

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of

The Prime Minister

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Fight the T.B. Menace

It is to be hoped that Prime Minister King had a wide audience in his appeal over the national network in behalf of the Canadian Tuberculosis Association.

That the Prime Minister, despite the crushing responsibilities which rest upon him, should take time to appeal to his fellow citizens in behalf of the thousands of people who now live under the shadow of illness, should summon us to meet the invisible foe within our gates, is greatly to his credit. In a real sense, this act is the measure of the man. In many respects Mr. King did what only he could do. In times like these, when so many compelling demands are made upon the public, the average citizen must necessarily set up some order of priority. The words of the Prime Minister, more than those of anyone else, were an assurance that the appeal of the Canadian Tuberculosis Association should not be neglected. Mr. King's own interest in the battle with tuberculosis is well known. Many will recall the speech he made at Nipette a few years ago. Others will remember that his brother, Dr. McDougall King, gave his life in the fight against tuberculosis.

The battle with tuberculosis is one in which all can play their part. It is only necessary to buy the little Christmas seals. Every letter in this season should carry the seal which bears upon it the device of the double-barred cross of Lorraine and the cross of the church of Greece. "Under the 'cross of Lorraine,' as Mr. King said, 'fight the free soldiers of France. The cross of the church of Greece is that of the little land which was the first to define freedom, as it is the latest to defend it.'"

This seal carries with it a strong, clear message of hope, fitting at this time. For we are beating

tuberculosis. If today's efforts are maintained and increased, we can be sure that twenty or thirty years hence our children and our children's children will no longer pay the price in sorrow and suffering that our's and earlier generations have paid. In 1900, with less than half our present population, 8,000 people died of tuberculosis. In 1940, the deaths will not exceed 5,800. In 1900 there was only one sanatorium in Canada. Today there are 10,000 beds in the sanatoria of this country. Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources, has applied modern technique to the treatment of the Indians, and it is much to his credit that the Dominion vote for this purpose has not been cut because of the war.

During the last Great War almost as many people died of tuberculosis at home in Canada as there were Canadian soldiers killed in France. In 1900 tuberculosis stood first on the list of fatal diseases: today it is in seventh place.

Mr. King has done well to remind us of these facts. Ever since the sale of Xmas seals began on a national scale the returns have increased. Let us not fail this year.