

## Unique War Memorial Erected in British Columbia

Mrs. A. A. Perry Describes Health Centre Established as Memorial to Heroic Dead.

The Editor has received the following letter and interesting article from Mrs. A. A. Perry who is at present visiting in Western Canada after attending the Author's convention in Vancouver.

12 Durham Road, Mt. Royal, Calgary.  
August 29, 1926.

Dear Mr. Smith:—

I am sending you this for publication in the Liberal, if you can spare space, an account of a remarkable Health Centre in British Columbia, which through the courtesy of the provincial Health Officer Dr. H. E. Young and that of Mrs. V. S. McLachlan, superintendent of Women's Institutes I was invited to visit and where I was given every facility for seeing all of its interesting workings.

I know that a great many of your readers, particularly perhaps your women readers will be interested as well as myself and as we have never yet succeeded in Richmond Hill in getting even medical inspection of schools the information regarding this British Columbia experiment in public health may be of some value.

One of the most unique, suitable and useful war memorials in Canada is that which has been established in the Municipality of Sannich in British Columbia a lovely countryside comprising 55 acres close to the city of Victoria. Sannich is populated by about twelve thousand people most of whom are of British birth or are native born Canadians.

The Memorial has taken the form of a health centre which in the last three or four years has become the main Public Health station in British Columbia, is the most highly developed type of Health Centre we have anywhere in Canada and is rapidly becoming throughout the United States and the Dominion, because of the remarkable work it is accomplishing in the way of child welfare and the general conservation of life in the district where it is in operation.

Before attempting to describe the Sannich Health Centre it may be well to state that one of the main factors in its success has been that from the first when the Women's Institutes and other bodies advocated its establishment the Provincial Health Department under Dr. H. E. Young who is one of the most able and enterprising public health officials in the country, has consistently stood behind it and has aided and abetted it with not only the most generous moral support but with substantial financial assistance.

The Centre is housed in a charmingly situated, attractive building in the heart of the municipality and on the main highway. It is under the superintendence of Mrs. C. A. Lucas, R. N. an Englishwoman of high standing in her profession, a public health worker of the first rank and an organizer of much ability. From the beginning of the Centre has had the Women's Institute of the section solidly behind it and under the leadership of Mrs. V. S. McLachlan who has recently become the provincial superintendent of Institutes in B. C. this organization has diligently worked for its establishment and is now interested in its extension.

The reasons which led to the building of the Centre have been outlined in a recent government report.

"The Great War brought to the attention of the peoples of the world in a startling manner the fact that a large proportion of human beings are suffering from physical defects which are preventable in childhood. Taking cognizance of this fact the Sannich Council, the School Board, and the people resolved to build a Health Centre from which should radiate health—a place where the expectant mother might apply for the advice which is going to mean so much to the unborn child and to posterity, and to which the pre-school as well as the school child can go and have its health built on a firm foundation. Results have amply justified the splendid effort which was made by this far seeing committee and the Sannich Municipality stands as one of the healthiest in Canada to-day.

The initial cost of the Health Centre to the municipality of Sannich was \$25,000, and a great share of the cost of the upkeep comes directly from the pockets of the taxpayers but the nursing staff, four in number is supplied by the Provincial Department of Health and from the training school for public nurses in the University of British Columbia there comes the Student Nurses several of whom are to be always found augmenting the staff of the Centre. The Public Health nurses in British Columbia are required to spend several months in this type of field work before they can secure their diplomas.

An interesting fact to remember in connection with health activities in British Columbia is that in 1911 an Act was passed which makes it compulsory for all school children to be

medically inspected and that this Act has been vigorously enforced. So that with the Sannich Centre there has been linked this school inspection and there has been all along the line a co-ordination of effort and of aim.

The building in which the work is carried on is large, roomy and well equipped. It contains offices, operating rooms, a dental surgery, supply room, one ward containing four beds, a class room, nurses quarters, dining kitchen, laundry and furnace rooms and sleeping quarters for the domestic staff.

Many activities are undertaken by the Centre. For the field work three Ford cars are used and there is an approximate mileage of 3,000 covered each month by the nurses. Because of the valuable pre-natal and child welfare work done by the field nursing staff the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company gives the Centre generous assistance.

Pre-school clinics have been organized recently; the district work includes maternity work and all bedside nursing of diseases which are not communicable and this service is found very heavy owing to the number of night calls. At the Centre six beds are utilized for a certain type of patient.

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All of which means a big and profitable market for farm products. That market should be reserved exclusively for Canadian farmers. Elect a Conservative Government, and it will be so reserved. For the Conservative Party stands pledged to see that the Canadian farmer is as adequately protected in this market as the United States farmer is in his.

As Mr. Meighen stated at Midland on August 3rd, "We will make it as hard for the American farmers to get their surplus shipments into Canada, as they are now making it difficult for the Canadian farmer to get his surplus into the United States."

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And this pledge will be carried out, even as Mr. Meighen's pledge to stop the dumping on the Canadian market of United States fruits and vegetables has already been carried out!

Yours is the choice—yours the responsibility—on September 14th. If you would unlock the double door to prosperity, the key for which Mr. Meighen offers you—

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in North York in South York.

## And avoid another Election!