

ROYAL COMMISSION
REPORT RECOMMENDS
RADICAL CHANGES IN
ST. JOHN HOSPITAL.

(Continued from page 1.)
A. I think it is of the utmost importance to supply good food, especially to the very sick. I have watched the food going into the wards, and it is a little crude—served up wholesale, and the patients do not like that. I think they need better cooking service in the hospital.

UNCLEANLINESS OF
THE INSTITUTION.

Commissioners Believe Effort Was Made to Destroy Vermin, But Can Give No Justification to Explain Miss Iddle's Evidence.
The complaints in this respect were largely with regard to the presence of vermin in the institution, and while the commissioners believe that, in the ordinary routine of hospital work, every effort is made to attack and destroy these intruders, while the difficulty of doing so effectually is recognized, yet no justification "satisfactory to the mind of the commissioners" can be given which may explain away the circumstances described by Miss Amy Iddle's, page 48, 49 and 50 of the evidence.

Miss Amy Iddle, Examined.
Q. Was your mother ever in the General Public Hospital?
A. Yes, in the hospital two years ago, in the summer of 1900 she had broken her leg.
Q. Who caused her to be removed there?
A. Dr. MacLaren is our physician and caused her to be taken there. I cannot state positively what time of the day she was taken there, because I was not home, but it was some time between eleven and one.
Q. When was it you first saw her there?
A. I cannot state that positively either, but it was some time directly after noon.
Q. Had her leg been set?
A. Her leg had been set, then. She was then in bed.
Q. What did you notice in connection with the bed?
A. Not anything at first, but towards the middle of the afternoon I saw a bed-bug walking across the bed.
Q. Did you speak of this to anyone?
A. I spoke of it to the nurse.
Q. What did she say or do?
A. She took the counterpane and lifted it up and crushed it.
Q. Crushed it?
A. Yes, I presume so.
Q. Crushed the bug?
A. Yes.
Q. Was your mother in a private ward or public?
A. She was in a public ward, she was carried there by the doctor, when I first saw her, by the doctor's orders, she was not moved to a private ward till later.

To Mr. Truman—I saw another bug. I asked the nurse whether it was a bed-bug, and she nodded assent, she did not say anything.
Q. What was the nurse's name?
A. Miss Blythe. I do not know who the other nurses were.
Q. After that did your mother make any complaint to you?
A. She asked me if I would lift the counterpane and look and see what was tickling her toes. I did that and saw several bedbugs walking around her foot. Her foot was bound in the box, and as the clothes were opened the bedbugs were around her toes and on the bed.
Q. What did you do?
A. I did not do anything only brush them off. There was not anything there, and when the nurse came I told her.
Q. Did you see anything further in connection with the bedbugs?
A. Yes, I looked again and saw them again. I saw them more than twice. Then I spoke to the nurse about it, and told her the box must be removed, that I leg because it was infested with bedbugs. The box was not unpacked then because they could not remove mother to the room as the nurse was not ready for her until 7 o'clock. About that time they got her ready to go into her room and then unpacked her leg from the box and removed her from the stretcher I presume that is why they unpacked her leg.
Q. What did you see?
A. There was wood around her leg when it was packed in the box, and as they lifted that out it was swarming with bedbugs.
Q. To Judge Tuck, C. J.
A. Yes, I was in the plaster?
A. No.
Q. Who was present then?
A. I cannot say exactly, but I know the nurse was and I think Dr. Morris was and myself.
Q. What did you say about it, anything?
A. I think I did say a good deal, but I do not remember what, was quite excited—I do not know what I said.
Q. What was done with the box after it was removed?
A. I said when they removed her into the private room they must not put the box on her leg again, and they did not make any answer, and then shortly after that I went home and came back, and when I came back in the room where mother was, the box was not on her leg, and the box was on her leg all night. The box was replaced next morning.
Q. The same box?
A. I asked if it was the same box and I was told yes.
Q. Dr. MacLaren, I said "it must come off, it is infested with bedbugs," and he said, "it has been boiled all night." I said I did not mean that on her leg. He said, "they are not cast iron, they cannot stand boiling." I saw one bedbug in the room she was removed to on the counterpane.
Q. Chief Justice—Was your mother a paid patient?
A. Yes, she was a paid patient, but she was in public ward when that occurred.
Q. Was it a wooden box?
A. It was a wooden box.

SWARMING WITH BEDBUGS.

One Case Referred to as Most Reprehensible.
Notice page 40 where the witness states that the splint used by her mother was found "swarming with bedbugs"; this condition of affairs is most reprehensible and discloses either lack of discipline, or plain such a thing could occur, or else

carelessness, which explanations will not improve. This implies lack of discipline, or absence of care would be remarked, and in this connection attention is drawn to the evidence of Dr. Murray MacLaren, a member of the visiting staff of doctors.
Dr. Murray MacLaren Examined.
The Chief Justice—Then I gather from what you say just now, doctor, that with the funds at the disposal of the commissioners, the management is as good as it well can be, is that the idea?
A. Well, I would say this, sir, that the money, as far as it goes, is spent judiciously and I have not seen what I mean. Supposing that the management could be bettered by an increased expenditure of money, in the management with the money at their disposal as good as it ought to be?

A. No, I do not think so.
Q. Then referring for a moment to Mr. Coster's question, about ventilation, and bearing in mind the age of the building—completed, if I can remember, in 1865, and having by this time become old, and that so many large improvements have been made since that building was put in view of better ventilation, as it is, noting what is there now is insufficient, what in your mind ought to be done with that building without destroying it, what can be done in order to make it better than it is today?
A. Yes, I have given it some thought. I would improve the ventilation; I would change a number of rooms, I think are too small for use as they are.
Q. What about the floors, are they hard pine, birch or what?
A. In a number of the wards they are hard wood.
Q. Would you have hard in all?
A. Yes, or have them of some composition.
Q. Then I suppose no one could tell very well just what it would cost to put that building in proper condition, proper up-to-date condition?
A. I could not form an estimate.
Q. Let me ask you then, what would you think of a re-estimate of \$30,000 in making the necessary changes in that building?
A. I think it would do a great deal, I don't know whether it would cover it or not.

THE BUILDINGS.

Large Expenditure Necessary to Modernize the Interior.
Your commissioners received evidence with regard to the condition of the hospital building, from which it appears that while the building was fully up to the standard required at the time of its erection, a large expenditure would now be necessary in order to modernize the interior.
See evidence Dr. W. A. Christie, page 292.
Dr. W. A. Christie Examined.
Q. Would you care to make any observations about the character of the hospital building?
A. Well, at the present time I would not consider it a modern hospital.
Q. Would you say in what respect you thought it would be defective?
A. Well, there is a large portion of the hospital that is practically of no use as a hospital; that is the main portion of the building, where the winding stairs and corridors that take up a good deal of space and are not utilized for anything but going and down stairs, and there is no modern system of ventilation in it. The heating system is better than it used to be. In my time it was very poor.
Q. Is it altogether up to the mark at the present time?
A. I do not think so.
Q. Is there any difficulty in getting the heat in the winter?
A. Well, there has been. It has been a number of times there has been a lack of heat in the building; patients would complain of it.
Q. Would it get below the proper point, so as to be dangerous to patients?
A. Well, no; I do not think it would get below the proper point, but sometimes it would get below 55.
Q. Would that be early in the morning, doctor?
A. That would be when I was making my visit there—between 10 and 11.
Q. Is the present system of ventilation of such a character that it is really detrimental to the health of the patients?
A. Well, I would say to a certain extent it is; in winter time the ventilation is not so good.
Q. Also the evidence of Dr. G. A. B. Addy.
Dr. G. A. B. Addy, Examined.
Q. Dr. Addy, you were at one time house surgeon at the hospital?
A. I was.
Q. In what years?
A. I was there '91 to '93.
Q. And you are now pathologist in the hospital?
A. Yes.
Q. Have you ever been connected with the visiting staff?
A. Not with the visiting staff.
Q. And you of connection with the hospital by long experience with the hospital?
A. Yes; every day between 3 and 4 o'clock.
Q. You have had that appointment how long?
A. Four or five years.
Q. Recently, doctor, have you had an opportunity of being quite a number of hospitals abroad?
A. Yes; I have just returned from seeing several of the larger hospitals.
Q. Where?
A. In Canada and the United States; the Montreal General, the Rhode Island Hospital, the Presbyterian of New York, and Saint Luke's of St. Louis, New York.
Q. Which of those has the highest standing?
A. Well, I think that St. Luke's is the newest and perhaps has everything most up-to-date of any of the institutions I was at, although the Montreal General and Presbyterian, and St. Luke's are almost on a par. They seem thoroughly up-to-date; if anything St. Luke's is more up-to-date than any.
Q. Recollecting what you saw there, and of course you had in mind that you would be called here, would you make a comparison of the different features of those hospitals and this one here?
A. Well, it is a very odd matter to make a comparison. Briefly, in St. Luke's we have got a new hospital; here we have got an old one, and from the standpoint of the building of course there is nothing modern about the building itself. It would require entire renovation; you would have to clean it right out to the walls, in fact, to make it a modern building. That is, I think to modernize this institution, you would have to just leave the four walls.
Q. What changes would you make, then?
A. I would put in modern floors and ceilings and modern ventilation apparatus.
Q. What do you find wrong with the floors?
A. Well, the floors in St. Luke's Hospital, for instance, are all concrete; there is no chance of vermin or bedbugs of any description to get between the walls and the floors. There are no corners in the walls; they are all rounded out, so there is no opportunity for dust and no chance for bedbugs to crawl down between the subfloors and floors as there is here. They have the most improved ventilating system.
Q. How do you find ours?
A. Well, I am not aware that there is any ventilating system in the old ward at all in our building. There is a vent-

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A. Well, I would think that it was successful in surgical wards, but as regards the medical staff of the hospital, I suppose, in this hospital, it would not be a very good thing to have a new hospital here. Practically it would, or an expenditure of about \$20,000 on this building. It would be feasible to install a new ventilating system, I suppose, in this hospital.
A. Well, to install a modern ventilating system there would mean tremendous expenditure, by tearing up the hospital, and if you have to tear up the hospital, it is a question whether it would not be better to go on and make the other repairs to the whole place. It would so mutilate the walls and the ceilings that the expense incurred would not be a very good sweep of the whole business.
Q. Without that ventilating system the hospital is always going to be very deficient, is it not?
A. You could not expect to have the results in surgery in a poorly ventilated building.
Q. Mr. Truman—Is this building so poorly ventilated as that it would be infected and the same thing that is the hospital itself a source of infection?
A. I think this hospital, like any old building, would be a source of infection. The Chief Justice—Does every person anything in the hospital that if a person goes there with one complaint he might contract another?
A. The same is.
Q. Well, take the old walls and old floors and old ceilings, that is a source of infection. For instance, there have been several cases of midwifery taken into that hospital and the results have been invariably bad. It is a well recognized fact that if you do a surgical operation in a practically new building, the results are very much better than operations done in an old building.
Q. We have had evidence this morning that this hospital was built in 1865, would you care to say how many years ago you are going to remedy that?
A. Well, take modern walls, modern floors today and modern ceilings, they are built so that you can thoroughly clean them and you can put on the walls and keep them scrupulously clean, whereas old plaster and old wood will not do that. In fact, contamination, it is almost impossible to keep clear of it. Modern hospitals today are so that you can clean the walls and ceilings and floors and make them scrupulously clean.
Q. Does not your view and your evidence involve an expenditure of fifty thousand or one hundred thousand dollars?
A. No, I think the whole thing could be changed for about twenty thousand.
Q. And leave the building there?
A. Leave about the four walls.
Q. Mr. Truman—Have you made any calculation, Dr. Addy, that that would be made tolerably good on an expenditure of about \$20,000, that would be about \$3000 a year?
Q. Can you recall any other occasion where these cases of hospitalism have occurred?
A. Not just at present.
The Chief Justice—These midwifery cases you spoke of, did you speak of where the mother or child has suffered?
A. Afterwards, from the absorption of germs.
Q. Does not sterilization help that?
A. It would if you could thoroughly sterilize a room.
Q. Cannot you?
A. It would be possible I think with the old floor.
Q. Mr. Truman—You really directly attribute it to that, doctor?
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A. Yes, there have been cases of the kind in the General Hospital here, where the patient has contracted something, where it could not be traced to any other source of infection than the building itself.

Recommend a Superintendent.

Your commissioners recommend that a superintendent be appointed to manage the business affairs of the institution, under the direction and control of the commissioners; that the system of commissioners rotating monthly in the work of purchasing supplies be discontinued, and that this work become one of the duties of the superintendent, who shall inspect the food upon arrival, and be responsible for its constant excellence to the whole commission.
Five More Nurses.
With regard to the care of patients, your commissioners recommend that nine nurses be added, making a total of 29 to be employed or trained; that out of the 25 whom shall be placed in charge of each floor, all to be under the control of a superintendent to maintain strict discipline, to have authority to dismiss for any of its breaches, and to be responsible to the commissioners for the efficiency of the service. The matron shall act as housekeeper. The nurses in training should receive practical instruction in

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cooking, as is done in all the best modern hospitals. At least three trained male nurses should be employed; they are needed to promote the efficiency of the whole work. The medical staff to consist of a resident physician and an assistant under control of the visiting staff of doctors.
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fully performed. The visits of the chief justice, the chairman of the commission, enabled him and those associated with him to compare the efficiency of the work here with that in other cities, and materially aided our commissioners in reaching the conclusions at which they have arrived.
(Sgd.) W. H. TUCK, Chairman.
(Sgd.) JOSEPH LEE.
(Sgd.) F. J. G. KOWALTON.

A QUEER BARGAIN.

Will and Alice were coming down from the garret, where they had been spreading freshly gathered hay to dry. "What?" said Will, softly, "there's company in the parlor." He pointed to a hat on the hat-rack in the hall.
"That's the minister," said Alice, "he never wears a soft hat."
"Nor the doctor," said Will, the hat's too sporty looking."
Visitors to the farm, who were entertained in the best parlor were a rare luxury. "I bet it's an agent," said Alice. They sat down on the top step of the stairs. Their little mother crossed from the sitting room into the parlor, but she did not notice the children. "Well, mother," they heard father say cheerily, "what do you think of the machine?"
"It's perfect," said the mother with a happy little sigh. "But I don't think that we can afford to buy it, James."
"Sewing machine agent," whispered Will to Alice. "Let's stay here. No harm in listening to an old agent, and I don't want to go down to the parlor."
"Well, it's just this way," their father was saying. "This young man and I have been all over the place to see if there's anything in the way of live stock that he'd be willing to take as pay for the machine. We told him we hadn't the money just now. There's just one offer he's willing to make me. He'll take the old machine and the little brown Alderney and nothing to boot. Will and Alice looked at each other in dismay.
"Not the children's cow!" said the mother.
"Yes, I told him how I had given her to the children when she was a calf, how they had always fed and cared for her and milked her and sold the milk to me, and how she doesn't seem to fancy anything but her. She is a very valuable cow."
"I suggested to your husband that he could give the children one of the other cows," said the agent, smoothly.
"I'd like to kick him," whispered Will, savagely.
"Well, you see," their father replied, "we could hardly afford to do that now. A little later we might. I want you to have that machine, mother; it will save you lots of trouble. What do you think?"
"I couldn't bear to have the children give up the cow," said the mother. "They have grown so fond of her, and are making so many plans about the money. No, I wouldn't part of the money even have them know that you had suggested such a thing."
The children looked at each other gallantly.
"The machine would be a help," said the mother, regretfully, "but I guess we'll have to wait."
"That settles it, then," said the father. "I'm sorry I haven't the money. May be if you came around in the fall after all the crops were in we could make a bargain."
Will and Alice stole softly through the bedrooms and down the back stairs. "It's got to go," Will said to Alice, "stating her teeth hard to keep from crying."
"Mother works awful hard," said Will, turning his head away so that Alice could not see how his lips quivered. They stole to the barn. The Alderney was in her stall, for it was late in the afternoon. Will spied his father's express wagon already harnessed to the hay mare. "Quick, Alice," he cried, "we'll present the machine to mother ourselves in grand style, and that won't make it quite so hard to part with our cow. I'll drive in the express wagon down to the end of our private road; I'll go across lots, and they won't notice me from the front of the house while they are putting the machine on the wagon. You lead the cow through the grove and meet me there. We'll make the bargain with the agent, lead the machine on our wagon and bring it home to mother."
He loosened the cow from the stable, put a halter on her with a long rope, so that the agent could lead her behind the wagon. His fingers trembled with eagerness, and he patted the cow lovingly.
All the way through the grove Alice talked to the cow, telling her that if mother hadn't made her so many pretty dresses and been so good to her she would never send her away; never, never!
The agent had been gone from the house some few minutes, when Ben, the hired man, came running in, looking very much frightened. "Where's the Alderney?" he cried.
"In the stable," replied Mr. Ross.
"No, I don't see any sign of the express wagon, nor mare!"
"Why, I was all ready to go to the mill when an agent came along, so I just hitched them to the barnyard gate."
"Well, I came up from the lower meadow at the minute I went into the barn I missed the Alderney. Then I didn't see the bay mare nor the wagon." All three were hurrying toward the barn.
"Where are the children?" asked Mr. Ross.
"They went over to the burnt woods after bonnet, and haven't come back," said Mrs. Ross.
At that moment they heard the sound of wheels, and turned quickly to see who was coming. There sat the children, boldly riding back in the stolen express wagon.
"Hi!" shouted Will.
"We have a present for the best little mother that ever lived. Come on, Ben, and help me unload this sewing machine."
Alice sprang out of the wagon and ran

Reduction of Commission to Five Members.

Your commission believe that the hospital commission should be reduced to five members, to be appointed by the city of St. John—two by the provincial government and one by the municipality of the city and county of St. John. It is proposed that the term of office be limited to five years, but that the members be eligible for reappointment.
If this suggestion be adopted it is recommended that one commissioner be appointed for a year, one for two years, one for three, one for four and one for five years, and as each term expires the new appointment be made for five years.
General.
Last year it cost to support patients residing in St. John—\$16,338.00. Patients residing in other counties outside of St. John—5,361.02. Patients residing outside of the province—5,367.63. To provide for the support of these mentioned patients, the county commission contributes \$3,800, leaving still a deficiency of \$1,221.32 supplied by the St. John taxpayers.
The cost of patients residing outside the province there could be deducted the sum of \$1,223.90 from the board of the commission, and the deficit of \$3,443.75. Add together the net deficit caused by the maintenance of patients from New Brunswick counties, except the county of St. John, \$1,221.32, and the deficit incurred by supporting those outside the province \$3,443.75, and the result is required to be \$4,665.07 in connection with the municipality of the city and county of St. John for patients who perhaps should not be properly placed upon the list.
This deficit, so far as the New Brunswick patients are concerned, might be met by a readjustment of the basis upon which the province is granted, and in which a fixed sum of \$8,800 paid over to the commissioners, the actual cost of maintaining such patients be the province. In this connection it is enacted to provide for the payment to the commission, by the municipalities from which patients come, the actual cost of maintenance.
Care of Sailors.
Dealing with the deficit caused by the maintenance of those whose residence is without the province, it is suggested that the dominion government might be approached with a view to increasing the allowance per diem for the care of sailors, if the amount received for hospital dues at the port of St. John were reduced. In this connection it may be stated that the weight of evidence is in favor of continuing the present arrangement with the dominion government, with which your commissioners agree.
The increased revenue which might accrue as a result of the adoption of the above suggestions, will not meet the increased cost of managing the hospital, incidental to the increased number of improvements suggested by your commissioners, and it is therefore recommended that the commissioners of the St. John Public Hospital be authorized to issue their warrants for a sum not exceeding \$18,000, in the manner provided by chap. 49 of the acts of 1873, and in amendment to sec. 1 of said act.
It is with extreme regret that your commissioners are obliged to recommend this additional taxation, which makes it transparently clear that changes in the administration of the hospital are abundantly necessary, and those changes cannot be brought about unless additional money be provided.
The St. John Hospital, if not semi-provincial in character, is certainly more than a local one. At large number of patients is treated yearly, and directly or indirectly, a large proportion of the people of the province is interested in its welfare. It is in the interest of the province that your commissioners that steps will be taken to modernize the institution and bring it up to the standard of a modern hospital. They are encouraged by the fact that the hospital is being managed by a man of high character, and that the government is willing to contribute money to the improvement of the hospital, and to provide accommodation for the additional nurses recommended.

Fees for Private Patients.

Your commissioners have carefully studied the services rendered by the hospital commissioners are given absolutely free, and that they have spent much time and care in managing the institution. In the course of this examination members of the commission with whom your commissioners have come in contact, have facilitated the inquiry, and invited a searching investigation. The treasurer, Doctor Walker, has given most complete details and explanations of the transaction of the institution, showing an intimate knowledge of its affairs, as well as an appreciation of its needs.
At the request of the government, the chairman of the commission visited hospitals at St. Stephen, Fredericton, St. Basil, Chatham and Campbellton. At these places he was given cordially respect each one in its every detail. The work in each is being well done and supplying a service needed severely by the districts from which the patients are drawn.
Your commissioners all wish to thank the government for the facilities placed at their disposal in furthering the object of the inquiry. While your instructions were that a thorough, searching examination should be held, it would not have been as complete or as minute in detail without the assistance of counsel which having been provided, the work was faithfully performed. The visits of the chief justice, the chairman of the commission, enabled him and those associated with him to compare the efficiency of the work here with that in other cities, and materially aided our commissioners in reaching the conclusions at which they have arrived.
(Sgd.) W. H. TUCK, Chairman.
(Sgd.) JOSEPH LEE.
(Sgd.) F. J. G. KOWALTON.

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