

"We, the members of the Alberta Medical Association, representing all the urban and rural districts of Alberta, desire to place ourselves on record as being of the opinion that goitre is not any more prevalent in Alberta than in other parts of Canada.

"We desire, further, to state that, in our opinion, there is absolutely no reason for anxiety regarding the spread of the disease. Further, that we place ourselves on record as disagreeing absolutely with the statements made by Dr. Ritchie in his paper regarding the prevalence of goitre."

During the winter of 1917-18, the Women's Institutes of British Columbia passed a resolution requesting the Government to enquire into the prevalence and cause of goitre among school children. It was also evident that the people of Alberta and British Columbia were becoming more alarmed and that the "scare," instead of decreasing, was increasing.

In February, 1918, the Commission of Conservation communicated with Dr. F. J. Shepherd, late Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, and one of the highest authorities in the Dominion, respecting goitre in Canada. As a result of the negotiations, Dr. Shepherd agreed to undertake the investigation, but declined to accept any remuneration other than his travelling expenses. It is only proper that the Commission of Conservation should express the gratitude of its members and of the people of Alberta for Dr. Shepherd's altruism in undertaking this work when he already had his time fully occupied with his work in connection with the Hospitals Commission. Owing to the demands upon his time in connection with this war work, Dr. Shepherd was unable to go to the West until early in May, 1918.

On his return, Dr. Shepherd submitted the following report:

"I arrived in Calgary on the morning of May 13th and went that morning with Mr. Sweeting to Cochrane to see Dr. Ritchie and investigate as to the frequency of goitre there.

"He showed me a number of cases of goitre, chiefly of the diffuse form, and in girls from 14 to 18 years of age; many in adults also. I examined the girls over 13 in the school and found 4 out of 14 with the disease. Owing to lack of time many cases could not be shown me, but I saw enough to draw the conclusion that goitre was very prevalent in Cochrane.

"Dr. Ritchie has rather alarmed the people by his letters to the papers and personal conversations with various ladies, in which he predicted a degenerate race if steps were not immediately taken to arrest the spread of goitre. He has no very definite ideas as to what should be done. I told him there was no doubt that goitre was very prevalent there, but his deductions were all wrong and that his theories he treated as facts. I also advised him to talk less, especially about matters which were purely theoretical. Dr. Ritchie could show me no case of cretinism. All the women suffering from goitre told me that the disease was very common and that they knew of many cases.

"On May 14th, I saw the Mayor of Calgary, Dr. Costello, and had a long talk with him. I told him the prevalence of goitre was a question of water, and assured him that pure water would reduce the amount