

atonics, idiots, and active cases of insanity in buildings not only unsuitable, but also improperly staffed, makes a situation that cannot be coped with under the County System.

In 1917, the Government Inspector, Dr. W. H. Hattie, referred to the conditions found in Cornwallis Alms House and the Inverness County Asylum in no uncertain language, saying, "My predecessors have repeatedly referred in the most condemnatory terms to the Cornwallis Township Alms House, and my own accounts of this institution have certainly not been complimentary. But none of these reports have led to any adequate attempt to improve conditions at this institution, and it remains indescribably discreditable, a veritable hovel. Those responsible for the administration of the Barrington Alms House are going on with the plan of enlargement mentioned in the last report—a plan which has not had my endorsement, but which it would be unfair to condemn before it has been given a trial.

"The Inverness County Asylum is one of the largest of our county institutions, accommodating nearly a hundred patients. These people are housed in a cheerless, ramshackle old fire trap, which is poorly equipped and in bad repair, and which is altogether unsuited for asylum purposes."

"When one visits repeatedly such institutions as these, and finds so little evidence of willingness on the part of those responsible for their maintenance to adequately remedy the defects which are so apparent, one feels that the inmates must often repeat, in substance at any rate, the prayer of Sir Philip Sydney, "From them that use us thus, Good Lord deliver us!" Five hundred years ago, John Ball wrote that, in looking out over England, he saw "The great treading down the little, the strong beating down the weakly, the cruel man fearing not, and kind men daring not, and the Saints in Heaven forbearing, and yet bidding me not to forbear." Are conditions in some parts of our Province to-day better than those of five hundred years ago in England?"

These are strong terms, but although penned some years ago things in these particular institutions are not any better, but, if possible, worse. Take too, the conditions in the Halifax Poor House. Although some seventy-five inmates were burned to death prior to the building of this institution, the lesson was lost and the precautions against fire to-day are inadequate.

Dr. Hattie, in his admirable report on Humane Institutions, published in 1917, on page six, touches on a vital cause of failure in the County Poor Houses. "Very few of those in charge of county institutions have had any experience in the administration of such institutions other than that which they have accumulated in the place where they are engaged. The wisdom of the method commonly followed in selecting