

DR. J. RODDICK BYERS
74 THE BOULEVARD
WESTMOUNT

Jany. 22nd 1923.

Sir Arthur W. Curry,

Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

Replying to your request for a memo of our conversation this afternoon I beg to submit the following review:-

In September 1908 Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon, and Dr. Hugh Kinghorn organized the Laurentian Society for the treatment and Control of Tuberculosis for the purpose of operating the Laurentian Sanatorium at Ste. Agathe des Monts, and I was chosen as medical Superintendent. Immediately a small temporary institution was opened with eight beds capacity, pending the building of the sanatorium proper; and 195 acres of land was purchased as a site.

On this magnificent site situated so close to Montreal the Society erected a sanatorium of 40 beds capacity. This building formed the nucleus of a plan calling for 150 beds when completed. In this building the treatment was carried on until war broke out. By spring of 1915 it was evident that there would be a considerable tuberculosis disability in the C.E.F., and the Sanatorium began caring for soldiers to their utmost capacity by making two beds go into single wards: By Christmas 1916 the need became so great that the Laurentide Inn was requisitioned (hotel st Ste. Agathe) and the Military Hospitals Commission operated the latter as an annex to the Laurentian sanatorium.

During 1916, and 1917 plans were submitted to the Department Military Hospitals Commission, and later the department Soldiers Civil Reestablishment, by the Laurentian Society for extensions to the parent sanatorium, but without success as the Department desired to control the sanatorium and have its own engineers erect the buildings etc. Finally the Board of Governors realizing the demands on the part of the Federal Government were urgent, that the war might continue indefinitely etc. decided to make the Federal Government a gift of the property, and this was agreed to with ~~three~~ extra provisions.