

The Daily Mail

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MARCH 24, 1914.

TUBERCULOSIS REPORT, 1913

The report submitted by Dr. H. Rendell to the Governor-in-Council is interesting, but not very instructive. It is as remarkable for what it does not say as for what it contains. Its perusal would be much more informing, if accompanied by a statement of costs. The expenditure by the Colony has been considerable, but no details are published with the Report.

The first thought suggested by the Report is, that the work done has been almost entirely for the benefit of St. John's, and not at all, or to a very small extent, for the Outports. There appears to be danger that the work will be localized, and become too much a merely city institution. There is little or nothing said in the Report about any work done outside St. John's in the way of instruction. Indeed, it seems as though the Committee, which the Hon. John Harvey presided over, did much more work, and more valuable work under his inspiration, and very largely paid for by voluntary subscription, than is being done under Dr. Rendell, at public cost, with a very large expenditure.

It appears that of all the ways in which the scourge of tuberculosis in this Colony can be fought, the most effective is by the spread of education as to sanitation, as to cleanliness, as to need of fresh air, as to the means whereby contagion can be prevented. How to prevent the commencement of tuberculosis is infinitely more important to the public than how to cure it. If contagion could be prevented there would be no need of cure. The number of those who have tuberculosis is as nothing compared with the number of those who will have it, unless contagion can be prevented, and therefore, cure is relatively of no importance compared with prevention. It seems as though the work of Dr. Rendell and his staff was confined to the question of possible cure, and that the work of prevention is almost entirely neglected.

And then, as to the work of cure itself. How insignificant is the work which Dr. Rendell and his staff are doing compared with the widespread nature of the disease. For illustration, during 1913 only 258 cases of tuberculosis were cared for by Dr. Rendell and his staff, of which only 192 had pulmonary consumption. This number, of course, were residents of the city. By far the greater portion, perhaps all of the patients, would have had the attention of doctors at their own cost. Those who had not the means to obtain employment would have been entitled to the attendance of District Doctors. The work done by Dr. Rendell and nurses seems, therefore, to have been more or less an extra at public expense, and, however desirable, or even commendable, such service may be, looked at from the standpoint of the individual, it is questionable, indeed, whether such service ought to be provided at public expense, especially as it is done only in one place. There are many places in the Colony in which medical assistance is not obtainable, and in which it ought, perhaps, to be provided at public expense. There is less reason for the public providing it in St. John's than anywhere else in the Colony.

The Report says that many consumptives who consulted Dr. Rendell were in a hopeless state. It adds that as the work becomes better known the advanced cases become fewer. But this seems to be an awkward way of expressing the idea, that as experience increases, more cases in the early stages of the disease are brought to notice, so that the ratio of the total cases decrease, not that fewer advanced cases exist. In this, as in many particulars, the Report does not say what its author apparently means.

Turning now to the Tuberculosis Camp, which is maintained on the north-west of the city. Only 24 patients were treated in the Camp during

the year. One was found to be incurable, one was not tubercular, eight were in the Camp when the Report was written, on the 25th of last month, and the Report says that "Fourteen were discharged with the disease arrested."

What is meant by this phrase? At almost any stage of consumption, especially pulmonary, if a patient be taken from squalid surroundings, without sufficient food and medical attendance, and is sent to a place where food, attendance and medicine are provided, the disease will be "arrested." The fourteen patients spoken of would probably have had the disease arrested by the attendance of Dr. Rendell at their ordinary residences, and the provision of good food and good nursing, even if they had never entered the Camp. It is noticeable that the Report does not speak of one single case as being cured. It does not appear, therefore, that the Camp has been of much if any benefit, or at least of benefit commensurate with its cost.

The Report quite correctly points out that a Sanatorium can be of no use in curing advanced cases. In fact, it cautiously recommends "that only those cases which are in a curable stage" should be admitted, as is the custom elsewhere. It is obvious also that a Sanatorium can be of little use in preventing the contagion of tuberculosis, except from the fact that the limited number of patients in it are kept from spreading the disease outside, but the germ of tuberculosis is so universally present under very ordinary conditions that the slight decrease from keeping patients in a Sanatorium is not worth consideration.

A Sanatorium, therefore, only exists to be of benefit to patients in a curable stage of tuberculosis. At such a stage what is required is good food, absolute rest and a very small amount of medical attendance. Of these things in this stage in this city a considerable number are, of course, able to obtain what they need at their own expense. With regard to them the only thing to be provided is an Institution to which they can resort at their own cost.

They do not require, nor do they deserve, that they should be cared for at public expense. They are not so cared for in any other part of the world. Where sanatoriums exist they are of two classes: (1) for paying patients, (2) for patients unable to pay. For this latter class the public must provide, either by donations or by charges upon the public funds. Outside this Colony institutions for poor patients are very largely provided for by the benevolent, and it is only in the case of paupers that public funds provide. It would seem as though the calls on the public revenue of this Colony should be (1) to educate as to preventive measures, and (2) to provide institutions in which tuberculosis patients can be cared for themselves, and who, therefore, will be absolutely neglected if no sanatoriums exist. Private benevolence, aided if necessary, by a public grant, should provide a sanatorium for paying patients.

It is quite clear that all the public money being spent by Dr. Rendell and his staff is for this limited class of subjects? Is it quite clear that the public is not paying for an amount of service which ought to be paid for by private individuals? Is it quite clear that all possible is being done for the Colony at large for the amount of money expended? Is it quite clear that the methods which are being pursued are wise in the public interest?

It really seems to us that there is reason for doubt whether as good work generally is being done as under the Hon. Mr. Harvey's Committee.

DR. KEEGAN'S VERSION.

In the letter published herewith Dr. Keegan, of the General Hospital, takes Dr. Rendell to task for his letter in The Daily Mail of yesterday.

There is no call for any comment on our part and we submit to our readers the communication received from Dr. Keegan.

Dear Sir.—In last night's issue you published a letter from Dr. Rendell in which he says that an attempt has been made to palliate "Hospital doings" by dragging in the Lunatic Asylum and the Tuberculosis Service and by personal reference to himself.

If Dr. Rendell thinks that I am responsible for the letter signed "Equal rights," I wish at once to disabuse his mind and say emphatically that neither I nor any member of my family, male or female, wrote or inspired it. Nor do I think it in any way necessary to palliate my doings by reference to the Heads of the Lunatic Asylum or Tuberculosis Service. I am doing my business with the Government.

Dr. Rendell's and Dr. Shea's names were introduced into this discussion by an Editorial published in The Evening Telegram, criticising me and from which I learned for the first time that Dr. Rendell's salary and emoluments for Tuberculosis work were being based on the salary and

emoluments that I was getting for the work I am doing at the Hospital.

The positions are altogether different. I know nothing of his work and it does not interest me in the slightest, but Dr. Rendell appears to take an abnormal interest in mine and my emoluments, and if there is any arrangement between him and the Government, to regulate his pay and emoluments by mine, I would merely point out the danger of Dr. Rendell's value being altogether underestimated.

Dr. Rendell points out very plainly, that he is unable to overtake Tuberculosis work with one horse and a motor-car; the Government, no doubt will consider the matter and I will raise no objection if an aeroplane is added.

Or Dr. Duncan's work at the Lunatic Asylum, its hardships, responsibilities and privations, I do know something of from personal experience and say that the Superintendent of the St. John's Lunatic Asylum is entitled to any salary and emoluments that the Government can give.

In conclusion I would say that as far as my doings at the Hospital are concerned I will know how to defend myself, with or without gloves, at the proper time and in the proper place and to have my defence substantiated. I thank you, Mr. Editor, for your courtesy and space and your correspondent "Equal Rights" for his efforts on my behalf.

—L. E. KEEGAN.

SITUATION IN ULSTER.

Recent developments in Ireland seem to indicate that the chances of civil war have lessened considerably.

It has developed that the Government cannot depend on the Army to assist in coercing the province of Ulster and are therefore powerless to take any active steps against the Covenanters.

AMAZING SITUATION.

An amazing situation has developed in connection with the Home Rule problem.

The Government ordered certain movements of British troops on Ulster and rather than participate in them a large number of Army officers resigned their commissions.

This method of protesting was strikingly effective.

The Army being practically leaderless, the contemplated movement had to be abandoned.

It is true that the troops may be mobilised in Ulster but not to embark on a campaign against the Covenanters.

Cabled information not only assures us that the protesting officers have been asked to take back their resignations but that they have been assured by the Government that they will have to do only police work in Ulster and not undertake a campaign of coercion for Home Rule.

That is a victory for the Covenanters of a magnitude never anticipated in their most hopeful moments.

This consider the serious results of this action and success of the Army officers.

The essence of the system of British Government is its democracy. It provides for rule by the majority of the people through their elected representatives in Parliament.

It is true that the acts of that elected government sometimes provoke much opposition, but the protesting minority have to bow to the will of the majority.

In this instance, however, the protests of a number of Army officers have succeeded in upsetting the decrees of a democratic parliament.

Of course, it can be urged, and with much reason, that the opposing parties could have got together and effected a peaceful compromise thus making unnecessary any employment of the military.

But the point is they did not and so subjected themselves and the people generally to the humiliation of having a Parliamentary decree set aside by Army officers.

Home Rule or Anti-Home Rule is not the question to consider now.

The point of grave import is that the decision of a few military men may at any time be set above the decision of a parliament of the people's representatives.

Militarism has triumphed over democracy in this instance—it may do so again.

Maybe the sympathies of the majority of the voters of the United Kingdom are with the protesting officers—maybe they are not.

Such a consideration is not at all material to the grave point at issue.

The military men have learned their power and it may be that at some future time they will again set themselves up in opposition to Parliament and on a question of whose absolute popularity there cannot be the least doubt.

And, with this precedent to encourage them, who can say that they will not then be as successful as they have now been in the case of their opposition to Home Rule.

THE MEN OF SAMBRO TOWN

BY JAMES EDWIN BAUM, JR.

The rocks of Shag lie close beside
The reefs of Sambro Bay,
They crouch like hunger-maddened
wolves
To seize upon their prey.

And scarce one cable's length beyond
Toward the open sea,
The Mad Rock rears his rugged head
In sullen majesty.

And out beyond the Mad Rock's den,
The saw-toothed Sisters lie,
To gouge the hulls of any ships
That pass the Shag Rocks by.

Both night and day with rise and fall
The broad Atlantic swell,
Encircles each with loving clasp
Like friends that meet in Hell!

The flood tide runs with greyhound
speed
Along the Sambro shoal,
And carries in the bravest ships
Upon that deadly goal.

And over all with dire intent,
With ghostly blighting hand
The fog rolls in from east-nor'-east,
The Banks of Newfoundland.

It hides the wicked rocks of Shag
And all the Sambro shoal,
And levels on the northern trade
A gruesome human toll!

Our great ship held her northward
course
Through midnight murk of fog,
Her course was straight, the compass
true,
But currents tricked the log.

Her forward lights were hid from
view,
So thick the fog-bank lay,
The captain paced with restless tread
And longed for break of day.

The current ran with mill-race speed
Toward the rocks of Shag,
And pulled like many thousand hands
With noiseless steady drag.

Like hands all sheathed in velvet
gloves
But strong as tempered steel,
It stroked the vessel's gleaming sides,
And pressed her burnished keel.

Our ship has passed the outer reef
Of hidden Nor'-west Ledge,
And straight she holds her fated
course
For Shag Rock's jagged edge!

The current pulls with doubled force,
The waves like ghouls at play
Have joined the tides in triumph song,
And dance about their prey.

The night as black as thickened mud
Surrounds them with its pall,
The fog-bank hangs in haunted clouds,
A blanket over all.

And Mad Rocks rears his ancient head
A demon of the sea,
The Sisters bare their dripping fangs,
In cold ferocity!

And Shag Rock waits, a couchant
wolf
Still hid by fog and gloom,
Then thrusts his hoary granite head
Up through the engine-room!

Up through her plates of hardened
steel
Like knife through paper card,
The ugly ragged head of Shag
Was driven straight and hard.

The traitor waves that hugged her
keel
Before, in fond embrace,
Now rushed into her luckless hold
In tumbling eager race.

We gathered on her freezing decks
And prayed for break of day,
We knew she'd sink like leaden plum
If e'er she broke away.

To risk the boats we did not dare
Except as last resort,
We knew not where to turn their bows,
To find the fog-hung port.

Our message sped o'er sea and land,
The dreaded S-O-S,
'Twas caught by Station Camperdown,
Marconi wire-less.

They rushed the ships of Halifax;
'Full speed to Sambro shoal
And cheat the jagged rocks of Shag,
This night from human toll!'

The fisher-folk of Sambro town

tyrannous, an exacting, an unpopular
master.

Let Great Britain take good care
that the servant does not usurp the
Master's prerogatives.

Up drove a tiny fishing-smack
Aboard our starboard rail!

She hove her bows into the winds,
And rose upon the swell,
And then the men of Sambro town
Gave lusty cheer; "All's Well!"

And swift as ever navy-men
Are drilled a boat to slip,
A dory manned was overside
And pulling for the ship.

We climbed aboard the tiny sloop
Beside the Mad Rock's den,
They turned her bows toward the
shore;
Our friends, the Sambro men.

And if my soul were driven down
And wrecked in Stygian sea,
That gallant band of Sambro men,
I think, would rescue me!

Holds every man deep in his heart,
Some memory most dear,
And mine shall be that cry: "All's
Well!"
That Sambro hail of cheer!

We left the jagged reefs of Shag
And passed the Sambro shoal,
We sailed into the quiet bay
And Shag Rock lost his toll.

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IN THE DAILY MAIL

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

It makes the mind very free when
we give up wishing, and only think of
bearing what is laid upon us, and do-
ing what is given us to do.—George
Elliot.

FORCED ASQUITH GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 1)

The Morning Post giving what it asserts to be an accurate history of the crisis, declares that Colonel Seely and Winston Churchill, "presumably without Asquith's knowledge, determined to test the strength of the Ulster opposition by ordering troops there, thus bringing about the resignation of the officers."

The Post confirms the report that Chetwood was asked to replace General Gough at Curragh, and that when the real state of affairs became known at the War Office, there was something approaching a panic on the part of the general staff. When Colonel Seely presided at the War Council on Sunday morning he learned that officers of high standing at the War Office and in the army, threatened to resign if they were penalized in any way.

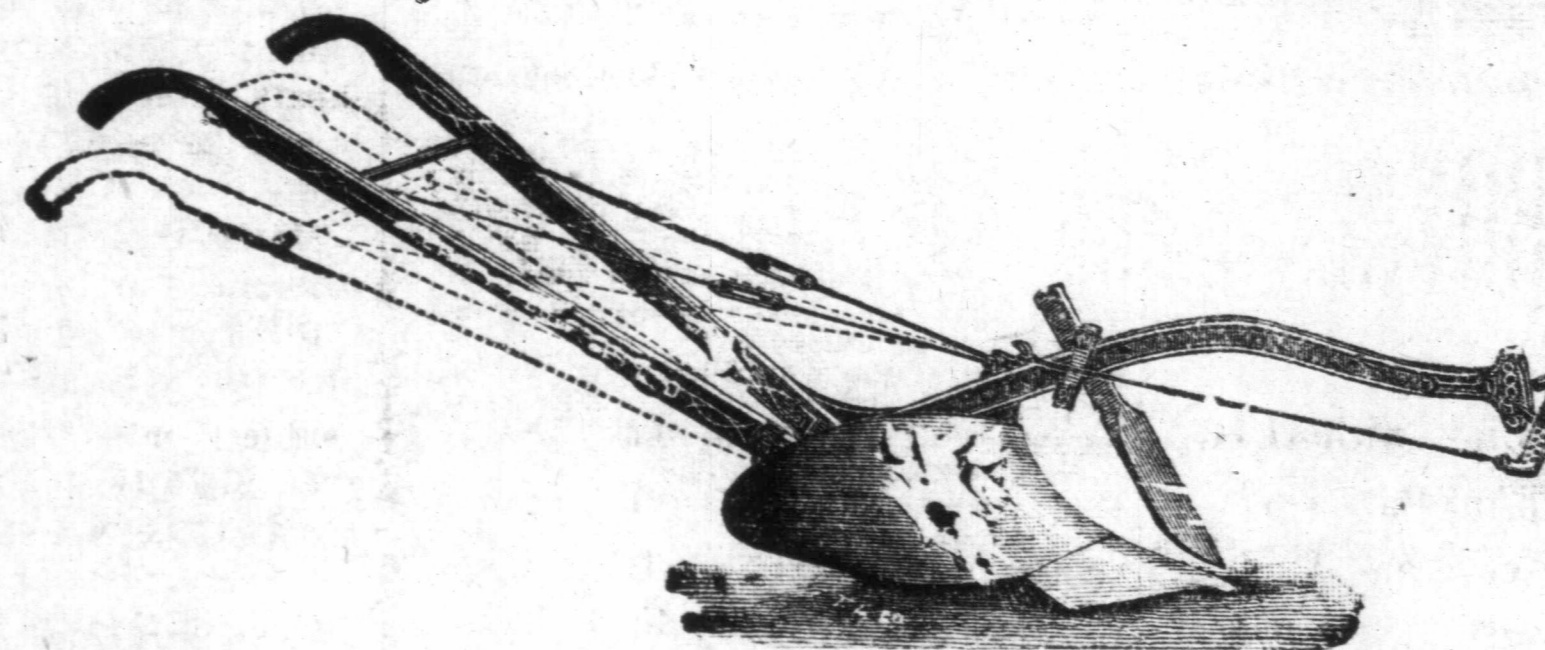
Got His Own Way

Another Council on Monday heard General Gough's views. The War Secretary's first attempt to satisfy Gough failed, he insisting that under no circumstances should his brigade be employed against Ulster loyalists. Finally the Government accepted Gough's conditions, which were embodied in a document signed by the Chief of the General Staff and the members of the Army Council.

With this document in his pocket Gough returned to his post in Ireland. In conclusion The Post declares that General Sir Arthur Paget has been made as scapegoat, but that it is very unlikely he will allow things to remain as they are.

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