know how you wish me to act.

Few Englishmen in this colony imagined the real strength of the Boers. Every man and boy capable of bearing arms in both Republics is fighting. Added to this, there are several thousands of mercenaries (some of them splendid soldiers), and a few thousand rebels from this colony. Altogether 80,000 men, in my opinion, are fighting against Britain.

When you remember that the majority of the Dutch in this colony are absolutely disloyal, and that thousands of volunteers are required to guard the Cape railways, you will have some little idea of the "job" Britain has on hand. Neither must the kind of country be forgotten. These kopjes are magnificent natural fortresses for the Boers, and more men and more big guns are needed to dislodge them. Had General Methuen 20,000 more men at his first fight, a different tale would have been told. These dribbles of men are irritating, and we hope that, when Lord Roberts and General Kitchener arrive, the whole aspect of affairs will soon change. We want guns to dislodge, and men sufficient to surround the Boers. At present, when dislodged, they simply retire to another kopje, and the dislodging has to be repeated at enormous sacrifice. Of course, the end is not very far off, but Britain must send out her 9th division, and more Canadians and Australians, before the success can be as complete as we desire."

The Port of Montreal.

The interest being taken by our neighbours in the present efforts to improve the port of Montreal, and to increase its shipping facilities, ought to stimulate our citizens to still greater activity. New York naturally does not like losing any part of her export trade, and it is the evident intention of her leading merchants to neglect nothing that will aid them in contending against the inducements of cheaper terminal accommodation, shorter hauls, and deep water routes to the sea. The "Daily States" says: "The Canadians have deepened their canals, and are diverting North-western wheat to Montreal." The people of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Newport News, New Orleans and Galveston are also increasing their export shipments of wheat and corn." Though New York retains 36 per cent. of the trade, her merchants are dissatisfied, and they propose an expenditure of \$60,000,000 in deepening the Erie Canal, so that large cargoes can be carried cheaply from the lakes to the Atlantic.

Such recognition of the effect of what is being done to improve the port of Montreal, ought to justify all the proposed Government grants for national port purposes.