

Friday, March 9th

DREAD TUBERCULOSIS IS BEING OVERCOME, SAYS HEALTH REPORT

Substantial Decrease Noted
in Numbers of Cases
and Deaths

INCREASE IN SMALLPOX

A substantial decrease in both the number of cases and the number of deaths from tuberculosis during 1927 is noted in the third annual report of the Provincial Department of Health. During the year 1,534 cases were reported to the department and the deaths totalled 732, while in the previous year there were 1,660 cases and 821 deaths.

In his report Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey gives much of the credit for the decrease to the efforts of the traveling diagnostic clinic for the diseases of the lungs. In 1927 the clinic visited 24 centres—14 of them for the second time—and 1,483 cases were examined. Some 90 per cent. of the physicians in these centres referred cases to the clinics.

More Communicable Diseases.

In the total of all communicable diseases there was a decided increase. In 1927 there was a total of 51,890 cases with 3,863 deaths, while the previous year there were 49,251 cases and 3,785 deaths.

Despite increased precautionary measures and the promotion of immunization particularly against diphtheria, smallpox and scarlet fever, the number of cases of these diseases increased, but there was a little change in the death rate.

Two Years Compared.

The total number of cases and deaths in the diseases which were most widespread compared with the previous year was as follows: Scarlet fever, 1927, 6,289 cases and 42 deaths; 1926, 5,640 cases and 38 deaths; smallpox, 1927, 1,532 cases and 2 deaths; 1926, 706 cases and 2 deaths; diphtheria, 1927, 3,346 cases and 205 deaths; 1926, 2,818, and 179 deaths; chickenpox, 1927, 8,401 cases and no deaths; 1926, 7,787 cases and no deaths; measles, 1927, 13,405 cases and 19 deaths; 1926, 18,420 cases and 42 deaths.

Out of a total departmental expenditure of \$682,080.65, free biological products and insulin to the value of \$152,043 was distributed. Of that total \$47,477 was for insulin alone, of which 11,196,200 units were distributed free.

Workmen's Compensation.

On referring to efforts put forward under the Workmen's Compensation Act it is stated that physical examination of employees has been instituted by more industrial plants during the past year than in any of the previous eight years. Public health nurses during the year visited 26,061 settlers' homes in the rural parts of the Province.

ASSESSMENT BILL UPHELD BY MCCREA IN REPLY TO BUCKE

Amendment to Restate and
Clarify Law, Minister
States

NOT IN MACCRAE MINING

Replying to a letter from the Council of the Township of Bucke, which had been addressed to Premier Ferguson, to Hon. Charles McCrea, to Opposition Leaders in the Legislature and to the press, alleging that the Minister of Mines' amendments to the Assessment Act favored private corporations, and was against the interests of the municipalities in the matter of taxing surface lands in connection with mining property. Mr. McCrea, in a signed statement, has advanced a number of arguments in favor of the proposed bill, which has passed the committee stage and is eligible for the third reading.

Supreme Court Action.

Following the action of the Supreme Court at Ottawa in reversing the decision of the Supreme Court of Ontario, in the case of Bucke Township versus the MacCrae Mining Company, Mr. McCrea affirms that the amendment to the Assessment Act "is to restate and clarify the law and to give that assurance as to stability of title which the Government from time to time has proclaimed.

"Other difficulties might be enumerated which would arise if the Government failed to restate and clarify the law," he stated. "Lawyers would be unable to determine the validity of a title or the effect of coalescing or merging the two separate estates, since one person might acquire, either at the same time or at a different time, the separately registered titles of surface rights and mining rights. The effect, therefore, of the bill introduced is as follows:

"Decision Stands."

"Where any estate in mines, minerals or mining rights has heretofore or may hereafter become severed from the estate in the surface rights of the same lands they shall, after being so severed, thereafter be, and remain, for all purposes of taxation and assessment, separate estates, notwithstanding the fact that one owner may become the owner of both titles. The bill expressly exempts the lands involved in the case of the MacCrae Mining Company and the Township of Bucke. The decision stands with reference to those lands.

"With the passing of the legislation referred to municipalities will be confined, as they have been previously, to the right of assessment in respect to the surface rights where the titles are severed. Where the titles are not severed as to surface rights and mining rights, the sale of lands, complying with the requirements of the law, will convey the whole interest in the land."

Not Connected.

In closing his statement Mr. McCrea gave assurance that he was in no manner connected with the MacCrae Mining Company, nor, directly or indirectly, related to or associated with James A. MacCrae of Ottawa.