

**Dr. Laberge on Rat Suppression.**

Dr. Louis Laberge, health officer, of Montreal, has recommended that a man be employed as a protection to both private property and health against rats.

The manager of the Molson warehouses, of 998-1028 Notre Dame Street east, wrote to the controllers on July 13 saying they understood their previous communication of last February had been taken into consideration, but as nothing had been since heard of the matter, and as loss and annoyance from rats still continued despite private efforts to abate the nuisance, the firm wanted to know whether the city intended to do anything or to remain simply passive in the matter. The letter concluded with the remark:

"We have proof, as evidenced by holes bored outside our building on Notre Dame Street and on the river front, that a fresh supply is coming in constantly from the sewers and wharf."

It is for the latter reason, as one firm cannot cope with the whole rat problem, the supply being constant from the outside, that the controllers have been appealed to. The latter find, however, that it is a pretty large undertaking to begin to fight rats all along the harbor front, and up to the present nothing has been done, except by private houses in their own interests.

Dr. Laberge, in his communication to the board, states that he has already addressed them at length on the question of damage caused by rats, and that he had submitted three names of persons who claimed to be able to exterminate rats on a large scale by scientific methods.

"There is no doubt," says Dr. Laberge, "of the necessity to find means to suppress as much as possible this brood of vermin. It is also a matter of public health, and I do not hesitate to suggest that the services of a competent expert be retained to take charge of this work for a limited period of time for the purpose of testing the efficiency of the plan submitted."

**Manitoba Medical Association.**

At the annual convention of the Manitoba Medical Association, Dr. F. S. Keele, the president, in his opening address referred to the position of Manitoba University. He

commented particularly on the fact that such departments as civil, electrical, mechanical and mining engineering were of necessity expensive ones to run. This was practically impossible for the university as at present constituted. These departments, in his opinion, should not be separated from the university and run as separate institutions. The only rational solution of the problem was the construction of a provincial institution free from all denominational fetters and intercollegiate squabbles. Such an university would stand for the development of all the resources of the province and would be financed by the people through the provincial government.

Owing to the very inclement weather there was not the large attendance which was expected, only twenty-six doctors being present. Dr. S. F. Keele, of Portage la Prairie, opened the convention by calling upon Mayor J. J. Garland to give an address of welcome from the city. An instructive address on the Ninette Sanatorium was given by Dr. D. A. Stewart, and Dr. Gordon Bell gave an address on vaccine. Both addresses were freely discussed.

In his address on the Ninette Sanatorium, Dr. Stewart spoke in part as follows:

"On admission patients are classed as 'Incipient,' 'Moderately advanced,' and 'Far advanced,' and on discharge as 'Apparently cured,' 'Disease arrested,' 'Improved,' or 'Unimproved.'"

"As a matter of fact, of the 139 patients received up to the end of March, 52 per cent. were classed as 'Far advanced,' and only 15 per cent. as 'Incipient.' A number of these 'Far advanced' cases have done well under treatment. Still the fact remains that they are 'Far advanced' cases, the cure of which must be at best a sort of patched-up affair, or merely a truce with the disease, not a victory over it.

"Of patients admitted as 'Incipient,' even counting those who did not remain anything like long enough under treatment, nearly 85 per cent. were discharged as 'Apparently cured' or as having 'Disease arrested.' Of those admitted as 'Far advanced,' though many of them have done remarkably well, none have been discharged as 'Apparently cured,' and less