

BY-LAWS AND SKETCH

—OF—

Sandon Miners' Union Hospital

INSTITUTED MARCH 1ST, 1899



SANDON, BRITISH COLUMBIA



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SANDON MINERS' UNION
HOSPITAL

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SANDON, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

To keep alive in the minds of the members of Sandon Miners' Union an interest in the Institution that is now, as ever, their own.

To provide an argument in favor of co-operative ownership this sketch is written.

Its apology for existence, the recording of an experiment and its only aim and desire to help toward the solution of one of the problems that confronts the work-a-day world.

SKETCH.

Since the day when the slaves of the Builder brought to the capital of Solomon's Kingdom the precious mineral destined for the adornment of his masterwork, the Miner's calling has ever been recognized as fraught with danger and impending calamity.

The list of accidents that mark the trail, that point through this means, towards a solution of the bread and butter problem is all too evident to need corroborative testimony, nor is the strain imposed upon life spent in the gloom of the burrowings that lead toward the heart of old Mother Earth conducive to the arrival at a green old age.

The sword of Damocles suspended by a single thread was security itself when compared with some of the dangers that are faced by the man who elects from choice or necessity to devote his days to the search for those commodities that adorn our civilization as well as keep in operation the mighty wheels of our Industrial System. Contact with the water that is nearly always present in underground workings has made rheumatism in many forms a curse to be dreaded by the Miner. The possibility of death or injury from explosion and falling rock, the absence from sunshine and often the lack of air itself, constitutes a Debit on Life's Ledger pages that should be taken into consideration by the world whose interests the mine-worker serves.

Early in the fall of 1891, Eli Carpenter and Jack Seaton, in the search for the elusive dollar drifted into the hills that have since become tributary to the City of Sandon. Good fortune awaited them, and it was not very long before these same hills were being treaded by the feet of many Argonauts. Enough of the precious metal was found to warrant the expen-

diture of capital in exploration and in the fullness of time the Silver City, perched in an angle of the Eternal Hills, was born, heir to the vicissitudes and circumstances that has been the inalienable lot of every mining camp the West has known. With the advent of a more conventional form of civilization and the consequent increase in population, the need for an organized effort to alleviate physical suffering and a means of controlling in so far as it was possible, the ills that human flesh is heir to, became daily more imperative.

At this time, early in the year of 1899, the sick and injured of Sandon were being treated at two Institutions, one at New Denver and the other at Kaslo. The former was distant ten miles and the latter thirty from Sandon, and at certain seasons of the year it was by no means a light task for even a healthy man to undertake the journey.

The City of Sandon then, as now, the centre of the mining industry in the Slocan District, began to feel keenly the need of a local hospital and after much discussion the project was actively taken up by the membership of the Sandon Miners' Union, No. 81, of the Western Federation of Miners, with what success a lengthy dissertation is not necessary to establish.

The Hospitals in the neighboring towns of New Denver and Kaslo, being privately owned concerns, it is not unreasonable to presume that they were operated primarily in the interests of their owners, nor was it to be expected that, should the camp fail to realize expectations, a continuance of their service would be maintained.

The doctrine of Co-operative Ownership has been expounded by so many eminent thinkers, that an endeavor on our part to say anything new on the subject would be presumptuous, to say nothing of its being an impossibility.

The principle of operation for use rather than profit is, and has ever been one of the fundamental theories on which the structure of progressive Unionism has been reared and here was an opportunity of putting into practice the ideals we sought to inculcate. Then, too, it is in line with the highest trend of modern thought, that it should be the privilege of the man who pays for the service, to say how that service should be conducted, and to have a voice in the selection of the persons by whom such service should be rendered.

Another argument advanced against the private ownership of Hospitals is the fact that the selection of a Physician does not rest in the hands of those for whom his professional aid is most often requisitioned and it was contended by the one holding these views that a co-operatively owned institution, in the government of which every member of the corporation should have a voice, would afford a greater degree of satisfaction to its patrons, be more efficient in its service, and in the face of honest instead of captious criticism would have more opportunities to improve its position and the more completely fulfill its high and noble mission—the care and cure of those who were unfortunate enough to come within the scope of its usefulness.

Amongst the men working in the vicinity of the the camp the average of intelligence was as high as was liable to be found in a district of like size and circumstances. Wages were good. Employment fairly plentiful and sufficient mineral was in sight to warrant the conviction that for several years to come the prosperity of Sandon was assured.

To the employer of labor the physical well-being of his employe should, if only from a purely selfish standpoint, be a consideration of weight, and the history of mining camps and other like enterprises that stand in the van of a more settled civilization

has revealed the fact that the medical service rendered to the workers was oftener than not placed in the hands of a practitioner whose chiefest qualifications were, that he was a jolly good fellow and a bosom friend of the man in whose hand rested the appointment. It is a fact recognized by lay and professional minds alike that confidence in the attending Physician is one of the factors that has much to do with the successful treatment of disease and the alleviation of suffering, and though it is futile to deny some of the exceptions taken to a Physician appointed by the employers were not well founded yet the fact remained that the men who were paying the price were not consulted as to the disposition of their money and in the face of our knowledge of human nature this alone would be a cause for dissatisfaction, and an opportunity for the display of the peculiar talents of that carping critic who is in evidence in every community.

After a very careful and conscientious consideration of all the matters pertinent to its establishment, petitions were placed in circulation asking financial assistance toward the institution in the city of Sandon of a Hospital to be co-operatively owned and conducted by the members of the Sandon Miners' Union.—The latter course for the reason that we recognized the truth of the adage "What is everybodys is nobodys," and knew that should the project come into existence not fathered by some interested organization, the chances of its permanent maintenance and success was problematical in the extreme.

A few of the business men of the town contributed liberally but the great bulk of the funds necessary for the equipment of a suitable building came from the pockets of the men working in the vicinity of the town, who, without exception, responded freely to the appeal.

On the first of March, 1899, the Sandon Hospital

opened its doors and from then till now the tale of its varying fortunes is written into the history of the camp, an integral part of the community it still aims to serve and a monument not only to the patience and perseverance of those by whom it has been maintained but as well, an ever present reminder to us of the debt of gratitude we owe to those who, even if their connection was but a professional one, were none the less whole-hearted in their support and self sacrificing in their efforts to secure for the Institution a full measure of success.

At the time when the establishment of a Hospital in Sandon was an imminent probability, though still in the embryo, strenuous efforts were put forth by people whose disinterestedness in the matter was open to question. Arguments that we have since abundantly proved to be without foundation, were advanced and opposition that was as insidious as the motives prompting it were evident, was brought into play. It was iterated and reiterated that the successful treatment of any disease affecting the lungs was an impossibility owing to the altitude at which Sandon was situated. The climate, the scenery, the absence of sunshine for a portion of the year, and the continual alarms of flood, fire and slide were not conducive to the speedy restoration to perfect health of sick and convalescent patients.

On March 1st, 1899, enough money had been collected to equip an Hospital capable of treating six patients and with the exception of the four days immediately following the fire, the doors of the Institution have since been open to rich and poor alike. On June the 21st the trouble brewing for some time over a measure passed by the Provincial legislature making eight hours the legal day for underground workers culminated in a strike. The closing down of the mines cut off our revenue, and our infant treasury never a corpulent one, soon shrunk to proportions that were infinitesimal. From this time

until the end of the strike our existence was, to put it plainly, a hand to mouth one. We still responded to every demand that was made upon us by the sick and injured, but never during this period were we free from the incubus of a fast increasing debt. It was during this time that Doctor Gomm and Miss S. M. Chisholm laid the foundation for that respect and esteem with which we will ever regard them. When the treasury became but a pleasant memory Miss Chisholm placed not only her gratuitous services but as well her private funds at the disposal of the Board of Directors, while Dr. Gomm, not content with taking promises in the place of pay, doubled our indebtedness by sharing with us his none too portly bank account.

In February, 1900, the mines resumed operations and the prospects for a period of prosperity were bright indeed, but we were yet to learn that troubles never come singly for on the 4th of May we were visited by a fire which practically wiped out the entire City of Sandon. Our Hospital which was centrally located on the main thoroughfare, went with the rest. The patients, one chair and a few bed clothes represented the result of our salvage operations. On the day following the fire our standing in the community consisted of a first class reputation and deficit of two dollars and seventy-five cents. Despite this lack of funds immediate steps were taken by the Board of Directors to repair the loss caused by the fire, and without aid from the Relief Fund—though some eleven thousand dollars were available for distribution amongst the sufferers—a building was so speedily secured and equipped that on the morning of May 9th the Hospital which we have continuously occupied until February of the present year was ready to receive and care for its patients.

In the fall of the same year, i.e., 1900, nearly eight hundred dollars was expended in improving

and enlarging the hospital to provide for accommodation of nine patients, and from then to the time we moved into our new quarters there has been an additional expenditure of eleven hundred and seventy eight dollars on permanent improvements and equipment not to mention the labor performed gratuitously by the membership of Sandon Miners' Union.

Time and again during the past three years the building of a new Hospital has been discussed by the Board of Directors who though they fully recognized the defects in the old building were still without funds to effect the desired change in location.

Situated in a gulch down which a damp cold wind frequently blows, shut off from sunlight for three months in each year with the danger from snow and mudslides increasing as year by year the side hills in the vicinity of the building were stripped of the timber, the need for a change was evident enough. Carpenter Creek too, during the spring freshets, was invariably a source of danger flooding the vicinity of the structure and necessitating an annual outlay for repairs that could ill be spared. However, it was not until the spring of 1904, when a snowslide came within a few feet of the rear of the building that the imperative necessity of an immediate change was brought home forcibly to the minds of those whose interest in the Institution has been contemporary with its inception and operation.

In October, 1904, when final steps were taken to begin the construction of a new Hospital we had by rigid economy and careful administration accumulated, approximately, two thousand, five hundred dollars. This sum we decided to deposit in the bank as a guarantee fund and on the strength of it, issue to the members of the Sandon Miners' Union twenty-five dollar promissory notes, redeemable at sight and bearing interest at the rate of three per cent per annum.

The site for the building itself being generously donated by Mr. John Morgan Harris, of this City, and Mr. Malcolm Sproat, of Victoria.

At the time of this writing there is now in occupation as a Hospital, a building that in point of structure, location and equipment is as nearly perfect as it was possible to secure under the circumstances. The new Hospital, which when completed will cost in the vicinity of seven thousand dollars, is situated in the most desirable location in the City of Sandon. The danger from flood and slide is permanently removed and the building itself is so placed as to receive the maximum of sunshine, an advantage recognized by Medical authorities to be of no mean value. The floor plan, which was prepared by Miss S. M. Chisholm, matron of the S. M. U. Hospital from its inception to January 1st, 1905, utilizes to the best advantage the space at our disposal. The building is fifty-four feet long by thirty-two feet deep, two stories high with a large and commodious basement, is lighted by electricity, furnace heated and has a sewerage system costing nearly eleven hundred dollars. The ground floor is utilized as follows: Operating Room, Surgical Ward, Medical Ward, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Dining Room, and a Toilet and Bath Room.

The upstairs consists of a Convalescent Ward, Rooms for private patients of both sexes, Parlor, three rooms for the staff, toilet and bath rooms.

On July 1st, 1902, there came into effect a measure passed by the Provincial Parliament entitled "An Act to Regulate Public Aid to Hospitals."

In case of public moneys being appropriated for the purposes of this Act by the Legislative Assembly, Hospitals complying with the requirements of this Act, and of all orders made thereunder by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, shall, subject to the con-

ditions named, receive in each financial year aid from such moneys, not exceeding the amounts following, that is to say:—

(a) Hospitals where the total number of days' treatment in a year shall exceed three hundred and sixty-five, but not exceed five hundred, the sum of five hundred dollars.

(b) Where the total number of days' treatment in a year shall exceed five hundred, the sum of one dollar per day for each patient for the first one thousand days' treatment.

(c) Where the total number of days' treatment in a year shall exceed one thousand, the sum of seventy cents per day for each patient for the first one thousand five hundred days' treatment of such excess, in addition to the aid mentioned in sub-section (b) hereof.

(d) Where the total number of days' treatment in a year shall exceed two thousand five hundred, the sum of fifty cents per day for each patient for the first two thousand five hundred days' treatment of such excess, in addition to the aid mentioned in sub-section (b) and (c) hereof.

(e) Where the total number of days' treatment in a year shall exceed five thousand, the sum of fifty cents per day for each patient for the first five thousand days' treatment of such excess, in addition to the aid mentioned in sub-sections (b), (c) and (d) hereof.

(f) Where the total number of days' treatment in a year shall exceed ten thousand, for such excess, the sum of forty-five cents per day for each patient for the first ten thousand days' treatment of such excess, in addition to the aid mentioned in sub-sections (b), (c), (d) and (e) hereof.

(g) Where the total number of days' treatment in a year shall exceed twenty thousand, for such excess the sum of thirty-five cents per day for each patient, in addition to the aid mentioned in sub-sections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) hereof.

Briefly:—In order to receive public aid the Hospital shall conform with the following conditions:—

No aid shall be paid to any Hospital unless such Hospital has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

No by-laws or regulations adopted by the Directors or Managers or other body of persons having control or management of any Hospital receiving public aid under this Act, for the government or management of such Hospital, or for prescribing the method or terms of admission thereto, or defining or regulating the duties and powers of the officers and servants thereof, and the salaries (if any) of such officers and servants, shall have force and effect unless and until the same has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

All Hospitals receiving aid under this Act shall be open to the inspection of any person appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council for the purpose, which inspection shall include the accounts and books thereof, buildings, medical appliances and any other thing in or about the Hospital.

The Secretary or other executive officer of a Hospital receiving aid under this Act shall, at the expiration of each month, forward to the Provincial Secretary, a return showing the number of days' treatment given at such Hospital during such month, the amount received from patients and other sources, and the payments made by such Hospital this return shall be verified by the statutory declaration.

And no aid shall be given under the provisions of this Act to any Hospital which refuses to admit any patient on account of his or her indigent circumstances.

Previous to this enactment we had been receiving aid from the Provincial Government in a lump sum at irregular intervals.

From the Municipality of the City of Sandon the Hospital receives a fixed grant of two hundred dollars per annum, and in addition, one dollar per day for each pauper patient ordered admitted by the Civic authorities. By private arrangement with the Medical Superintendent, the latter receives fifty cents out of each dollar received for the treatment of City patients.

Admission to this Hospital, however, is not a question of money. Any patient not provided with a monthly Hospital Ticket, who can afford it, pays at the rate provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws. If the patient is destitute, then he is admitted for treatment on the same footing as the wealthiest of our patrons.

From the time when a Hospital was first established in the City of Sandon by the Miners' Union until the present day, there has been disbursed each month for wages, merchandise and so forth, an average of \$494.08.

Below are Tabular Statements showing aggregate Receipts and Expenditures from March 1st, 1899, to January 1st, 1905.

RECEIPTS.

Year	Government Aid	Municipal Aid	Donations	Receipts From Entertainment	Sale of Tickets	Totals
1899		\$ 180.35	\$ 822.10	\$327.85	\$3402.00	\$4732.00
1900	\$1298.50	196.65	1099.36	162.00	4262.25	7008.76
1901	250.00	179.00	1.20	706.50	6177.00	6813.70
1902	750.00	150.00	41.00	104.75	5626.00	6671.75
1903	1005.00	412.00	1.65	60.60	3958.95	5438.40
1904	1201.10	100.00	210.00	94.75	5238.50	6844.35
Total	\$4504.60	\$1218.00	\$2175.31	\$956.45	28664.70	37508.96

EXPENDITURES.

Year	Salaries	Drugs	Consultation Fees	Equipment and Structural Improvements	Maintenance	Totals
1899	\$1646.45	\$ 346.60	\$ 9.00	\$ 811.65	\$1325.65	\$4139.35
1900	2514.00	514.32		1799.57	1791.74	6619.63
1901	3557.45	726.70	25.00	1137.30	1836.64	7283.09
1902	3545.50	599.90	50.00	258.45	1212.68	5666.53
1903	3316.70	381.70	100.00	268.06	1327.52	5333.21
1904	3246.50	524.95	60.00	335.82	1376.53	5543.80
Total	17826.60	094.17	\$244.00	\$4610.85	\$8870.76	34585.61

In refutation of the assertions made in reference to location and climatic conditions when the establishment of a Hospital in Sandon was under discussion we would submit the following:

From March 10th, 1899, until November 10th, of the same year three deaths occurred from Lobar Pneumonia out of a total of eight cases treated. Of these one patient was moribund when received, and another was in a practically dying condition. Since the latter date there have been treated at the Hospital, twenty-three cases of Lobar Pneumonia, and the records show an unbroken series of recoveries.

From Typhoid Fever there is yet to be noted a single fatal issue, the cases treated numbering seventeen, being of all grades of severity.

Four hundred and eighty-five cases have been treated at the Hospital since its inception, and of these, nine resulted fatally. Taking into consideration, however, that three of these nine cases were moribund when admitted, our death rate has been 1.25 per cent.

Tabular Statement of Results in Diseases most frequently appearing on the Records of Sandon Miners' Union Hospital:—

DISEASES	CASES TREATED	RECOVERED	DIED
Acute Articular Rheumatism....	31	31	0
Alcoholism	6	6	0
Appendicitis	20	19	1
Bronchitis	11	11	0
Gastritis	4	4	0
Intestinal Obstruction	5	4	1
Influenza (La Grippe)	38	38	0
Plumbism (Lead Poisoning).....	6	6	0
Otitis Media	5	5	0
Puerisy (with effusion)	6	6	0
Typhoid Fever	17	17	0
Pneumonia, Lobar	31	28	3
	180	175	5

LIST OF FATAL CASES.

Pneumonia, Lobar	3
Chronic Brights	1
Fracture of Skull	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	1
Senile Pneumonia	1
Intestinal Injuries	1
Appendicitis	1
Total	9

Five operations were performed in cases of Appendicitis—all perforative—four of which were

entirely successful, while in the fifth instance, death resulted from ganfrene of the intestines.

The above results have been attained under conditions that were comparatively unfavorable. With greater accommodations, an improved equipment, and a more desirable location, we entertain reasonable hope of further improving our position.

Our Treasury has never been a very pretentious affair, but by one means or another we have met to the full our every indebtedness. We have contributed to the commercial success and assisted in so far as lay within our power toward the up-building of the community in which we are located. Every case of illness or accident has been accorded the best professional treatment we could procure. Lack of funds has often hampered us in the carrying out of needed improvements, but in the last analysis we owe to those who cheerfully and capably assisted us, a debt of gratitude that perhaps in the fullness of time we may find a means to repay. To that gentleman in particular who on two occasions of need, generously sent to us his cheque for one hundred dollars, we would express our gratitude. By his own request his name is not associated with his philanthropy, but he may rest assured that this evidence of his appreciation will never reach the status of a forgotten episode in the records of the Sandon Hospital. We bespeak a continuance of your patronage and support for the new Hospital we have erected. In the future with greater conveniences at our disposal we will strive to equal, even if we cannot surpass, the record that we have made in the past. Should your interest in the Institution take the form of criticism, you will find the Board of Directors always willing to give careful attention to any suggestions you may have to offer.

The prosperity of a community is the prosperity of its several enterprises. The Sandon Miners' Union

has sufficient faith in the future of the Silver City to spend seven thousand dollars on a Hospital.

See to it that no knocking or pessimism on your part lessens the good impression they would aim to cultivate.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Name and Location.

Section 1.—This institution shall be known as The Sandon Miners' Union Hospital, and shall be situated in the City of Sandon, Slocan Riding, West Kootenay District, Province of British Columbia.

ARTICLE II.

Government.

Section 1.—This Hospital shall be governed by a Board of Directors, composed as follows: Vice-President and Financial Secretary of Sandon Miners' Union, together with seven members in good standing, who shall be elected by ballot, at first regular meeting of the Union in each term. Vice-President or Secretary, and three members shall constitute a quorum to act in emergencies, and shall hold regular meetings on first Tuesday after first Saturday of each month.

Section 2.—The Vice-President of the Union shall act as President of the Board, and Financial Secretary as secretary of same. The Board shall, at its first regular meeting, elect from their number a Treasurer.

Section 3.—It shall be the duty of said Board, to convene as soon as Practicable, after their election; to receive from retiring Board, all books, papers, funds, and property of hospital, and keep a general supervision of its affairs, investigate all complaints, taking temporary action on same, and report at next regular or special meeting of Union.

ARTICLE III.

Duties of Officers.

Section 1.—It shall be the duty of the President, to preside at all meetings of the Board, when possible to attend, call special meetings when he shall deem it necessary, or when so requested by two members of the Board, the Physician, or Matron.

Section 2.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board, collect all monies due Hospital and pay same over to Treasurer, attend to all correspondence, sign contracts ordered by the board, fill out all reports, and forward same to their proper destination.

Section 3.—It shall be the duty of Treasurer to receive all monies from Secretary, giving his receipt for same, and deposit same in such bank as the Board shall direct; pay all bills as ordered by the Board, and shall furnish two sureties satisfactory to Board, in the sum of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, for the faithful performance of his duties, and have his books ready for inspection at any time, by President and Secretary, or such committee as Board may appoint.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1.—Staff shall consist of a duly qualified medical practitioner, and head nurse or matron, who shall be confirmed to said positions by a majority vote of Union whenever such offices are to be filled.

Section 2.—The medical practitioner shall have full authority as to admission and discharge of all patients, and be required to certify to all bills for drugs.

Section 3.—The matron or head nurse shall be in charge of inside management of Hospital, procure all supplies required, and act in conjunction with the

Hospital Board regarding the employment of its employees.

ARTICLE V.

Section 1.—Subscribers to this Hospital shall be entitled to full privileges of Hospital, including board, nursing, medical and surgical attendance, drugs, etc., when not afflicted with virulent contagious diseases, or diseases or injury incurred through immoral or unlawful conduct.

Section 2.—All patients other than subscribers, (not suffering from virulent contagious diseases), shall be admitted to the hospital at the rate of two (\$2.00) dollars per day exclusive of medical and surgical attendance, and drugs.

ARTICLE VI.

Section 1.—All complaints as to inattention in Hospital, shall be made in writing, to Board in sealed envelope, and signed by at least one near relative or friend of patient, and it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint a meeting to investigate such complaint, and notify all parties interested, to be present.

Section 2.—The Board of Directors shall have all power, temporarily to suspend any member of the staff, for neglect of duty or other misdemeanor, subject to approval of the Union, at first regular or special meeting after such suspension.

ARTICLE VII.

Section 1.—Any funds of this Hospital not required for immediate use, may be invested in securities of the government of Canada, or any chartered, or government savings' bank; but in no case shall they be loaned to any individual on personal security, or invested in private enterprises of any kind.

ARTICLE VIII.

Section 1.—These By-Laws shall not be repealed or amended, unless notice in writing shall have been made to the Secretary, at least two weeks prior to vote on same, and secretary shall notify all members of the proposed change, together with the date on which vote shall be taken, and two-thirds of full Board vote in affirmative.