

Smallpox, students & vaccines: Canada, 1908

Transcribed & curated by C. Willmore

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Origins

In the early 18th century, preventive treatment against smallpox involved inoculating patients with smallpox itself, under controlled conditions. This provided better health outcomes relative to catching smallpox “the natural way.” In the late 1790s, a British doctor discovered that inoculation with cow-pox, a much milder disease (the vaccinia), would provide protection from small-pox. This was the start of vaccination against smallpox.

Inoculating Boston¹ (1730)

We hear from New-England, that the Small-pox spreads in divers parts of the Country. There is an account published of the number of persons inoculated in Boston in the month of March, amounting to seventy-two; of which two only died, and the rest have recovered perfect health. Of those who had it in the common way, ‘tis computed that one in four died. Several hundreds have been inoculated, and but about four in the hundred have died under inoculation; and even those are supposed to have first taken the infection in the common way.

Explaining inoculation² (1730)

The small-pox spreading very much in a neighbouring colony, and it being not unlikely to reach us, ‘tis thought the following account of INOCULATION in that Distemper, taken from Chambers’s Dictionary, will not be unacceptable to the curious reader.

¹ From PHILADELPHIA, May 14. (1730, May 7). *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, p. 3.

² From *The Small-Pox*. (1730, May 21). *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, p. 1.

In a physical sense, *inoculation* is used for the transplanting of distempers from one subject to another, particularly for the engraftment of the *small-pox*, which is a new practice among us, but of ancient original in the eastern countries.

The best method of performing the operation is as follows: After the body is rightly disposed and prepared, by proper diet and evacuations, two small incisions are made, one in the muscular part of the arm, about the place where an issue is usually cut, and the other in the leg of the opposite side. Then, being provided of a small quantity, as a drop or less of well-concocted *variolous matter*, chose from the distinct or best sort of pustules, before the turn of the distemper, and imbibed by two small dossals of lint; these are immediately put into the incisions, whilst the *matter* remains warm, and are kept on by a proper bandage.

In a day or two the bandages are opened, the lint thrown away, and only colewort leaf applied over the incisions. This dressing is continued daily. The incisions usually grow sore, inflame and enlarge of themselves, and discharge matter more plentifully as the distemper rises. The eruption generally appears within eight or ten days after the operation, during which time the patient is not confined, or obliged to observe a very strict regimen.

The practice seems to be useful, because the most proper age, the most favourable season of the year, the most regular method of preparation, and all possible precautions may here be used, according to the wishes of the patient, his parents, and physician, advantages impossible to be had when the distemper is caught in the natural way.

It has also been constantly observed, that the best sort of *small-pox* is hereby occasioned, that the eruptions are few, the symptoms light, the danger next to none, the recovery easy, and that the patient is equally secured from this distemper for the future, as he would be by having gone thro' it in the natural way.

“Inoculation of cow-pox matter”³ (1800)

Sir, Of all the numerous discoveries with which the present age of enlightened enquiry has enriched the stock of medical science, the effects of the inoculation of cow-pox matter, introduced as a substitute for small-pox, by Dr. Jenner of Gloucester, is by far the most interesting to curiosity; and what is of still greater moment, ranks first in the reasonable prospect it holds forth, of proving eminently beneficial to mankind. The great importance of this discovery will be readily admitted, when it is known that it aims at no less an object, than the complete extirpation of small-pox, with all its attendant train of evils; and that its progress hitherto, affords the most solid foundation for believing that it will eventually succeed.

Dr. Jenner observed, (his work was first published in June, 1798), that the disease affecting the teats of the cow, known by the name of cow-pox, on being communicated to the hands of the milkers, possessed the power of producing a general febrile complaint, attended with eruptions; and that the persons who had

³ From Hamilton, W. (1800, March 1). To the Printer of the Ipswich Journal. *Ipswich Journal*, p. 4.

once been affected by this complaint, in however slight a degree, were thereby rendered incapable of ever after suffering from small-pox; whether it was attempted to be communicated by inoculation, or by exposure to the contagion of the disease. Dr. Jenner also observed, that this vaccine disease might be introduced by inoculation, with the same happy effects, and with very little inconvenience and no danger. These facts, supported by many apposite cases, were calculated to excite much attention; accordingly many experiments were instituted in different parts of the kingdom, and the results tending invariably to establish the truth of Dr. Jenner's observations, were soon communicated to the public.

It fortunately occurred at an early period of this investigation (in Dec. 1798), that the cow-pox became epidemic, in many dairy farms in the neighbourhood of London. An opportunity was thus afforded of observing the progress of the disease in the cows, and in some of the milkers, who were infected by them; all its symptoms were so mild, that they inspired much confidence in the new inoculation; "a sufficient quantity of matter was collected, and a number of persons inoculated, from the age of two weeks and upwards. They all took the disease, and passed through it, without being so ill as to be confined a single day, and indeed very few of the patients made any complaint."⁴

Future experience has amply confirmed the first favourable statements of successful practice in vaccine inoculation: It has now been communicated to many thousand[s of] persons both in this country and on the Continent; children of three days old have been inoculated by it, and it has never in any instance, one only excepted, been attended with the slightest degree of danger. A great majority of the patients who have undergone the disease of cow-pox, have afterwards been inoculated with small-pox matter, and otherwise exposed to the contagion of that disease, but it has never produced the least effect in any of them.

It would occupy too great a portion of your Journal, Sir, were I to enter into a minute detail of the advantages which this new disease possesses over that, of which it proves so happy a preventive, nor perhaps is this necessary. I conceive, that the following brief statement of what has been invariably observed in the inoculation of the cow-pox, will be sufficient to assure your readers of its vast superiority.

The cow-pox may be introduced at any period of life, in any season of the year, and in all vicissitudes of weather, with almost perfect safety. The eruptive fever, which occurs about the same period after inoculation, as in small-pox, is so slight, as in most cases, scarcely to be observed. The eruption is for the most part confined to the inoculated arm, there are seldom more than a dozen pustules, and they heal with little difficulty or trouble. It does not appear that the latent seeds of disease have ever been stimulated into action by the operation of cow-pox; and its effects are so mild, that there is no reason for apprehending it may prove the origin of diseases of debility. This complaint cannot be communicate, except by the actual insertion of matter. Any individual, therefore, of a family may undergo the vaccine disease, without the smallest danger of affecting any other person with whom he even sleeps.

⁴ Medical Journal, March 1799. [Note in the original.]

To estimate this almost incalculable advantage over small-pox accurately, it is only necessary to call to mind the enormous devastation that has been produced over whole districts, by the casual introduction of that disease. So great indeed have been the evils attendant upon inoculation [with small-pox matter], in many instances, that some men of eminence have doubted, whether that discovery has, on the whole, been serviceable to mankind, by diminishing the virulence of the natural small-pox; or injurious, by keeping in existence and extending the ravages of that dreadful malady.

There is no preparation necessary previous to inoculation with cow-pox matter; nor does it appear from experience, ever to have exerted any extraordinary degree of virulence, upon any particular temperament of constitution, or habit of body.

I apprehend, Sir, that the experience of most of your readers will be sufficient to convince them of the essential difference that occurs between small-pox, even when introduced and managed with the greatest caution and skill, and this mild disease, in most of the above particulars. I have only to add, that I have procured a quantity of this matter, on which I can fully depend, and that I will inoculate, and provide with the necessary medicines, gratis, any person applying at my house, at 9 o'clock in the morning, for that purpose, or at the Public Dispensary, at the usual hours, on Mondays and Thursdays, during the month of March.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HAMILTON, M. D.

St. Matthews'-Street. Ipswich, Feb. 25.

Vaccinating Halifax⁵ (1828)

HALIFAX, Jany. 12.

We are happy to learn that the small-pox, that desolating and loathsome disease which has swept off so many valuable members of our community, is fast subsiding, both in virulency and in the number attacked. The Typhus Fever has almost, if not entirely, disappeared; though great loss of life has followed in consequence of the introduction of these fatal distempers amongst us, yet much gratitude is due from us all to the kind Providence who has laid his hand so lightly upon us. Every discovery for the benefit of mankind, is directed by Omniscient wisdom. Vaccination is one for which the human race cannot be too thankful, notwithstanding all the cavils raised against it by the sceptical. It has been a powerful means in the present case, of both lessening the virulence of the disease, and arresting its progress. The following may be depended upon as a fact. A woman in the vicinity of Halifax was in town soon after the small pox made its appearance. Calling at a house in which was a child on whom the vaccine inoculation had just come to its height, she inoculated herself to take it home to her family. In due time she inoculated all the younger branches of her family. The two eldest would not permit her to communicate it to them. They soon after took the small pox, and died, while the rest escaped.

⁵ From Colonial. (1828, February 21). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

Eighty Years Later (1908)

“Care necessary”⁶ (January, Winnipeg)

Without being at all a case for alarm, the existing condition of the city’s health in relation to smallpox is one that demands the very best care and precautions that may appear to the ignorant or careless as being strained, but which the instructed and careful mind will at once perceive to be not only warranted but absolutely necessary.

The danger of a spread of smallpox in a community disregarding of proper precautions, is too well established by medical experience to require pointing out. Scarcely any of the contagious diseases is more liable to be communicated to those exposed to its influence while in an unprotected condition, than smallpox. The person who carelessly, or unwittingly, places himself within the circle of liability of smallpox is almost certain to contract the disease which, while by the methods of modern medical science and skill, it has been robbed of much of the seriousness and dread that formerly attended an outbreak of the disease, is yet a thing to be avoided by the exercise of every possible precaution and care which experience and medical science have proven to be the best preventatives and cure for smallpox.

Among the principal preventatives for smallpox are cleanliness and vaccination. It is not impossible for a cleanly person to contract the disease, nor is it impossible [for] the one who has been vaccinated to become ill of smallpox, but the danger of contagion is reduced to the minimum by cleanly habits and by taking care that vaccination has been recent and effective.

Opinions differ among persons of high intelligence as to the advisability of vaccination, and it is beyond doubt that carelessness in applying this preventative for smallpox has often resulted in the communication of diseases quite as bad as that sought to be prevented. Neither does there appear to be the least doubt that vaccination skillfully and properly performed, is not only without danger to a healthy body, but it is proven by the weight of evidence that danger from smallpox is almost absolutely eliminated by such vaccination.

Unfortunately, there are a great many people, other than those who have honest prejudice against vaccination – and who usually are of a sufficiently high order of intelligence to take extra precautions in other ways – who will neither be vaccinated or keep clean if left to themselves, and it is usually from such as these that the principal trouble arises, and by them that the disease is spread.

Again, it is true that smallpox is, nowadays, at least, a disease that attacks its victim in a form so mild as to be scarcely distinguishable, to the unskilled, from a heavy cold, and instances have been known where persons suffering from smallpox have traveled about while the disease was in its eruptive stage. Of such a comparatively mild character are the cases of smallpox thus far diagnosed here, and for the very reason that the cases are mild there is the greater need of precaution

⁶ CARE NECESSARY. (1908, January 16). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4.

because the nature of smallpox is such that out of mild, and almost absolutely dangerless cases may spring other virulent forms of the disease which are dangerous in the extreme.

Therefore it becomes the instant duty of every person who has a proper interest in the city's health, to be properly careful in his, or her, own case and to see to it – in so far as it may be possible to do so – that others are equally careful and that every precaution is taken to keep the disease well within its present comparatively safe limits. Trouble avoided is vastly better, from every point of view, than trouble cured, and especially is this the case when so grave a question as the health of the community is involved.

The authorities cannot be too strict in enforcing the regulations laid down by law. Those who attempt to evade the law in reporting cases to the authorities cannot be punished too severely.

“Lockjaw from vaccination”⁷ (February, Brockville)

Brockville, [Ontario,] Feb. 7. – Lorilore, the ten year old son of Charles Hay, a local florist, is seriously ill wit lockjaw, and little hope is held out for his recovery. The boy was vaccinated during a smallpox epidemic and the wound, becoming infected, lockjaw resulted.

“An anti-vaccination organization”⁸ (February, Brockville)

Brockville, Ont., Feb. 20. – An anti-vaccination organization was formed here last night at a meeting of about 200 citizens. It is proposed to petition the town council to remove the restrictions placed on public schools were there has been no vaccination. Vaccination was denounced as a criminal practice.

“Systematic vaccination of every person”⁹ (April, Edmonton)

“We will have to insist on a systematic vaccination of every person in the country to be absolutely safe from smallpox,” said Medical Health Officer Whitelaw to the Bulletin representative, in speaking of the immunity of the west from disease. “Vaccination is far more effective than the strictest quarantine,” he continued. “For by quarantine it is almost impossible at time to isolate the disease.”

Dr. Whitelaw further pointed out that in Germany, where a rigid vaccination is insisted upon, smallpox is practically extinct, and the same condition might be obtained in this country.

⁷ From LOCKJAW FROM VACCINATION. (1908, February 8). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 3.

⁸ From BROCKVILLE'S ANTI-VACCINATION SOCIETY. (1908, February 25). *The Semi-Weekly World*, p. 9.

⁹ From TO INSIST ON VACCINATION. (1908, April 22). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 8.

The medical health officer will shortly consult with the superintendent of city schools in order that measures may be taken to see that the school children are all vaccinated before admission to the schools.

The three cases of smallpox in the city at the present time are all progressing favorably, and it is expected they will soon be released from quarantine. They are being kept in two tents at the isolation hospital.

“The necessity of vaccination”¹⁰ (May, Edmonton)

The necessity of vaccination for every individual in Edmonton and the surrounding districts is becoming more evident daily, as cases of smallpox have developed in the city in unexpected quarters. This morning another case was reported at the City Health Department, and the officials are taking every precaution to prevent further spread of the disease. Despite quarantine, however, the only safe method is vaccination, which renders almost absolute immunity from the disease.

At the regular meeting of the Northern Alberta Medical Association held last night the following resolution was carried, viz., “that in the opinion of this association, in view of the present outbreak of smallpox, it is the duty of everyone to be vaccinated.”

The association also decided to memorialize the provincial government on this matter and to suggest the appointment of public vaccinators to vaccinate free of charge anyone presenting himself. In support of this resolution were advocated several cogent arguments. In the first place, vaccination, successfully performed in childhood and again in early adult life, is now known to insure immunity from smallpox. In Germany, where vaccination is made compulsory along these lines, the disease is practically unknown, and occurs only among foreigners.

The operation of vaccination itself is today a perfectly safe undertaking, provided it is carefully performed – thanks to the use of vaccine properly prepared by modern scientific methods.

Quarantine, though no doubt efficacious in preventing to a certain extent the spread of smallpox, at the same time gives the public a false sense of security in that they believe they run no chance of exposure. That this is a fallacy is demonstrated by the spread of the present outbreak, notwithstanding the strict quarantine measures that have been enforced, and therefore self protection by undergoing vaccination is by far the safest course for every individual.

¹⁰ From NECESSITY OF VACCINATION. (1908, May 7). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 8.

“The board won’t stand for it”¹¹ (May, Edmonton)

In a communication to the [Edmonton public school] board the city board of health recommended that the school children of the city be vaccinated before the opening of the school term in September. They recommended that the vaccination be made compulsory, and that no children be allowed to enter the schools in September without having undergone the operation. On the top of this recommendation came a letter against the school board taking any such action. He considered the operation an unsafe, almost dangerous one to children, and because some would not care to have their children undergo the vaccination, he thought it wrong to deprive them of school privileges. The letter was filed.

The board will not take any immediate action in the matter further than that they are prepared to co-operate with the board of health. It was the general opinion of the trustees that the vaccination should be postponed as long as possible, unless the situation became so positively dangerous as to demand the immediate vaccination of the children.

“Compulsory vaccination”¹² (June, Vancouver & Toronto)

Editor World. – Will you kindly insert the following letter from [the] Toronto Globe? I would like the serious attention of the minister of education and every parent in British Columbia to the subject, also the Anti-Tuberculosis Society. Perhaps they may come to the conclusion that here as well as in England the crime of pollution with extraneous diseases shall not be compulsory, as no liberty loving subject will allow any of his kindred to be handed over to fetish worshippers to provide victims for their morbid, non-scientific imagination.

The idea of prevention better than cure prevails where better sanitation is enforced, not where adding diseases is resorted to no matter how mysterious the fancied remedies may be. Vaccine virus is only one of the many obscure bacteriological poisons which the human race has been mechanically inflicted with. The learned men get finds occasionally that they pretend will eradicate epidemics, but they don’t generally work out. Some of the greatest minds of England’s public men, including the medical profession, have taken a firm stand against compulsory vaccination, and the writer can quote their words if necessary.

GEO. F. TIMMS.

To the Editor of The Globe: The report appearing in your issue of the 10th instant of the 41st annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association contains some features of public interest to which, with your permission, I would like to call attention.

¹¹ From THE BOARD WON’T STAND FOR IT. (1908, May 15). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 6.

¹² From Timms, G. F. & Weir, R. S. (1908, June 28). COMPULSORY VACCINATION. *The Vancouver World*, p. 6. Written by George Fredrick Timms (1863 – 1913) and Robert Stevenson Weir (1843 – 1920).

Dr. Montizambert, in the presidential address, is alleged to have “urged that the basis of health in the home was cleanliness, simple food and proper rest.” He is also said to have “advocated a national system of vaccination.”

These are obviously incompatible, and consequently mutually destructive. For the first, backed as it is in the same article by the testimony of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose present good health is ascribed by himself to having followed the advice of the best medical experts of Canada, Great Britain and Paris, who gave one common prescription, no drugs, plenty of rest and simple food, we have the greatest respect; for the last (vaccination – a system of blood poisoning with animal diseases) we have unqualified abhorrence. A “national system of vaccination” is a ludicrous absurdity! Not one decent reason, in present conditions in Canada, can be given for the proposal. “National tuberculosis sanitaria” are also advocated by the doctor. This proposal, though costly, should not for that reason alone be turned down. There is evidently a crying need for some effort on a national scale to grapple with this great white plague. But does it not seem ridiculous that the director-general of public health should counsel this lavish expenditure of public money for the avowed purpose of eradicating a disease that we can prove conclusively, is being propagated and fostered by the practice of vaccination, which he desires to have nationalized?

On what pretext is vaccination prescribed? Professedly as a preventative of smallpox.. But the mortality attending smallpox is less than 1 per cent of the cases; whereas the tuberculosis patients nearly all die. In Ontario the annual death rate from tuberculosis approximates 300 souls, from smallpox it is almost nil. In view, then, of these facts, it would not be at all hazardous to cut out the practice of vaccination for a season, and note the effect on the health of the nation. Dr. Hastings of Toronto, read a paper at this meeting, in which he claims that 15,000 of the 30,000 children who die annually are killed through the use of impure milk. If such is the result of drinking the milk of the cow, what should we expect from inoculating the virus derived from diseased bovine animal into our veins?

Trusting that these remarks may attract the attention of some competent thinkers, and give rise to the discussion of this far reaching question ere the government enters upon a course such as is advocated by Dr. Montizambert and his colleagues – an ounce of prevention is said to be better than a pound of cure. This rule should have great weight in the tuberculosis problem. Let its vaccinal propagation be stopped.

R. S. WEIR, Sec. – Treas. Anti-Vaccination League, Toronto.

“An order has gone from the government”¹³ (July, British Columbia)

An order has gone from the government forth that, after the holidays, no pupil enrolled at any one of the 450 public and high schools in British Columbia will be permitted to attend classes before satisfying teachers that vaccination has been performed. The pupil will either have to produce a certificate or exhibit a mark

¹³ From COMPULSORY VACCINATION. (1908, July 15). *The Mail-Herald*, p. 2.

indicating that the operation had been undergone. Dr. Young, minister of education, will send round circulars to all teachers to this effect.

It is only within recent years that vaccination has been looked upon with doubt by many people and its real value questioned. Among the various objections now brought forth against it, [the] only one to which importance is attached by medical men is that a danger exists of introducing syphilis into the frame by use of infected lymph. Although this may be possible, yet cases are very infrequent, and it has been proved that the vaccinated condition of the community increases the relative protection against smallpox acquired by the individual. It may have an injurious effect under certain circumstances. In the use of human lymph the danger of transferring syphilis, how ever light, cannot be excluded entirely. Any other bad effects are apparently only due to the consequences of the wound, e.g., erysipelas, scrofula, skin diseases, etc. All these dangers may, by precaution, be reduced to such a minimum as to make the benefit of vaccination infinitely outweigh them. These dangers may be avoided by the use of healthy animal virus.

The order by the government has met with protest in many parts by those who believe that unhealthy vaccine is used, which tends to develop such diseases above mentioned. It has been claimed that tuberculosis is propagated by vaccination, hence the spread of the white plague in Canada, and that it is very difficult to obtain pure virus anywhere. If this be the case it is certainly deplorable that Canadian cattle as a whole are so tainted, and it is highly improbable that such a state of things exists.

Vaccination in itself and its objects is a protection against smallpox and other diseases, but if lymph is allowed to be taken from any cow or calf that comes along without first ascertaining the condition of the animal from its birth and even before that, grave consequences are almost sure to follow. If the government wish to see their order received with favor and expect to have it carried out, they must give some assurance that the lymph to be used must be absolutely pure and free from all taint, and all medical men should have the strictest injunctions in that respect. Public sentiment against vaccination is very strong, and the government should deal with it accordingly.

“Not school children only”¹⁴ (July, Vancouver & Toronto)

Editor World:- A friend has unexpectedly sent me a copy of your issue of June 29th, in which you have kindly re-published my letter from the Toronto Globe. For this favor please accept my thanks.

I am informed that your Minister of Education has advocated the re-vaccination of all school children before the next term commences August 24th.

It will be interesting to know the basis of this advocacy. Is small-pox prevalent in Vancouver? Or is there good reason to believe that a small-pox epidemic is impending? If not, such an attempt would be a violation of the act. If an epidemic is

¹⁴ From Weir, R. S. (1908, July 20). COMPULSORY VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN. *The Vancouver World*, p. 2.

threatening and vaccination is resorted to, EVERY PERSON IN THE COMMUNITY is liable, and not school children only.

Is vaccination made a condition of admission to the public schools of Vancouver? If so, and if it has been lived up to, how long does the Minister allow that the vaccinated child is protected by it? Or, does he guarantee that it is protected at all?

These are not frivolous questions. No two doctors agree regarding the degree or the duration of this fancied protection. Edward Jenner, the author of it, declared that a person once vaccinated would never during life be subject to an attack of small-pox. On the strength of this assurance, the British parliament gave him a donation of thirty thousand pounds sterling, (\$150,000 Canadian currency).

On the contrary, Dr. Sheard, Medical Health Officer of Toronto, and President of the Ontario Board of Health, alleges that he vaccinates himself every fortnight when he has to treat any small-pox patients! To merely state these widely divergent theories is to refute them. Had Jenner's assertion been true there would have been no re-vaccination. On the other hand, Sheard's asseveration will be laughed at by those who know what vaccination means. He may scratch himself fortnightly, and dilate upon it in after-dinner speeches, but none save the credulous will believe him.

Vaccination proper is followed by the disease called vaccinia; and the medical theory on which the practice is based, is that, while its influence lasts, the subject is proof against either the attack of small-pox or further vaccination. Fortnightly vaccination, then, is both impossible and absurd. It serves, however, to show, far more clearly than language can, Dr. Sheard's real estimate of the filthy rite. Actions speak louder than words. If he cannot trust his own body more than two weeks to it, what would he consider the advantage of wholesale vaccination of school children during the summer holidays (as is advocated by your Minister of Education) to be? At this rate the supposed protection would be gone ere the children returned to school, and the only difference would be more or less debility arising from the diseasing operation; if, indeed, there were not many absentees through death, which in its most appalling form not infrequently supervenes.

There is reason to believe that your Minister of Education is simply echoing the plea delivered recently at Ottawa by Dr. Montizambert in favor of "National Vaccination." In this connection it ought to be made known that the Canadian act requires every parent or guardian to have his child vaccinated not later than the age of three months. If the pet idea of Dr. Montizambert and his colleagues is ever to come into effect it must be by starting at the beginning of life, as the act provides. But for well-known reasons, these health officers shirk this obvious part of their duties. They allow the law to be violated until the school age is reached; then, through Ministers of Education and school trustees who are often ignorant of the merits of the question, they get vexatious bylaws passed making vaccination a condition of admission; which means that a parent is given the alternative of having his child blood-poisoned with animal diseases or of being excluded from school, and so rendered liable to prosecution under the Truancy Act – a desperate alternative, surely! Rottenness is a

characteristic alike of the operation and the underhand methods by which it is enforced.

The citizens of Toronto, for nearly twenty years prior to the formation of the Anti-Vaccination League, pined under these abuses. Two years ago by an overwhelming vote on the Board of Education – 11 to 1 – the obnoxious by-law was abolished.

The same result will follow wherever the people understand and insist upon their rights.

R. S. WEIR,

Sec-Treas. Anti-Vaccination League, Toronto, July 9th, 1908.

“Going backwards”¹⁵ (July, Vancouver)

Editor World – Not “looking backward,” but actually going backward, are the people of British Columbia, at the behest of a member of the drug-medical profession. The edict has gone forth from the medical official at Victoria that all the dimpled darlings who attend school will have to submit to having their bodies inoculated with a vile virus from one of the lower animals, upon pain of exclusion from the school. It has been shrewdly suspected that this branch of the medial profession, which aforesaid has had affinities for “the dregs and scum of earth and air and sea,” for its medicines, had a very natural hostility to enlightenment and education, instinctively feeling, doubtless, that the sanctions of modern science, reason and verification lend no countenance to a practice at once so cruel, barbarous and disastrous to human life, as experience has shown to be that of compulsory vaccination.

Is it any wonder that in the more enlightened parts of Ontario, public meetings are being held, and anti-vaccination societies formed, denouncing vaccination as a criminal outrage? It is gratifying to note that some of the leading organs of public sentiment, from the Toronto Globe down, are lending their power aid in denouncing this “wholesale sickness in the law’s name.”

The Greenwood Ledge says: “After the holidays, every one of the 33,000 children attending the schools of British Columbia will have to provide evidence of having been vaccinated. This is compulsory vaccination with a vengeance, and the lives of all these children are to be subjected to pain, misery, disease and sometimes death because the medical men of this province believe in that fetish, vaccination, and have the power to inflict their belief upon the innocent children of this province. Compulsory vaccination is a crime against the liberty of the people and a disgrace to any civilized country. It does infinitely more harm than good and is a relic of barbarism that should not be permitted in this fair Dominion.”

The more progressive and advanced physicians, even of the drug-medical school, no longer defend compulsory vaccination, and not one of the dozen or more health magazines known to the writer but what condemns the superstition. It is

¹⁵ From Moffat, R. J. (1908, July 27). GOING BACKWARDS. *The Vancouver World*, p. 6. Written by Robert John Moffat (1834 – 1925)

taking an unfair advantage of the medical ignorance of the masses for an effete profession to impose this degrading superstition upon them, at this stage of the world's history. It is at war with common sense, and twentieth [century] science, knowledge and intelligence.

“The outworn rite, the old abuse,
The pious fraud, transparent grown,
The good held captive, in the use of wrong alone,
These wait their doom, from that great law
Which makes the past time serve today,
And fresher life the world shall draw
From their decay.”¹⁶

R. J. MOFFAT.

“What are the people going to do about it?”¹⁷ (July, Vancouver)

Editor Province. – In the interest of the public I would like to ask through your columns two distinct questions, to the first of which we ask a reply either from your own good self, or some one else in possession of the information. To the second question the people should be given a chance to answer, but if they are not, then they should answer by their own united and determined resolution.

My first question is: Does the matter referred to stand as an order, that all children must be vaccinated before they can re-enter school, or is it only an advocacy? My second question is, if it is an order, what are the people going to do about it?

I have been “up against” compulsory vaccination orders upon several occasions during my lifetime, but never so close as to become a dupe by compulsion, though I have seen people submit to this diabolical order in hundreds, and I might say thousands, some of whom were killed by the injection of that poisonous filth called virus, into their system. I have known cases where others have died of smallpox, who were reported to have been vaccinated at some point in their lives.

I once submitted to having the fool operation performed upon me for the sake of becoming a member of a cherished society, and this was the only time in my life that I have been so sick that I thought that I was going to die; but sick as I was, I fear that I did not say my prayers as well as I should have done, for I felt that to escape or to seek to escape punishment would be to try to escape my just due for having allowed myself to be made a fool of.

I have pride in claiming the honor of being a loyal, law-abiding citizen, but when it comes to a question of being compelled to submit to a fad, with all its horrors, which should have long ago been relegated to the place where it belongs – in the archives of the less enlightened ages – then there is a feeling akin to revolt which arises in me, and which will not down.

¹⁶ Quoted from *The Reformer*, an anti-slavery poem by John Greenleaf Whittier.

¹⁷ From Newton, E. H. (1908, July 30). Re Vaccination Agitation. *The Province*, p. 5. Written by Edward H. Netwon (d. before 1930, when his widow died) In 1908, E. H. Newton was the superintendent at the Hastings Shingle Manufacturing Co. Ltd., and lived at 1179 Keefer.

It might be said that we have three classes of doctors in the consideration of this question. We have those who are strong advocates, though perhaps from the same motive as the real estate man advocates increasing values – because there is money in it; then we have other doctors who do not believe in vaccination, and still others who, it might be said, sometimes think, and then again they don't know, in regard to this matter.

This is a matter which should be discussed, and the people should be shown that they are going to be benefited before they are placed under any compulsory order. This is an age of enlightenment, and besides, a great many of us are from Missouri, and I am afraid we will be hard to drive.

Look all down through the ages and see the tyranny that people have been subjected to, much of which, were it not for history would have been forgotten years ago, and would not be believed possible by us. People were sincere then, just as many may be now concerning vaccination, and as others were within my memory concerning the wearing of rings in their ears for weak eyes. I can understand the cause of placing a ring in a bull's nose, but I never could quite understand why people ever wore rings in their ears. These are things which should not even be found in history, but better there than to be found in practice in this enlightened age. It is not much wonder when we look back over the past, that there are so many revolters in the world; but let us not look back, but rather look at the question before us.

Here is a question which we should decide, and which no one man, or handful of men, should decide for us – do we want to be vaccinated, or do we not? If there be eight thousand children in Vancouver's schools, at 50 cents each we will be touched for four thousand dollars for vaccination. At the more probable fee of one dollar each it will be eight thousand. If our children were going to be protected we would not consider this amount anything, but is this old fad worth eight thousand dollars plus the suffering and danger to us at this age? How do you feel about it, reader? Smallpox is a disease which thrives in filth; are we going to ward it off by having the vilest of filth injected into our systems? What are you going to do about it? It's a personal question.

E. H. NEWTON.
Vancouver, July 27, 1908.

“The fiat has gone forth!”¹⁸ (August, Vancouver)

Editor World – The fiat has gone forth! Children must either be vaccinated or must subject themselves to be inoculated with pus in order that one poison may counteract another. The question arises in the public mind, if parents have conscientious scruples regarding this drastic treatment and decline to accept the dictum of our medical minister of education, hence to not allow their children to attend school, will it not cause an impasse?

¹⁸ From Bennett, J. W. (1908, August 5). RE VACCINATION. *The Vancouver World*, p. 6. Written by John Wesley Bennett (1872 – 1941).

Attendance at school is obligatory, yet there are many who will not submit to the orders from Dr. J. H. Young. Great stress is laid upon the beneficial effects of vaccination, yet when it was first introduced sanitation was practically nil, whereas today rapid strides have been effected and this is practically ignored in summing up the cause of the decrease of smallpox. Because one school of practitioners believe in the efficacy of vaccination, is it not logical to expect that in the event of a member of another school being elevated to the position of minister of education, he may issue an edict that we must produce a certificate that the children have not been treated for any complaint except by a hemopath? This act of an individual is decidedly an infringement of personal liberty, and the same rule that governs in the United Kingdom might obtain here, viz., those who are believers in the benefit of vaccination are at perfect liberty to undergo the injection of the virus, but on the other hand those who do not are excused by asserting that they have conscientious scruples against the practice.

This question is one that vitally affects every parent in the province, and should be thoroughly discussed through the medium of the press. Thanking you in advance for the reproduction of this letter.

J. W. BENNETT

“Should set the public thinking”¹⁹ (August, British Columbia)

Several newspapers of the province are waging a war against compulsory vaccination. The arguments advanced are well grounded and should set the public thinking. Eminent modern authorities claim that vaccination propagates consumption, that dread disease which stands far above any other in the death statistics of the country. Few people die in Canada from small-pox, which is a disease of filth and degeneracy, and a very small minority of the populace ever come in contact with it, let alone contract it. And yet there is an order compelling the wholesale vaccination of the school children of this province. In other words, the youth of the land is to be inoculated with cow-pox – virus from diseased cattle – for little other reason than that the demands of tradition and superstition be satisfied.

Inoculation of the vaccine renders the child sick for days and weeks, and often plants the seeds for a disease far more deadly and ravenous than small-pox. We read a good deal these days about the deterioration of the human race within the past hundred years, and it is significant to note that vaccination was adopted by the medical profession a little over a century ago. It is also significant to note that during the said period consumption has been on the increase. Late[ly] scientists who have departed from the ways of fossilism and thrown away the goggles of superstitious prejudice declare against the danger and tommy-rot connected with the inoculation of putrid bovine virus.

¹⁹ From Several newspapers. (1908, August 6). THE NICOLA HERALD, p. 2.

A booze-saturated native of Arizona was once asked why he kept continually soaked with alcohol. He replied that it was protection against rattle-snake bites. His logic was about as sound as that of the worshippers of the vaccine god.

“The principle of vaccination”²⁰ (August, Vancouver)

Medical Health Officer Underhill yesterday afternoon [...] made reference to the proposed compulsory vaccination of children before they would be allowed to enter the public schools [of British Columbia] this fall. He stated that he learned it was the intention of the authorities to push this requirement to the limit. Under these circumstances the civic by-laws provided that the [Vancouver city] council might authorize the vaccination of the children of the poor at public expense.

Ald. Morton promptly stated that the vaccination matter was up to the provincial government and the city had nothing whatever to do with it. He added his own opinion of vaccination in strenuous terms, stating that while he had a number of healthy children he had one who had been vaccinated in the old country and the suffering he had witnessed on the part of that child had made him vow that another child of his should never be vaccinated.

Dr. Underhill defended the principle of vaccination, saying that he had never known the death of a child from proper vaccination. By proper vaccination he meant the inoculation with vaccine at four points of the body. Anything less was not regarded by authorities as sufficient.

In advocacy of this policy of compulsory vaccination Dr. Underhill read extracts from a recent address of Dominion Health Officer Montizambert²¹ on the question as follows:

“The prevention of smallpox also should be distinctly a matter of national sanitation. We are not only threatened with it from the Orient, from Europe, from the United States, from South America, but from England also, owing to her retrograde legislation nullifying compulsory vaccination by the admission of conscientious objections, and yet not putting smallpox on the list of her quarantinable diseases.

WOULD MAKE CRIMINAL OFFENCE

“Compulsory vaccination in infancy and compulsory re-vaccination in adolescence should be the national law. By such laws smallpox has been made to practically disappear from Germany. This disease is unknown in her army. In the entire German empire during the whole of 1906 there were but twenty-six cases of smallpox and five deaths, and these cases were largely imported from neighboring countries. Why cannot we learn from such an object lesson as that, confirming, as it does, the experience of every smallpox hospital, where vaccination keeps the attendants free from the disease?

²⁰ From INFANT MORTALITY NOT ENTIRELY DUE TO MILK. (1908, August 6). *The Daily Province*, p. 5.

²¹ Dr. Frederick Montizambert (1843 – 1929)

“I would go further still. For the victims of unpreventable infectious disease I have both sympathy and pity. Smallpox, however, is entirely preventable. For its victims, or those who are responsible for them, I have nothing but condemnation. Not only would I make vaccination and re-vaccination compulsory, but I would make having smallpox a penal offence. In no other way that is avoidable is one permitted to be or to harbor what is a nuisance and an injury to one’s neighbors. An outbreak of smallpox often paralyzes the travel and traffic of a small community. It always injures even the larger ones. It is distinctly a preventable disease. No one has any right to harbor an unvaccinated person on his premises any more than he has to store a supply of dynamite. No one has any right to have it, and every offender in this particular, every adult who has smallpox and the parent or guardian of every minor who has it, should, in my judgment, be sent, as soon as the risk of infection is over, to pick oakum for a term in the common jail for having been guilty of wanton and quite avoidable nuisance and misdemeanor; or still better, to work for a similar period at forced labor in the sanitary improvement of the municipality, as I have suggested for our prisoners before.”

Ald. Morton commented that it was a disgrace for a Dominion official to go about peddling such stuff as contained in the remarks.

“Sense of proportion”²² (August, Vancouver)

Ald. Morton is nothing if not blunt and out-spoken. Sometimes, indeed, he rather over-plays himself in this respect. We think, however, that in view of the contents of the letter of the Dominion Medical Health Inspector, read before the local Health Committee the other evening, few will find fault with his broad characterization of Dr. Montizambert – “That man is an ass.” The subject of the epithet had furnished a remarkable example of the way in which the zeal of the specialist warps the judgment of the man. Smallpox probably occasions the good doctor, in his official capacity, more trouble than all the other infectious diseases put together. In his view, too, it is the penalty of neglect of sanitation and failure to submit to vaccination. Nevertheless he discloses a want of the sense of proportion when he commits to paper, and official paper at that, the view that smallpox patients after recovery “should be sent to pick oakum or assist in the keeping of infected places in a sanitary condition.”

The opinion is of the sort which a man might ejaculate in the course of conversation as a manner of emphasizing his belief in the efficacy of vaccination and the folly of refusing it. Put in a letter addressed to public authorities, however, it becomes quite another matter – something more than the mere testy utterance of the head of the public department who is impatient of what he regards as the sheer folly of too many of the rest of his species. A serious acervation which must be given its full value as coming from the chief health authority in the Dominion, it writes down

²² From SMALL POX AND VACCINATION. (1908, August 7). *The Vancouver World*, p. 6.

the man who uttered it what Ald. Morton declared him to be when the astonished Health Committee heard his words read.

While, notwithstanding the arguments of the able writers who have filled our correspondence columns lately with protests against it, we believe the balance of the evidence is in favor of vaccination as a smallpox preventive, we have a great deal of sympathy with the man who declines to be vaccinated himself and to permit his children to be vaccinated. For even were it absolutely certain that vaccination was all that enthusiasts claim, one is given but the choice of two evils – the evil of running the risk of taking smallpox by remaining unvaccinated, or the evil of running the risk of taking some other disease by undergoing vaccination.

Nor are the respective risks so disproportionate as might be imagined. Modern sanitary conditions have done much to remove all danger of smallpox infection from the path of the private citizen, while on the other hand vaccination necessarily involves some discomfort which, especially in the case of young children during the hot weather, may bring on a positive illness. There is, furthermore, the possibility of blood-poisoning or transmission of the germs of some other disease, which has been exemplified often enough to make it a consideration not altogether to be neglected.

The law of the United Kingdom now recognizes that, after all, the citizen has some right to say which risk he will run. Vaccination is still compulsory in Great Britain, but with the large exception that the man who declares before a magistrate that he has conscientious objections to it, receives a certificate of exemption for himself and his family.

We are glad to see that the Education Department, which recently issued orders that all children returning to school after the vacation must be vaccinated, has seen fit to modify its demands along similar lines and at the same time to omit the red tape. As we announced yesterday, it now rests with the parent whether his children are vaccinated or not. If he has conscientious objections, he has but to write to their teacher and say so and he will not be troubled further. This is as it ought to be, but we cannot forbear to point out that, since the cost of vaccination may influence the conscience of the objector, the Government, if it really places any value on vaccination at all, should eliminate this consideration by making arrangements for free vaccination. Doctors should be instructed to attend at the public schools to vaccinate all children whose parents enter no objection or who have not already been vaccinated by the family doctor, the government paying the bill.

“Vaccination is not compulsory”²³ (August, Vancouver)

Vaccination is not compulsory. Parents having conscientious scruples against the injection of vaccine into their children’s arms will not have to sacrifice their scruples or their children’s education.

School teachers throughout the province have been instructed to see that all their pupils have been vaccinated before they admit them to school after the vacation,

²³ From PARENTS ARE GIVEN AN OPTION. (1908, August 6). *The Vancouver World*, p. 1.

but with the large exception that the unvaccinated shall sit down with the vaccinated if he presents a written declaration from his parents that the latter conscientiously object to the minor operation.

Such is the substance of a circular received this morning by the local school authorities from the education department, which urges the vaccination of the children on the ground that smallpox has made its appearance in several parts of the province.

“Bow their heads like sheep”²⁴ (August, Vancouver)

(The following letter was written before the announcement was made that vaccination was not compulsory.)

Editor World – I have read with not a little interest the communications in your paper on this subject and have wondered how far the masses of the people sympathize with the views of the writers, and have wondered whether the alleged freedom-loving Anglo-Saxons of Vancouver are going to bow their heads like sheep and submit like dejected slaves to the edict that our children are to have the virus of vaccination injected into their sweet pure bodies, or whether they will rise up like men and put the would-be dictators and grafters in their places.

We live in the liberty loving West, forsooth not in the effete, down-trodden East! Some of our local orators are telling us of the awful degradation and misery of the Old Land, and how we should congratulate ourselves on our superior state and circumstances over those of the Mother Country, while the facts are that they are the freemen and we are the slaves. There the battle over vaccination has been fought and won – won by those who will have none of such a horrible superstition: that one poison can be kept out by putting another in.

I would like to ask who it is that is dictating to the parents of B. C. what they shall do to their children in such a vital matter as this? Is it not the medical doctors who are at the bottom of this, prompted thereto by the wolfish instinct of getting money at the expense of other people, not only without doing anything of value – which is in line with their general practice – but, on the contrary, doing incalculable injury to the boys and girls of our city and province. Just consider that some \$8,000 – allowing \$1 per child – will be drawn in by the doctors of Vancouver if this edict is obeyed. Will the parents of Vancouver stand for this or will they repel this impudent piece of aggression with all the scorn and contempt which it so richly deserves?

Has the public ever reflected upon and given due weight to the consideration that in all professions and trades, except the medical profession, every inefficient bungler is at some time or other brought face to face with the results of his bungling and malpractice? That poor work and perfunctory work and dishonest work meets with its reward everywhere except in the medical profession. But in that blissful realm the ordinary laws of nature are reversed – the king and doctor likewise can do no wrong, and if the patient dies or rises from a sick bed with a ruined constitution,

²⁴ From T. T. G. (1908, August 10). RE VACCINATION. *The Vancouver World*, p. 6.

it can never be known that the doctor's drugs have not been the cause which has produced these results. Dead men tell no tales truly, and a doctor's blunders – and he is blundering all the time when he is giving drugs (vide Osler and others) – are hidden forever. And yet these people who are continually discarding old (drug) remedies for new ones – the old ones having failed in the past as the new ones will in the future, yet at the time of their introduction being vaunted as the ne plus ultra of remedial virtue – these people come in and with great arrogance endeavor to foist on the parents of B. C. a thoroughly discredited practice – that of vaccination, as though this practice had never been attacked as nonsensical and superstitious, and with the same assurance as if it had the unanimous approval and support of the intellectual portion of humanity. I assert that the brainier part of humanity – and this includes the cream of the medical profession – have rejected vaccination as unscientific, lacking in common-sense, filthy and murderous in its results. Will the parents of Vancouver have this or will they refuse to have it?

Parents of Vancouver! If you have not thought about this matter, begin at once to think about it and think hard!! Cast aside this superstitious belief in medical men and their theories and use your own reasoning powers and your own horse sense (shall I say?)

When the schools open after vaccination let the rooms be as empty as they are at this moment. Give the principals and teachers a week more of holidays (for they deserve it), and by that time we shall find that our children will be invited to attend school without that wonderful document, a doctor's certificate. If not, if like the tyrants of old they cling to the doctrine of the divine right of kings and doctors, give the teachers a still longer holiday, and let the boys and girls have more outdoor life with its germ-killing oxygen, the only antidote in creation for small-pox germs and other diseases. In conclusion, is it Governmetn of the People, for the People, and By the People, or not?

T. T. G.

“Require a certificate”²⁵ (August, British Columbia)

The following circular letter, relative to the vaccination of children attending the public schools, has been sent to all the school boards of the province and is self explanatory:

To the Secretary, Board of School Trustees.

Sir, Madam, – I beg to inform you that notification has been received from the Provincial Board of Health that owing to the prevalence of small-pox in many parts of the province, section 15 of the Regulations of that Board adopted the 5th of February, 1900, is to be enforced. Section 15 of the Regulations reads as follows:-

²⁵ From Anonymous & Young, H. E. (1908, August 15). COMMUNICATIONS. *The Penticton Press*, p. 4. Written by Henry Esson Young (1862 – 1939).

“15. It is now deemed necessary, and is hereby ordered, that teachers in Public Schools and High Schools or Colleges shall require a certificate of successful vaccination from each child attending at such a school or college, or a certificate that such child is at the present time insusceptible to vaccination. The certificates shall be presented on demand to the teacher or other proper authority.”

You are hereby requested to give due notice of this Regulation to the teachers in the employ of your Board and to instruct them to demand certificates as called for from every child presenting himself at school.

Exceptions to this rule may be made in favour of the child or children of parents who object from conscientious motives to having their children vaccinated.

In all cases where such valid objection is offered as a reason for the non-compliance with Section 15 the child must present to the teacher a written statement from his parents giving clearly the reason for non-compliance.

All communications and inquiries regarding the compulsory vaccination of children should be addressed to the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, Victoria.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,
HENRY ESSON YOUNG,
Minister of Education.

“Practically nullified”²⁶ (August, British Columbia)

That the vaccination order issued by the provincial educational department is practically nullified by the “conscience clause” was further confirmed by Mr. Edward B. Paul, superintendent of city schools, Victoria, who arrived in Vancouver this morning. The “conscience clause” is that which permits a conscientious conviction that vaccination is harmful and thus relieve the child from compulsory vaccination.

After a number of interviews with various members of the provincial educational department, it has become clearly evident that the attempt to put into force an absolutely compulsory vaccination law for school children has, after meeting strenuous opposition, fizzled out completely, the present order being merely an imitation of the original.

“Statistics prove,” said one school’s superintendent, “that one out of a thousand die as a direct result of vaccination. This would mean at least five deaths among school children in Vancouver, if vaccination were made compulsory.”

²⁶ From VACCINATION ORDER GOES BY THE BOARD. (1908, August 18). *The Vancouver World*, p. 16.

“Indignant toward physicians”²⁷ (August, Vancouver)

Editor World – I have just read in this evening’s World the article²⁸ on vaccination, and I can’t help but feeling indignant toward physicians who express such ancient ideas. I was giving people of the 20th century credit for being more enlightened. Had some of the doctors had my experience after being vaccinated they would not be so eager to have a law to enforce it.

I was vaccinated a year ago when I came from the States, and have not been what you could call well a day since. After the doctor had injected the poisonous vaccine, I fainted and was unconscious till the much alarmed passengers and trainmen aroused me, after bathing my head in cold water for several minutes. The vaccine didn’t “take,” however, but in about three weeks sores (resembling the one resulting from vaccination) began to break out on my body and head, and for seven or eight months I suffered from that poisonous matter, which was all through my blood; at the same time I had a severe sore throat and mouth and have been unable to get anything to cure me so far.

Now, I wonder if smallpox could be any worse than this? I wouldn’t have suffered from it a year at any rate. It has been proven without a doubt that vaccination does not prevent smallpox, and still the physicians will cling to that old idea, that you have to give one poison to counteract another and try to force people to do as they say. If you have a constitution strong enough to withstand the ravages of the disease and the poisonous vaccine, you, of course, get well; if you haven’t, you die from the effects of the poison, when, if it were not there to fight against, the patient would have some chance for recovery.

I glory in Ald. Morton’s “grit” when he prefers to go to jail rather than have his children vaccinated. No doubt he has some regard for his family’s health. I admit there is no need of having smallpox, but I don’t believe in poisoning people to prevent it. Cleanliness, fresh air, and good water are all that is required. Thanking you in advance for your valuable space, I am yours very truly,

A SUBSCRIBER.

“Where is the epidemic?”²⁹ (August, British Columbia)

EDITOR STAR – Sir: Vaccination prevents smallpox. When Dr. Jenner invented the operation, the medical men were very strongly ‘from Missouri,’ and the usefulness of the process had to be very thoroughly proven before they would have anything to do with it. It was vaccination that first checked the ravages of smallpox, though there can be no doubt that increased cleanliness, both personal and public, isolation hospitals and disinfection have limited the disease so that now vaccination is seldom necessary.

²⁷ From A SUBSCRIBER. (1908, August 18). RE VACCINATION. *The Vancouver World*, p. 4.

²⁸ Presumably the letter from J. W. Bennett first printed on August 5, as this was re-printed on August 18 immediately below the present letter.

²⁹ From HIPPOCRATES. (1908, August 26). SPARE THE CHILDREN. *The Similkameen Star*, p. 1.

The government has a right to force people to get vaccinated, to stop the spread of an epidemic, just as it has the right to blow up houses to stop the spread of a fire. In both cases, of course, the remedy should be applied with discretion, or the cure might be worse than the disease.

If anyone is to be vaccinated, it should be the school children. They come from all sorts of homes, sit together for hours in schools not always well ventilated, and wipe their hands on the same towel, so that if there is any disease among them it gets a fine chance to spread.

But where is the epidemic? There is no smallpox here. It could only get here from Hope, Nicola or Keremeos, and there is none at any of those places. There are railway construction camps down the valley. These might become sources of danger, but if the provincial health authorities pay any attention to their business, there will be no danger of smallpox getting into this part of the province at all.

Vaccination is not a healthy thing in itself. No one supposes that it adds any strength to the body. It merely concentrates the strength already in the body to resist one particular disease, and so must lessen the resistance to other diseases. It does not strike me as good practice to weaken most of our health fortifications in order to put extra guards at a point very unlikely to be attacked, so I think that if I had a child at school I would take advantage of the “conscientious objection” clause and send the teacher a note like this: “Sir, I do not want my child to be vaccinated as there is no smallpox anywhere near here, and I think it is wrong to make children suffer when there is no danger.”

Yours sincerely,

HIPPOCRATES.

“Was death due to vaccination?”³⁰ (September, Edmonton)

As the result of the death on Saturday last of Vivian Victoria, the eight-year-old daughter of A. W. Foley, provincial poultry superintendent, a great deal of discussion has arisen among those who have been interested in the case. The matter has reached such a stage that the medical officer, Dr. Whitelaw³¹, yesterday demanded an inquest, and one will be held tomorrow by Dr. H. R. Smith. The remains of the child are now at Andrews’ undertaking rooms, where a postmortem examination is being made by Dr. Dunn.

On August 20th last, the child was vaccinated by Sydney C. Main, assistant health inspector, at the offices of the health department, and it is alleged that her death is due to the vaccination that she underwent on that occasion.

Mr. Foley has written to Dr. Whitelaw, charging that the child’s death is directly due to the vaccination in his office, which he claims was both illegal and criminal. He also stated to a Bulletin reporter that his child was “murdered by the city” by means of the vaccination operation.

³⁰ From WAS DEATH DUE TO VACCINATION? (1908, September 8). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

³¹ Thomas H. Whitelaw (c. 1867 – 1943)

Dr. Whitelaw denies that vaccination was responsible for the death of the child and has written the following letter:-

“Your letter received, and in reply I beg to say, that while it is very regrettable that your daughter died, and that you are entitled to every sympathy in your affliction, your statements regarding the cause of death and the question of vaccination in this office being illegal and criminal, are absolutely unwarranted and unfounded.

“In consequence of this I hereby make a demand that you hold an inquest and a postmortem examination, which would disclose the real cause of death.

“Yours truly,

“T. H. WHITELOW,

“Medical Health Officer.”

Dr. Lane, the physician who was called in to see the deceased child on Sept. 2 and who attended her till her demise, gives in his certificate the primary cause of death to be vaccination and the secondary cause heart failure.

“Almost the scene of a riot”³² (September, Montreal)

Montreal, Que., Sept. 8 – The city hall was almost the scene of a riot today, such swarms of children, mostly foreigners, seeking vaccination as a result of the school board’s orders to send all unvaccinated home from schools.

“Dilatation of heart the cause”³³ (September, Edmonton)

“That Vivian Foley came to her death from acute dilatation of the heart, and while there is not sufficient evidence to prove that vaccination was a primary cause, yet we recommend that in future the city employ only regularly qualified physicians to be vaccinators.”

This was the decision arrived at to-day, after a four hours’ session, held to inquire into the death of Vivian Foley, daughter of A. W. Foley, superintendent of the poultry department of the provincial government, whose demise took place on Saturday, September 5, which, it was claimed by her father, was the result of vaccination.

The inquest was conducted by Coroner Dr. Smith, and the jury were as follows: Charles Gowan (foreman), E. W. Auten, John Dewar, W. Irvine, Charles Spinks and J. J. Tull. The most important evidence given was that of Dr. Revell, provincial bacteriologist, who made a microscopic examination of portions of the body of the deceased. According to his evidence, the death was caused by the child having taken too much exercise after vaccination, which caused debilitation of the heart and subsequent death.

³² From Vaccinating in Montreal. (1908, September 9). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

³³ From DILATATION OF HEART THE CAUSE. (1908, September 16). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

THE EVIDENCE TAKEN

Sydney A. Main was the first witness. He stated that he had been health inspector for Edmonton for the past three years, having been appointed by the city council upon recommendation of the medical health officer. His principal duties were looking after contagious diseases.

On August 20th, according to the office record, Vivian Foley was vaccinated. He could not remember having vaccinated this girl. The vaccinating was done by Dr. Whitelaw and himself. Dr. Robert Shearer and Dr. Campbell also did some vaccinating. On this day the vaccination must have been done either by Dr. Whitelaw or himself.

He explained the method of vaccination practiced at the health office and said that the utmost cleanliness was used. The office did not provide shields for the arms, but recommended that such be used. If it was thought that anything was wrong with any of the children offering for vaccination, inquiry was made before the operation was performed.

Coroner: "You really cannot tell whether a child is in delicate health or not?"

A: "I can't say that I do, for I am not a doctor."

Coroner: "The children that present themselves for vaccination are not all examined?"

A: "No, they are not."

Q: "Have you ever taken any children to Dr. Whitelaw for examination?"

A: "Yes, I have taken a number, perhaps half a dozen."

HAD DONE ALL THE VACCINATION

Mr. Main, continuing, said that he did most of the vaccination for four days when Dr. Whitelaw was absent. Dr. Shearer and Dr. Campbell did some vaccinating during that period at the health office. He did not say how many children he had vaccinated.

A Juror: "Did you receive instructions from Dr. Whitelaw to do vaccinating?"

A: "I did so with his consent."

Juror: "Did Dr. Whitelaw tell you to go on with vaccinations while he was absent?"

A: "He told me to go on as we had been doing."

Mr. Main stated that the vaccinations were free and were intended for those who were unable to pay a physician. The Coroner inquired if Mr. Main was not paid by the city for his services, and endeavored to draw the deduction that Mr. Main was being paid for these services, but the witness insisted that he was giving his services in this connection without charge.

DR. WHITELAW'S EVIDENCE

Dr. Whitelaw, medical health officer, was the next witness. He read a lengthy statement in connection with his visit to the house of Mr. Foley when the latter reported that the child was seriously ill. He found on inquiry that the vaccination was done on the 20th of August, two days before he went to Winnipeg. He was probably in the office at the time of the vaccination and had no knowledge whether he or Mr. Main performed the vaccination, except the statement of the girl's brother that it was

done by Mr. Main. There were many children in the office that afternoon, and both Mr. Main and himself were doing the vaccinating.

Q.: "When children go to the health office, do you make an examination to see if they are in ill health?"

A.: "If I notice it I do, but I do not make a specialty of examining the children. I do not hold myself responsible for vaccinating a child in ill health."

Coroner: "Why don't you?"

A.: "Because I am doing it free of charge."

A Juror: "Who, if any one, instructed the medical health officer to do vaccinating free?"

A.: "It was the city school board."

Q.: "Do the city school board engage you?"

A.: "No, they do not; but it was arranged at a joint meeting between the school board and the health board."

Q.: "Do you consider that free vaccination?"

A.: "Yes, I do."

VACCINATE ALL CHILDREN

Q.: "Did you vaccinate all children irrespective of financial condition?"

A.: "Yes, I did, for I did not think it was my duty to inquire into the private finances of the children who came to me."

The Coroner again attempted to enforce his point, that the vaccination was not free, as the city health department officials were paid by the city at large, but Dr. Whitelaw adhered to his contention that the work was done free of cost.

Coroner: "Do you think that it is preferable to vaccinate children at the health office rather than let them go to their family physician?"

A.: "In some cases I have recommended that children go to their family physician. There are very few conditions in which a child cannot be vaccinated without danger to itself."

Q.: "Why did you employ unskilled labor in vaccination?"

"I do not think Mr. Main was unskilled labor," Dr. Whitelaw somewhat warmly replied. "He was fully instructed by me in the work and did it in the same way I did."

Q.: "Wouldn't all this vaccination have been done even if it weren't done free of charge?"

A.: "I don't think one-third would have been done without great compulsion. It is a recognized principle of compulsory vaccination that there must be some place where it is done free. I know cities in the old country [where] the vaccination is done by medical students, and in one city in the United States it is done by a druggist."

MISS ASBURY'S TESTIMONY

Gwendoline Asbury testified that she was at Mr. Foley's house on September 4th, the day that the little girl died. She had only been sick two days, having fallen ill on Thursday evening. The family took every precaution and called a physician whenever the little girl became ill. Dr. Lane had said that the child died from heart failure caused by vaccination.

THE PHYSICIAN IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. I. J. Lane testified that he was called to Mr. Foley's house about 10 p.m. on Thursday, September 4th. He asked what the trouble was and was told that the girl complained of a pain, which seemed to come from the vaccinated arm. He made a physical examination. The breast on the left side was discolored and the arms were a purplish color. The lungs were free and performed their work. The heart was beating very rapidly, about 126 or 130.

Coroner: "What was your diagnosis?"

A.: "I thought it was a case of septicemia or blood poisoning. The case was an irregular one, as the common conditions of chills and high temperature were absent."

Dr. Lane, continuing, said he prescribed for the child. The next morning he met Dr. Whitelaw and he said that the witness was doing all possible for the child. The diagnosis was not discussed, though [the] witness casually remarked that the illness was due to vaccination. Dr. Whitelaw called attention to the fact that the child was vaccinated on August 20 and she was not ill till September 3. On his next visit on Friday afternoon the child was in a state of collapse. He worked with her for several hours and improved her condition. He paid several other visits, and on Saturday afternoon he found her in a state of collapse, and that afternoon she breathed her last.

Coroner: "Would you consider this child a fit subject for vaccination?"

A.: "Well, that I cannot answer. I cannot recollect having treated this child before."

A Juror: "When a child comes to you for vaccination, do you make an examination of its physical condition?"

A.: "Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't. Vaccination is not considered a serious examination."

The Coroner pointed out that the witness' contention was that the death was due to blood poisoning, but he did not for a moment state that it was contracted at the health office or any place else. It might have been contracted from a pin prick.

THE FATHER OF [THE] DECEASED

A. W. Foley, father of the deceased child, stated that he was decidedly opposed to compulsory vaccination and expressed himself to that effect when he read the notice in The Bulletin. His wife and children, however, wanted the vaccination and said it would be all right. On the 20th of August his three children were vaccinated. He examined their arms and found on Vivian's left arm three scratches about an inch and a quarter each long. The arm was in bad condition and he said at the time if he saw the man who did it he would vaccinate him.

Coroner: "Why did you not then call in your family physician?"

A.: "I did not think it was necessary."

Continuing, he said he was out of town from the 21st to the 25th, but when he came back there was no great complaint. On Thursday, the 10th of September, the girl went to bed as usual, but later she was taken ill. He went to the phone across the street and called up Dr. Whitelaw. He told him the symptoms and Dr. Whitelaw replied that there was nothing serious the matter. Witness submitted a written

account of the conversation he had over the phone with the medical health officer. When he urged that there was need of medical assistance, Dr. Whitelaw said he would be up in the morning. He then summoned Dr. Lane, who arrived shortly. In the morning he telephoned Dr. Whitelaw again and he came down and met the family physician, Dr. Lane. His conversation at this time was submitted in the form of a written statement. The girl became unconscious early Saturday morning and died in the afternoon.

Coroner: "If you thought the child was not in a condition for vaccination, why did you not consult a physician?"

A: "I thought an examination would be made at the health office."

Coroner: "Don't you know that it is not customary to make medical examinations in free vaccinations?"

A: "I didn't know that. I never had an experience of this kind before."

Mr. Foley was further questioned with reference to the washing of the arm after vaccination by a solution, and stated that it was furnished by the health department. The child was well enough to go down to the office to get her certificate of vaccination.

Dr. Dunn, who performed the post-mortem examination and autopsy, read a technical report of its results. From his physical examination of the body he could not find any abnormal cause for death. The heart was dilated, but there was no trace of disease.

DR. REVELL'S EVIDENCE

Dr. Revell, provincial bacteriologist who conducted the microscopic examination of portions of the remains, [and who] was present with Dr. Dunn at the autopsy, next gave evidence. He corroborated the evidence of Dr. Dunn with reference to the condition of the body. The microscopic examination also showed that there was present in the blood gas forming bacteria, which may have entered the blood shortly before death or after. This might account for the dilation of the heart. Different parts of heart, spleen, etc., were taken, and bacteria [were] found. This bacteria was inoculated into a guinea pig, but had no effect.

Dr. Revell, in drawing some inferences from the results of the examination, and from what he had heard in the evidence, reached the conclusion that the cause of death was the result of several things. If the child had been kept in bed it might have been all right, and in his opinion the cause of death was due greatly to too great exercise, causing dilation of the heart. He also stated that the statistics show that vaccination is less dangerous than compulsory attendance in school.

Coroner: "Are there conditions in which you would not recommend vaccination, or when there is vaccination you would recommend special attention?"

A: "Yes, there are, just as a healthy child with measles sometimes requires very little care, while other children require great attention even from a cold."

Dr. Whitelaw asked – "In the whole course of your examination, did you find anything to show that blood poisoning was introduced at the time of vaccination?"

A: "From the course of the vaccination which for two weeks followed the ordinary course, it would not appear that there was."

VACCINATION ALL RIGHT

Dr. Whitelaw: “What is your opinion of the vaccine produced by Parke Davis Co., and used exclusively by the health department?”

A.: “This company have a very high standing among the manufacturers of vaccine.”

Dr. Revell also spoke of compulsory vaccination, pointing out that the prevention of smallpox was a public matter involving the expenditure of public money and the use of public officials. There were two ways of preventing smallpox, either quarantine or vaccination. The most rigid quarantine does not prevent the spread of smallpox, while vaccination does. If his family were vaccinated he would not hesitate sending them to a city where there was much smallpox. There was no danger of smallpox in a vaccinated person for seven years after vaccination. As the prevention of smallpox was a public measure so it was perfectly right to make vaccination compulsory.

Mr. Foley asked – “Was it necessary to make the three scratches upon the deceased’s arm of the length described?”

Dr. Revell: “I think the manner described was perfectly correct. One scratch might do the work, but three are recommended by the best authorities. The method described as used at the head office is similar to that recommended by Dr. Osler, whose work is the leading authority on the question.”

The coroner enquired if an unprofessional man was competent to say whether a child was in a fit condition or not to be vaccinated.

The witness replied that a non-medical man should not be given the responsibility of deciding. If parents have any doubt as to whether a child should be vaccinated they should consult medical authority.

This concluded the evidence, and the jury retired, bringing in the above verdict after half an hour’s deliberation.

“The public owes its gratitude”³⁴ (September, British Columbia)

In many parts of Canada, the press is so subsidized that the editors are mere heelers for the party or corporation putting up money. In the recent anti-vaccination agitation in the province, not one of the “city” papers picked it up. The work was done entirely by the “little” papers whose editors can afford to express an opinion now and then. It is to these “little” newspapers that the public owes its gratitude for the revision of the compulsory vaccination order; and that thousands of school children are permitted to retain their good health.

It seems that the medical boards endeavored to pass compulsory vaccination legislation throughout Canada [at] about the same time. Alberta was not so fortunate as B.C. and did not have any of the newspapers to continue the agitation. A despatch from Edmonton shows what some of the parents have been up against:

³⁴ From Walker, H. M. (1908, September 17). FROM ONE MAN’S POINT OF VIEW. *Walker’s Weekly* (Enderby, B.C.), p. 1. By Henry Milton Walker (1870 – 1944).

“Edmonton, Sept. 8. – This city is likely to get into trouble as a result of the recent decision that all children must be vaccinated before being allowed to attend school. A great deal of discussion has occurred concerning the death on Saturday last of Vivian Victoria, the 8-year-old daughter of A. W. Foley, provincial poultry superintendent. The matter has reached such a stage that the medical health officer, Dr. Whitelaw, has demanded an inquest, and one will be held tomorrow by Dr. H. R. Smith. On August 20 the child was vaccinated by Sidney C. Main, assistant health inspector, who is not a medical practitioner. It is alleged that the death was due to the vaccination. Mr. Foley has written Dr. Whitelaw, charging that the child’s death was due to the vaccination, which he claims was both illegal and criminal. He also stated that his child was ‘murdered by the city’ by means of the vaccination operation and threatens to begin legal action.”

This is only one of many cases that might be cited where death has come in the vaccine point, and yet there are fool medical boards that still pretend to claim that a healthy body is made less liable to a disease by being weakened through having the poison of the disease forced into it. The people of British Columbia can thank their stars that we have at Victoria a government considerate enough of the people’s rights to make the vaccination of the children optional with the parents.

“Voice of anti-vaccination”³⁵ (September, Edmonton)

Dear Mr. Editor:

With your kind permission I would like, through the medium of your columns, to bring a grievance before the notice of the city council and my fellow citizens.

I refer to the vaccination bylaw, which compels all children attending school to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated as the case may be; without regard to difference of opinion whether founded upon health or religious ideas. I consider the bylaw, without an exemption clause, old-fashioned, arbitrary and unnecessarily strict. It probably does not trouble the indifferent majority very much, but to a few who think for themselves and have scruples it means a great vexation. The vaccination theory as a preventive from smallpox is not universally accepted by the medical profession in the older and more experienced parts of the world. The law as it stands in Edmonton was tried many years ago in England and was so closely followed by the authorities that it brought into being the anti-vaccination societies. After much strife and persecution an exemption clause was introduced, and that is how it stands at present throughout England.

³⁵ From Wolstenholme, J. W. (1908, September 12) VOICE OF ANTI-VACCINATION. *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 5. Written by James Walter Wolstenholme (1872 – 1949). Mistakenly credited to ‘G. W.’ Wolstenholme in the original. The Henderson Directory for Edmonton in 1909 lists James W. Wolstenholme as being the proprietor of the New Home Boarding House at 868 Fifth. This boarding house was advertised from 1907 to 1913. (From the Edmonton Journal of June 11, 1907: “ROOM AND BOARD – If you are away from home come to the New Home Boarding House, 868 Fifth St. Good table and attendance.”)

I myself obtained three exemptions without difficulty from five to nine years ago. In my interview with our health officer he claimed there is great danger of schools having to close down through cases of smallpox, bringing thereby considerable expense upon the city.

This claim is incomprehensible to me in this far northwestern city with its healthful climate.

I came from the crowded districts of Lancashire where there are probably as many millions crowded into one almost unbroken area as we have in all Canada.

I received my education at a public board school, accommodating 1,000 pupils, in the heart of Manchester. I never knew the school to close down one day from any sickness whatever, neither during my attendance nor since. In those same crowded districts a case of smallpox has never come under my notice.

For your information I may add that my home county has what many eminent doctors claim to be the chief factor in the prevention of disease and the obtaining of a low death rate, viz. an excellent sanitary system.

I have three boys barred from receiving their rightful education, and three others to follow closely upon them. I am waiting until the law permits and would like to hear of any others in this city in the same dilemma.

J. W. WOLSTENHOLME,
868 Fifth Street.

“Health officer replies”³⁶ (September, Edmonton)

To the Editor:

Dear Sir – It is not my intention to start a newspaper controversy, but in view of the fact that vaccination is being called in question by so-called anti-vaccinists it is fitting that the public should be warned against the specious arguments and misleading statements of these agitators.

I have to thank Mr. J. W. Wolstenholme³⁷, whose letter appeared in a recent issue of the Journal, in affording me a pretext for putting some facts before the public which are not as a rule known to the average individual.

From a perusal of this gentleman’s letter one would be justified in concluding that he considers himself one of those enlightened individuals who think for themselves. He may have done considerable thinking, but if he would think less and reason more, after investigating by careful research the facts of history regarding small-pox and vaccination, with an unbiased mind, open to conviction, he would probably change his opinion and hasten to comply with the recent requirements of the school board regarding vaccination.

³⁶ From Whitelaw, T. H. (1908, September 18). Health Officer Replies to Anti Vaccinationist. *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 5. Written by Thomas H. Whitelaw (c. 1867 – 1943). I have corrected ‘typographical errors’ pointed out by a correction on p. 4 of the Edmonton Journal of September 19, 1908.

³⁷ Miscredited as W. G. Wolstenholme in the original.

In the first place he has not taken the trouble to find out that there is no such thing as a vaccination by-law in our city. Our city council has nothing whatever to do with the matter. The vaccination law is instituted by the Provincial Government and it is the provisions prescribed by the Provincial Health Act which have been put into force in our city. As to the exemption clauses which unfortunately have been introduced in England as a result of anti-vaccination agitation, he would have us believe that England is the fountain head of knowledge regarding the benefits or otherwise of vaccination.

He does not know or care, perhaps, that as a result of this non-enforcement of compulsory vaccination in this land of liberty, the death rate for small-pox is 16 per year for every 2,000,000 people, while in Germany, where no such exemptions have for many years been allowed, the death rate from small-pox is but one in every 2,000,000, that moreover as a result of vaccination and re-vaccination law strictly enforced, small-pox as a disease is practically non-existent in Germany. The cases which do arise there are almost invariably found to take their origin near the border line of other countries where as yet the same precautions are not enforced and infection as a result introduced.

He does not know that it has cost the city of Edmonton over \$1000 during the last six months to prevent small-pox from becoming epidemic and to prevent him and his family and others who foolishly persist in remaining unprotected from taking the disease. He does not know that the disease was introduced into Edmonton by those who, either by the carelessness of their parents, had not been vaccinated in their youth, or like himself had conscientious (?) scruples about submitting to the operation, that moreover all who unfortunately fell victims in our city excepting three, had never at any time been vaccinated, that furthermore these three had not been re-vaccinated since childhood, but on account of this partial protection had the disease in a much lighter degree than the others. He does not know that owing to anti-vaccination agitators, one of whom was a French-Canadian doctor, a large proportion of the population of Montreal in 1885 had grown up and was living without the protection afforded by vaccination, and that when small-pox in due time was introduced into the city by a railway conductor from Chicago the disease at once became epidemic and during the next nine months there died of the disease 3,164, of which 2,717 were children under ten years of age, victims of obstinate prejudice and crass ignorance.

Mr. Wolstenholme seems to have the impression that our healthful climate so far to the north, should be sufficient guard against disease. He does not know that small-pox is pre-eminently a disease of cold climates and is more prevalent during the winter months than during the summer, that some of the most deadly and virulent epidemics the world has ever seen have occurred in Greenland, Northern Canada and Asiatic Russia.

In an interview, he states, the health officer claimed there would be great danger of schools having to close down through cases of small-pox, bringing thereby considerable expense upon the city. In this there is, as in his other statements, considerable confusion of ideas. The mere fact of schools having to close down would

not in itself cause any expense to the city, but would be a great injustice to the children who would be temporarily deprived of their education. To guard against the possibility of such a contingency arising, all that is necessary is to have all the children vaccinated. When this has been accomplished, such a necessity could not arise, [except] among the unvaccinated adult population, who with the unvaccinated children under the school age would certainly be the victims. Only those children who might have been exposed would be denied admittance to the schools until their persons, clothing and homes had been disinfected, after the removal of the patient to the isolated quarters provided. In refusing to have their children vaccinated for the general good, (not to mention the individual benefit conferred) on account of the very slight risk involved by the operation, the anti-vaccinists show a lamentable want of that public spirit so necessary to good citizenship.

Anti-vaccinists frequently refer to the fact that the medical profession is not unanimous in the question of vaccination. They forget that in certain communities where they have by agitation made some converts, financial reasons and a desire for popularity have occasionally caused medical men to be recreant to their principles and to pretend to deny scientific facts which are incontrovertible. No honest medical man of recognized merit or attainments can possibly be an anti-vaccinist.

There seems to be an impression among a great many people that small-pox is a filth disease, but there is not a shred of evidence to prove the correctness of this theory. On the other hand, some of the foreigners we have here in Alberta live under the most abominable sanitary conditions and yet never take the disease even when exposed. Why is this so? Simply because the Government under which they formerly lived has made vaccination and re-vaccination compulsory, and they, therefore, are thoroughly protected.

No one will disagree with the opinion of many eminent doctors of his own country, referred to by Mr. Wolstenholme, that excellent sanitary laws and systems are the chief factor in the prevention of disease and the obtaining of a low death rate. This is true anywhere as regards disease in general, but all the sanitary laws ever brought into existence will not protect the unvaccinated individual from small-pox if he becomes exposed to the disease. Sanitary laws are in so far effective that they lessen the danger of exposure to the contagion by preventing overcrowding and diminishing the extent of contact.

Mr. Wolstenholme does not know that a large number of the cases of small-pox which have appeared in Edmonton during the last eight years were from among our best citizens who were living under the most sanitary conditions. Through indifference, they had either never been vaccinated, or had failed to be re-vaccinated since childhood, and becoming exposed took the disease.

In conclusion I wish to point out that all the evil results which follow from extensive vaccination are now being fully advertised and some well meaning but somewhat hysterical persons in addition to the anti-vaccinists, are responsible for the absurdly exaggerated rumors, which become current gossip.

The benefits which are sure to follow to the community as a whole and to the individual in particular, are not at present in evidence, but will become increasingly apparent even to the most sceptical as the years roll on.

Yours truly,

T. H. WHITELOW.

“Killing the innocent”³⁸ (September, British Columbia)

Sir, – While politics may be looming large in the public press and mind just now, at the same time there are other things existing and happening that very much concern us as a people irrespective of party or politics, and that have reference to our health and life, taken singly or collectively. We feel prompted to write owing to what we read in your issue of Sept. 8 relative to the death of an 8-year-old girl in Edmonton 15 days after vaccination in which it was also stated that an inquest had been demanded owing to it being alleged that the child’s death was due to said vaccination act performed Aug. 20. We also read in your issue of Sept. 17 [a] report of [the] inquest and post-mortem in which it states, “That said child came to her death from acute [dilation] of the heart, caused by the child taking too much exercise after vaccination.”

That verdict is only on a par with hundreds of other cases where death has followed this iniquitous vaccination act; and the fact still remains that in all human probability this child would have been living today had that act not been committed, consequently we place the death as due to that act, where it rightly belongs, and not try to make it appear as due to some ensuing symptoms or other, finally ascertained. They may talk about insufficient evidence to prove that vaccination was a primary cause, and recommend that only regularly qualified doctors be permitted to vaccinate and so forth, but sir, that is only what we might expect under the circumstances. To my mind it is far more pertinent to know whether or not this vaccination act should be permitted at all, be they qualified or unqualified is of little moment to us. As an anti-vaccinist I assert that vaccination under any method, by any person, is a crime against human life and health, and nature’s laws, and the sooner the general public and humanity at large learn to see the absolute truth of this assertion, the sooner will vaccination disappear and this “killing of the innocent” cease. I may say that I have no other thought or object in view to writing on this subject other than to arouse the public to a sense of the grave danger that lurks in the vaccinator’s lance and lymph, be my influence in this connection little or much.

In the first place it yet remains for the medical fraternity who favor and practice vaccination to produce their authority going to prove that vaccination was ever unquestionably established in scientific fact or truth, as affording protection against small pox. I maintain that Jenner (the originator of this mode of vaccination as existing today) never had any scientific basis in fact to support his theory, but that it rested entirely on an idea conceived within his own mind, and never nothing more

³⁸ From Lidgate, J. A. (1908, September 19). “Killing the innocent.” *The Daily News* (B.C.), p. 2. Written by James Alexander Lidgate (1867 – 1951), miscredited as ‘J. H. Lidgate’.

from that date to this, also the accumulated evidence of the yeas that have elapsed since his time go to show the truth of this assertion and the fallacy of Jenner's "notion or idea." In this connection E. M. Crookshank, M. D., M. R., C. S., professor of pathology and bacteriology says, "I maintain there is no scientific support for vaccination and the practice is destined to fall into disuse." Also he states, "We have no known test by which we could possibly distinguish between a lymph which was harmless or harmful."

Alfred R. Wallace, L. L. D., F. R. S., asserts that "the practice of vaccination is utterly opposed to the whole teaching of sanitary science, and is one of those terrible blunders which, in their far reaching evil consequences are worse than the greatest of crimes."

C. Ruata, M. D., asserts that vaccination is a monstrosity, the begotten offspring of error and ignorance, and, being such, it should have no place in either hygiene or in medicine. Then there is the opinion of Dr. Collins who was a public vaccinator, but who resigned that position because he came to believe that vaccination did great harm and no good, and he wrote a book to prove his case. Also the opinion of Dr. Creighton who was employed by the publishers of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" to write on vaccination; he thereupon made a careful study of the question, and was convinced that vaccination was not only useless but positively dangerous, and further, the opinion of Dr. W. Hadwen who made a special study also of the question, and was left with the conviction that it was both useless and dangerous, and also said that in his opinion it stood as "the most gigantic piece of quackery ever exploited amongst a civilized people."

With these authorities, and many others of a similar nature before me, I assert that it is high time the general public got to thinking and acting and put this vaccination fad, farce and delusion where it belongs; a relic of a superstitious past.

Yours truly,

J. A. LIDGATE.

Nelson, B. C., Sept. 18, 1908.

"Decidedly misleading"³⁹ (September, Edmonton)

While I do not wish to be drawn into an argument with Dr. Whitelaw at this particular time I cannot allow his statements in your issue of the 19th with reference to the smallpox epidemic in Montreal in 1885 to remain unanswered, as his statements are decidedly misleading.

For the information of Dr. Whitelaw and the readers of your paper I will quote from no less a person than Alex M. Ross, A. M. M. D., F. R. S., Montreal in condemning vaccination "because I know that 1100 children under 12 years of age were vaccinated into smallpox and died from it during the epidemic of 1885 in Montreal."

³⁹ From SUFFERER. (1908, September 21). Debatable Question Of Vaccination. *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 4.

If it is the earnest desire of Dr. Whitelaw to enlighten the citizens of Edmonton on the subject of vaccination, why did he not advise us of this fact?

Dr. Whitelaw further states that “no honest medical man of recognized merit or attainments can possibly be an antivaccinist.”

Permit me to mention but a few of many whose medical lights will shine long after Dr. Whitelaw will be forgotten, namely, Herbert Spencer, the philosopher; Prof. A. R. Wallace, the great English scientist; the late W. E. Gladstone; Sir James Paget, Surgeon Extraordinary to her late Majesty, the Queen; Prof. F. W. Newman, Oxford University, E. M. Crookshank, M. D. M. R. C. S., Prof. Pathology and Bacteriology, King’s College, London, England, Chas. Creighton, author of [the] article on vaccination in [the] Encyclopaedic Britannicu [sic.], 9th edition.

I might name many more of medical fame in Canada, the United States and Europe to whom Dr. Whitelaw refers as “not honest medical men of recognized merit.” Any of the above gentlemen, I think, however, are as qualified to express an opinion on the subject of vaccination as Dr. Whitelaw.

Dr. Whitelaw makes reference to the death rate in Germany of which I have no official figures to hand. I would however call his attention to one of the cold climates he refers to, namely, Prussia in 1871-2, from which official figures are quoted as follows: “After 37 years of tyranny which compelled every person to receive four vaccinations during his lifetime 124,978 of Prussia’s ‘protected’ citizens died of smallpox.” Figures along similar lines could be quoted from other European countries.

Dr. Wilder, editor New York Medical Tribune and Prof. of Physiology, United States Medical College, New York says, “A vaccinated people will always be a sickly people, short lived and degenerate,” and again he says “consumption follows in the footsteps of vaccination as certainly and unequivocally as effect follows cause.”

Permit me to remind Dr. Whitelaw of the smallpox epidemic of Cleveland, Ohio, from 1898 to 1901 and refer him to the statement of Dr. Friedrich, in charge of the health board there, who says, “It affords me great pleasure to state that the house to house disinfection freed Cleveland from smallpox. The disease raged here uninterruptedly since 1898. We relied upon vaccination and quarantine as the most effective weapons to combat it, but in spite of all our efforts it doubled itself every year and was in a fair way of repeating the record of last year, as in 1900 we had 993 cases and from January 1st to July 21st 1901 the number increased to 1223.” “Vaccination has given us many untoward symptoms. Frequently it did not take at all. One fourth of all cases developed sepsis instead of vaccine. Some arms swelled clear down to the wrist joint with pieces of flesh as big as a silver dollar and twice as thick dropping right out, leaving an ugly suppurating wound which did not heal in many cases for over three months.” Finally, four cases of tetanus developed after vaccination so that the people became alarmed, and rightly so.

In conclusion, let me remind Dr. Whitelaw that the matter of compulsory [sic.] vaccination in the city of Toronto was fought to its conclusion a couple of years ago and to-day the school children of the city of Toronto can attend school without the necessity of having their little bodies [filled] with vaccine.

(Signed) SUFFERER.

P. S. – Since writing the above I have located figures with reference to the smallpox in Germany to which Dr. Whitelaw refers with pride as a reason for commending compulsory vaccination.

For the information of the Dr. and citizens interested in this subject, I may say that in the city of Bonn, in “protected” Germany during the smallpox epidemic of 1870-2 the first unvaccinated person to contract the disease was 42nd on the list.

Further that in the city of Berlin in the epidemic of 1864 the death rate was a little under 1000 per million while in the epidemic of 1871 it rose to 6150 per million.

In the 17th century, before the introduction of vaccination, the death rate was 17.3 per cent on an average of 13,000 cases. After vaccination was introduced a report of the British hospitals from 1836 to 1885 gave 67,928 cases of which 51,266 were vaccinated and 11,491 or 16.9 per cent of these cases died, showing that vaccination neither prevents nor controls the mortality from smallpox.

The small fraction of 1 per cent can easily be attributed to hygiene and sanitary conditions associated with isolation.

SUFFERER.

“Health Officer returns to charge”⁴⁰ (September, Edmonton)

To the Editor:

It was not my intention to write at further length on the vaccination question, but I have been requested by some of our prominent citizens to reply to a recent letter of one styling himself “Sufferer,” who evidently prefers to remain incognito for reasons best known to himself. While my opinion, mistaken in his views, Mr. Wolstenholme, who began this controversy, had at least the manliness to express them over his own name. “Sufferer” goes out of his way to attempt to belittle my unworthy self, and to suggest that I am destined, like the great majority of mankind, to leave this vale of tears unwept, unhonored, and unsung, forgetting that in the world’s history there have been but few Gladstones, or Herbert Spencers. I beg to suggest to him, with all becoming modesty, that many of the great men of history have achieved fame and distinction long after they had reached the age to which I have attained, and that even an ordinary individual like myself may possibly leave a scratch on the temple of fame. Probably, however, like most of the great silent majority, I may, except by my surviving friends, be forgotten, but I rather suspect that “Sufferer” will be found in the same class, or if remembered at all will be held in execration for contributing his quota to views on vaccination, which, if generally adopted, will certainly bring disaster sooner or later to future generations.

Had “Sufferer” signed himself “Rip Van Winkle” it would have been more appropriate, since nearly all his references refer to conditions which prevailed over twenty years ago, when he evidently went to sleep. I take the liberty of informing him

⁴⁰ From Whitelake, T. H. (1908, September 26). Health Officer Returns to Charge. *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 4.

that while he has been in this blissful state of somnolence, the world has been progressing and that medical science has perhaps achieved a greater measure of advancement than any other branch of scientific knowledge. Among other things the old method of vaccinating with humanized lymph from arm to arm, which, although it saved millions of lives, undoubtedly brought about serious and regrettable results to a small minority, has been relegated to the dust heap of oblivion and is now condemned by the best authorities. Vaccination by glycerinized calf lymph, which has replaced it, is now a perfectly safe operation, provided proper care be taken of the vesicle which results, gives the same protection from smallpox, and cannot possibly convey to the individual certain communicable diseases occasionally noticed under the old method. It may be a surprise to learn to "Sufferer" to learn that almost all that galaxy of eminent men, who he states are anti-vaccinists, and refers to as medical lights, have gone the way of the great majority, while he has been hibernating.

"Sufferer" devotes considerable attention to my statement, "that no honest medical man of recognized merit or attainment can possibly be an anti-vaccinist," and quotes as anti-vaccinists several eminent men. Four of these are "Hebert Spencer, W. E. Gladstone, Professor Wallace, and Professor Newman." Will "Sufferer" enlighten the public by stating what medical degrees these gentlemen ever obtained, other than honorary, and what medical college conferred these degrees? Also, will he be so kind as to refer me to any article written by W. E. Gladstone, Sir James Paget, E. M. Cruikshank, Herbert Spencer, or Professor Newman, which will prove his assertion that they were anti-vaccinists? If so, did they die in the faith? It is true Prof. Wallace, naturalist and philosopher, born in 1823, has dimmed his otherwise splendid reputation as a writer of repute by publishing articles in 1885 and 1898, in which he opposed the vaccination theory, his arguments being based on vaccination as it existed prior to the introduction of calf lymph vaccine. He gave evidence before the recent Royal Commission on the subject, but this Commission, in its report, condemned his views, which were properly considered erroneous. Dr. Chas. Creighton writes an article in the Encyclopedia Britannica, which does not bring the subject up to a date beyond 1884, and is based on the old method of vaccination with its attendant effects. The article is unreliable and out of date, just as are a great many others in the same splendid work. Notwithstanding that he does not accept the advanced views on vaccination, he gives statistics in this article which show that a much larger proportion of unvaccinated persons take the disease than the vaccinated. As to whether he still shines as a medical light, I have no information, but probably he, like "Sufferer's" other prominent men, has crossed the great divide. If "Sufferer" has access to the Encyclopedia Britannica, I would refer him to the article on smallpox by Prof. Afflick, M.D., Medical Examiner, University of Edinburgh, who writes as follows: "Although in most civilized countries its ravages have been greatly limited by the protection afforded by vaccination, yet epidemic outbreaks are far from uncommon, affecting especially those who are unprotected or whose protection has been weakened by lapse of time."

In attempting to refute the argument regarding Germany's present immunity from smallpox due to the strict enforcement of the vaccination law, "Sufferer" again gives us some ancient history and quotes figures which he states are official from 1870-71 [sic.]. This statement is absolutely misleading, as any person can find by investigation of the facts. Every person was not compelled to receive four vaccinations during his life time; moreover, vaccination and re-vaccination were not made compulsory till the year 1874, and in addition what partial measures of vaccination existed before that time, were but feebly enforced, and consequently a large proportion of Germany's population was unprotected, from which portion the immense majority of the 124,978 Germans referred to as dying from smallpox were drawn. This admission of "Sufferer" further goes to prove the truth of my statement that smallpox is a disease pre-eminently of cold climates.

Some facts about Dr. Wilder, referred to by "Sufferer," may be of interest to the public. He was born in 1823, graduated as an eclectic physician in 1850, deserted his profession in 1852, and subsequent to that time has been an editor, journalist, anti-Tweed alderman, inspector of schools, philosopher, psychologist and theologian, and has written on every subject under the sun, from serpent worship to Egyptian mummies. He had a monomania for writing on everything, and wrote in 1879 an article entitled "Vaccination a Fallacy," from which possibly "Sufferer" quotes. Does "Sufferer" expect the public to believe that the virile German race, the best vaccinated people on the face of the earth today since 1874, are a sickly people, short lived and degenerate, and a race of consumptives? If Dr. Wilder is alive today, I trust he has the good grace to be ashamed of having written such arrant nonsense. I have yet to learn of Dr. Wilder being quoted as an authority on any subject whatever. Like most writers who have written voluminously on all subjects, he has been eminent in none.

I am reminded by "Sufferer" of one Dr. Friedrich, who had charge of the health board in Cleveland in 1898. If the results of his works were such as he states, the board of health did well to dispense with his services in 1901, and I trust he had the wisdom to exile himself from Cleveland thereafter. That the statements imputed to him regarding the efficacy of disinfection were founded on false premises and are entirely illogical, is evidenced by the fact that the City of Cleveland does not today depend on disinfection, but has a vaccination law similar to what exists in Edmonton.

In concluding, "Sufferer" reminds me of what I was already quite well aware, the laxity regarding vaccination in Toronto, the result of persistent agitation on the part of sufferers like himself, some of whom are paid a salary proportionate to their ability as agitators. Dr. Bell, provincial health inspector of Ontario, who was recently my guest in Edmonton, predicts that on account of this laxity within a period of ten years Toronto will reap a whirlwind of smallpox similar to that which devastated Montreal in 1884 and which followed on a period of laxity brought about by the same foolish agitators. This reference to Montreal reminds me that I have yet to deal with another shining light, no less a person than Alex M. Ross, A. M., M. D., F. R. S. The fallacy of the statement attributed to him is apparent. During this epidemic the authorities quite properly attempted to stay its progress by a rigid system of vaccination. Many thousands of children were, as a result, vaccinated, among whom

were a large number who had already acquired smallpox and were in the incubation period, which has an average duration of twelve days. During this period no symptoms are manifest, and if vaccination be performed as early as the third day and is effective, smallpox will probably be aborted and not appear. After the third day of incubation up to the eighth day, vaccination, even when successful, will not prevent smallpox from appearing, but the patient will have both smallpox and vaccinia at the same time. The only effect the latter has on the disease, if well developed before the twelfth day, is to modify it and make it milder than it otherwise would have been. If effected after the eighth day of incubation, it will have little or no effect, as smallpox has gained the upper hand, and runs its course just as it would have done had no vaccination been performed. The eleven hundred children referred to by Dr. Ross, whom he states to have been vaccinated into smallpox, belong to the last class, and had smallpox in spite of vaccination, and not on account of it, as he erroneously states.

Should "Sufferer" further attempt to refute my statements that no honest medical man of recognized merit or attainment can possibly be an anti-vaccinist, might I ask him to confine himself to the living and active men of the present century, who are familiar with vaccination as performed at the present day, and not libel the dead, who cannot rise up to refute his statements regarding them? Will he give me the name of one Canadian physician in Edmonton, in Alberta or Saskatchewan, in the whole of Canada, who is an avowed anti-vaccinist and who at the same time is regarded with any measure of respect by the members of his own profession? Will he state that the Government of any civilized country in the world today has not adopted a more or less stringent law regarding vaccination?

Professor William Osler, Emeritus Professor at Oxford University, probably the greatest living authority in medicine today, thus writes regarding the Montreal epidemic:-

"The epidemic which started in 1870-71 was severe in Lower Canada and persisted in Montreal till 1875. A great deal of feeling had been aroused among the French Canadians by the occurrence of several serious cases of ulceration, possibly of syphilitic disease following vaccination, and several agitators, among them a French physician of some standing, aroused a popular and widespread prejudice against the practice. There were indeed vaccination riots. The introduction of animal lymph was distinctly beneficial in extending the practice among the lower classes, but compulsory vaccination could not be carried out. Between the years 1870 and 1884, a considerable unprotected population grew up, and the materials were ripe for an extensive epidemic. The soil had been prepared with the greatest care, and it only needed the introduction of the seed, which in due time came, as already stated, with the Pullman-car conductor from Chicago on the 28th February, 1885. Within the next ten months thousands of persons were stricken with the disease and 3164 died, of whom 2717 were children."

Dr. Osler further states: "Communities in which vaccination and re-vaccination are thoroughly and systematically carried out are those in which smallpox has the fewest victims. On the other hand, those in which vaccination and re-vaccination are persistently neglected are the communities in which epidemics are

the most prevalent. In the German army the practice of re-vaccination has stamped out the disease.”

Chas. A. Hodgetts, M.D., L.R.C.P., London, chief health officer of Ontario, in his Government report states re the Anti-Vaccination movement:-

“The discovery of vaccination, like other epoch-making events of a scientific character, has met with opposition, abuse and ridicule, chiefly from English speaking people, and described as writers of authority, as metaphysicians, religious fanatics and faddists, persons who from time to time imbibe distorted, pernicious and intoxicating ideas of a few misguided scientists, who, seized with their own infallibility often glibly discuss and dogmatize upon questions about which they possess little, if any, practical knowledge; scientists who often advance false statements and distort truth, facts and figures, all of which are eagerly swallowed by the faithful, notwithstanding the fact that their statements have been discarded by the highest sanitary authorities of the most cultured nations of the world, as unworthy of consideration. Perhaps the most persistent objections have been those of a politico-legal character, raised in connection with compulsory vaccination, the line of argument being directed particularly at the principle of ‘compulsion’ as being contrary to the free will and liberty of the individual, the argument being that vaccination and re-vaccination are matters that concern the individual and not the state, and in this manner a number of susceptible individuals are influenced and led to believe that they are the only guardians of liberty. It must be pointed out that the arguments on these lines are based on false conceptions of liberty, for personal liberty and free will have legal limits and under no condition can they be permitted to come into collision with what is for the common weal.”

Touching on the conditions in Toronto regarding vaccination, Dr. Hodgett remarks as follows:-

“If municipal authorities fail to comply with the conditions just referred to, the people of this province will have cause to regret their stupid indifference, for assuredly smallpox will visit us again in all its old time severity, and finding us in a similar position to that in which the inhabitants of Montreal were in 1885, we will have to pay the penalty in like manner to that city, both in family bereavement and in financial loss in which case the residents of this province will curse their own stupidity in listening to the seductive words of false teachers – and many parents will pronounce their anathemas when all too late to save the lives of their loved ones against the present agitators who launch from time to time their squibs and sky rockets amidst an oratorical display as fanciful as the grandest display of fire works one could wish to see.”

Referring to his experience of vaccination, Dr. Hodgetts states:-

“Regarding the dangers of vaccination, it is found that most of the cases reported by the laity as due to vaccination will not stand the test of a careful and intelligent investigation. I would sum up my experience of sixteen years in Ontario, during which, either personally or through the aid of assistants over 40,000 vaccinations have been performed, often under the most unsatisfactory conditions, I have never seen a life in jeopardy by reason of the inoculation of vaccine, and I have

yet to see the first case where illness of either a temporary or permanent character could be ascribed to bovine vaccine. Further in those cases where any injury has followed the operation, it has always in my experience, been due to contributory negligence allowing of a secondary infection, the greater part of which could have been prevented, had those persons observed even the elementary principles of cleanliness, and in the majority of cases a simple abrasion of the skin, minus the vaccination, would have been followed by precisely similar conditions.”

In writing this reply to “Sufferer” I confess I did not hope or expect to convince him, or any member of his cult, of error. It has always been found difficult, if not impossible, to persuade the average anti-vaccinist to allow reason and sober judgment to hold sway in considering the evidence pro and con on this matter. However, the public generally is more discerning, and my whole object in replying to “Sufferer” was to guard against his fallacious statements being accepted as conclusive, which might result in great harm to the future welfare of our city, if they were allowed to go unchallenged. I shall in future decline to take any notice of anti-vaccination letters in the public press, but if any ratepayer, or even “Sufferer” himself, should still have any doubt regarding the matter, I shall be pleased to furnish him at my office with up-to-date literature on the question by the greatest living authorities, which he may peruse at his leisure and deduce his own conclusions [from].

Our experience in Edmonton alone, during the time I have been health officer, should be sufficient to successfully refute all arguments which have been brought or can be brought against modern vaccination. It is to be noted that “Sufferer” has carefully refrained from touching on this point, as well as others of my previous letter.

Yours truly,

T. H. WHITELOW.

“How I rid Cleveland of smallpox”⁴¹ (October, Cleveland & Edmonton)

In the recent discussion in the city between Dr. Whitelaw, medical health officer, and a number of anti-vaccinationists, Dr. Friederick, chairman of the Board of Health in Cleveland, was quoted as having stated that vaccination was not effective in stopping the spread of smallpox, and that the cessation of the disease was due to disinfection and the adoption of sanitary laws.

In this connection, Dr. P. M. Hall, commissioner of health in Minneapolis, who has seen the correspondence, writes Dr. Whitelaw as follows:

“I see that you are having some trouble with anti-vaccinationists. I do know that you know, but the year after Dr. Friederick, of Cleveland, issued his pamphlet ‘How I rid Cleveland of smallpox,’ they had the worst visitation of the disease that the City of Cleveland ever had, and the business men of the town simply jumped on to Dr. Friederick with both feet and compelled him to begin vaccinating, which he did, and finally got the epidemic under control. When I visited Dr. Friederick, in

⁴¹ From COMPELLED TO VACCINATE. (1908, October 17). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 10.

December 1905, and asked him regarding smallpox, with a great deal of gusto he told me that they had no trouble with smallpox, as he had the co-operation of the business men. That co-operation was a club, compelling him to do his duty. Go right ahead and vaccinate, and the sensible people of the community will back you up.”

“Cannot compel it”⁴² (October, Kingston)

Kingston, Ont., October 30 – The Board of Education admits that the medical health officer can order vaccination, but he cannot compel it on threat of expulsion. The board holds that it alone can exclude pupils from its schools. The board has already advised vaccination, but it finds so many parents conscientiously opposed to vaccination that it has not ordered compulsion. The matter will likely cause friction.

“Children’s blood poisoned”⁴³ (November, Edmonton & Toronto)

Editor of The Journal.

A friend has sent me a copy of an article by your health officer, Dr. T. H. Whitelaw, which appeared in your issue of Sept. 18th, as a “Reply to Anti-Vaccinationists.”

The good people of Edmonton are to be congratulated on having such a stalwart to denounce the dangerous people who object to having their children’s blood poisoned by putrid pus (named vaccine) taken from festering sores on the abdomen of a diseased calf and inoculated into their veins, sowing broadcast in their youthful and healthy bodies some of the filthiest and most deadly diseases to which human flesh has ever been subjected. The alleged object of this diseasing operation is to protect the subject from the attack of smallpox, a disease which, in its modern form in Canada, does not slay one per cent of those who (often falsely) are said to be attacked by it, and which not one in a thousand is likely ever to encounter. It would be difficult to conceive of an article so full of misrepresentation as this defence of the vaccination system. [...] ⁴⁴

In view of the facts this shamefully misleading statement disqualifies him for discussing the question on its merits. He either does not know the calibre of the medical men who have been constrained by the force of evidence, and often in direct opposition to their “financial” interests, as well as their “popularity” to abandon and oppose vaccination, or he wilfully slanders them.

Take, for example, Dr. Charles Creighton, author of the “History of British Epidemics” – two volumes. Selected as an orthodox physician in high standing to prepare the article on vaccination for the Encyclopedia Britannica, the special study of the subject revolutionized his faith, and forced him to write against the practice he

⁴² From OPPOSED TO VACCINATION. (1908, October 31). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

⁴³ From Weir, R. S. (1908, November 3). CONTENTION OF ANTI-VACCINATORS. *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 4.

⁴⁴ Here was a corrupt paragraph in the original, reading in full: “No honest medical man,” says he, “of recognized merit or attain-ation, or he wilfully slanders cinist.”

was expected to champion; Edgar M. Crookshank, M.B. [sic.], professor of Comparative Pathology and Bacteriology in, and Fellow of, King's College, London, Eng., author of "History and Pathology of Vaccination" – two portly volumes, illustrated, and many other important works; Dr. George Gregory, for fifty years director of the Smallpox Hospital, London; Dr. John Epps, director of the Jennerian Institute, London, who had vaccinated 20,000 people; Sir William J. Collins, M.D., F.R.C.S. & C., M.P. for St. Pancras, England, and a member of the Royal Commission on Vaccination, which granted, after seven years' examination of witnesses, what is now known as the "Conscientious Objectors' Clause," under which a parent may state before a magistrate his objection for having his child vaccinated and so escape the ordeal. No higher or more independent authority lives than Dr. Wm. J. Collins, and he is leader of the anti-vaccination forces in the House of Commons. Hundreds of other eminent medical men, all of whom are anti-vacs, because they have studied the subject and been converted, might be added to this list, did space permit, any one of whom is of more weight than a hundred of the average doctors who have never given the matter serious thought. The medical profession is therefore far from unanimous regarding vaccination, and we have it on the highest authority that "a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand."

To examine categorically the false statements and false reasoning of Dr. Whitelaw would fill more space than the average publisher would be willing to grant, but if you, Mr. Editor, consent, I shall show that vaccination has not a leg to stand on either in the light of its history or that of its nature.

Yours faithfully,

R. S. WEIR, Sec.-Treas.

Anti-Vac. League, Toronto

"The fight at present going on"⁴⁵ (Ottawa & Toronto)

Editor Evening Citizen: In its Notes and Comments of 3rd inst. your contemporary the Journal⁴⁶ refers approvingly to the "undoubted precautionary value of vaccination" as preventive of smallpox. "Undoubted" is a wrong term, it seems to me, to use in this connection. The fight at present going on in Kingston – a sample of what prevails all over this continent, as well as in other lands – manifests the fact that not "doubt" only, but positive unbelief exists in the minds of a large and intelligent class on this question. The opposition to vaccination so widely prevalent cannot be fairly ascribed to blind, unreasoning ignorance. On the contrary, the leading anti-vaccinists are such through careful study of the subject, whereas a large

⁴⁵ From Weir, R. S. (1908, November 24). VACCINAL PROPHYLAXIS. *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 8.

⁴⁶ The foregoing letter was sent to The Evening Citizen for publication after having been returned to Mr. Weir by our contemporary as unsuitable for publication in that paper. The Citizen is glad to print this or any letter dealing with "live issues or questions of the day," whether the views expressed conflict or coincide with those held by The Citizen. The correspondence column of The Evening Citizen is as it were, a forum in which readers may discuss matters affecting the public welfare, or questions of general interest. -Editor. [Note created from an afterword in the original.]

percentage of those who favor vaccination have never bestowed a moment's critical thought on it. The case is well put by William Lloyd Garrison: "The result," says he, "of reading and observation has been to make me distrust vaccination . . . My chief surprise was to discover that the chief antagonism to the practice came not from the ignorant and uncleanly classes, but from men and women of the highest intelligence, sensitive conscience, more than ordinary caution, and habits of scientific exactness. Such minds do not act without cause."

He further says: "I need not say that I was surprised at the company I overtook. And the companionship was an honor. Here were John Stuart Mill, Prof. Sheldon Amos, Millicent Garrett Fawcett, Florence Nightingale, Frances Power Cobbe, Gladstone, Bright, and other souls that have helped to light the world . . . Of the great medical authorities that helped to undermine my faith in vaccination, first was the experience of Dr. Charles Creighton. Selected as an orthodox physician in high standing to prepare the article on Vaccination for the Encyclopedia Britannica, the special study of the subject revolutionized his faith and forced him to write against the practice he was expected to champion. Ranged on the side of dissent came Dr. J. J. Garth Wilkinson, M.R.C.S.; Prof. Edgar Crookshank, Dr. George Gregory, for fifty years director of the Smallpox Hospital, London; Dr. John Epps, director of the Jennerian institute, London, who had vaccinated 120,000 people; Dr. Alexander, professor of physiology, United States Medical college, New York; Dr. Collins, licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, and equally eminent authorities in Germany, France and Belgium."

Alfred Russell Wallace, L.L.D., F.R.S., etc. (chap. XVIII of the Wonderful Century), says, in summing up, "I venture to think that I have so presented the best of these statistical facts as to satisfy my readers of the absolute uselessness of vaccination as a preventive of smallpox; while the same facts render it highly probable that it has actually increased susceptibility to the disease . . . Vaccination is a gigantic delusion; it has never saved a single life; but it has been the cause of so much disease, so many deaths, such a vast amount of utterly needless and altogether undeserved suffering that it will be classed by the coming generation among the greatest errors of an ignorant and prejudiced age, and its penal enforcement the foulest blot on the generally beneficent course of legislation during our century. To talk of amending such legislation is a mockery. Absolute and immediate abolition is the only course open to us."

Testimony of this sort might be furnished almost without limit, but I fear that your patience may already be overtaxed. What, in the light of such testimony, is the "undoubted value of vaccination?"

R. S. WEIR, Sec.-Treas., Anti-Vac. League, Toronto.

“Show a certificate”⁴⁷ (November, Kingston)

Kingston, Ont., November 24 – (Special) – Compulsory vaccination comes into force in Kingston in 7 days. Those who cannot then show a certificate of successful vaccination within 7 years will be liable to a fine not exceeding \$50 and costs, or, in default of payment, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months. Last night the council adopted a by-law making vaccination compulsory and containing a penalty clause.

“Resulted most disastrously”⁴⁸ (December, Toronto)

Toronto, Dec. 16. – Dr. Hodgetts, chairman of the provincial board of health, blames the prevalence of smallpox in Ontario to the non-enforcement of vaccination by the municipal councils. He says their failure in this regard has resulted most disastrously to the business community. There were 181 cases of the disease for November.

Twenty Years Later⁴⁹ (1928)

Vaccination is completely harmless. This is a point around which controversy – when there is controversy – usually rages.

During the [first world] war, the matter was abundantly proved by army records. There were over 400,000 men in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Every one of these men was vaccinated. They were vaccinated under all sorts of conditions and absolutely accurate records of the results were kept.

Not only was there not one death, but there was also not a single disability of vaccination. Both Surgeon-General Fotheringham and Col. J. A. Amyot, who was in charge of sanitation among the Canadian troops, have surveyed the records and issued statements.

Col. Amyot noted that there had not been, during the entire period of the war, any epidemic of smallpox among Canadian troops, even though they were in army areas where smallpox was prevalent and many Canadian soldiers were in direct contact with smallpox cases. In comparison with this, there are the records of the Serbian Army, where vaccination was not practiced and where the losses from smallpox [were] heavy.

These records showing the harmlessness of vaccination are supported by similar reports from the medical chiefs of the American forces. [...]⁵⁰

⁴⁷ From NEWS OF KINGSTON. (1908, November 25). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

⁴⁸ From Due to Lack of Vaccination. (1908, December 17). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

⁴⁹ From Vaccination and Smallpox. (1928, March 2). *The Clareholm Review-Advertiser*, p. 5.

⁵⁰ I've omitted an extended case study of vaccination in the Philippines as being only tangentially related. -CW

It is necessary to remember that no section of the population views the announcement of a new advance in the field of medical science with more scepticism than the members of the medical profession itself. The simple statement that a treatment will accompany such-and-such results when applied to any given disease, means nothing.

It must be backed up by cold and exactly calculated statistics. The results must be checked and re-checked several times and verified by men of undisputed reputation, before they will be accepted even by a minority of doctors and physicians.

Vaccination has been undergoing a searching test for more than a century. Each successive report only goes to strengthen previous conclusions. At present, the volume of evidence in support of it is utterly complete.

The method used today is developed from the original discovery of Edward Jenner, the English scientist. The faults in his methods were technical faults, and they have long ago been remedied.

No doctor will say that vaccination is infallible. A successful vaccination, however, will, beyond the shadow of a doubt, furnish complete protection for five to seven years. There are the records of case after case to show that an individual who has been vaccinated at any time in his life, is practically safe, decades later, from the more virulent type. If he does contract smallpox in old age, at a time, moreover, when his resistance is weakened, the disease is mild and he soon recovers.

It is against the child, however, that smallpox seems to direct its chief attack and for the child, vaccination offers absolute immunity. It is, perhaps, the best system to have children vaccinated first in infancy and then again, a few years latter when they are of school age. Two vaccinations usually protect an individual for the whole of a lifetime and render an attack of smallpox impossible.

It is to be hoped that, in future, there will not be a repetition in Canada of situations in the past when it has required sickness and death – has unnecessarily cost many valuable lives – to drive home the fact that vaccination does what science has proved that it will do.

Appendix: Reports from 1885

“Eager to be vaccinated”⁵¹ (August, Montreal)

Thirty-two new cases of smallpox were reported at the Health office yesterday. It has now spread to the West end of the city, and cases are reported in Latour, St. Catherine, Peel, and St. Antoine streets, and one case was removed from the Saratoga hotel. The health officers yesterday received a telephone message from Ravenscrag, the residence of the family of the late Sir Hugh Allan, that smallpox had broken out in the lodge and the house was promptly placarded.

VACCINATION GOING ON PROMPTLY

The Health office was yesterday crowded with people eager to be vaccinated, and the medical officer was kept busy all day. The fresh supply of vaccine telegraphed for had not arrived at 9 o'clock, and when it did there were over sixty persons vaccinated in two hours. Several of the people vaccinated have immediate neighbors laid up with the disease, so the Health office is not, therefore, the healthiest place in the city.

WISE PRECAUTIONS

Yesterday all the employees of Messrs. Thomas May & Company, wholesale fancy dry goods merchants of McGill and St. James streets, eighty to eighty-five in number, including the girls in the workroom, were notified that all not already vaccinated must be so. This will be done at the firm's expense.

The numerous employees of the Canadian District Telegraph company have been notified that they must at once undergo vaccination under pain of dismissal for neglect of such precaution.

Mr. Isidore B. Durocher, proprietor of the Richelieu hotel, says that, in view of the spread of smallpox, he thought it his duty to have one and all of the employees of his establishment vaccinated. He has, in consequence, requested his physician to visit the hotel, and the 150 employees of Mr. Durocher will all be vaccinated within a day or two.

Dr. Laphorn Smith states that it is arranged for him to vaccinate the employees of the firms of J. C. Wilson and Chanteloup. It is not compulsory that all employees therein should be vaccinated, but he expressed an opinion that it ought to be. He further stated that he knows for a fact that there are upwards of five thousand French-Canadian children in the city who have never been vaccinated, and thinks that stringent measures should be taken by the law to enforce it.

All the employees of the Grand Trunk railway are to be vaccinated by Dr. Rodger, who starts operations to-morrow. It is compulsory, and those employed in the offices, as well as in the shops, are included in the order.

Mr. J. G. Ogden, auditor of the Canadian Pacific railway, has issued the following notice to the clerks of his department:-

⁵¹ From THE PUBLIC HEALTH. (1885, August 21). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

“In consequence of the number employed in this department, it is necessary that prompt means be taken for the protection of all against the smallpox. I therefore require everyone connected with this department to be vaccinated at once, and to furnish me, within one week, with a certificate of vaccination from a physician, and also that there is no case of smallpox in their family.”

In view of the present smallpox epidemic, the Police court is being disinfected morning and evening with carbolic acid. The Montreal Catholic academy, on Sherbrooke street, has refused to accept pupils who do not come bringing physicians' certificates of successful vaccination. This example should certainly be followed by the School commissioners; otherwise many parents will not allow their children to attend.

BARNUM NOT COMING

BARNUM AND LONDON TENTS, ROCHESTER, N.Y., August 20, 1885.}
To the Editor of the GAZETTE.

SIR, – We have decided not to bring our great exhibition to Montreal this season, therefore no performance will be given by the united Barnum and London shows on September 3rd and 4th in your city.

While this decision entails upon us the loss of a large amount of money, time, trouble and very great inconvenience, besides disappointing thousands of residents, we deem it best not to bring our mammoth shows to your city during the existence there of any sickness, no matter of what character, as a precautionary measure of public safety.

This determination has been strengthened after a conversation on the subject had with His Honor the Mayor and many leading citizens, who fully concurred with our views and sustain our action. Our tour through the Dominion, however, will continue and exhibitions be given in all those towns where we are already advertised to give performances.

We trust the people of Montreal will appreciate the motives which impel us to pursue this course, and will kindly remember that in omitting the city of Montreal we are actuated only by the most unselfish regard for the best interests of the community.

The Public's obedient servants,

BARNUM, BAILY & HUTCHINSON.

PLACARDING HOUSES

A couple of houses in the neighborhood of the corner of Peel and St. Catherine streets were posted yesterday morning with notices of the presence of smallpox patients within. Notwithstanding this, a number of children were playing about near the houses.

Some currency was given yesterday to a report that a member of the Molson family had been stricken down with smallpox, and it was even said had had a fatal ending. The report being communicated to the Health officers, an employee was despatched to the supposed infected residence, with instructions to enquire into the truth of the rumor and, if confirmed, to place a placard upon the house. Instead of following his directions, the employee, without making any enquiry, posted the

placard, which was very properly, upon its discovery, taken down by the resident; and, discovering their mistake, the health authorities, later in the day, despatched the messenger to perform a like work of removing the placard. There was no case of smallpox or other disease in the house in question, and how the report could have got abroad, passes comprehension.

A woman stated yesterday that she saw a placard being torn down on Wolfe street by four people, who washed it off with soap and water, while a number of little boys and girls crowded round the door.

The house next door to Sergeant Charbonneau's residence on St. Catherine street was placarded yesterday morning.

SPREADING THE DISEASE

The sanitary police will bring several parties this morning before the Recorder on the charges of tearing down placards and of exposing offal on the streets. A short time ago an English lady was attacked [by smallpox], and she isolated herself in her house with a French nurse. This week she is convalescent, and her nurse came to her with a request. She said that she had a family of small children, none of whom had had the disease, and her request was that she be allowed to bring them all to the house in order that they might take the mild form of it which the lady had been suffering under. The request was, of course, refused. On Wednesday a man was observed on Dorchester street (East end) walking about unconcernedly, with the disease fully upon him. A woman living on St. Maurice street, Hochelaga, whose child was attacked, carried off the latter to some friends in the country.

A woman, who, with her children got vaccinated yesterday morning, relates the following particulars of exposure:- Next door to her, on St. Catherine street, a family live. There are thirteen people in three rooms. One of the children took the disease, a little boy aged five years. He came out and sat on the gallery, and a little neighbor boy took the disease and died last Monday week, and his little sister (the dead boy's) is now down with the disease. The family referred to laughed at this woman for disinfecting her house with carbolic acid and chloride of lime.

Yesterday afternoon a gentleman entered a St. Catherine barber shop for the purpose of being shaved. While awaiting his turn he was more than surprised that the man immediately preceding him had his face completely covered with smallpox. He asked the man if he was suffering from the disease, when he was coolly answered in the affirmative. Thereupon the gentleman took up his hat to depart, when he of the razor requested him to be seated, informing him at the same time that there was not the slightest danger, as the man was recovering. It is needless to remark that the inducement to remain was not strong enough for the gentleman, and it is also almost as needless to remark that the barber who was guilty of such an assistance to spreading the disease is unworthy of the patronage of the public, even more, he ought to be prosecuted by the authorities.

RELIEVING DISTRESS

So far the Mayor has not received a single dissenting answer to his card to the subscribers to the volunteer fund, proposing that the surplus to that fund should be devoted to the relief of sufferers by the smallpox. He has, however, received some

additional subscriptions, yesterday morning bringing two, one of \$20 and the other of \$5.

Dr. Laberge states that he has relieved two families, who were isolated according to regulations, of the names of Girard, Champlain street, and Deseve, of Charbonneau street. There were ten members comprising the former family, of whom one was down with the disease; and eight in the latter, the father being in Longue Pointe; \$2 a week was the amount. It was small, but better than nothing. He hoped the relief committee, when organized, would see that a medical man distributed the relief, as the condition of the inmates would require to be reported on.

SMALLPOX A WINTER DISEASE

Many people have an idea that smallpox is essentially a summer disease and that on the approach of winter the epidemic will begin to wane. Montreal's epidemic is very far from encouraging this theory. For instance, in 1877 the deaths from smallpox were as follows:

January	105	July	36
February	75	August	24
March	51	September	22
April	27	October	12
May	40	November	14
June	73	December	<u>27</u>
Total			506

It will be seen that the highest mortality from smallpox was in the depth of winter. If the epidemic is not stamped out before Montreal gets its double windows up, we may look for a heavy mortality in the winter.

HOW THEY DO IT IN TORONTO

A gentleman named Merrick moved to Toronto a short time ago from Montreal and took up residence on Gifford street. Shortly after arriving one of the children was stricken down with smallpox. Dr. Canniff was notified and immediately took every precaution. The parents were vaccinated and forbidden to leave the house, and every other precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The caretaker of the smallpox hospital was put into the house to see that the regulations are enforced. The city commissioner brings food to the family and a physician visits the house twice a day.

MEETING OF PAPER BOX MAKERS

A meeting of the book binders, paper box and paper bag makers was held yesterday in the long room of the Mechanics' hall to consult as to the best method to be taken by the trade to check the spread of smallpox among their employees. There were present Messrs. C. J. J. Philips, of Morton, Philips and Bulmer; S. E. Dawson, of Dawson Bros.; Joseph Fortier [and] Robert Miller, of Robert Miller & Sons; J. Major, of the Major Manufacturing company; John Lovell, L. D. Sims, [and] Walter M. Rice, of the Star Collar and Box company, and G. S. Wilson, of J. C. Wilson & Co. Mr. Miller was appointed chairman and Mr. Wilson secretary.

After explaining the object of the meeting, the chairman said he thought that they should devise means to make their employees respect the sanitary laws. The necessity of vaccination was disputed by some French-Canadians, but among English speaking people generally it was admitted that it was the great safeguard. He was sorry that such firms as J. B. Rolland's and Senecal's had not been invited.

Mr. JOS. FORTIER disclaimed the idea that the French-Canadians did not believe in vaccination, and said he had found more English anti-vaccinationists than French.

Mr. JOHN LOVELL asked if the French Canadian trade had been invited.

Mr. G. S. WILSON – No.

Mr. S. E. DAWSON thought that was a mistake, and that they should adjourn until another day to invite the co-operation of the whole trade.

Mr. G. S. WILSON disclaimed any intention to slight the French trade, but said he had sent out the circulars in a hurry.

Mr. DAWSON said there were two dangers connected with the existence of smallpox which it was well should be avoided. On the one hand the spread of the disease should be checked, and on the other anything like alarm or exaggeration should be avoided. As an employer of labor he was unaware of the existence of a smallpox epidemic, inasmuch as not one of his seventy or eighty employees is ill with the disease. Having just returned from the States, where the most exaggerated reports of the extent of the disease were current, he was in a position to know what injury was being done the city by the exaggerations which have gained currency. It became them as employers to fight the disease and help stamp it out. Five years ago he had all his employees vaccinated, and none objected.

Mr. LOVELL said that some of his employees had smallpox in their families, and had left their work in consequence. He had decided that his people must get vaccinated, though some of them objected to it.

Mr. PHILIPS thought that the compulsory vaccination of every employee under pain of dismissal was going too far.

Mr. SIMS said he had notified his employees that if any of them had smallpox in their homes they must stop away from their work until the danger of infection was past. His firm would continue paying their wages to any of the hands who may have to stop work through this cause.

Mr. S. E. DAWSON then moved "That in order to afford an opportunity of inviting the entire trade that a general meeting of the bookbinders, paper box and bag makers be called for to-morrow at 3 o'clock, in the long room of the Mechanics' hall."

Mr. JOHN LOVELL seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned until this afternoon, when a large attendance of the trade is requested.

“The most strenuous efforts”⁵² (August, Montreal)

There were twenty-three deaths from smallpox on Thursday and twenty-four yesterday, one in St. Henri and four in St. Jean Baptiste village. There were fifty new cases of smallpox reported on Thursday, only nineteen of which were authenticated. Of the fifty-six cases in the Civic hospital forty-three are progressing favorably and thirteen are bad cases. At the Health office yesterday ninety persons were vaccinated. Mr. Moseley had all his men vaccinated, at his expense, excepting thirteen, who refused to be vaccinated and were discharged at once. Mr. Henry Bulmer, the lumber merchant, had his men vaccinated at his expense, with the exception of one, who refused, and was dismissed.

Three persons who came from infected houses were for upwards of an hour yesterday in the Health offices in the midst of more than fifty people, who were present to be vaccinated.

The canvassers of the Canadian Subscription Company who go to all parts of the city report only one family on their list afflicted with smallpox.

A gentleman who thinks the panic created by the smallpox epidemic is out of proportion to its cause says that not one of his employees has been absent from work through sickness during the epidemic, and he employs about 150 hands.

It is reported that a boot and shoe firm in the city has lost a \$5,000 order from Winnipeg owing to the buyer's fear of importing smallpox to that city.

To-morrow will be observed in the Reformed Episcopal church as a day of special humiliation and prayer for the complete deliverance of the city from the present epidemic.

Fettes' College school, announced to be opened on the 1st of September, will not do so until the 10th.

A summons has been issued from the Recorder's court for Lieut.-Col. Hughes to appear there at 3 o'clock this afternoon to answer to the charge of tearing down smallpox placards.

Another case was fixed for Tuesday, and two for Thursday. It has been suggested that these cases should not be tried in the Recorder's court owing to the danger from infection.

The members of the Montreal Field Battery were all vaccinated at the armory last evening.

Dr. Laphorn Smith finished vaccinating the Harbor police yesterday morning.

THE RAILWAY COMPANIES

Yesterday morning a meeting of the representatives of the different railway companies connecting with Montreal and the United States, was held in the office of Consul-General Anderson, to decide on what action they should take in connection with the smallpox epidemic in the city. The medical superintendents of the railways, as well as a number of doctors, were present. Dr. Coventry, president of the health board of Ontario, occupied the chair. The position of the railways in connection with

⁵² From THE PUBLIC HEALTH. (1885, August 29). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 2.

the smallpox was discussed. The general feeling of those present was that some energetic means should be taken to assure the people of the United States that there was no danger of the contagion being conveyed through the railway traffic. It was decided that a doctor should inspect all the trains leaving the city depots. The meeting adjourned to an early date.

THE CAUGHNAWAGA RESERVE

The most strenuous efforts are being made to prevent the smallpox contagion making its appearance on the Caughnawaga Reserve. The Indians have all been vaccinated within the past few weeks, and a medical house to house visitation has been made with the object of making the people of the reserve comply with the sanitary laws. An order has been issued that pigs and other animals were not to be allowed in the houses. The authorities state that the reserve never was in a more healthy condition and that the Indian exhibition next month promises to be a great success.

AT ST. JEAN BAPTISTE VILLAGE

With reference to the statement of the authorities of St. Jean Baptiste village, that the wind had carried the contagion from the smallpox hospital to the village, the medical Health officer, Dr. Laberge, says he does not believe it. The elements, he says, of which the air is composed are splendid disinfectants. A portion of the General hospital was formerly employed as a smallpox ward, and an enquiry was instituted as to whether there was any likelihood of contagion therefrom being carried to the surrounding neighborhood. It was decided that the hospital was sufficiently isolated and that there was no such danger. Perhaps the unsanitary condition of the village, however, may be accounted for by the disgraceful way in which butchers sometimes dispose of offal in vacant lots. Between 6 and 7 o'clock on Thursday evening an elderly butcher was seen emptying two large barrels of blood and offal in a vacant lot, not far from the park at the back of St. Lawrence street.

ST. GABRIEL VILLAGE

A case of smallpox is reported in St. Gabriel village. The house in which the disease has appeared is situated on Manufacturers street, and the local authorities have adopted very stringent measures for isolating the patient.

A meeting of the ratepayers of the village was held on Thursday night for the purpose of discussing the subject. The meeting was held in the large new hall of the Protestant school and under the auspices of the trustee. After some discussion it was decided that the school should not be opened until the first of October, and the trustees submitted the following resolution, which was approved of:

That no child will be admitted to the school until the following conditions have been complied with:-

1. A satisfactory certificate must be produced showing that smallpox does not exist in the household.
2. Every child under eight years of age, if not already vaccinated, must be vaccinated.
3. Every child over eight years of age must be revaccinated.

4. A doctor's certificate in proof of the fulfilment of conditions 2 and 3 will be required and must be handed to the head of the school on the opening day.

Blank forms for the parents to fill in may be obtained on application to Mr. A. C. Galbraith, head master at the school, every Saturday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. during the month of September.

THE U.S. CONSULATE

United States Consul-General Anderson is sending to his Government bi-weekly statements showing the progress of the smallpox epidemic. These reports are made out on blank forms supplied all agents of the consular service by the office of the surgeon-general of the U.S. navy, so that at Washington a complete record of the contagious diseases throughout the world is kept. Dr. Anderson hopes that these reports will effectually allay the excitement caused by the exaggerated stories about the outbreak published in the American papers.

LONGUE POINTE ASYLUM

A few days ago a report was spread in the city that smallpox had broken out in the asylum at Longue Pointe. To learn if there was any truth in the report a representative of the GAZETTE went down to Longue Pointe and visited the asylum. The lady superioress was seen and she kindly showed the reporter over the immense building and assured him that there was not the slightest ground for the spreading of the rumor. As all Montrealers know, at the time of the building of the asylum and the adding of the various wings, the greatest care was taken to secure a healthy location, and particular regard paid to the sanitary arrangements of both grounds and buildings. In order to give it as complete immunity as possible from contagious disease, the interiors of the immense buildings are kept with scrupulous cleanliness and neatness. Mother Therese stated that not a serious bodily disease of any kind existed in the asylum, and since the outbreak of smallpox in the city the greatest care had been taken in regard to the visitors who were permitted to visit the patients or asylum, in order to guard against the infection being brought into their midst. [...]

AN INDIAN REMEDY

Rev. Father Arnaud, the resident missionary of the Montagnais Indians at Betsiamits, Labrador, writes to the *Courier du Canada* recommending the roots of *sarranenia purpurea*, commonly known as the pitcher plant, as an antidote against smallpox, and attesting the curative effects within his own experience during a terrible outbreak of the disease among the Montagnais Indians at Mr. Holiday's establishment on the River Moisie some years ago.

DR. LAROCQUE ON VACCINATION

In view of the great interest taken at present in the smallpox epidemic, and the anxiety of the public to learn anything connected with the origin and spread of the disease in the city, a GAZETTE representative called on Dr. Larocque, late medical officer of health for the city, to gather from him particulars of the history of the disease in Montreal. Dr. Larocque was city health officer during the last smallpox epidemic, and he has long and extensive experience in the treatment of the disease.

Dr. LAROCQUE stated: "I have been working for years in order to ward off such an epidemic as we have now. The only means of stamping out the smallpox is to

establish a good system of vaccination in order to protect the infantile population, who are suffering most. Since 1875 I have been working to get introduced not only to Montreal, but throughout the whole Dominion, a system of vaccination the same as in Great Britain. In 1875 I made a report in favor of vaccination to the Board of Trade and other gentlemen interested in the matter, and the result of our exertions was that we got the Quebec Legislature to pass the vaccination law. The Health committee at the time established three vaccination centres, but these were found of no avail, as the vaccination of children could not be made compulsory for want of a system of registration of births.”

Questioned on the necessity for a proper smallpox hospital, Dr. LAROCQUE stated that a new hospital should be erected on a scale which would afford 1,500, or 2,000, or even 3,000 if possible, cubic feet to each patient. Scientists held that it was absolutely necessary to the proper treatment of the disease, but in the present hospital he believed that the patients had each only about 600 cubic feet of space. He would have a medical man resident in the hospital and discharging no other duties and plenty of skilled nurses – nuns if possible – to tend to the patients. He suggested that there should be private wards in the hospital and that patients should have the privilege of being attended by their own physicians.

“How do you account for the large number of cases in St. Jean Baptiste village compared with other parts of the city?”

“Because there is a bad system of drainage in the village. The people did not take the same care to isolate smallpox patients as they do in other parts of the city, and they did not get vaccinated to the same extent.”

Dr. Larocque also advised the establishment of a medical board of health for the province, so that they might be able to carry the sanitary laws into effect in the townships and country districts.

INTERESTING STATISTICS

We take the following interesting vaccination statistics from a report furnished at the request of Dr. R. P. Howard to the celebrated Dr. Carpenter, of London, by Dr. Larocque:

“Dr. Carpenter being obliged to refute the anti-vaccinators in England, is collecting all the information that can be of use to him. I have thought it well to make as complete a report as possible on vaccination and smallpox from the year 1871 to the present. This report, which I intend sending to Dr. Carpenter, will also be very useful to us, by showing the various modes of vaccination adopted during that period and the measures taken to place vaccination on the best footing possible. We also show the number of patients admitted into the smallpox hospital from the 7th of November, 1874, when the institution was first opened, to the 1st of January, 1881; the character of the disease among the vaccinated and the unvaccinated, likewise the proportion of mortality among the unvaccinated as compared with the vaccinated. Besides this information a table is given showing the mortality from smallpox in the city, according to population.

“From 1871 to 1877 vaccination was done in a regular manner. In 1871 eleven vaccinators were appointed, who performed 3,333 vaccinations in the course of the

year. In 1872 sixteen vaccinators performed, at different offices, 6,452 vaccinations; and, from house to house, 1,580 vaccinations; giving a total of 8,032 for that year. During the year 1873, vaccinations to the number of 1,519 were performed at the offices of ten vaccinators. In 1874 eighteen vaccinators performed 1,340 vaccinations at their offices, and 277 from house to house. From the month of May, 1875, to the month of September, 1876, vaccination was done by the two health officers at three offices, situated respectively in the west, centre and east of the city. The number of vaccinations that year was 140. From September, 1876, to the 1st of January, 1877, twenty-four vaccinators performed 10,500 vaccinations from house to house. In September, 1877, the board appointed four vaccinators and assigned to each one a district. That year vaccinations were performed only during the months of November and December, the number being 200.

1878	four vaccinators made	3,273	vaccinations
1879	“ “ “	3,000	“
1880	“ “ “	2,087	“
1881	“ “ “	2,544	“
1882	“ “ “	2,134	“

“From September, 1877, to the 1st of January, 1883, vaccination was done in the following manner: Four vaccinators were employed up to May, 1882, when a fifth was appointed. During this period 13,738 vaccinations were performed, all being primary. Besides those made by the public vaccinators, there were about 4,000 vaccinations performed by other physicians in the city, giving a total of 17,738 primary vaccinations. From 1871 to September, 1877, there were 27,638 vaccinations made, 16,000 of which were primary, so that it may be said that from 1871 to 1883 there were 31,476 primary vaccinations performed in the city.

“The number of births from 1871 to 1883 has not been less than 60,000. Allowing for the mortality of a certain number of these children before reaching the age at which they should be vaccinated, there would yet remain a considerable number deprived of the benefits of vaccination, who would be exposed to catch smallpox should an epidemic of this terrible disease break out amongst us, and thus become centres of infection. I recommend in the latter part of this report a mode of vaccination which, if put in practice, would certainly tend to diminish the ravages of smallpox should that disease prevail again in the city.

“The following table shows the mortality from smallpox in the city of Montreal, according to population, from 1872 to 1881:-

	Population	Deaths	Mortality per 1,000
1872	120,757	896	7.41
1873	123,715	228	1.83
1874	124,745	647	5.10
1875	129,840	590	4.54
1876	133,000	704	5.9
1877	134,500	506	3.76
1878	135,000	728	5.48
1879	135,000	472	3.49
1880	135,000	<u>140</u>	1.03
		4,911	

In 1881 there were only five deaths from smallpox.

“They object to vaccination”⁵³ (September, Montreal)

The nailers are still out on strike from Messrs. Pillow, Hersey & Co.’s works, having refused to be vaccinated. The firm still adheres to its determination: “stay out or be vaccinated.” About 200 French Canadian operatives employed by the Adams tobacco company struck yesterday morning rather than be vaccinated. On the return of Mr. Mayo, the general manager, from New York at a later hour, however, he was able to persuade the men to return to work. Yesterday morning Dr. J. I. Desroches was called upon by the daughter of one of the employees in the Canadian Pacific shops, who wished to know what her father should put on his arm, which was badly swollen after vaccination. By putting questions to the young girl, the doctor ascertained that her father, wishing to prevent the vaccine from taking, had rubbed his arm with tobacco juice after the operation.

A CUTE DODGE

At a large manufactory in the East end the workmen recently held a meeting and resolved that any man having smallpox in his family should report and stay away from work. A benefit fund was formed to support afflicted workmen and their families, the subscriptions being 25 or 50 cents per week and benefits \$5 to \$10. One of the men having said he would willingly pay \$1 per week, reported next day that three of his children were seized. On investigation the man’s story was found to be a fabrication and he was discharged.

EXCELLENT ADVICE

Father Strubbs, of St. Ann’s parish, on Sunday last in his discourse referred to the smallpox epidemic. He encouraged vaccination, saying that everyone in his parish, regardless of age, should be vaccinated. He mentioned that they should not be afraid of catching the contagion, but nevertheless should not put themselves in danger. To guard against it he told them to ventilate their houses, but to beware of

⁵³ From THE PUBLIC HEALTH. (1885, September 9). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

dampness. When the winter comes, he continued, it will be almost necessary to take off the outside window and leave the inside one open for about one hour every morning, as the small ventilator is insufficient for the purpose. He eulogized the manner in which the patients in the hospital were treated, and said there were three priests exempt from all other duties to attend to the spiritual welfare of those therein.

PANIC STRICKEN

The superintendent of a reading room in an important town in the state of Massachusetts writes:-

“Will you please discontinue sending our paper for the present, as we are a little nervous about the smallpox. Of course it will make no difference to you, as they are all subscribed for the year.”

A CASE FOR THE PROVINCIAL BOARD

Mr. Wm. McNab, residing at 76 Panthaleon street, St. Jean Baptiste village, reports a dreadful state of affairs in the vicinity of his residence. At No. 74 a woman is nursing a child which is suffering from smallpox, while an older child is running in and out, mixing with the other children. The mother herself often goes out with the child in her arms to speak to the neighbors. This case was reported in the GAZETTE several days ago, but the village authorities took no steps in the matter. Mr. McNab’s employer did, however, for, having visited the place and seeing the danger of contagion, he yesterday discharged McNab, who is thus thrown out of a situation by the carelessness of his neighbors and the authorities. He has since learned that the reason why no steps were taken by the corporation is that the sergeant of police, whose duty it is to attend to the matter, is himself sick together with some of his family. They live above the police and fire station, and on the same flat as the public hall where the band usually practices.

“It is regrettable”⁵⁴ (October, Montreal)

The official returns at the Health office yesterday showed the deaths from smallpox on Saturday and Sunday to be as follows:

	Saturday	Sunday
City	37	59
St. Jean Baptiste Village	3	2
St. Henri	2	2
Cote St. Louis	2	1
Ste. Cunegonde	1	3

The report from the Civic hospital showed that 6 patients were admitted yesterday, 2 were discharged, and 1 died, leaving 155 patients in the institution, of whom 127 are doing well. There were 29 interments in Mount Royal cemetery for the

⁵⁴ From Anonymous, Gray, H. R. & Laberge, L. (1885, October 6). THE PUBLIC HEALTH. *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 5. By Louis Laberge (1851 - 1923) & Henry Robert Gray (1838 - 1908).

week ending October 3rd, of which 19 were deaths from smallpox. Seven of these were children under 7 years of age, and 1 was from an adjoining municipality.

A PLEA FOR VACCINATION

The following circular was read in some of the Roman Catholic churches on Sunday:-

It is regrettable that a portion, few in number it is true, of the people of Montreal have misunderstood the nature of the law requiring a general vaccination and have conceived a false idea of the means which will be adopted to put it into operation. As to the law, it is only a copy of that which is in force in England, France, Germany and the United States, though there it is not rigorously enforced except in times of epidemic. The statistics of all these countries show that this law is humane and productive of good. It reduces enormously the risk of taking the smallpox, and the mortality of the vaccinated who take this disease is only two per cent., while among the unvaccinated who are infected by it twenty-five to fifty per cent. die. The law has for its object to give to the small minority, who, being ignorant or deceived, refuse vaccination, the same advantages which the majority of their fellow-citizens, in common with almost all civilized peoples, obtain from this marvellous discovery of medical science. Its end is to protect their children from that disease so contagious, so loathsome and so dangerous. Its end is to hinder them from delivering to death by their negligence hundreds of innocent beings who only ask to live; to spare them the injustice which they would commit in spreading the plague and in forcing it, so to say, upon the whole city; to arrest the misery which threatens to follow the epidemic, famine, cold, the destitution of families deprived of their means of support, by the ruin of commerce and the destruction of all the manufactures. That is the end of the law.

As to its application, will it be violent, brutal? Will men seize mother and children and force them to uncover their arms, under penalty of being dragged instantly into court by the police? No. The citizens who control the Health department have perfect confidence in the common sense of the people. They know that it is only intended to expound calmly to them the facts, to reason with them, to prove to them from statistics in hand the happy experience which other towns and other peoples have had from vaccination. They invite all those who believe that the citizens composing the Board of Health have no other aim than the public health, and that by their education and position they are able to pronounce wisely on the facts, all those who believe that the unanimous opinion of a hundred and fifty distinguished physicians should prevail over that of a few scattered practitioners, to crowd the doors of the public vaccinators or summon their family physicians to vaccinate them. They invite the employers, the foremen, the heads of families, to give a good example and preach the crusade against smallpox by word and deed.

The facts which prove the efficacy of vaccination as a preventive and palliative are numerous, consistent and indisputable. When almost all will voluntarily get vaccinated the task will be easy. A doctor presents himself, the head of the family is undecided, the mother hesitates, the physician passes to the neighbor, leaving behind him a new leaflet filled with facts and information. He re-passes in two or three days.

If necessary he will return a third time. By that time light will have come to the mind. The experience of others, reading, conversation, will have converted the most stubborn. The whole street, the whole city will have been vaccinated. The hideous spectre will withdraw; commerce will revive. The workshops will resound anew. Prosperity and happiness will be brought again to life among us. Mildness, charity, reason, [and] persuasion will be the means that will have accomplished the work.

HENRY R. GRAY,

Chairman of the Board of Health.

L. LABERGE,

Health Officer.