

Municipal Sanatoria Crusade Against Tuberculosis in Canada—The Situation Out- lined—Local Treatment an Advantage

Tuberculosis is a disease that is frequently co-incidental with poverty. The treatment necessary is generally expensive, and the patient is often for long periods of time incapable of doing any work. It is not surprising, therefore, that the charitably inclined should take a deep interest in the crusade against the disease.

Nature of Work in Canada

In Canada a number of institutions and organizations have been established for the care of the tuberculous. Most of these have been brought into existence by social workers. Sometimes, however, provincial governments have provided sanatoria, either wholly, or in part at their own expense. In other instances, the provinces—notably Ontario—have assisted in erecting buildings as well as in their maintenance when completed. Still another class are what might be called municipal sanatoria—that is, they are erected and supported largely by local municipalities. Some of these only accept patients from the contributing municipalities; while others accept pay patients whether residents of the municipality or not.

With such a variety of institutions to support, it is not surprising that various means have been devised for raising funds. Nor is it surprising that there has grown up confusion amongst would-be contributors as to how their subscriptions should be directed.

Aspects of the Tuberculosis Problem

In order to avoid such confusion, and at the same time to co-ordinate the efforts that are being made for the suppression of the disease, it is essential that the situation be clearly understood. In the first place, tuberculosis is a communicable disease, and as such comes directly under the purview of the municipal health authorities. In any attempt at co-ordination therefore, the work must centre around the municipal health officials. If this is not done there will be overlapping and consequent waste of effort.

In the second place, it should be remembered that locally managed tuberculosis work commands the confidence and support of municipal organizations. This is true, because the good results can be daily demonstrated, thus proving a valuable educational advantage to the ratepayers. Not only that, but the local sanatorium makes it possible for the patient to see his friends frequently, which is a very important factor. It has been very truthfully stated that fresh air, sunlight, and good food are the chief needs of the tuberculous. The two former can be found anywhere in Canada, and the latter can be provided by any well managed local sanatorium.

In the third place, it should be clearly understood that this important work cannot be directed

solely by any one charitable organization. The province, the municipality and the individual contributor have each to be considered. But in any case, if confusion is to be avoided, the chief authority must be vested in the Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Work in Ontario

There are many examples of effective municipal anti-tuberculosis work to be found in Canada. This is perhaps particularly true of Ontario. Ottawa possesses a sanatorium and dispensary, the work of which is encouraged in every way by an appreciative local interest. It is managed by an association of men and women who have strong local interests. Patients are received only from municipalities that contribute to the maintenance of the sanatorium. There are now four such institutions in Ontario, all of which are doing excellent work. At least four others will be established in the near future, and in time the whole province will be covered with similar local sanatoria.

New Town Sites

In connection with the location of new town sites along the lines of the transcontinental and other railways, it would seem expedient that power should be vested in some central authority, whereby all new sites should be approved of by that body after the plans had been filed and duly considered. Any subsequent changes or alterations should only be made upon the approval of that authority.

Boards of Trade are Interested

Several Boards of Trade in the vicinity of illustration farms have written to the Commission of Conservation offering their co-operation in the work. The interests of town and country are one, and far-seeing business men recognize that when the farmer increases his yield per acre it means more money in their pocket.

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(b) the equipment and transportation that the force will require.

Section men and other employees of the companies to constitute emergency fire fighting forces.

The companies to be held liable for losses caused by their locomotives, where the regulations of the Railway Board have been disregarded.

On portions of railway lines where oil locomotives are used the regulations may be suspended.

The Commission of Conservation urged the necessity for compelling the railways to use oil burning locomotives in prescribed forest areas. This was objected to by British Columbia on the ground that it would injure the coal industry of that Province. It is rather anomalous that a Province having such valuable timber resources should be willing to risk their destruction for the sake of hastening the consumption of its extensive coal deposits.

Forestry Survey of Nova Scotia

Something about the Work Done by Dr. Fernow and Dr. Howe

The extent and value of Canada's forests are largely matters of conjecture. No comprehensive plan of taking stock of the country's forest wealth has yet been devised. The people have heretofore been content to let the lumbermen cut timber without much regard to the danger of exhausting the supply, or to the loss due to the stripping of otherwise barren forest soil.

But the old order is changing. During the summers of 1909 and 1910 Nova Scotia had a reconnaissance survey made of the forest areas of the Province. The work was placed under the direction of Dr. Fernow and Dr. Howe, both of whom are connected with the Department of Forestry of the University of Toronto.

Purpose of the Survey.

The purpose of the survey as outlined by Dr. Fernow is as follows: To "furnish approximately correct information regarding the extent, character and condition of the forest resources of the Province, with a view to furnishing a basis upon which the Government might formulate a policy, not only for the crown lands still in its possession, but for the Province at large."

It is so obviously absurd for a government to undertake to legislate concerning matters of which its knowledge is hazy and incomplete, that it is a wonder that the principle of taking stock of the forests was not recognized sooner.

Report to be Issued

The Commission of Conservation will issue a complete report of this survey of Nova Scotia early in the coming summer. In this report Dr. Fernow will describe the method of working and the results obtained from the standpoint of the forester. Dr. Howe will describe the geological structure of the Province in relation to forest growth, an exceedingly important factor in any of the provinces of the Dominion. It was found, for example, that fully two-thirds of the area of Nova Scotia consists of non-agricultural land, either covered with forest growth or not fit for any other use than timber growing.

Storage Basins and Water Powers

The Situation in New Ontario— Value of Forests in Maintaining Flow

Storage basins are an exceedingly important consideration in water-power development. Any large natural reservoirs where the runoff from precipitation may be impounded and subsequently discharged gradually throughout the year, add greatly to the potential value of a water-power. In the matter of easily developed water storage systems, Canada is exceptionally well favoured. In New Ontario, however, the large river systems are, in so far as available information goes, rather deficient in this regard. The lake expansions of the rivers are comparatively few in number, and some of the largest of the lakes are shallow and of small value as storage basins.

Forests as Reservoirs

But Nature has, here, in a measure, provided storage reservoirs of another sort. The forested floors and extensive areas covered with plant growth, as well as great swamps, each and all constitute valuable water reservoirs. In these there is a wide-spread and satisfactory distribution of waters which tends to create a much more uniform run off. A discreet conservation and utilization of such reservoirs will, in general, be found to be much more desirable than are some of the large artificially constructed storage basins.

New Ontario Waters

It will thus be seen that the forest cover of New Ontario is of great importance in preserving a uniform flow of the rivers, and in making the water-powers of that region valuable. In spite of the protection of the forests many of the larger rivers are little more than wild torrents in the spring time.

During the next few years some \$5,000,000 will be spent in opening up and developing the resources of New Ontario. It would seem the part of wisdom to go cautiously in the matter of removing the forests, lest in the years to come the rivers of Northern Ontario should strive to emulate the efforts of the Mississippi in the year of grace, 1912.



Motor Garbage Collectors, Paris