

**THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH**  
 This paper is published every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 a.m. in the City of St. John, N. B., by the St. John Telegraph Company, Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of the Province of New Brunswick. The principal office is at the corner of King and Water Streets, St. John, N. B. The paper is published for the Proprietor by the St. John Telegraph Company, Limited, at the corner of King and Water Streets, St. John, N. B. The paper is published for the Proprietor by the St. John Telegraph Company, Limited, at the corner of King and Water Streets, St. John, N. B.

**ADVERTISING RATES.**  
 Ordinary commercial advertisements, including the name of the advertiser, are charged at the rate of 10 cents per line for the first week, and 5 cents per line for each subsequent week. For each insertion of 10 lines or more, a special rate will be made. For each insertion of 10 lines or more, a special rate will be made. For each insertion of 10 lines or more, a special rate will be made.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.**  
 Owing to the considerable number of complaints as to the mismanagement of the paper, the St. John Telegraph Company, Limited, has decided to reorganize the paper. The new management will be in charge of the paper from the 1st of May, 1899. The new management will be in charge of the paper from the 1st of May, 1899. The new management will be in charge of the paper from the 1st of May, 1899.

**FACTS FOR SUBSCRIBERS.**  
 Without exception, the name of no new subscriber will be entered until the money is received. Subscribers will be required to pay for their paper in advance. Subscribers will be required to pay for their paper in advance. Subscribers will be required to pay for their paper in advance.

**RULES FOR CORRESPONDENTS.**  
 Write plainly and take special pains with the facts. Write on one side of your paper only. Address your communications to the Editor of the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, St. John, N. B. Address your communications to the Editor of the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, St. John, N. B.

**This paper has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces.**  
 Semi-Weekly Telegraph.  
 ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 8, 1899.

**THE WEST INDIES AND THE PHILIPPINES.**  
 The British West India Islands have for some years been in an unsatisfactory condition, owing to the decline in the price of sugar, on which they depend mainly for their export trade. Their troubles have attracted so much attention that a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate them, and its report, made in August, 1897, was to the effect that the sugar industry in the West Indies is in great danger of extinction, in some cases of complete ruin, not on account of mismanagement, but on account of the competition of sugar growing countries assisted by bounties; that in several of the islands there is no other industry that could profitably take its place, and that the total or partial extinction of this industry would necessarily affect the condition of the laboring classes and so reduce the revenues of the colonies that in many cases they would be insufficient to meet the cost of the administration. Attempts have been made to induce the British government to impose a duty on sugar produced under the bounty system, but so far without any result, nor is such a measure likely to be passed, because it would be contrary to the doctrine of free trade. It would increase the cost of sugar to every inhabitant of the United Kingdom, besides destroying many industries which have been created as a consequence of the low price of sugar.

The people of the British West Indies are naturally much dissatisfied with their present condition, and are looking about for means to improve it. Mr. Andrew Macdonald, who signs himself "A Member of the Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands," a short time ago sent a letter to the New York Herald, in which he stated that a memorial from the inhabitants of St. Christopher-Nevis, the oldest English settlement in the West Indies, had been forwarded to the Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, Her Britannic Majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonies, praying the Imperial government to take steps during the present session of parliament to abolish the sugar bounties, or, alternatively, to open negotiations with the government of the United States for the transfer of these colonies to the United States in exchange for the Philippines, or otherwise, as may be mutually agreed upon by the two governments. He said that the memorial had been signed by members of the legislature, by the leasing owners of sugar estates, and by a large number of merchants, managers of estates, artisans, laborers, and, in fact, by the representatives of all classes and interests in the presidency. Mr. Macdonald did not state how many persons of each class had signed this memorial, but the fact that such a paper has been signed at all will naturally be made the most of by those who would like to see the British flag banished from this continent. Some of the American papers are now engaged in working up an annexation movement in the British West Indies, and the New York Herald of Tuesday claims to have a very sensational despatch from Kingston, Jamaica, indicating that the people of that island are also looking towards the United States. It is not likely that there is very much in this, but it gives the Herald a text from which to write an article on the desirability of such an ex-

change as that suggested in the St. Kitts memorial. The Herald says:—  
 The striking suggestion embodied in the memorial from the inhabitants of St. Kitts to the Colonial Secretary Chamberlain—that the British West Indies should be exchanged for the Philippines, or a part thereof—does not seem to have been the subject of Great Britain are alive to the radical change wrought in their situation and surroundings by the war between the United States and Spain, and realize that their own future welfare would be greatly promoted by joining the American procession. They see only too well that with Cuba and Porto Rico brought under the stimulating influence of American government and enterprise the other West Indian islands will be left at a decided disadvantage commercially and industrially, and that if they are to compete in prosperity with their neighbors they must share in the advantages of the new situation. In this regard the appreciation of the boom of American government the people of the British West Indies by no means stand alone. Did not the Porto Ricans gladly welcome the coming of the American troops under General Miles? And are there not thousands of Cubans today more favorable to annexation than to independence? How eagerly the inhabitants of the islands of the United States are still fresh in the public mind. Indeed, the whole history of American expansion from the Louisiana purchase to the acquisition of Alaska shows that the lot of the people annexed has been infinitely bettered. Why should not Lord Salisbury and President McKinley, too, look upon the proposed exchange with favor? Each nation thereby will be merely giving up something it could well spare for something more desirable and valuable. Great Britain would materially extend its sphere of influence in the Far East, and thus be better enabled to promote the "open door" policy for which it is so nobly contending on behalf of the commerce and civilization of the world.

The Herald's plan will no doubt meet with favor in some quarters, but there are a good many difficulties which will be likely to stand in the way of its realization. Assuming that all the people in the British West Indies were in favor of it, it would be vigorously opposed by the people of those states that are engaged in growing sugar, who claim that they would be ruined if the sugar of the tropical island should be admitted free of duty. If the people of the West Indies joined the United States, it would be as states of the union, not as colonies, and we do not believe that such a measure could be got through congress. On the other hand, if the people of the British West Indies became colonists of the United States, the U. S. tariff would close that market against them and they would be worse off than they are now. As for the Philippines, we do not think the British people want them at present, and the people of the United States are having so much fun out of their new eastern colony it would be a pity to interfere with it.

**OUR UNIVERSITY AND THE UNDOWED COLLEGES.**  
 We published some figures the other day, taken from the educational report for last year, showing the high position that has been attained by the University of Mount Allison, and comparing it with the University of New Brunswick. Last year Mount Allison had 140 students and 21 students graduated B. A. The University of New Brunswick in the same year had 79 students, of whom 19 graduated B. A. The University of Mount Allison receives no financial assistance whatever from the government, while the University of New Brunswick has a grant from the province of \$3,400 a year.

We have in view another university not situated in this province but immediately connected with it, which seems to be doing much more for the cause of higher education than the University of New Brunswick; we refer to Acadia University. The calendar of Acadia shows 142 students in attendance last year, and 30 graduates B. A. Yet Acadia does not receive one dollar either from the government of Nova Scotia or from any other official source. It was claimed last year by the friends of the University of New Brunswick that it was doing better than for many years, and a great deal of resentment was expressed against those who had dared to criticize it. The following table, which shows the number of graduates in arts at the University of New Brunswick and at Acadia for the past twenty years is worthy of a careful study.

B. A. GRADUATES.	UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.	ACADIA UNIVERSITY.
1879	14	18
1880	11	15
1881	11	11
1882	13	11
1883	13	11
1884	13	11
1885	13	11
1886	13	11
1887	13	11
1888	13	11
1889	13	11
1890	13	11
1891	13	11
1892	13	11
1893	13	11
1894	13	11
1895	13	11
1896	13	11
1897	13	11
1898	13	11
Total	261	274

A glance down these rows of figures shows that, while the University of Acadia has been rapidly growing, the University of New Brunswick has been barely holding its own. This fact becomes more apparent if we group the figures into periods of five years, as we do below:—

B. A. GRADUATES.	UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.	ACADIA UNIVERSITY.
1879-83	55	57
1884-88	55	55
1889-93	55	55
1894-98	55	55
Total	165	167

The reader will observe that while the average annual number of graduates of

Acadia has risen from less than 12 in the first five years, to more than 26 in the last five years, the average number in the University of New Brunswick has fallen from almost 15 to less than 13. Such is the record of a college which is largely endowed by the public as against one that has no public endowments whatever.

Three years ago the chancellor of the University of New Brunswick, Dr. Harrison, undertook to prove that the college had advanced during the eleven years that he had been at its head. He published some statistics which appeared in the educational report, showing that during the eleven years immediately preceding his appointment there were only 483 students in attendance at the university, while in the first eleven years of his incumbency there were 737 students on the books. This showed an average of 44 students a year for the first period against an average of 67 for the second, an increase of fifty per cent. These figures looked well, but they were a little misleading. We do not judge the work of a college by the number of its students so much as by the number of its graduates. Tried by this test Dr. Harrison's term of office in the college does not make so good a showing. From 1875 to 1885, inclusive, the period of eleven years immediately preceding Dr. Harrison's chancellorship, the number of graduates at the University of New Brunswick was 139. During the eleven years from 1886 to 1896 inclusive, the period after Dr. Harrison's appointment, the number of graduates was 138. Moreover, of the latter 23 were ladies, so that the male graduates were 26 less in number during Dr. Harrison's term of eleven years than they were during the preceding eleven years.

We make no comment on these figures further than to say that they deserve the serious attention, not only of the government and the legislature, but of the people of this province. If our university, endowed as it is with a large sum of public money annually, cannot hold its own with other universities in this and the neighboring province, which receive no public money whatever, there must be a cause for this unfortunate condition of affairs, and there ought to be some way of making this cause known to the public so that it may be removed.

**THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.**  
 Hamilton, Ontario, is not a larger city than St. John, and it is certainly not more important from any point of view, yet they do some things better on the shores of Burlington Bay than here by the Bay of Fundy, and one of these things is the maintenance of their public library. The tenth annual report of the Hamilton Public Library, which has just been published, will be a welcome visitor to those who believe in human progress. Its frontispiece is a picture of the library building, a beautiful structure, which was opened almost nine years ago. The building is 145 feet in length, and 66 feet front, and cost, with the ground upon which it stands, \$45,000. The books on its shelves cost upwards of \$28,000. The people of Hamilton have invested about \$75,000 in their public library, besides a large sum for maintenance, but apparently they do not regret it.

The library contains 26,382 volumes and is increasing at the rate of about 1,500 a year. Of these 3,043 are classified as cyclopedias, periodicals, etc., 1,328 philosophy and religion, 2,540 sociology, 1,304 natural science, 2,363 useful and fine arts, 3,287 general literature, 5,000 history, travel and biography, 4,061 books for young people, and 6,403 English prose fiction. The library was open 305 days during the year, the total use of the books was 214,324, an average of 732 daily. To handle this large number of books requires a considerable staff. The staff of the Hamilton library consists of a librarian who receives \$1,500 a year, and seven assistants, each of whom receives \$7 a week. There is also a janitor.

There are three reading rooms connected with the library, one with eight tables, and chairs for 114 readers, besides reading stands; a second reading room, which is reserved for the ladies, has 24 chairs, while a third, which is for those who wish to use the books of reference, has 24 chairs. There are 248 papers, periodicals and several publications available for readers, of which 72 are published in Canada, 77 in Great Britain and 97 in the United States.

The Hamilton library costs the corporation of that city \$13,178 a year, of which \$3,844 goes to pay for interest and sinking fund on \$50,000 of city debt; the balance of \$9,334 is for the library. The library was established in 1889, when the city of Hamilton passed a resolution to be paid off in 1898, and the library commissioners will then have much more money available for their improvements and additions to their library. We give these figures for the purpose of showing how one of the public spirited and progressive cities in the west regards the public library question. Thanks to the public spirit of a few of our citizens we have a public library, but it will be some time we fear before it is equal to that of Hamilton. What we need now is a library building, but we cannot say that the prospect of obtaining it is very bright.

Passion runs around the world while piety is putting on its sandals.

**THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.**  
 The proclamation which was issued Tuesday at Manila and addressed to the people of the Philippine islands by the United States civil commission is a document which places the views of the government of the latter country with reference to the eastern possession formerly held by Spain in an exact form before the world. No doubt it will be subjected to severe criticism by the opponents of the present administration and by all who do not view the expansion of the United States with favor because it is impossible for the United States in this matter to reconcile its present intentions towards the Philippine people with the declaration of the independence, the constitution and the unbroken traditions of a century. Our readers will remember that on several occasions, indeed on all occasions when the matter was discussed in these columns, we have maintained that the United States having occupied the Philippines and destroyed the government of Spain in those islands, was bound to remain there and not give them up to anarchy or the tender mercies of Russia, Germany, or some other land-grabbing Continental nation. But while holding this view, we never pretended that such an attitude could be reconciled with the theory of government prevailing in the United States. The declaration of independence declared in high-sounding terms that "all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Now it is clear that the above extract from the declaration of independence, is in direct opposition to the pretensions of the United States in the Philippines. The people of these islands were fighting for escape from the yoke of Spain, and now they find themselves farther from freedom than they were before, for the new power which has taken charge of them has five times the population of Spain and ten times its wealth and resources. The Philippine Islands might as well submit first as last, for they are engaged in a hopeless contest, but that fact does not in the least alter the moral aspects of the question, or make the position of their future masters more logical.

The people of the United States, through their commissioners, tell the people of the Philippine islands of the cordial good will and fraternal feeling of the President of the United States and the American people, and assure them that the United States government, apart from the fulfillment of its solemn obligations, has assumed towards the family of nations by the acceptance of the sovereignty over the islands is the well being, prosperity and happiness of the Philippine people and their elevation to a position among the most civilized people of the world.

The proclamation goes on to say that the president believes this perfection is to be brought about by the assurance of peace and order, the guarantee of civil and religious liberty, the establishment of justice, the cultivation of letters, science and the liberal and practical arts, the enlargement of intercourse with foreign nations, the expansion of industrial pursuits, by trade and commerce, by multiplication and improvement of the means of internal communication, by development with the aid of modern mechanical inventions of the great natural resources of the archipelago, and by the uninterrupted devotion of the people to the pursuit of useful objects and the realization of the noble ideas which constitute the higher civilization of mankind.

These, certainly, are worthy aims, but the Philippine Islanders might reply that they wished to carry them out in their own way, and through a government which they themselves had created. The Philippine Islands have expressed their desire to be free from foreign control and have proclaimed a republic, but the American commission now tells them that the supremacy of the United States must and will be enforced throughout every part of the archipelago, and that those who resist it can accomplish no other than their own ruin.

Having told them this in the most emphatic terms the pill is glided or sweetened with certain promises and the Philippine people are informed that they will be granted the most ample liberty and self-government reconcilable with the maintenance of a wise, just, stable, effective and economical administration of public affairs and compatible with the sovereign and international rights and the obligations of the United States. They are not told, however, how self-government and subservience to the wishes of the government of the United States can go hand in hand.

Among the other promises made to the Philippine people are the following, and if they are carried out the latter may be able to boast that they are better governed and enjoy a purer and more efficient administration of public affairs than the nation which has forced its supremacy upon them. We quote:—  
 The civil rights of the Philippine people will be guaranteed and protected to the fullest extent, religious freedom will be assured, and all persons shall be equal and have equal standing in the eyes of the law.

There shall be guaranteed to the Philippine people an honest and effective civil service in which, to the fullest extent to which it is practicable, natives shall be employed.

The collection and application of all taxes and other revenues shall be placed upon a sound, economical basis, and the public funds raised justly and collected honestly, shall be applied only to defray the regular and popular expenses incurred by and for the establishment and maintenance of the Philippine government, and such general improvements as the public interests may demand. Local funds collected shall be used for local purposes and not to be devoted for other ends.

A pure, speedy and effective administration of justice shall be established, whereby may be eradicated the evils arising from delay, corruption and exploitation.

The construction of roads, railroads and similar means of communication and transportation and of other public works, manifestly to the advantage of the Philippine people, shall be protected.

Domestic and foreign trade and commerce, agriculture and other industrial pursuits tending toward the general development of the country in the interests of the inhabitants, shall be objects of constant solicitude and fostering care.

Effective provisions shall be made for the establishment of elementary schools in which the children may be educated, and appropriate facilities shall be provided for a high education.

Reforms in the administration of the government, all branches of the public service and all corporations closely touching the common life of the people, shall be undertaken without delay and comfortably with the right and justice in a way to satisfy the well founded demands and the highest sentiments and aspirations of the people.

**THE SUN AND MR. COSTIGAN.**  
 The Sun is not well pleased at the complimentary dinner to Mr. John Costigan and Wednesday evening an editorial paragraph that "those Grit journals which are paying flattering tributes to the Hon. John Costigan seem to have forgotten that for many years he was a member of a Tory government, and held up to the scorn and contempt of all good Liberals."

We do not remember to have seen any Liberal journal holding up Mr. Costigan to "scorn and contempt," indeed he has always been well spoken of by the Liberal papers. The paper that most frequently tried to injure him was the St. John Sun, which was controlled by the Foster wing of the Conservative party and therefore felt it to be its duty to suppress Mr. Costigan. Mr. Costigan was in the cabinet three years and a half before Mr. Foster, but that did not prevent the latter from intriguing to have Mr. Costigan ousted from his position of minister of inland revenue. He did not succeed in accomplishing his purpose because Sir John A. Macdonald was loyal to the man who had supported him ever since that time when he was a member of the cabinet of the late Mr. John Thompson, but when Sir John Thompson became premier there was a change. Mr. Costigan was disgraced, as it were, and made secretary of state, a position wholly without patronage, so that Mr. Foster was able to gather in all the spoils of his native province and place another assortment of his cronies in office.

When Sir Mackenzie Bowell became premier he snubbed Foster and his friends and placed Mr. Costigan in the department of marine and fisheries, a position that carries more patronage with it than almost any other in Canada. This was redressing the wrong done to Mr. Costigan with a vengeance, and Foster never forgave him, but nursed in his heart against his chief and led the revolt against the premier which resulted in the resignation of seven members of the cabinet in January, 1896.

The dinner which was given to the Hon. John Costigan Tuesday night was not a political demonstration, but a personal compliment to a man who, although at all times a consistent Conservative, has thousands of friends and well-wishers on both sides of politics. Viewed in that light it was a most significant and pleasing function and one that will long be remembered.

It was graced by the presence of the minister of railways and canals, the solicitor general of Canada, the premier of New Brunswick and all the members of his cabinet, most of the members of the legislature, several members of parliament, the mayor of St. John, the recorder and police magistrate and a large number of our prominent citizens. These gentlemen, although differing widely in their political views, came together for the purpose of doing honor to one who can claim to be the oldest statesman now in public life in this province, and the representative of one constituency for a period of almost forty years. Mr. Costigan may well be proud of such a grand demonstration in his honor.

**Peru's Political Outlook.**  
 Lima, Peru, via Galveston, Tex., April 5.—The political outlook in Peru is improving and it is believed that the presidential election will pass off peacefully.

**INTENSE SUFFERING FROM DYSPEPSIA AND STOMACH TROUBLE.**  
 Instantly Relieved and Permanently Cured by Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

**A New Discovery, But Not a Patent Medicine.**  
 Dr. Redwell relates an interesting account of what he considers a remarkable cure of some stomach trouble and chronic dyspepsia by the use of the new discovery, Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

He says: "The patient was a man who had suffered to my knowledge, for years with dyspepsia. Everything he ate seemed to sour and a state of gas in the stomach; he had pains in the rheumatism in the back, shoulders, hips and limbs, fullness and distress after eating, poor appetite and loss of flesh; the heart became affected, causing palpitation and sleeplessness at night."

I gave him powerful nervo-tonics and blood remedies, but to no purpose. As an experiment I finally gave him a fifty-cent package of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets as a drug cure and gave them to him. Almost immediate relief was given and after he had used four boxes he was to all appearance fully cured.

There was no more acidity or sour watery stools, no bloating after meals, the appetite was vigorous and he gained between 10 and 12 pounds in weight of solid, healthy flesh.

Although Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are advertised and sold in drug stores, yet I consider them a most valuable addition to any physician's repertoire, as they are perfectly harmless and can be given to children or invalids or in any condition of the stomach with perfect safety, being harmless and containing nothing but fruit and vegetable essences, pure pepsin and Golden Seal.

Without any question they are the safest, most effective cure for indigestion, biliousness, constipation and all derangements of the stomach, however slight or severe.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are made by the F. A. Stuart Company, of Marshall, Mich., and are sold by all druggists everywhere at fifty cents per package. Little book on stomach diseases mailed free, address F. A. Stuart Company, Marshall, Mich.

**Wedding Bell.**  
 Miss Florence M. McMillan, daughter of John McMillan, and Dr. Stewart S. Skinner were united in marriage at Trinity church Tuesday afternoon. The bride wore a most becoming bridal gown of white satin. The bridesmaids, Miss Louise McMillan and Miss Grace Skinner, had grey dresses with trimming, and large white picture hats. The functions of groomsmen were performed by the twin brother of the groom, Mr. Charles S. Skinner. The ushers were Messrs. L. D. Tilly, Stewart L. Fairweather and Boyer S. Smith. Very Rev. Dean Partridge performed the ceremony.

Dr. and Mrs. Skinner left by the afternoon train for a trip to Boston and New York. On their return they will reside on Princess street.

At Fox Creek, Westmorland county, J. B. LeBlanc, of St. John, LeBlanc A. O., and Miss Bourque, daughter of E. D. Bourque, were joined in wedlock.

At Trinity church Wednesday, Mr. Louis Whitman, of Annapolis Royal, N. S., and Miss Florence A. Snider, youngest daughter of the late Mr. George Snider of this city, were united in marriage. The ceremony was performed by Very Rev. Dean Partridge. The bride was attended by Miss Eva MacLaren and Miss Katie Hays as bridesmaids. She entered the church with her brother-in-law, Mr. John S. MacLaren, and was given away by her mother. She was attired in a tailor-made gown of brown cloth with hat to match. The little maid of honor wore a pretty dress in gowns of blue muslin with white leghorn hats, and carried a bouquet of pink carnations.

Messrs. B. N. Ebb and Gray Robinson were the ushers. Mr. and Mrs. Whitman left on the afternoon train for Boston, in which city they will remain a few days, before going to California, where they will spend two months. On their return, they will reside at Annapolis Royal. The bride was the recipient of many handsome presents.

At a quiet wedding ceremony Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mr. William Barton, Elm street, Miss Janet Barton and Mr. Fred W. McNicol were made man and wife, the officiating clergyman being Rev. Harvey Morton. Relatives and intimate friends witnessed the ceremony and at its conclusion showered hearty congratulations on the young couple, who also received many beautiful wedding gifts. Mrs. McNicol left for Boston on the G. P. R. Mr. McNicol is a very popular young man, a musician of ability, and an enthusiastic player in the Willis Concert Band. He intends to proceed to the study of harmony and composition at Boston. The band serenaded a happy member and his bride at the station and a very large number of friends took part in the demonstration expressive of earnest wishes to Mr. and Mrs. McNicol for all happiness.

Wednesday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Fuller, Sewall street, Rev. A. D. Dawkins united in marriage Miss Mary Garvey, of Queensboro, and Mr. Charles R. Carr, of Halifax. Miss Missie Fenner, of Newcastle, was bridesmaid, and the groom was attended by Mr. J. J. Wiles, of Fairville. Mr. and Mrs. Carr will reside in Halifax.

It was a good idea of the provincial government to invite the members of the Legislature to visit the Provincial Lunatic Asylum and see for themselves the work that is being done there. Such an inspection, although necessarily not as thorough as might be had if more time were allowed, should be sufficient to give every member a general idea of the character and needs of the institution. From small beginnings our lunatic asylum has grown to be a very large establishment, and among its inmates are patients from every county in the province, so that every member has an interest in it.