

In a recent report from Doctor Barclay he recommends the extension of Coqualeetza Hospital by the provision of adequate staff quarters and building a special children's ward and he has recommended the establishment of a 100-bed departmental hospital in northern British Columbia, probably in the Prince Rupert area. I concur in this recommendation.

There is an almost equally urgent problem in connection with trachoma control. The worst trachoma areas are situated in the interior, centered around Cranbrook, Kamloops and Williams Lake. The coastal Indians and the northern Indians are relatively free from this disease. Progress was being made in its eradication when Doctor Wall was active, but I fear the program now is totally inadequate.

A serious problem exists in regard to venereal disease, in the Prince Rupert area alone 42 Indian women having been named as sources of infection. The British Columbia health authorities have been urging the department to establish an isolation unit where a number of these women could be detained until they had received adequate treatment. In a recent report received it was pointed out that 50 per cent of the female inmates of Oakalla Prison were Indian women and that 86 per cent of these women had venereal disease. In a recent conference with the Chief Health Officer of British Columbia, Doctor Amyot, stated that there were increasing numbers of Indian women who were leaving their reservations and living immoral lives around the towns and cities of British Columbia. He strongly urged the department to consider the appointment of welfare workers for the Indians and stated that they had supervisory facilities and that they would be willing to cooperate in every way. There are many areas in British Columbia where we are completely lacking in any practical arrangement whereby the Indians receive medical care. The worst areas are the west coast of Vancouver Island and the northern portions of Stuart Lake and Babine agencies and the Stikine agency, including all of northern British Columbia.

A marked improvement of health services could be expected if we were able to improve and extend our nursing services. At present we have two full time nurses, one in the Duncan agency and one in the Vancouver Health Unit. In some areas in the Okanagan Valley and elsewhere we have arrangements whereby the local boards of health extend their public health nursing to Indian reserves. Such an arrangement is being contemplated in the Nanaimo area at present.

A large number of Indians in British Columbia accept seasonal employment in the hop fields and canneries. In general living conditions and sanitary conveniences are far from adequate. Following a visit to several hop fields and canneries in 1940 I conferred with the Honourable Dr. Weir, who was then the minister responsible, and with officers of his Department and this resulted in some improvement in certain canneries. Doctor Amyot has informed me that they are increasing their staff of sanitary inspectors and will endeavour to get the hop producers and canneries to improve conditions for the Indians employed.

From all the information available it is judged that there is a grave nutrition problem among a large portion of the Indians in British Columbia. Medical reports on Indians and particularly those in the north, lead me to believe that the majority of these people are suffering from nutritional deficiencies.

A number of hospitals in British Columbia have been demanding rates for treatment and care of Indians that are greatly in excess of any rates we are asked to pay elsewhere in the Dominion. They are out of proportion with what it costs us to run our own hospitals and the hospitals that are asking these rates are not equipped to give services similar to a large city hospital. In particular the hospitals of Nanaimo, Duncan, Port Alberni, Powell River and Creston are demanding \$3.50 per day, plus extra charges for ordinary hospital facilities such as drugs, dressings and laboratory procedures and \$10 charge for the use of the operating room. This raises the public ward rate to \$5 or \$6 a day for