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## The Daily Mail

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Letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only and the real name of the author should be attached. This will not be used unless consent be given in the communication.

The publication of any letter does not signify that the Editor thereby shows his agreement with the opinions therein expressed.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., MARCH 27, 1914.

### PECULIAR—VERY!

Word of a peculiar situation reaches us from Brigus, Conception Bay.

The town, it seems, is blessed with two medical men, Dr. Gill and Dr. MacDonald.

Dr. MacDonald is credited with being a supporter of the present Government; Dr. Gill on the other hand has not gone out of his way to talk up the Morris Party.

Now the peculiar part comes in. Dr. Gill after having had the charities patronage ever since he has been in Brigus is suddenly left out in the cold and orders for medical attendance issued by the Government go exclusively to Dr. MacDonald.

Why is this?

The country at large has long understood that patients whose medical bills are paid by the Government are left to choose what doctor they wish to have attend them.

But this seems not to be the case at Brigus.

Why should the Poor Commissioner show special and particular favour to Dr. MacDonald?

There is certainly nothing fair or just about this discrimination.

Given two or more registered practitioners in a locality, they should all be on the same footing as far as the Poor Commissioner is concerned and the patients should be left absolutely free to do all the discriminating.

We trust that the authorities concerned have not allowed themselves to be influenced by any partisan or personal bias in this matter.

At any rate, whatever Dr. Gill's political leanings, he should receive his due share of Government patronage.

### TUBERCULOSIS WORK.

As we pointed out in an editorial a few issues ago, the Central or Sanatorium method is the least satisfactory method of dealing with the tuberculosis problem.

The general arguments against the adoption of the plan of fighting "the white plague" through the media of sanatoria seem fairly obvious; but it will be educative to repeat them here together with certain special local considerations that have an important bearing on the question.

In the first place, the effective way to deal with the problem of Tuberculosis is to take precautions, as elaborate as circumstances will permit, to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of the dread disease.

It took a great deal of campaigning on the part of Mr. Harvey's Anti-Tuberculosis League to create the impression amongst our people that Consumption is infectious.

A good many Newfoundlanders long held to the old-fashioned notion that the disease is not infectious.

When Mr. Harvey started his campaign the majority did not scruple to pooh-pooh the dietum that such simple methods as ordinary disinfecting precautions were necessary to prevent the infection of whole families and that for incipient cases fresh air, sunshine and good food were practically the only medicines required.

But Mr. Harvey's advertising campaign succeeded in the main securing pretty general acceptance of this doctrine and did more good than can be estimated by ordinary mortals.

But a great many of our people still hold fatalistic ideas regarding Tuberculosis and with them to be smitten with Consumption is to be regarded as already virtually dead.

And, while such ideas obtain and prevail it is plain that very few will think of looking with any degree of favor upon a proposition to send smitten friends or relatives to a Tuberculosis Sanatorium which may be located many miles from home.

To embark on the treatment of Tuberculosis by means of sanatoria in the present state of public education appeals to us—in the homely words of an old proverb—as a case of "putting the cart before the horse."

A great deal more of missionary and educative work will have to be accomplished before it will be wise and practical for this Country to adopt the very expensive sanatorium system.

And, even then, the sanatoriums will be able to touch but the fringe of the problem.

Only a small—a very small—proportion of existing cases can be treated in these institutions. Many are altogether unsuited for sanatorium treatment and on account of the large number of cases to be found all over the island it will be impossible to find accommodation for numerous cases that lend themselves to sanatorium treatment.

And every case of Tuberculosis that, for one cause or another, has to be kept at home is a potential agency for the infection of scores of others.

"Only those cases which are in a curable stage are admitted," says Dr. Rendell in his Report.

But a considerable number of "unsuitable" or curable cases, as well as all the "unsuitable" or incurable cases will, necessarily, have to remain at home and unless a propaganda of preventive measures is initiated will create new cases of the disease much faster than the Government Sanatoriums can cure cases taken in.

To be at all effective the treatment of the problem must commence at the home. There is to be found the source of most of the infection.

Many houses in this Country are nothing less than hot beds of the White Plague and will continue such until educative influences have brought the inmates fully under their sway.

This aspect of the problem is the one to concentrate anti-tuberculosis activities on. And to tackle the difficult problem otherwise will simply result in attacking effects while the cause goes tragically on creating fresh outbreaks of the trouble.

The proposal to do anti-tuberculosis work in the outports through cottage sanatoriums is most expensive, impracticable and ineffective. At the best these institutions would amount to little more than headquarters for a medical and nursing staff.

Some good might be done but the results obtained would never justify the large outlay of money called for.

Hence our contention that in availing his unqualified adherence to the sanatorium as the most effective means of coping with the Tuberculosis problem Dr. Rendell has really avowed himself as but little in touch with the needs and possibilities of the big work.

Every infected home must be made a sanatorium and the disease grappled with there. Central sanatoriums are but a secondary consideration, seeing that but a very small proportion of our people are influenced or can be influenced thereby.

Get the general public properly grounded in the first principles of hygiene and you have made the first great step—a giant's stride in reality—towards your ideal of eradicating Tuberculosis as far as is humanly possible.

This was the root idea of the Harvey campaign and it was the practical effort to realise this ideal that made it almost phenomenally successful as a pioneer movement.

The problem then must be tackled in the home. The older people must be brought to see the wisdom of precautionary measures and must be taught the first principles of the treatment of any cases in which they are personally interested.

In the case of the younger generation the task is easier. There are no prejudices to combat and out—the campaign is purely educational.

And what is needed to make such a campaign effective is a sisterhood of organisation somewhat after the nature of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

A band of these workers should operate in every district in the island. Their work would not necessarily be limited to the combatting of Tuberculosis. They could advise and assist the people on general matters of health. Their most effective work would be done through house-to-house visitation but they could also use the schools to aid the great propaganda.

To adopt such a method of dealing with the Tuberculosis question would be to employ an effective instrument for much good.

The best that can be said of the method advocated by Dr. Rendell is that it is a faddy, an expensive toy that and one that is more ornamental than efficient.

### COMPARATIVE USEFULNESS.

Dr. H. Rendell attempts to scuttle out of a discussion which his official Report has given rise to, with reference to the usefulness of his work.

This has nothing to do with any question as to the amount of his salary or perquisites or any direct connection with his discussion with Dr. Keegan.

It has, however, something to do with a matter of great importance to the public, and for which the public is paying a large amount. The doctor is a public servant, and part of his duty is to inform the public of his doings, and convince the public that what he is doing is right.

In a letter from him published by The Mail yesterday he expresses regret that the remarks made by us were "calculated to convey an erroneous impression to the public, and therefore, handicap the work." We presume that by the use of the word "calculated" he meant "would have a tendency," as he would not have the audacity to imply any desire upon our part to misrepresent his work.

But, taking it that he meant that that there was a tendency in our remarks to handicap what he is doing, he owes it to the public and to us to explain what he means.

What is the erroneous impression which our remarks give rise to? In what manner does that impression handicap the work, and what work is he talking about?

The Doctor says he will "content" himself with saying that his plan of campaign was submitted to, and fully approved of, by the most eminent living authorities.

What is his plan of campaign? Who was it submitted to? Who approved of it? Who are the eminent living authorities? These are the very matters which will interest the public.

What is the doctor's plan, and what is the doctor's execution? What do the eminent living authorities he refers to know about the peculiar needs of this Country that is not known to any intelligent man in the Country who has given the slightest attention to the subject?

It is quite useless for the doctor to hide himself and his work by any quotation of mysterious names, or delicate utterances of any kind. He is up against it, so to speak, at the present moment, and will best acquit himself by making a clean breast of the matter. This discussion is not an impertinence. It is a public right. It is the right of the public to know what is going on when it pays for it.

As we have pointed out on previous occasions there are two directions in which good work can be done in relation to the plague of tuberculosis: one is the way of prevention, and other the way of cure. The former is ninety five per cent. of the whole work, the remaining five per cent. can be left to the physicians of the Country.

What is needed is a campaign of education and a number of qualified nurses. The Victorian Order of Nurses imported into this Colony would be worth infinitely more in this connection than all the doctors in the Country. Somebody is wanted to lecture, and to exply their lectures by application.

Then, nurses are needed to go into every outport home, to teach the people not merely by precept, but by example, and the teaching need not be confined to tuberculosis, but to everything that effects the health of the people.

Such an Order of nurses can be splendidly supported in this Colony by the amount of money which the doctor is spending for local work in this city.

This is the pith and marrow of this subject, and there is nobody in the Colony who is more deeply obligated to discuss this view of the subject than Dr. Rendell.

What has he got to say about it?

**HELD-OVER.**  
Owing to demands on our editorial columns to-day we have been forced to hold over our comments on the Home Rule situation—particularly in reply to The News—until to-morrow,

when we will also show that the Commercial and Industrial Importance of Ulster justifies that province in the stand it has taken.

### TO THE EDITOR.

#### ANSWERS ANSWERED.

(Editor The Daily Mail)

Dear Sir,—In The News, this morning, "Roscommon" replies to my letter to you, dated the 25th inst.

Judging from the nature of the answers to my questions, the writer is not in sympathy with the desires of a majority—and an overwhelming one at that—of the Ulster people.

I asked, in effect, "will any parliament short of one with complete powers over all subjects satisfy Ireland. Will the Asquith bill end agitation in Ireland?"

"Roscommon" gives an evasive reply, by saying "the Nationalists in the British parliament accepted the bill—as satisfactory." They accepted it—not "as satisfactory"—but as the best they could get at the time. That means, they accepted it as giving them machinery wherewith to demand more. They never said the Asquith bill was "satisfactory."

Irish Home Rule members call themselves "Nationalists." Their policy is, "Ireland a Nation." Their organ in this city, The News, this morning says editorially "Ireland is a nation." The meaning is that Irish Home Rulers will not be satisfied with less than a parliament in Ireland independent in every sense, except that a few will consent to the King of England being also King of Ireland, and still feaver to the over lordship of the Imperial Parliament in Imperial affairs.

It is well to face facts. The Irish regard this as a racial question; they want an Irish nation; they are proud to proclaim it. The Irish in the United States of America—who have supplied the money for Irish agitation for many years—go further than their kindred, in this Colony, for instance. They have been moved by hatred of England. With them, Irish independence means, Ireland free of the enemy, the hated "Sassenach." It is absurd to suppose that the Asquith bill can be regarded by these friends of Home Rule as more than a convenient tool wherewith to force more.

"Because Ulster is not beyond Ireland, but part of it—the least part—and therefore, bound by the votes of a majority, the same as any other 'community'—this is the reason given by 'Roscommon' why Ulster should not have the kind of Home Rule desired by a majority of Ulster people. Because the United States of America has a majority on the Continent of North America are the people of Canada bound to have the kind of rule the majority impose? Are the states of Central America bound to submit to the United States for the same reason? The physical connection between Ulster and the rest of Ireland is no stronger reason for one rule than the physical connection of North America for one rule there.

Ireland is not a "community"—meaning a commonwealth or State; it is only part of a Community—the king dom of Great Britain and Ireland! Home Rulers want to break away; Ulstermen want to remain in; why should they not? Historically, racially, religiously, commercially, there is no "community" of interest between Ulster and the rest of Ireland.

Why should men of another race and religion, with a history and great commercial interests of their own be compelled to submit to the wishes of their foes because the latter count more noses in a particular plot of land? In other words, why should Ulster submit to separation from the United Kingdom?

—INQUIRER.

March 27, 14.

### THE ARMY OFFICERS.

(Editor The Daily Mail)

Dear Sir,—For some while, of late, certain sections of the local press, have spent a great deal of space in the condemnation of the "Army Officers," so that it was refreshing, and a great pleasure to me to read your Editorial of yesterday.

Why the "Army Officer" should be subject to such hostile criticism, and from men who apparently know so little of that profession, I am utterly at a loss to understand. It is, as a class, not any more susceptible to the enjoyments of this life than that of Editors, or other literary people, as we know from facts.

The British Nation, has the "Officer" to thank, possibly, more than any other class. History points out most conclusively, that the "Officer" as a class has done his duty manfully and nobly, and no man can deny it.

Granted, there are officers, as there are members of other professions, who are not fit to hold their rank, but they are so greatly in the minority that it matters little.

Give the "Rank and File" the choice

of an officer from the "Ranks" or one from the "Aristocracy" and see whom they choose. Experience tells me that fully ninety per cent. are in favor of the "Aristocrat."

Although the majority of the British officers are drawn from the upper classes, it is not entirely so, as a proof of which I draw your attention to the recent British Army Canteen Scandal, in which, I believe I am right in saying, "Every officer implicated, had risen from the ranks."

Finally, whilst an officer is serving in the Army he must obey orders, but I maintain he has a right to resign from his occupation, should that occupation become distasteful to him.

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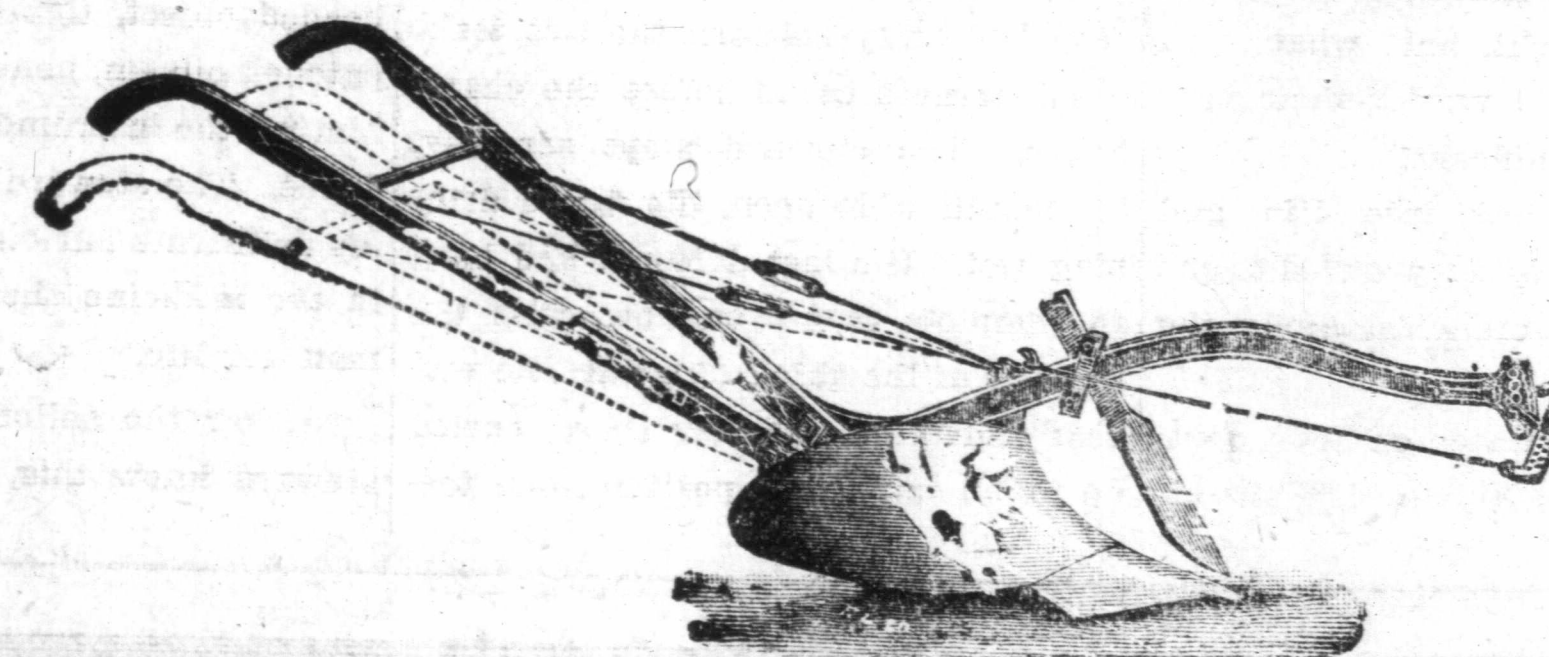
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