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## Suggest Improvements In The Prohibition Act

Physicians Find Some Provisions Work Hardship; Want Government to Guarantee Quality; Interested in Compensation Act

At the final session of the New Brunswick Medical Society held yesterday afternoon, the committee appointed to bring in a report on the suggested amendments to the prohibition act submitted a resolution in which they put themselves on record as follows:

That alcohol is a necessary drug and should be under no more restrictions than any other drug, that the prices now charged for alcohol and alcoholic stimulants are excessive and the government be asked to control the price. The liquor now obtainable is in many cases impure, adulterated and not up to the drug standard. The government is responsible for the quality of alcohol and should put these sections of the act in force.

One section of the act states that "Only one sale a day may be made to one person." We advise, stated the doctors, that this part of the section be eliminated as it is often necessary to prescribe more than one form of alcohol in a day. It is admitted that occasionally provisions of the act are violated by physicians, and this violation is much deprecated. The authorities are requested to report violations to the medical council for an infractional part of the drunkenness that exists, and would ask the government to take steps to control the sale of proprietary medicines and alcoholic extracts. We believe that special prescription blanks required for alcohol are inconvenient and unnecessary. We protest against their use. The word "visit" used in the act should mean either office or house call.

A strong committee was also appointed to investigate the Workmen's Compensation Act and its relation to the medical profession. The society decided to meet in Moncton next year.

### Spirited Discussion.

When the resolution on the prohibitory act was placed before the society it

evoked much discussion. In speaking upon the subject, Dr. G. A. B. Addy said: "It is a disgrace the way in which people talk about the profession abusing

the act and I for one do not propose to stand for it. The way the act is being carried out in St. John is a criminal outrage." Only about twenty-five per cent of the drunks in the city were from liquor and the other seventy-five per cent were drunk from lemon extract, etc., he said. If "boot-legging" and the illicit sale of intoxicants were stopped he believed that the number of drunks would be greatly decreased. Continuing, he said: "I am prescribing for one hundred per cent more dope fends today than I did before prohibition came in force."

Another doctor expressed the belief that the prohibition act was conceived by "a bunch of fanatics." Dr. Crockett assailed the act as one of the most disgraceful and outrageous inventions that human minds could create. He said that it was opposed to all the principles of democracy, for while our boys were overseas fighting for liberty, truth and freedom, the people of Canada deliberately enacted a measure that affected those boys very much without even giving them the least opportunity of having a say in the matter. The act, he said, may have been a makeshift for war time, but it is certainly an abomination to the country in time of peace. This was the opinion of Dr. Crockett.

Dr. L. M. Curran then spoke with much conviction and said: "This legislation has brought disgrace upon the whole country. People say that we are working for the downfall of people, but I believe that we are working for their uplift. They have made us vendors of liquor; they have made us her-temperers. The act only affects us in that it disgraces us. We have to treat this drug differently from any other drug. We are not helping people by this; we are only making dope fends of them." He described how he had seen a dope fiend grooping around the streets on Tuesday evening, and he was demoralized of a trip he had taken through the Chinatown of the city and had seen the opium fends matching pieces from garbage cans thinking that they were stealing something and getting away with it. He was told by the druggists that there were a

great many more dope fends in the city today than there were before prohibition came into force.

"People think it a clever thing," he said, "to violate this act, and you will hear people about the street priding themselves on the fact that they had got a bottle. These same people would not think of violating other laws. We are taking this stand because we are degraded, and we are merely giving vent to our feelings."

He went on to propose that in order to get "this pernicious act" abolished, the medical men should stick together and make a strong endeavor to have this legislation removed. The way to go about such a thing was not to attack the politicians, but to tell the truth of the case to each and every man who came to them to get a prescription. This, it was suggested, would soon bring about a feeling against the measure into being that it would soon be repealed.

Dr. McKenzie.

Dr. J. B. McKenzie, of Loggieville, said: "The act as it stands today is disgrace to the medical profession and it is also a nuisance." He related an incident to illustrate the fact that it was a nuisance taken to "spoil" those who were selling liquor illegally was to say the least.

Dr. J. M. Barry also spoke strongly against the legislation and made mention of the fact that within the last three or four months only one drunk in the city had been fined, whose intoxication was obtained through a doctor's prescription. Dr. J. N. Nugent expressed his sympathy with those who favored some changes in the law.

**Caution Urged.**

A motion was then suggested which would express the attitude of the society more forcibly than that contained in the resolution. Speaking in reference to the suggested resolution Dr. W. W. White warned the society to do nothing hastily and only to vote on a motion which would express their feelings as physicians and in their profession.

"Remember," he said, "never can we wipe off the records the resolutions passed here."

After Dr. Bentley and a few others had spoken and expressed the opinion that as their words might be used by both the prohibitionists and the anti-prohibitionists it was advisable not to make their resolutions too strong. Dr. Farris told the meeting that the committee covered the ground in so far as the medical profession was immediately concerned. He thought the suggested amendment was not wise. Dr. Addy, who introduced the amendment, agreed to withdraw it as the ground covered by it was also covered by the motion.

**A Boston Doctor.**

Another feature of the afternoon session was a very interesting and instructive address by Dr. Andrew R. MacCaulley, of Boston, on "Deformity as a Factor in Disability." He gave a full description of the different deformities which rendered the patient disabled, such as flat-foot, deformed angles, knees, hips, spine and shoulders. He gave many illustrations of the manner in which these should be treated and proper methods of bandaging and binding such. Dr. Rankin, of Woodstock, Dr. Crockett and Dr. White spoke in appreciation of the address. Dr. White mentioned the fact that Dr. MacCaulley was a specialist in Orthopedic surgery, and had pointed out the positions in which the joints had best be placed to insure a complete recovery.

Dr. Addy read an address on golfers from a surgical standpoint. This was very ably discussed by Dr. Rowley who spoke of the treatment for a patient with the disease. He summarized his statements by saying: "If the patient will not follow the rest cure prescribed, he then must submit to the surgical treatment."

Dr. A. E. Macaulley, as chairman of the committee appointed to bring in a resolution regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act, brought in the report of the committee in which many flaws were alleged in the working of the act and the fees for "first aid" were thought to be very low. The report set a new schedule of fees and suggested that this step be communicated to the trustees of the Workmen's Compensation. Funds. He moved that the report be received and the resolutions embodied in the report be adopted. This called for considerable discussion from different parts of the hall.

Dr. Moorehouse wanted ambiguity concerning the expression of "first aid" cleared up in the minds of the members. "First aid in the ordinary sense does not

mean surgery." He was very emphatic in regard to the injustices of the act which he declared to be simply a scheme to act the doctor to take upon himself for a few dollars, thousands of dollars worth of responsibility. There should be medical supervision over the funds and over the working of the act, was his opinion.

Dr. Rowley said: "There is no such thing as first aid to a doctor. All his work is the same, beginning, end and middle."

Dr. Ross, of Fredericton, stated that from his experience first aid was the treatment of injuries with unsterilized bandages, handkerchiefs, etc.

Dr. White said that the board does not understand the situation and the profession was completely ignored by the act. He then made a motion that a committee of six representing all parts of the province be appointed to thoroughly investigate the act and all its contingencies, and approach the board with a view of making an amicable settlement this committee to report to the society at the next annual meeting. Carried.

The auditor's report was accepted and it was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Moncton. The secretary was instructed to extend the thanks of

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the society to the Y. M. C. I. for the use of its building and the sum of five dollars each was given to the janitor and to the clerk for their services during the convention. In closing, the society expressed its high appreciation of the work of the president in conducting the society so efficiently during the last year, and also for the illuminating and admirable address at the evening session.

**Dr. Bentley President.**

Dr. J. S. Bentley, of St. John, is the new president of the New Brunswick Medical Society, having been elected on Tuesday instead of Dr. G. G. Melvin, of Fredericton, as previously reported.

## CHARLOTTE LIBERALS ELECT DELEGATES

St. Stephen, July 16—A large and representative Liberal convention was held here this afternoon. Hugh M. Balkam, of Milltown, was chairman and J. M. Scovill, of this town, secretary.

The delegates appointed were Hugh M. Balkam, George M. Byron and Daniel P. Gillmour. Alternates, Dr. A. D. Dyas, Harry W. Mann and Burton M. Hill.

The delegates were not instructed by the convention other than on the resolution on the high cost of living and tariff.

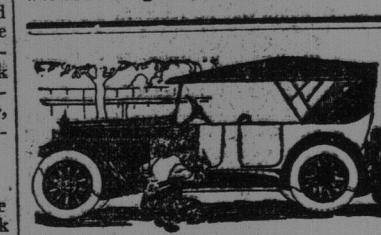
In conclusion the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas the cause having been removed that separated Liberals at the last election, and

Whereas in the future it is believed to be to the best interest of the country at large that all Liberals should be united, therefore

Be it resolved that the Liberals of Charlotte county in convention assembled invite all Union Liberals to affiliate with

Laurier Liberals in the future for the welfare and good of our country.

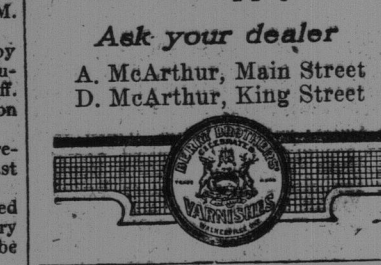


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