

CURTAIN DEATH AND SICKNESS

This is Object of Men and Women of Eminence Who Are Attending Canadian Public Health Congress Here

Four-Day Session of Notable Convention Opened Auspiciously—Governor Pugsley and Mayor McLellan Welcome Visitors—Hon. W. F. Roberts, Sheriff Cook, Dr. C. J. Hastings, Dr. Frankwood Williams and Others on List of Speakers—Public Meeting at St. Vincent's Auditorium.

Men and women of eminence in public health enterprises from near and far are assembled in St. John for the Canadian Public Health Congress which began its four-day session here yesterday morning. Come together for the mutual exchange of ideas and to share the benefits of their several experiences, the members of the congress are above all desirous of spreading their knowledge amongst the general public and of securing public co-operation to the end that the physical fitness of the nation may be raised to a higher plane, that sickness and death may be curtailed and that the health and happiness of the general public may be promoted.

Two joint meetings were held yesterday afternoon, one of the social hygiene section and the other of the child welfare section.

The Sessions.

Papers by men of high attainments in these specialized fields were read at both meetings. Registration and the exhibition of health films occupied the morning session.

The Public Meeting.

The public meeting in St. Vincent's auditorium last evening was tremendously enlightening. The addresses on mental hygiene and pure milk dealt with subjects of deep concern to the people generally. The speakers were entertaining to a high degree as well as illuminating and the audience of 800 people was obviously appreciative of what they heard.

His Honor Lieut.-Governor William Pugsley presided at the meeting. Mayor H. R. McLellan warmly welcomed the delegates. On the platform were Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts, New Brunswick minister of health and president of the Canadian Public Health Association; Sheriff Cook, president of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis; Dr. Frankwood Williams, director of the national committee for mental hygiene, New York; Dr. C. J. Hastings, medical health officer of Toronto, and Major W. Vassie, M. C., side to His Honor Governor Pugsley. Hon. Dr. Roberts recommended the uniting under one supervisory council of all the various forms of public health organizations during the course of his annual report. Dr. Williams made a powerful plea for the general use of pure milk, advocating that all milk be scientifically pasteurized.

The Canadian Public Health Congress brings together in one convention the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Canadian National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. Cooperation and co-operation are the keynote of the congress.

Lieut. Governor Pugsley.

Governor Pugsley at last evening's meeting expressed his pleasure in being asked to preside at such an important meeting, an invitation which he considered a great honor. He was strong supporter of public health activities designed to take care of the children's health and to inform the parents of the

general principles of their children's physical welfare.

He paid a tribute to Hon. Dr. Roberts to whom he assigned a large share of the credit for stirring up the interest shown by the people of this province in public health. The health of the people was an abiding conviction of Dr. Roberts, who as a young man twenty-five years ago had expressed the opinion that the only thing that would induce him to go into politics was the opportunity for doing such public service. Dr. Roberts was happily witnessing the fulfillment of his desires.

He reviewed the distinguished men who were to address the meeting and in alluding to Dr. Williams of New York the governor expressed the hope that through the centuries to come the United States and the British Empire would stand together shoulder to shoulder in a common effort to promote civilization and human welfare.

On Behalf of City.

Mayor McLellan in welcoming the delegates to St. John, said: "It is seldom one is afforded an opportunity to address so distinguished and intelligent a gathering of men and women as are convened here tonight as delegates to the Canadian Public Health Congress, a body of researchers of the best methods of conserving Canada's greatest asset, its public health. It appears, however, that I will be very brief in my remarks.

The public health is any nation's greatest asset. Let us not permit any dullness of our vision to prevent public health activities and sanitation progress, and let there be no lessening but rather an increase of the energies employed in this essential activity.

It is time that the people awake to the fact that their health is worth more than their property and that in order to protect the public health, two things

are needed; first, adequate finances, and second, administrative facilities which can be grounded upon efficiency. The people of any city may buy protection from disease just exactly as they buy protection from fire and from criminals, provided they are willing to pay the price. Public health is as important to the success of personal, municipal, provincial and national undertakings. Public health must be most zealously protected. We can afford to leave no lines of defence unguarded. To economize in health work is to invite disease.

"The delegates to this congress, coming though they do from different sections of our great Canadian country, as well as from different sections of that great country to the south of us, represent nevertheless one great ideal—the ideal of service to humanity. They can do nothing without united, enthusiastic action on the part of the public and can make no progress save by common consent. That they are here at all, is the strongest evidence that they are faithful to their respective organizations whose mission is one of health. It is a sure indication that they love their work and fully and unreservedly subscribe to its teachings and purposes.

"They are here to discuss work performance and to legislate for work to be performed in such a manner as will better conserve the health of our people. In this planning for the future, I am satisfied they will achieve such results as must invite attention to their organizations and point out their members everywhere as men and women of sterling worth and fixed integrity.

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"I extend to the delegates to this Canadian Public Health Congress, a most cordial welcome to the city of St. John, Canada's front door and waterfront.

"That welcome is in no way less pronounced in formal lines. The welcome which St. John extends to you and to the delegates to this congress, is as high as the beneficent heavens which canopy its generous citizenship. I may say that the city of St. John is a pleasant one to you and a profitable one to your congress. I sincerely hope that when you leave the city you will do so with pleasant memories of the few days you have spent in our midst.

"Deep is my regret that previous arrangements for your entertainment preclude any attempt on the part of the city to provide some social recognition of your visit. If any comfort be omitted we will be sorry. If any hospitality be withheld we will be overwhelmed with humiliation. As the good book says that all you have to do is to ask and then shall receive, I feel that it will do so with pleasant memories of the few days you have spent in our midst.

Hon. Dr. Roberts, having expressed appreciation of the honor conferred on him by his appointment as president of the C. P. H. A., thanked those who were assisting in the congress. He stressed the necessity of public health organization and education and declared prevention to be the watchword of the day. Having related how war and an epidemic had brought to the masses an

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