Rural Health Units

The Canadian House of Commons Without Division Approves a Motion Requesting the Government to Consider Subsidizing "County Health Units", to Give Health of Rural Canada Better Protection

The gigantic scope of such a project at first eludes one, as does the great significance of the fact that by approving the motion without diversion, the house put the question of national health where it belongs—out of the field of party politics.

This is extremely fortunate, for it enables every Canadian citizen to discuss, and to give his approval without rancour or considerations of party affiliations to what is probably the greatest piece of health-legislation ever contemplated in the history of the world.

For the County Health Unit scheme when it is in working order throughout the Dominion, as it is bound to be eventually and as it already is in parts of Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, save more Canadian lives, and more Canadian dollars than the majority of us realize are now being wasted. For there is no doubt that future generations will look back upon our present-day rural health management with horror, as being little short of criminally negligent.

At the beginning of this century the country was a healthier place to live in than the city. In fact, most of our readers will probably be surprised to learn that it is so no longer. Actually official statistics prove that the farmer has much less chance of long life and health than has his city cousin, and the reason is simply that the city man's health is looked after scientifically, by modern, up-to-date public health departments, while the farmer and the small-town dweller do not share in this advantage, because it costs a great deal of money, and the country and the small town cannot afford it.

The County Health Unit Plan, providing as it does for Federal and Provincial payment by subsidy of two-thirds of the cost of each County Health Unit, the municipality served paying the third, recognizes and acts upon the fact that health is a national asset, and that rural lives are as valuable to Canada as urban ones.

Surely this is eminently sound on practical, as well as humanitarian grounds. Everyone, regardless of political affiliations, agrees that Canada, suporting social machinery capable of serving more than double her present population, needs people more than anything else in the world. We seek and are willing to pay for immigrants of the right kind. Yet every year we lose rural-born, native Canadians by thousands, years ahead of their time, through diseases which could be entirely eliminated—for example diphtheria and typhoid, both of which are preventable and could be wiped out within a generation—and through tuberculosis, heart disease, complaints peculiar to infants and their mothers, scarlet fever, cancer, despite the fact that proper measures of public health can save and in some centres are annually saving many lives from all of them.

Quebec has attacked this problem. She has 17 Rural Health Units in operation, and expects soon to have eight more. Consider what happened in Beauce County, Quebec, following the organization of such a unit in 1925.

During 1926 there were 643 deaths in the district from general causes. In 1928 this figure dropped 156 to 487. Similarly, infant deaths were reduced from 213 to 150; deaths from tuberculosis from 56 to 51, and deaths from contagious diseases, from 86 to 27. Statistics, indicating the reduction of disease generally are not yet available, but a study of the death rate makes logical the assumption that this too, must have been comparatively important.

Three other health units were also established, following the one in Beauce County, and in all three cases, similar excellent results have been obtained.

A clear explanation of the workings of one of these units is afforded by Dr. Alphonse Lessard, Director, and Dr. Emile Nadeau, Assistant Director, Quebec Provincial Bureau of Health.

What is the 'County Health Unit" system which we are presently operating in our Province of Quebec? It consists in the establishment, in a county or in two small neighboring counties, of what might be designated as a "Bureau of Health in miniature" composed of a full-time medical officer, two or more public health nurses, a sanitary inspector charged with the enforcement of the health regulations and with the education of the municipal officers, together with a secretary to handle the clerical work of the office which is generally located in the principal town of the county. The whole population of the county is thus submitted to constant supervision on the part of this staff. Health education is intensively carried on, a considerable amount of propaganda work is done continually, and not a single municipality escapes the attention of the officers of that unit. The medical officer covers all the parishes, meets there the civil and religious authorities, maintains cordial relations with local doctors, gives public lectures (announced the preceding Sunday by the cure in the pulpit) has friendly talks with mothers on the necessity of pre-natal, post-natal and pre-school hygiene, visits the school and looks after outbreaks of infectious diseases. The nurses examine the school children and refer those defective in any way to the family physician; they give the teachers instructions in hygiene which they, in turn, pass on to their pupils; they go directly into the homes of the people to make them understand the necessity of following the golden rules for clean and healthy living, they advise young mothers on how to protect their babies or babies-to-be, etc. The sanitary inspector visits the municipal enforcements of the health laws, looks after water supplies, sewerage, nuisances, sees that quarantine is observed in case of contagious diseases, etc. The secretary attends to the office work, handles correspondence, answers queries, keeps records, and, one important matter, collects from all the ministers of worship the birth, marriage and death certificates, makes corrections o nthem if necessary, takes a copy of each, and sends them to our Division of Vital Statistics in Quebec.

Problem in India Of "Untouchables"

The Simon Commission report will be issued in the spring, and the contribution by Sir Charles Marris, K.C.S.I., in the India number of "The Times," on the Caste System, is of special interest. Among other pertinent points raised, Sir Charles writes:

"To-day castes are to be reckoned by the hundred and identifiable minor castes by the thousand. Caste remains as strongly as ever a matter of birth. A man is born to honor as a Brahman or to dishonor as a sweeper; the worst of Brahmans cannot lose his sanctity and the noblest of sweepers cannot break his birth's invidious bar, except by going right outside the pale of his religion.

"To a great extent occupation is still determined by a man's caste, though various causes, such as education and travel and the development of industry and the desire for Government service, have blurred the boundary lines.

"Each caste enforces its own rules by means of committees called panchayets. A caste man who breaks the rules by engaging in a degrading occupation, or eating improper food, or marrying beyond the pale, is arraigned before the caste tribunal. He may get off by paying a fine or standing a dinner. But for major offences he will be outcaste, and then none of his own caste-fellows will have anything to do with him; nor can he get access to the temples, nor service from any o fthe other workers, the barber, the cobbler, the washerman, on whom he depends for necessary offices.

"To places where there is a demand for wives, girls of humble caste are sometimes brought by dishonest brokers, who dispose of them at a profit by representing them as of higher caste than they are. This practice may suggest the question why a low-caste man doomed to a degrading trade should not likewise go off to some place where he is unknown and give himself out as of a high caste. The answer is that unknown strangers are always objects of suspicion in India; and that before he was accepted he would be put through tests under which he would break down for sheer lack of knowledge of the society which he sought to enter.

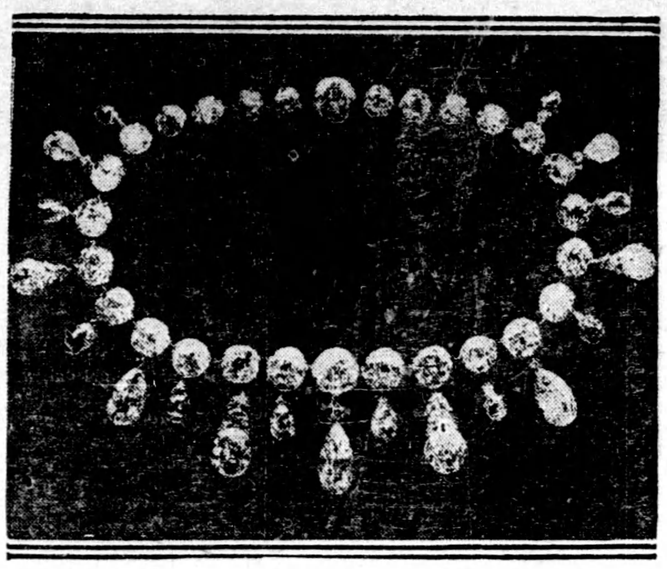
"There is little difficulty about the precedence of the major castes. Always the Brahman comes first, and then the modern representatives of the three 'twice born' communities. Below them there would be no general agreement as to the sequence. Some Sudras are 'clean'; others, though not clean, are yet not thought of as polluted.

"Below these, again, are a descending series of 'Untouchables.' In the South, where Brahmanism is strongest, the degree of pollution with which the various kinds of pariah are invested is measured by the distance within which they may not approach a Brahman.

The depressed classes are reckoned to number from 50 to 60 millions. They used to be thought of as definitely beyond the pale of Hinduism. Their position is more ambiguous nowadays, when growing tension between Hindus and Moslems makes it important to each community to increase its numerical strength.

"But if the outcastes are to be reckoned as Hindus it is only just and proper that Hinduism should treat them better. Logic and expediency alike tend to reinforce the efforts already being made by the more generous-minded of the caste leaders to show more consideration to those beyond the pale. The movement has long figured on political programmes; it is now actually gaining strength; but it stil has great difficulties to overcome in the shape of orthodox conservatism."

A Last Tribute to a Faithless Woman



A PRESENT THAT COST THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS

Napoleon necklace, valued at $400,000, storm centre of action by Archduchess Theresa of Austria against former British secret agent, who sold it and disappeared. It was secured from the spoils of Napoleon's last campaigns

Premier, Primate, Peers and Professor

Their Views on Russia and Religion, and the Existing Situation

"Is the Foreign Secretary aware that two months ago I worshipped peacefully with a thousand other people in the Cathedral of the Redeemer in Moscow?"—Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, M.P., in the House of Commons.

"I have already received a great deal of information which greatly increases both the gravity and the difficulty of the subject. I desire, after there has been greater opportunity, to consider the whole matter and to discuss it with the fullness which is impossible now, to have the matter debated again in your Lordships'House."—The Archbishop of Canterbury in the House of Lords.

There is not much change in the situation with regard to the religious controversy and Russian relations. Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury, states above that he has received "information which increases the gravity of the subject," and the only evidence in the other direction appears in Reynolds's Illustrated News, but as the source of information is vaguely alluded to as of "high authority" people will form their own conclusions. This "high authority" says:

"I have heard it said by one who certainly ought to know, that not 1 per cent. of the churches in Russia have been closed.

"And even if it were 10 per cent., that figure would not be higher than the number of churches which, for various causes, have of late been closed in Britain.

"Some of the churches have been removed on the demands of young Communist groups, who have proved to the community in which they live that the churches serve no useful purpose.

"No doubt a considerable number of priests have been dealt with, not, however, because of the practice of religion, but on account of their counter-revolutionary sympathies.

"I do not think it is true that there have been actual atrocities in any real sense of the term, and the priests expelled have been dealt with on general political grounds. This applies to the Orthodox Church.

"But I believe that the Soviet has dealt more severely with the Baptists, and for the reason that they are an international organization. Foreign influence is thus introduced, and to this the Soviet objects."

The Premier's View

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the Premier, writing to a correspondent, says:

"The Government is much concerned with what is going on. We cannot say that we have got the facts.

"News supplied from Riga should not be believed until corroborated; a good part of the statements which have done duty have been proved to be false.

"The history of religion in Russia, however, is unfortunately full of the records of persecution.

"Persecution has never, in one way or another, been absent from Russian religious life, and the revolutionary mentality which generations of oppression have created has all the characteristics of narrowness and violence of purpose.

"It is an active will riding roughshod and cruelly over every obstacle, real or imaginary.

Persecution is Hateful

"To my colleagues as to myself religious persecution is hateful. We have inherited that hate from our own stock, and are not likely to be indifferent to any persecution in any part of the world, or in any time either past or present.

"We have recognized Russia diplomatically because we believe that that is for the general good, however intricate and troublesome the immediate problems may be.

"To outlaw a country is not to make it amenable to world opinion, but the opposite.

"The only question is, what are the facts and what are our opportunities, and how can they best be used?

"It would be the easiest thing in the world to act in such a way as would add to the inflictions which Christians may have to endure. That we shall avoid whatever the agitation may be."

A Bishop's Suggestion

Dr. Headlam, Bishop of Gloucester, in a recent address, said that he "did not believe it was right, wise, or necessary to attempt to interfere with the diplomatic relations of the two countries. He believed the presence of the British Ambassador and properly appointed Consuls would have a beneficial effect.

"He could not doubt that the right course was that the heads of the various religious bodies, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the President of the Free Church Council, Cardinal Bourne and the Chief Rabbi should be asked to approach the Russian Ambassador here and discuss the matter in a sympathetic manner.

'He believed that if they were to do so they might be able to bring home to the Ambassador, and through him to those who sent him, the resentment that was widely felt, a resentment which might have far-reaching consequences in the future. He believed that an appeal based on universal principles common to humanity, of justice, liberty, toleration and fairness must in the end have weight."

Lord Parmoor, in the House of Lords, took a similar line when he told the Peers: "I take the view of the present Government that if you want improvement in Russia the way to obtain it is by a friendly resumption of ordinary normal diplomatic relations, and that is the only way in which, in the long run, I think Russia will come into co-operation with the general life and general outlook of other European countries."

A Fact Not Generally Known

An interesting personal tribute was paid to Lord Parmoor by Lord Newton, who said in the Lords' debate:

"I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration for the noble and learned Lord, Lord Parmoor, and I do not think that justice has ever been done to him with regard to this particular matter. The noble and learned Lord, in the course of a long and honorable career at the Bar, amassed, I believe(a considerable fortune, largely by defending the interests of Capital in the Committee rooms upstairs, and he invested a large portion of his hard-earned gains in Russia.

"The moment the Bolsheviks came into power I believe they seized every penny that he possessed. Yet the noble and learned Lord bears no malice. He is the first to fling himself, so to speak, upon their necks.

"Personally, I am quite incapable of soaring to heights of altruism of that description. If a man had flagrantly robbed me and if I was again called upon to associate with him I should feel rather reluctant to do so, especially if not only having robbed me in the past he now indulged in continual vituperation of me and my associates."

A Nonconformist Professor

Professor Bernard Manning, of Jesus College, Cambridge, writing in the Morning Post, says:

"We are asked to wait still for the facts. The Soviet makes no secret of its policy towards those things that we most prize; it is only our English sentimentalists who shut their ears to what the Russian Communists say about their achievements and their policy in matters of religion.

"Dissenters like myself care not two straws how the Russians arrange their property; but we care very greatly for those o fthe household of faith, and despite any worry that it may cause t Miss Wilkinson and Mr. Henderson we shall go on caring. The Nonconformist conscience may exist as a butt for third-rate humorists; it has never existed as a soothing mixture for time-serving politicians."

Liquor Control Gives Ontario $9,661,448 Profit for 1929

Commissioner Reports Sales Totalling $55,360,569; Day of Large Bootlegger is Declared Over as Regulations Broaden Scrutiny of Purchases

Toronto.—With sales totaling $55,360,569, the Ontario Liquor Control Commission has reported to the Legislature a profit for 1929 of $9,661,448.

Commenting on operation of the control system, the report said:

"Evils resulting from the abuse of liquor have ever been present. The sin of drunkenness is still with us and probably will remain, with hosts of other sins."

The commission declared the day of the large bootlegger was ended. "He is regarded today as the common enemy," it said.

Use of rubbing alcohol and other substitutes was held by the commission as responsible for a large percentage of drunkenness in some sections and said me s were being taken to eliminate t abuse.

Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the commission, also said a new plan would be put into effect in an endeavor to prevent abuse of the permit privilege. Under the new regulations a person buying beyond his means or for bootlegging purposes will be limited to purchases at the store nearest his home, thus permitting a closer scrutiny on his purchases.

During 1929 there were 543,044 permits granted. Sales from the 123 government stores totaled $37,626,779, with the remainder from 105 brewery warehouses and breweries. The report showed that the per capita consumption of alcohol in Canada had fluctuated from .703 gallons in 1917 to a low of .395 in 1919 and to a high of .723 in 1921. The consumption in 1928 was .425 gallons per person.

Wifey—"Lent is now here. Have you though what you will do?"

Hubby—"Oh, I reckon it will be as usual—cut down on family expenses in order to buy you an Easter outfit.

VALUE OF CHARACTER

Wedgewood, though risen from a workman, was never satisfied till he had done his best. He would tolerate no inferior work. If it did not come up to his idea of what it should be he would break the vessel and throw it away, saying: "That won't do for Josiah Wedgwood." Character makes reputation, and Wedgwood pottery, with Wedgwood's character behind it, won world-wide celebrity. There was no evasive secrecy; his art was his holy bride, and he espoused her with open glory.

REFORMERS

The only way to judge reformers, I've found, is by the amount of work they're ready to do after they have addressed the meeting. — Frederick Palmer.

An expert says that a really good diamond will make a hole in almost anything. Especially a banking account.

Thrift is alleged to have become a vice in America, but little credence is attached to the rumor that many ostensible speak-easies are in reality savings-banks.

Brave Fighter Goes Far in Politics

Ex-Colonial Secretary Has Had Hectic Career and Risen to Heights

Potent and foremost among those who have begun to march against the hosts of Empire Crusaders is Lord Beaverbrook's old personal and political friend, Leopold Charles Maurice Amery, himself an apostle of empire trade. The cables quote him as declaring that he stands by Baldwin's "Safety First" fiscal measures rather than by the adventure proposed by the Baron of Fleet St. Amery, thus once more in the empire spotlight, is one of the most extraordinary figures on the stage of British politics.

He began with a reporter's notebook. He had no marriage bringing fashion and influence to help him, no clique ties with men of ruling houses, no advantages of wealth or birth. But had quenchless energy, limitless ambition and a pretty thick skin, and from picking up odd bits of news around Whitehall, landed into writing leaders and "specials" for the Times. As he was the kind that makes the most of every oportunity, he plunged right into the fiscal controversy, turning out articles and pamphlets that were priceless to a hard-pressed Toryism, and coming to be regarded as an encyclopaedia upon anything pertaining to tariffs a ialism. His "Fundamental F
became a sort of text book
reform advocates.

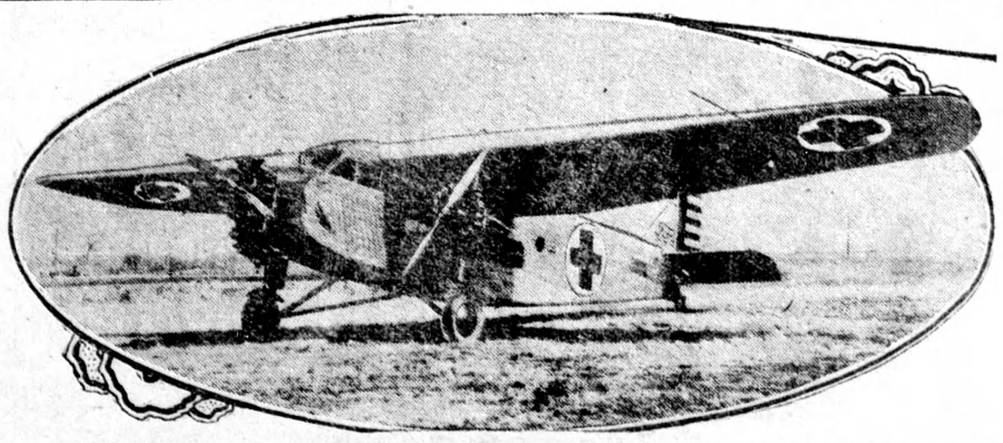
Versatile as well as pugnacious, he was interested in things military, and in 1899 wrote a book called "Problems of the Army." It was a good book, got him the job of editing the Times' "History of the Boer War," a task which he performed with the aid of that strange character, the Irish rebel, Erskine Childers. While writing this history (it was in seven volumes) and turning out leaders, he found time to study law, and in 1902 was called to the bar at Inner Temple. But he never practised.

His chosen career was politics. Beaten in three successive by-elections he finally reached the House of Commons from the Chamberlain stronghold of Birmingham, which returned him in 1911. Thereafter his progress was steady. He was a militant Tory when militancy was the key to Tory preferment; and while he never could be an F. E. Smith, he was at least one of those who rallied with Ulster and Carson. In the Great War, too, he was conspicuous. He was on the staff of the Fourth Army corps; on special service in the Balkans; served at G.H.Q. at Saloniki. By 1917 he had landed into the post of assistant secretary of the war cabinet.

After that his task was clear. There followed promotion to the colonial office, and when the Carlton club revolt sent Lloyd George into the wilderness and brought Toryism to office, Amery was on the right side of the fence—and walked into the admiralty. He went down with the Baldwin ministry when Labor took office in 1923, and returned with it in 1924 to become secretary for the dominions. Since then he has been around the world, all over the British empire, turned once more out of office, and one of Mr. Baldwin's best light skirmishers.

He is anything but pleasant in appearance. Middle-aged, he is short and thick-set, looking more like a pugilist than a politician, and with a limp that is a legacy of a broken leg in our Rockies. He is a fanatic about physical fitness, is always in perfect condition, and two years ago punched the jaw of Mr. Buchanan, the Socialist radical from the Clyde. No one would take him for a successful platform speaker, yet he is formidable in debate, irrespressible in argument, copious in vocabulary, and with something of iron in his stiff attitude, clenched hands, cramped little gestures, when he speaks. His voice is poor without cadences, but his brain is as clear as a bell, and his speech extraordinarily fluent. And he fortifies all this with a disconcerting memory and an amazing talent for figures.

Amery knows Canada better than most Canadians, and he married an Ontario girl—a sister of Sir Hamar Greenwood.



Latest, largest and fastest ambulance plane, developed by U.S. Army Air Corps, to be tested at Aid Corps exercises at Sacramento, Calif.