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FOREWORD

IN making a survey of institutions in Nova Scotia it was clearly understood that the conditions to be studied were different from those encountered in other Provinces. We realized that Nova Scotia had been depleted by persistent drains upon its population and resources, and that its Provincial income was restricted owing to a series of unavoidable hamperings which do not occur in the more recently organized Provinces. Knowing all this we engaged in the work with a full knowledge of the difficulties under which the Provincial authorities have laboured and in making our recommendations for what we believe to be a vastly improved organization of public institutions, understand that it would be impossible to undertake such an extensive programme at once. Such being the case it would be best to begin with reforms appearing to be most urgent. It must be said too, that while we are condemnatory of the whole system of County Care of the Insane we are also aware of many of the circumstances which led to the adoption of a policy that has turned out so badly. It was designed to meet an urgent need at the time, but the moment has now come to abolish it. Of course, it would be difficult and perhaps not expedient to attempt this in a day, and the change should be made gradually, as the finances of the Province permit. The better plan would be to do away with most of the County Houses, and eventually establish suitable farm colonies at two central places not too far removed from Halifax and Sydney.

We are not blind to the inspiring things accomplished in such institutions as the Nova Scotia Hospital, the Maritime Home for Girls, the Presbyterian Rescue Home, Monastery of the Good Shepherd, Halifax Infants' Home, the I.O.D.E. Home, the Salvation Army Maternity Home, etc.

These splendid institutions are a credit to Nova Scotia and as Canadians we are proud of them. It is always the case in a survey that the weak spots come in for most attention, as the policy of reconstruction means, at first, a careful study of the flaws. If we had nothing else to do than direct notice to the defects our mission would be an empty one, but if it is embarrassing to speak of them it is on the other hand pleasant