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BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManus

Dr. H. E. Young, Provincial Health Officer, On Hospital Problems And Their Solution

"Health tax means a health service to all, if you are agreeable to that idea, to so organize the finances which are devoted to health work in British Columbia as to distribute the burden in a more equitable manner to produce better results ultimately, and to carry on the work through a sense of duty, devoting more time to the management of hospital affairs," said Dr. H. E. Young, provincial officer of health, of Victoria, in his address on Health Tax at the convention of the hospitals of British Columbia held at Kamloops.

The doctor said that those concerned in the question of the administration of the hospitals of the country were feeling the effects of increased cost of maintenance; the increased cost of equipment; the greater demand for hospital space on the part of the public, without a corresponding increase in income, and with the knowledge that there was no realization on the part of the public as to what their demands for increased hospitalization meant. Voluntary contributions, which formerly could be relied upon in any emergency, had become woefully meagre, owing to the great demand upon the people by the present taxes levied to pay our national debts, and hospitals were forced to depend upon governmental and municipal aid to supplement the income from the patients.

There never had been any definite scheme upon which governmental and municipal assistance had been granted, except that in some instances a per capita grant was made, but this grant was based upon running costs as applied fifteen or twenty years ago and there had not been any attempt on the part of the authorities to readjust these grants to meet the increased costs of the hospital.

Effort Made.
In British Columbia a very decided effort has been made during the past year to convince the authorities that if the hospitals are to be conducted upon modern and efficient lines some means are to be devised to meet the increasing cost, continued Dr. Young.

A government appropriates within the limits of the funds available, largely according to the apparent popular demand for each of its activities and until the people generally become awakened to the absolute and relative value of health work our legislature cannot be expected to grant the funds necessary on a reasonable adequate scale.

With the great advance in medical science necessitating the enlargement of our hospitals by an increase of the number of departments, involving increased cost for the installation of expensive apparatus together with the higher salaries necessary to pay experts to look after these departments, and also from the fact that the people are patronizing the hospital to a much greater extent than in former years, the government is being forced to recognize that, at the same ratio of increase in cost of maintenance and increase in number of patients, the hospitals will become such a burden on the general revenue of the country as to prevent the government from financing them on the same basis as they are being financed and it is becoming more apparent to all governments that the question of hospital support must be dealt with in a radical way.

Governmental Basis.
As Public Health work affects all the people, it appears logical for it to be conducted essentially as governmental business. The establishment and maintenance of reasonably adequate govern-

mental health agencies, properly co-ordinated to function in a common-sense business-like way in every community in Canada is so logical, in fact, that its realization eventually may be expected. That the cost of Public Health activities be met with funds obtained from equitable taxation of the people seems right.

"We have been depending upon voluntary organizations for assistance, but the Government is alive to the fact that this work will pass, and pass very rapidly to the taxpayer. We must secure the co-operation of the people by admitting them to the management of their own affairs, with the handling of their own finances, always with the idea predominant that this work must be made self-sustaining. They will adopt the easiest way of making it so by instructing the government to impose a voluntary tax which will be known as a 'Health Tax,' just exactly as we impose a school tax today. Six per cent of the community are always in need of medical attention."

Nation Below Par.

"If we are to get the best return from our educational system we should be able to produce a generation that will be physically able to give effect to their mental attributes and we have to confess that as a nation we are below par. One-third of our men were rejected as being unfit for the army; they are not fit for civilian life, that is, they are not an asset to the state because they can barely do more than support themselves and there is no thought of their being able to produce anything over and above their own support to increase the national wealth."

"We are allowing the children to grow up to become charges upon the state. In other words, we are not preventing physical defects and the result is that in the year 1920 we spent for hospitals, insane asylums, industrial schools and care of the sub-normal, a million and three-quarters of money from the Government revenue of the province besides what the municipalities spent."

"Our hospitals are overloaded with cases of disease that should never have reached the hospital simply because we failed to recognize the fact that the human being is the greatest national asset we have. If we are to increase our wealth by developing our national resources, our forests and mines, we must have men fit and able to carry on the work. If a man cannot work he becomes a burden on his friends or upon the state and those who are dependent upon him lose all the advantages that should belong to them. Not only are they a direct burden upon the taxes but they are an economic loss from the fact that they cease to be producers. How can this be remedied? By an extension of the knowledge of what prevention means. We paint our houses, we patch our automobiles, we patch our clothes and shoes to preserve their usefulness, and we do this as soon as

there is a suspicion of wear, yet we neglect to patch ourselves."

Extensive Application.
When speaking of Health Tax Dr. Young explained that he did not mean the tax to be applied to hospitals alone, but that a sum of money should be raised through the medium of the health tax that would provide for the care of the child through childhood and on through life.

In conclusion the doctor said "Divide your country into districts, make your hospital a centre, have the state provide the more costly part of it from the consolidated revenue. Tax your people who are in that district to maintain the hospital in efficient shape and everybody will contribute. If it is logical to take the children and examine them once a year and discover defects, why is it not just as logical to go into the home and say: How are you feeling? Are you fit to continue your responsibility as parents? Are you able to support these children until they become self-sustaining? What will be the answer? Give me a chance, tax me."

LADY MISSIONARY TELLS EXPERIENCES

Large and Appreciative Audiences
Listened to Miss Florence Jack in Methodist Church Yesterday

Miss Florence Jack, who has been engaged for some years in missionary work in West China, delivered a very interesting and inspiring address before a large and appreciative audience in the Methodist Church last night. A mass meeting for children held in the church in the afternoon was also well attended.

Telling the story of her experiences in the Orient, Miss Jack said the first place at which she was located was Lu Chew, a large port city on the Yangtse-Kiang river, where she obtained her training and took up the Chinese language. After becoming proficient in the Chinese tongue she proceeded to Tientsin, a city with a population of a million people, and became principal of the Chinese girls school there. This city was a great manufacturing centre and abounded in salt wells which supplied the whole of China with this commodity. The Methodist mission, with which Miss Jack is connected, had several churches and schools for the children and grown people, and branch schools were located all over the city to which schools the senior pupils were sent for the purpose of instructing the younger children under the supervision of experienced teachers.

WILL BUILD HOTEL AT LAKESE LAKE BY NEXT SEASON

W. G. Watson, of the Lakelse Hot Springs, in company with R. A. Brooke, of Edmonton, arrived in the city last night en route to Vancouver. Mr. Watson is visiting the south in connection with financial business affecting the proposed new \$400,000 hotel which it is the intention to erect at the Lakelse Hot Springs as soon as the business conditions improve sufficiently to warrant the expenditure.

For the coming season the present hotel-accommodation is con-

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BOARD—Inlander, 830 Second Avenue, Phone 137.

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sidered sufficient to take care of the tourist traffic but it is the intention to make preparations this summer for the commencement on the building of a modern and palatial hotel next spring.

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FOR SALE—1 1/2 h.p. Yale marine engine, latest type, new, complete outfit. Price \$380.00. 1 6 h.p. Automatic, rebuilt with complete outfit, including Columbia Peerless 22x22 propeller and 6 feet 1 1/4 inch Tobin bronze shaft. Price \$200.00. 1, 10-12 h. p. Buffalo, rebuilt, with new 1 1/4 inch Tobin bronze shaft; 22x24 Peerless propeller. Price \$550.00. Rupert Marine Works and Supply Co., Agents for Yale and Atlas Imperial engines. If

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FOR SALE—Sixty cords hemlock and cedar; cut fine, \$150 per cord or \$5 C.O.B. W. Sims, Jap Inlet, Porcher Island. If

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TO RENT—Furnished house-keeping suites. Apply 410 Sixth Avenue East, Phone Blue 217.

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