

Speaking for The Vancouver General Hospital, last year our non-pay work amounted to \$140,000.00, while the increase in wages due to the recently formed Minimum Wage Act, made an addition of about \$7000.00 a year. Extra cost, food-stuffs and material will force a greater deficit upon us. Hospitals, like the Schools are justly a Provincial charge, and to meet this charge it is fair and reasonable to the citizens at large that all should contribute. The Trustees and Directors would welcome Government control as the financial worries would then be eliminated and a proper system inaugurated to carry on the work at a minimum cost. At the present time the cost providing for the sick is excessive and inadequate. I find a large number of our hospitals not equipped with such facilities as are needed, whereas others have them but their charges are high owing to the maintenance cost, and the patients cannot afford to indulge in this or take upon themselves additional expense to their ordinary care and, therefore, we find that such special advantages belong only to two classes of people. First, a very poor man because he cannot pay, and secondly, the very rich man because he can pay. Thus the worthy middle class is left out as their income will not stand such expense. What is the result? They may forego some test which might very materially enlighten the doctor on a diagnosis and possibly save an operation or even save a life. Numerous instances of such might be quoted in any hospital. What do those conditions lead to? Simply that the patient suffers in both cases and possibly a more protracted and complicated illness. We have only to scan medical science for the past four years and follow our soldiers from time of enlistment until time of civil re-establishment and we find the highest grade of efficiency in our medical service, due of course, to the accessibility or use of all the special facilities whether they be diagnostic, preventative or curative. The medical record of this War is unsurpassed. The men got what they desired and what our citizens considered they were entitled to. We must, therefore, extend our services along these lines and depart from the present defined policies and customs.

In this Province we have ninety-four hospitals, almost all of which receive Government support. The location of them is usually influenced by various factors. First, population; second, industries; third, transportation facilities. These are essential and important factors in this case. A remarkable, but yet unfortunate and possibly unbusinesslike, feature of our Hospitals is that although the British Columbia Government, the Municipalities, private individuals and the patients contribute about \$1,500,000.00 per annum, the Government makes no provision in checking up the measure of the service rendered and the results obtained for this expenditure. Our Schools are inspected but many of our hospitals are suffering from lack of inspection. Inspection not only checks up inefficiency but brings enlightenment to many hospitals and solves problems thereof. Under Government control our Institutions, large or small, would be under a uniform inspection, and this as often as it can be carried out.