

No Sanatoria "more judiciously .. and economically" managed.

CANADIAN OPINION

DR. R. W. BRUCE SMITH, Inspector of Public Charities, Province of Ontario. Official Report:

"I was specially pleased with the attention paid to conduct the institution carefully and economically. The patients I found cheerful, happy and evidently well looked after by those in charge. I found particular attention is paid to provide nourishing dietary, carefully prepared, and the quality of the food served was excellent. This hospital depends for its maintenance largely upon the voluntary contributions of the public."

FOREIGN OPINION

DR. H. L. RUSSELL, President of the Advisory Board of the Wisconsin State Sanatorium:

"We have just recently returned from our eastern trip, in which we had an opportunity of inspecting practically all the sanatoria in the east that are designed for the treatment of tuberculosis. I am very glad to be able to write you that the very favorable impressions that we received at Gravenhurst have continued with us after this round trip. We have found no place in our travels in which money seems to have been expended more judiciously and economically than in connection with the two institutions that are under the control of the National Sanitarium Association."

The Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives

**Increases the Accommodation
by Twenty-five Beds . . .**

This means twenty-five extra beds to be furnished; twenty-five additional patients to be fed every day (three regular meals and three lunches is the bill of fare daily); twenty-five extra patients to be cared for by physicians and nurses, calling for increase of staff.

The entire cost of management is increased one-third.

But so pressing are the calls of those on the waiting list, and increasingly urgent the new applications received each day, that the trustees have decided upon the step indicated, confident that the Canadian people will see that these new beds are furnished and maintained.

\$50.00 Furnishes a Bed Complete

—Contributions may be sent to **SIR WM. R. MURPHY, Kt.,** Chief Justice, Osgoode Hall, or **W. J. GAGE, Esq.,** 54 Front St. W., Toronto.



PATIENT UNDER EXAMINATION.

ROYAL NUNS IN ENGLISH RETREAT

Oldest Member of Benedictine Order
Was Once the Queen of Portugal

On the tree-clad hill rising behind West Cowes stands a fine old Georgian mansion, one of the solid, comfortable homes of the squiredom of long ago, typical of the English countryside.

From its windows one looks far out across the waters of the Solent, with the distant woods of the New Forest lying on the horizon. The panorama is very beautiful and the sense of calm it conveys is in no wise disturbed by the silent passing across the smooth face of the Solent of steamship or yacht.

Behind the house lies a spacious walled park, with noble gatehouses of stone. The quiet of the bowered approach to Northwood House is broken only by the music of a tiny, tinkling rivulet that rises among the under-wood, where violets and primroses are in flower, or by the song of the birds that here find sanctuary.

Thus the brief, gentle ringing of what one readily imagines to be a convent bell that is heard through the trees is in harmony with the sylvan scene. The nuns of Solesmes chose well, when, after the passing of the French law against communities, they sought an exiles' refuge in the Isle of Wight, and selected Northwood House for their home.

Here in quiet seclusion they have dwelt since the day when the packet boat brought them across the Solent three or four years ago. In Cowes they have won the affection of the poor by their gifts of food to the sick, but, save in case of necessity, the nuns, of whom there are sixty in all, never leave the portion of the grounds of Northwood House which has been enclosed as the convent garden.

The oldest of the nuns is the woman who, but for the contrary way of things, might at this moment be the Queen mother of Portugal. In the year of the Great Exhibition, 1851, Princess Adelaide of Lowenstein-Rosenberg married Dom Miguel, Duke of Braganza, who, having assumed the title of king of Portugal, in 1828, was forced to abdicate in 1834, and died nearly thirty

years later. Fifteen years ago the ex-king's widow entered the Convent of Solesmes and with her sister exiles she came to the Isle of Wight.

Visitors seldom intrude upon the seclusion of the nuns of Solesmes, who are of the Benedictine order, and are, therefore, engaged during the greater part of the day in what the founder of the order laid down as the chief duty of his disciples—the singing in church of the praises of their Maker.

The atmosphere of Solesmes pervades even the courtyard of the old mansion. As the visitor passes through the great gateway, he notices on the left hand a quaint little wooden house, at the open window of which one of the lay sisters, clad in the black garb and large white linen hood of the French peasant woman, adopted by the nuns, sits winding wool.

As one approaches, a Sister, who has been sitting on the floor of the large hall, also winding wool, rises to her feet and meets the visitor on the threshold. The conversation passes, by preference, in French, for English is still a foreign tongue to the nuns of Solesmes.

The ordinary visitor who wishes to hold converse with those in the convent, is then conducted to a small room at the side of the courtyard, divided into two parts by a double grille, the spaces in which are not large enough to permit a hand to pass through. Here the conversation between visitor and nun proceeds each being seated on opposite sides of the grille.

But although the nuns live apart from the world, theirs is a life of continual work. From early morning until night-fall, with intervals for the two chief meals of the day, their duty lies in the convent church.

Rising about 4 o'clock in the morning, and without breaking their fast, they proceed to the chapel for matins and lauds which occupy the hour from five to six. After an interval for a scanty meal, this is followed by prime and morning chapter and low mass. At nine o'clock another office begins, and so with brief pause, the nuns remain in choir until midday, when a plain dinner is taken in common.

After dinner there is a period of recreation and such work as the making of ecclesiastical embroideries, and then

at three the nuns return to the church for vespers. After this, conferences may be held, or the remainder of the afternoon may be spent in work. Supper is taken about six o'clock, and after recreation, indoors or in the convent gardens, the nuns repair to the chapel once more for compline, the last service of the day, about eight o'clock. By nine or half-past the convent day is over, and everyone has retired to rest.

The singing of the nuns of Solesmes is extremely beautiful. Music is naturally one of their life studies and the Gregorian chant is, by generations of practice brought by their choir to a pitch of melodious perfection.

Besides the widow of the ex-king there is in the convent a younger member of the same family as the princess, and all the nuns are of gentle birth. They are women of high educational attainments, most of them knowing several modern languages as well as Latin and Greek. Thus, though shut in from the world, they have no lack of interest in life.

Before long the nuns will move to Ryde, where they have secured the college for their future home. Here it is likely they will open a school for girls. At present their sphere of labor is limited to the convent church.

—Exchange.

A PROVINCE FOR SEVEN SHILLINGS

The story of how the Hudson's Bay Co. rented Vancouver Island for seven shillings a year is told by Harold Sands in the May Canadian Magazine.

It is always an important event in the life of the individual colony when the first stirrings toward self-government are felt. In some cases parents supply the initial promptings with the idea that an appearance of standing alone may be given to the youngster who is really made all the more dependent. Thus it was with British Columbia in 1849. The Hudson's Bay Company, driven from Oregon by "American marauders"—to use a phrase coined by a United States writer—saw that the legislators in England were casting an eye toward this very far away, very wild and very little Britain, little, that is to say as far as population went. The directors therefore laid plans to secure their power, while seemingly allowing the growing Coast to stand upon its own feet. It is a curious coincidence that the man in charge at Downing Street of things colonial in those days was Earl Grey, an ancestor of the present Governor-General of Canada. While satisfied with obtaining practical sovereignty of British Columbia at that time, the company, in its negotiations with Lord Grey, aimed far higher. It intimated that it was willing "to undertake the government and colonisation of all the territories belonging to the Crown in North America, and received a grant accordingly." So startling a proposal naturally staggered Downing Street, even in the days when it was customary to speak of "those wretched colonies," and the Crown promptly suspended negotiations. After an interval, the company returned to the attack with the more modest statement that it was willing to accept that part of the territory west of the Rocky Mountains, or even Vancouver alone, although it remarked that "placing the whole territory north of the 49th parallel under one governing power would have simplified arrangements." Despite the opposition of Gladstone and the leading London newspapers, the Hudson's Bay Company was made lord and proprietor of Vancouver Island, subject only to the domination of the British Crown and to the yearly payment of seven shillings as rent. The charter, which was dated Jan. 13, 1849, stipulated that the appointment of Governor was vested in the Crown. It also said that the lease of the island was "forever," but events proved that Mr. Gladstone and others had much reason for their opposition, and the "forever" became nine years only. The great year of gold, 1858, really saw the last of the great monopoly as such. It may be mentioned that almost immediately after the grant was made the Crown repented it, and Lord Elgin, Governor-General, reported disparagingly of the company as a ruler in the Red River District; but its course on the Coast was an improvement, being spoken of as without flagrant offence or outrageous wrong, and even marked by much kindness and humanity, which is no mean praise for a monopoly.

The Rev. Eugene Porcile, head of the Fathers of Mercy in America, and rector of the Church of our lady of Lourdes, Broadway and Aberdeen St., Brooklyn was seriously injured a few days ago by being struck by a street car.

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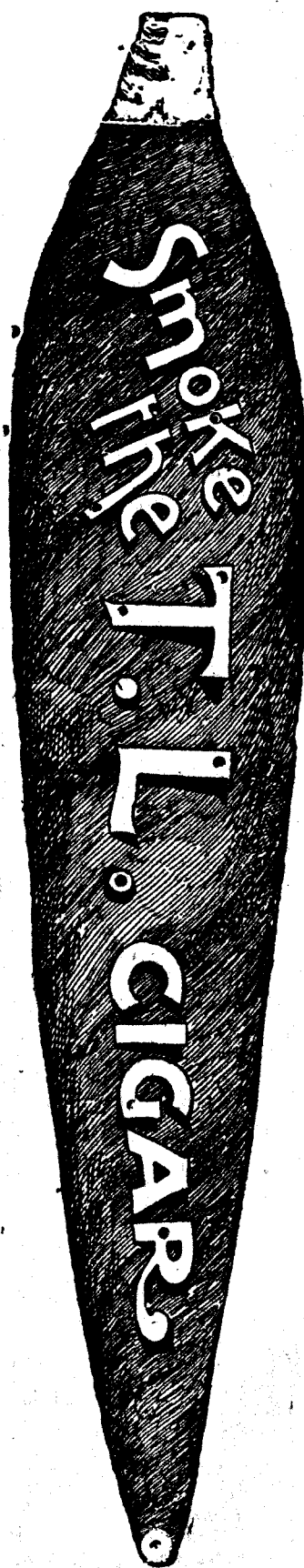
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C. M. B. A.

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The Northwest Review is the official organ for Manitoba and the Northwest of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association.

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