

Health Conditions Good in Timmins During 1938

Medical Health Officer Reviews Situation Last Year, Giving Health Details and Making Several Important Recommendations. Isolation Hospital, Housing and Other Conditions Mentioned.

In his report for the past year Dr. J. A. McInnis, Medical Health Officer, reviews conditions here and makes several important recommendations. Here is the report in full as submitted to the Board of Health and the town council:

To the Board of Health, Mayor and Council of the Town of Timmins: Gentlemen:—The following is a summary of the health activities rendered during the year 1938 together with some observations and recommendations regarding health matters generally.

First I wish to state that considering the rapid growth of the town with its many new residents and the new annexations that have been made, health conditions generally have been fairly satisfactory both with regard to sanitation and diseases.

School Health Activities

The Town of Timmins has now a population of 25,119 and there are approximately 4,900 pupils attending the ten supervised public and separate schools.

Public Schools supervised—4, Classrooms—53, Pupils, 2322. Separate Schools supervised—6, Classrooms—66, Pupils—2621.

The health supervision is conducted by three public health nurses. During the year diphtheria and small-pox immunization was carried out among the school and pre-school children.

No. of pupils receiving first dose of toxoid—340. No. of pupils receiving second dose—290. No. of pupils receiving third dose—250.

No. of pre-school children receiving first dose—148. No. of pre-school children receiving second dose—111. No. of pre-school children receiving third dose—128.

It will be seen that some of the children who received the first and second doses did not present themselves for the third dose. In the majority of these cases they were prevented from getting additional injections through contracting colds and other illness in the interim.

No. of children who were successfully vaccinated—448. No. of pre-school children who were successfully vaccinated—128.

It will be noted that toxoid injections are given in three stages, three weeks apart. Each year the junior school pupils receive special physical inspection (S.P.I.)

No. of pupils receiving S.P.I. during the year were—1092. The number of those having new notifiable defects exclusive of dental and communicable skin diseases were—594.

As a result of the dental survey conducted in the school during the year, the number of pupils in school reported as needing dental treatment were—4043.

It will be seen from this large number of dental defects among school pupils that some plan of dental treatment should be initiated. As many parents are unable to afford the cost of dental treatment, I am pleased to state that arrangements are now being made with the public and separate school boards, under the direction of the Department of Health, to establish dental

clinics to provide for dental treatment for those unable to pay for the same.

General Health Observations

A considerable part of the Medical Officer's time has been taken up with school health services.

The health measures that have been instituted in connection with our school and pre-school children have been of major importance in establishing immunity of diseases among school children and stimulating stronger interest on the part of the parents to have the numerous defects corrected while the child is still young and when more satisfactory results can be obtained. Also they have been of considerable importance in preventing epidemics in obtaining a foothold. As a consequence therefore of carrying out the health programme of toxoid and vaccination together with rigid supervision regarding pasteurization of milk and chlorination of our drinking water, Timmins has been free of serious epidemics which have occurred in other places. So that considering the town's rapid growth and varied population we are fortunate in having one of the healthiest towns in Canada.

During the summer holiday season a tonsil clinic was arranged under the auspices of the Timmins Kiwanis Club for children whose parents were unable to pay for operations. A reduced hospital fee was given by St. Mary's Hospital and 116 tonsil operations were performed by the doctors of the town, free of charge.

In July the Kiwanis Club sponsored an Orthopedic Clinic which was held in the Child Health Conference Rooms, Dr. A. W. Farmer from the Hospital for Sick Children examined the children who were referred in by the private physician or by members of the Kiwanis Club. Thirty-three children were examined and recommendations were made by Dr. Farmer in each case.

Communicable Diseases

During the year we have had mild epidemics of communicable diseases chiefly those of Scarlet Fever, Measles, Chickenpox, and Whooping Cough. Fortunately very few of these were of a serious nature for as soon as the disease was detected prompt methods of isolation and quarantine were established. The epidemic began more noticeably shortly after the schools opened following the summer holidays.

The number of contagious diseases reported were as follows:—Scarlet Fever—150. Chickenpox—25. Measles—26. Whooping Cough—12. Diphtheria—4 (one death). Spinal Meningitis—1. Typhoid Fever—8. Poliomyelitis—0.

From the above noted communicable diseases it will be observed that cases of Scarlet Fever, Measles and Chickenpox were much the more numerous. Many of the Scarlet Fever, Measles and Chickenpox cases were so mild that the patients could hardly be called ill and this fact made it difficult to maintain the required period of quarantine. It is gratifying to find that Timmins and indeed the whole northern district was singularly free from that dreaded epidemic of acute Poliomyelitis or infantile paralysis as it is commonly called, which unfortunately was so prevalent last autumn in this province and other parts of the Dominion.

It may also be noted the number of Typhoid Fever cases were very small, due no doubt to the observance and enforcement of sanitary conditions throughout the town and also to the strict supervision of our milk and water supply. I may say that three of the Typhoid Fever cases were contracted from drinking contaminated surface water and in the other five the source of the infection could not be found.

Skin Diseases

Since the opening of the fall school term there were a considerable number of skin diseases and pedicosis discovered in the school and in the homes.

The skin affections brought to observation numbered 992 and were chiefly impetigo, ringworm, and scabies. The cases of pedicosis found were 920. However, under the strict observation of the school nurses the infected pupils were excluded from school and the cases reported to the Medical Officer of Health who was notified if prompt treatment was not instituted. The results were that by the end of the season these disease were well under control.

During the month of December there were an unfortunate number of influenza and broncho-pneumonia cases reported, chiefly among infants and young children. The type was particularly severe and several of the children died from the toxic nature of the disease.

Tuberculosis

I am pleased to report that the tuberculosis work in this town and district is progressing along modern lines. Last January the Department of Health at Toronto established a new chest clinic centre at 11 Balsam street north, Timmins. Under the able direction of Doctor Lane who is in charge of the centre, the clinic is functioning well and with the follow up nursing service, much can be expected in the control of tuberculosis in this district. The number of newly discovered cases of tuberculosis found last year in the municipality were 50. The majority of these were early cases so that it was much more effective in instituting early treatment.

I would point out that the Provincial Department of Health now bear the entire cost of tuberculosis hospitalization thus relieving the municipality of this extra burden in all cases of patients unable to pay for treatment or hospital care. The municipality is now only obliged to pay transportation to and from the sanitarium and to provide proper and adequate food and lodging to those requiring the same on their discharge from the hospital. I trust that the town of Timmins will see to it that all those cases are efficiently looked after.

The tubercular tests were made on the school children during the summer of 1938. This was accomplished under the sponsorship of the Lions Club with Dr. Russell in charge, the expense being paid for by the sale of Christmas Seals.

No. of tubercular tests were—3809. No. of positive reactions—404—the remainder were negative. High School pupils—No. of tubercular tests were 777; No. of positive reactions—196—the remainder were negative. Total number (X-rayed) of pupils with positive reactions, to date from all schools—600.

Social Diseases

Number of cases reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year were as follows:—Syphilis—72. Gonorrhoea—108.

The provincial regulations are very specific in regard to the treatment of social diseases in the endeavour to control and if possible stamp out venereal disorders. Persons effected must promptly report to their physician or the M.O.H. for treatment. The province now contributes 75% of the cost of treatment for all indigent cases and those unable to pay for their treatment. I believe the physicians in Timmins are co-operating fully in regard to the reporting and treatment of these diseases.

I may also point out that, pursuant to the public health act it is required that all persons handling food stuffs or working in restaurants, public dining halls, refreshment rooms, kitchens, bakeries, dairies, etc., must be prepared to show a certificate of health before entering employment. This is required to be renewed every six months.

The Infantile Birth and Death Rate

No. of resident births in Timmins during 1938 were—919. No. of infant deaths were—56. No. of still births were—37. The infant death rate, 60.92 per thousand births.

The infantile mortality rate therefore and also the number of still-births are rather high although a marked improvement in this rate has been observed during the past 2 or 3 years. There is still need for increased public health service and more education of the public in regard to the observance of adequate medical care for all expectant mothers. It should be noted that as the population of Timmins increases each year there is more need for public health nursing service. Since one nurse is only considered able to serve satisfactorily 3,000 or at the most 4,000 people it will be observed that our present staff of three public health nurses is not large enough to serve the people of Timmins.

With approximately 4,900 school children in Timmins the major portion of the nurses' time is devoted to school work. Even then it is not possible to do all that should be done for this age group, let alone the desirability of having the nurses visit expectant mothers and each child born in the municipality as soon after birth as possible.

The value of public health nursing supervision as an auxiliary to medical supervision for expectant mothers, new born babies and infants is now recognized in almost every country. If the pre-school age group received regular health supervision much lost time would be avoided when they go to school, and lost time from school is costly to the taxpayers. I am pleased however to announce that the Board of Health and the council consented to the appointment last July of a third nurse to the public health staff. Even with this additional nurse it will be seen that a fourth nurse is really a necessity to efficiently carry out public health service in Timmins.

I might also mention that a new auxiliary conference clinic has been established in the Catholic Church at the corner of Commercial and Cameron streets to serve the families living in the southwest section of the town. These are temporary quarters and Father Chapeau kindly consented to the use of the church basement.

To Accompany King



In charge of all official royal ceremonies in Great Britain is the Earl of Claredon (ABOVE), lord chamberlain of the King's household, who will accompany the King on his Canadian tour.

Sanitation

I am pleased to report that the sanitary conditions in the town have noticeably improved during the past year but there is still need for much more improvement to safeguard the health and comfort of the community. Last summer many complaints were made to the Board of Health regarding nuisances, particularly in reference to outside toilets, stables and unsanitary surroundings. Under considerable pressure the most urgent cases were satisfactorily adjusted by completing the necessary sewer connections. It is the intention of the Board this year to insist upon obtaining adequate sanitary conditions. A clean town is not only a source of satisfaction to the citizens but a valuable aid in maintaining proper health in the community. There are still about 1,150 outside toilets used in this town and it is important that the Board have these eliminated as soon as possible particularly where sewer connections are available. Many residents are willing to have water and sewer connections installed but are not able immediately to bear the cost of installations. I would suggest that it is within the power of the municipal council to assist in this matter. In this connection the following resolution from the Board of Health was presented to the council last year.

Resolution

"That this Board recommends to the Municipal Council that it be made compulsory to install sewer connections in the central section of the town and other sections where unsanitary conditions prevail, and in cases where property owners are financially unable to pay for this installation that the corporation install same and charge the cost against the property."

Wedding at United Church Yesterday

Miss Annie Abramson and Mr. Wm. Boychuk Married.

The Rev. W. M. Mustard officiated at a quiet yet charming wedding on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock when he united in marriage Annie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Abramson, and Mr. Wm. Boychuk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Boychuk of Timmins. The marriage ceremony took place in the nave of the United Church.

Two Quiet Weddings at the United Church Manse

Two quiet weddings were solemnized by the Rev. W. M. Mustard on Saturday evening, in the manse of the United Church.

At 6 o'clock he united in marriage Catherine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Purdy, and Mr. Henry Paul Burke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Burke. The witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. H. Dobson.

At 7 o'clock, Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glass, of Ireland, became the bride of Mr. John Morrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morrison of Scotland. The groom is very popular in sports circles in the district. Mrs. Thomas Young attended the bride, and Mr. Frank Rankin was groomsmen.

Quebec Telegraph: The baby may be a new wave on the ocean of life to some but a fresh squall to others.

The construction of up-to-date sanitary school buildings and for the valuable assistance given myself and the school nurses in providing working facilities and accommodations for the health supervision of the pupils. I also wish to offer my appreciation to our own public nursing staff and their faithful and untiring efforts in bringing health nursing and teaching to the schools and homes of this municipality.

In conclusion I wish to point out that health conditions are still far from perfect but with the hearty co-operation of every individual citizen together with that of our council, Board of Health, social and service clubs, physicians and other public organizations we can go on improving the health conditions of our community. Respectfully submitted, Dr. J. A. McInnis, M.O.H.

Joins Educational Staff of Consumers

Miss Ethel Beam, of New York to Assist in Recreational Work of Co-operative.

Charming and competent, two qualities that assure success, Miss Ethel Beam of New York City, arrived in town on Friday of last week to join Mr. Clifton of the Educational Staff of the Consumers' Co-operative Society as his assistant. Miss Beam has a deep interest in her work, and in speaking to The Advance reporter, stated that she had joined the Co-operative movement "because it fits in with my philosophy of life."

Miss Beam will remain in Timmins until June, and during that time she will take charge of the recreational work of the Consumers' Co-operative Club, that is folk dancing, dramatic work, film work, etc. She has had wide experience in this work, receiving her education at institutes which would help her in the co-operative work.

Miss Beam studied at New York University, Northwestern University, the National Co-operative Recreational Training School, and was for some time a teacher at the Rochdale Institute in New York City. To derive further knowledge of the co-operative work, and to aid her in her work of teaching at the Rochdale Institute, Miss Beam will study field work while in Timmins. Her visit to the North Land will provide her with a certain amount of experience in field work, which will enable her to "give more" to her work at the Institute.

The Rochdale Institute is the centre for all the leading members in the Co-operative movement in the United States. There, these leaders are able to study the movement in detail, and receive lectures delivered by the foremost authorities on the subject. Twenty-nine specialists form the staff of the Institute.

The purpose of these teachers and the institute itself, is to make the members of the co-operative societies realize that to fully enjoy the brilliance of the life that is given to them, they must co-operate not only in their business life but also in their social activities. Miss Beam explained that the recreational movement is attempting to make co-operation a "very whole thing" which will pleasantly occupy all the time of the member.

To form a co-operative society, she said, the different peoples gathered together, and started a business. With common interests these people would form groups that enjoy their social life as one happy gathering. That is the purpose of her visit—the promotion of "group feeling". Miss Beam said that most of the co-operative stores were started by groups of Finnish people, and although they often met with failure, these people held together. By holding together in social life as well, success and happiness may be attained.

In concluding the interview, Miss Beam said that she greatly admired this district "because the people are so genuine."

Winners of Prizes at the Merry Maids "500" Club

A happy evening was spent by the Merry Maids Five Hundred Club on Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Singleton, Government Road, when the members of the club gathered there to hold their regular weekly card party.

Attractive prizes were awarded the winners at five hundred: 1st, Mrs. McGarry; 2nd, Mrs. Bennett; and 3rd, Mrs. Devine. Following the cards the hostess served a pleasing lunch, and despite the storm the members enjoyed a very delightful event.

Valentine Party by the Finnish Y.P.S.

Committee Appointed to Look After Activities.

Group No. 1 of the Y.P.S. of Timmins Finnish United Church is in charge of the Valentine party in the Church building, Friday, Feb. 10th, at 8 p.m., and every member of the Y.P.S. is expected to be present.

At the business meeting of the Y.P.S. held last week (Friday), the entire membership of the Y.P.S. was divided into three groups, each of which will have complete charge of the activities one Friday evening of each month. During the next three months one Friday of each month will be devoted to educational activities, one to activities on social lines, one to recreational activities and one Friday evening will be used for the business meeting. The Y.P.S. Board of Directors including the conveners of the standing committees will co-operate with each group as required. The aim is to make every member an active member. During the month of February these Friday evenings will be open only to members of the Y.P.S. and their invited guests, but it is expected that starting with the month of March three Friday evenings will be open to the public. At the business meeting last Friday, when the three groups were formed, it was pointed out that possibly some members would feel at first too timid to appear in public with their talents, but one month should be enough to give courage to each member for his or her part in the carrying out of the programme allotted to him or her that night. The group which will be in charge of the educational night in February, will in March be in charge of the social night, and in April of the recreational activities. Thus each group will in turn get a training in all the different kinds of activities of the Y.P.S.

Miss Gertrude Heinenon is the convener of Group 1, consisting of nine members. In addition to the activities presented by Group No. 1, for a Valentine Party, a triple Birthday Party will also be a special attraction this week Friday, Feb. 10th.

Saturday evening, Feb. 11th, from 7 to 9.30, the officers, teachers and pupils of the Sunday School, the Bible Classes and the Communicants' Class will sponsor a public Valentine Party for all children of Finnish-speaking parents in Timmins, Schumacher and South Porcupine. This public Valentine Party will also be held in the Timmins Finnish United Church. Admission is free to all. And if some parents wish to get a decade or two younger that night—they too will be gladly welcomed to share in the event.

New Temagami Mining Company Incorporated

Sey-Bert Temagami Mines has been incorporated with 3,000,000 share capital to take over and develop a group of nine claims in Strathly Township, Temagami district. Company's charter was granted Jan. 14 and vendor shares were allotted Jan. 26, 1939. Funds for development will be supplied through the Buffalo directors and it is expected work will be wholly financed in the United States.

While only a limited amount of work has been done to date, George M. Lee, mining engineer, considers chances for developing commercial ore deposits reasonable. Preliminary work has been confined mainly to the area where the granite-greenstone, greenstone-peridotite and granite-peridotite contacts meet. Quartz vein, stripped for 50 feet, returned \$13.30 a ton from a chipped grab sample across 8 feet. Channel sample across 18 inches at depth of 8 feet in a pit gave \$66.15. Sampling by an independent engineer gave values up to \$122 across width ranging to 30 inches. In addition to this work, stripping has been done on quartz exposures in various parts of the property.

Wedding at Notre Dame des Lourdes

Miss Marie Thersa Leblanc and Mr. Owen John Gravelle Married.

The Notre Dame des Lourdes Roman Catholic Church was the scene of an attractive wedding on Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock, when Marie Thersa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Leblanc, of 111 Bannerman avenue, became the bride of Mr. Owen John Gravelle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Gravelle, of Pembroke, Ontario. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion with roses and other flowers, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Fr. A. Morin.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was charming in an ensemble of rust crepe, with matching accessories, and carried a bouquet of pink and white roses and fern.

The groom was attended by Mr. Frank Seglar. After the ceremony, a wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride's parents. The bride's mother received the guests, becomingly attired in a navy blue afternoon dress.

In the evening the bride and groom received their numerous friends at a reception in the Hollinger Recreation hall, the bride choosing for the occasion a gown of hunters' green velvet.

Mr. and Mrs. Gravelle will reside on Wilson avenue, Timmins.

Dies from Injuries from Circular Saw

Buried at Papineauville, Que., This Week.

Suffering terribly from wounds received when a motor driven circular saw broke loose and slashed him horribly about the head and chest, Emory Robinson, wood contractor, died in St. Mary's Hospital on Monday, January 6th, at noon.

The late Mr. Robinson was born in Papineauville, Quebec, and came to Timmins four years ago to engage in the wood contracting business. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Robinson, of Papineauville.

The deceased was injured while engaged in his business of wood cutting. The saw broke loose from its bearing, and swung around on the belt, hitting the unfortunate man several times.

Rushed to St. Mary's Hospital, doctors tried to aid the injured man, but knew they would be unable to save his life. Complications set in on Sunday evening, and on Monday morning the attending physicians knew that the injured man would not survive through the day.

The late Mr. Robinson resided at 150 Main avenue. He was forty-four years of age, and survived by his mother and father, eight brothers, and three sisters.

After the accident, two brothers from Cochrane and his mother, from Papineauville, arrived in town, and accompanied the remains to Papineauville on Tuesday, for interment there.

There is reported to be considerable activity in the Temagami district, by present operators and in staking. At least 30 claims to the east of Sey-Bert property were recorded in Halleybury last week and different interests are reported to have acquired claims to the southwest and northeast.

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Excursion travel will be handled on Train No. 45, connecting at North Bay with C. N. Train No. 2
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