



LEMON HART

ROYAL NAVY

EMERARA RUM

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HOSPITAL INSURANCE
(Continued from page 1)

to \$3 in 1950, formerly the cost had been based on mere hospital care whereas under hospital insurance such costs as X-ray, drugs, etc., were taken care of. So, if hospital costs were fairly analyzed, it might be found that they had risen possibly only about 10 per cent. And anyone in business must realize that that was not an exorbitant increase. If there was believed to be waste in hospital operation, it was something the local boards could control.

Turning to the Prince Rupert General Hospital, Mr. McRae pointed out that there had been an increase in admissions from 2145 in 1948 to 3458 in 1950 with an increase in total operating costs from \$153,000 to \$275,969.

The speaker also defended the medical profession. There might have been individual cases of lack of co-operation but he declared his belief that "the doctors, as a whole, are co-operating."

One aim in connection with hospital insurance, he declared, was to give short and early periods of treatment and save lives rather than long periods of hospitalization under hopeless circumstances. "ECHIS in no way wishes to keep people out of hospital," he declared.

The American Hospital Association had recommended 4.5 hospital beds per thousand as an ideal level of hospital bed accommodation. British Columbia now had 5.6 beds and in two years would have 7.6.

But all this cost money and this year the bringing in of 500 new beds in British Columbia would involve an expenditure of \$1,900,000.

Last year a deficit of \$2,500,000 had been budgeted for in hospital insurance but the deficit actually amounted to \$4,000,000. And further increases in costs must be anticipated during the coming year.

Mr. McRae assured his listeners that "the increase in hospital insurance premiums and the imposition of co-insurance is not meant to provide the funds for past deficits, already taken care of out of consolidated revenue but to take care of future deficits."

Turning to provincial financing generally, Mr. McRae analyzed provincial expenditure of \$118,000,000 as brought down in the budget including \$36,500,000 in social service and public health, \$17,000,000 education, \$17,000,000 debt charges, \$12,000,000 government services and administration of justice, \$12,000,000 grants to municipalities and \$21,000,000 public domain (public works, etc.), and \$5,800,000 for hospital insurance.

Mr. McRae compared the benefits of ECHIS with other group insurance plans such as Blue Cross. The most disastrous situation a family in Prince Rupert could face in a year under ECHIS was \$62 (premium plus co-insurance) whereas, without the plan, a family could be faced with thousands of dollars of hospital bills.

As for the complaint which might be heard that many people were not paying their hospital insurance premiums, Mr. McRae felt that the estimate of the government that 10 per cent might still not be paying was small. He was inclined to believe that the percentage of non-pay-



DOUBLE CENTENARY—Two hundred years of living are represented in Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Denault of Sherbrooke, Que. Mrs. Denault celebrated her 101st birthday on April 16 and her husband will be 100 on May 2. Married 76 years, they have outlived six of their 13 children. Both are in good health. (CP PHOTO)

ers might be more like 20. Meanwhile, he outlined efforts that were being made by the government to bring everyone into the scheme including compulsory payroll deduction provision. Mr. McRae defended the co-insurance provision, declaring that, if it had not been invoked, the premiums would have had to be further increased and he believed that co-insurance was already having a deterrent effect on any tendency to make of the hospital a "free hotel." For instance he had been informed that there were now 40 empty beds in formerly crowded Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria.



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Timely RECIPES

Salmon-with-Vegetables
1 lb. can salmon
6 small onions
3 medium sized carrots
3 tbs. butter or margarine
2 tbs. flour
1 cup milk
1 cup canned peas
½ tsp. salt
dash cayenne pepper
2 cups seasoned mashed potatoes.

Cook the onions in boiling salted water for 10 minutes and drain. Cut the carrots in strips and cook in boiling salted water for 10 minutes and drain. Melt the butter or margarine, and stir in the flour, add milk, liquid and oil from the salmon, and the seasoning. Cook until this white sauce is thickened, stirring constantly. Break the salmon in pieces and combine with the onions, carrots and peas in a shallow baking dish. Pour the sauce over and bake the mashed potatoes in three strips on one up. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees F.) about 30 minutes, or until the potatoes are browned. Eight servings.

NOTE: Pink salmon can be used in this recipe, in the interests of economy, it has an the food value of red salmon, and is less expensive.

MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

ROUYN, Que. (CP)—Mayor Maurice Coquette announced that a municipal library for Rouyn-Noranda is included in plans for the new court house building to be built this year on the boundary line between the two municipalities. The Quebec government is aiding the project.



PLANNED BLAST

NORTH BAY, Ont. (CP)—The big boom that crashed across the countryside here was the result of explosion of 15 tons of dynamite on a highway diversion project. More than 60,000 sticks of dynamite were used in the operation which took months to prepare.



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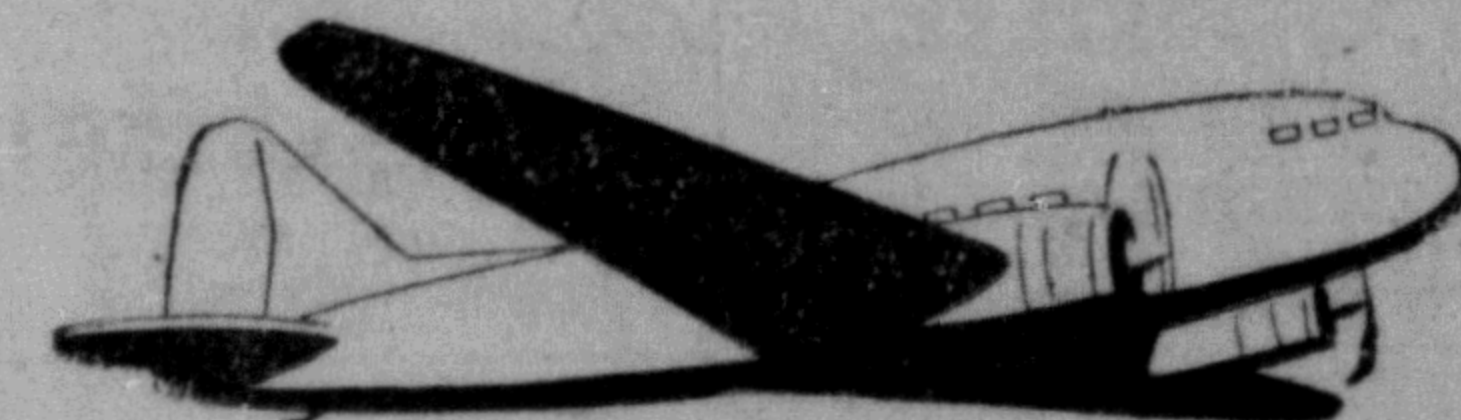
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