

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

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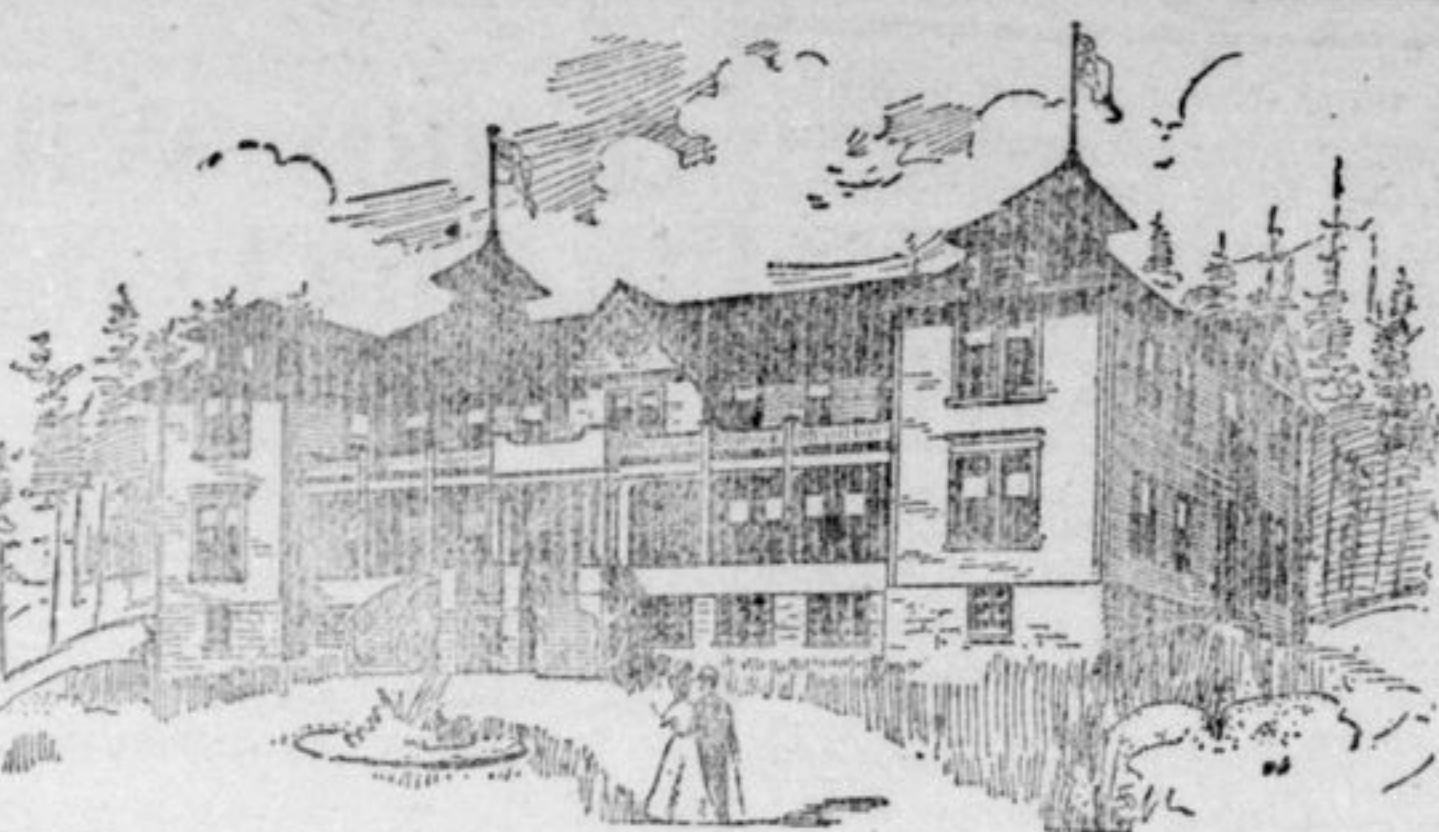
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Nov. 9, '03.

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Not a single patient has ever been refused admittance because of his or her poverty.

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From Bishop of Selkirk, Caribou Crossing, Yukon: "The trifling remittance (\$10.00) herewith enclosed, is intended to express our sympathy for the sufferers in other parts rather than imply a special need for your institution here."

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J. K. Macdonald, Esq., Managing Director Confederation Life Association, in sending cheque for \$500.00 from his Company, says: "I am pleased to be able to be the medium of helping on so good a work."

Funds Urgently Needed

The financial reports for the year just ending show that to keep the doors of the Free Hospital for Consumptives open, maintaining the number of patients for which accommodation has been provided, not less than \$25,000 is required for the year now entered upon.

Since the Free Hospital was opened (18 months ago) 224 patients have been received. The help the institution has been to these people—all from the wage-earning and poorer ranks of life—cannot be estimated in human language.

Edward D. Heddon, Solina, Ont., on leaving the Free Hospital, writes: "I cannot speak too highly of the institution from which I have received so much benefit. I can but tender my best thanks for the kindness shown."

Minnie Linklater, Hamilton, writes: "I have spent over nine months at the Free Hospital for Consumptives. I believe I have been greatly helped, and shall never hesitate to use my influence to further that good cause."

There is no endowment, excepting the provision made by three life insurance companies for six beds for the current year. Only by the continued contributions of the Canadian public can the work be maintained.

Patients are accepted from every part of the Dominion, and there have been in residence during the past year patients from Prince Edward Island on the east to the Northwest Territories on the west.

Contributions may be sent to Sir W. R. Meredith, Kt., Vice-President National Sanitarium Association, or Mr. W. J. Gage, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Toronto, Can.

Cheese Boxes.

At the dairy conventions recently held Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Chief of the Dairy Division, Ottawa, made a strong appeal for better cheese boxes. Boxes are, said he, necessary to protect the cheese from injury in transportation, to facilitate their handling, and to permit their being piled several tiers deep in a warehouse without being crushed out of shape. Without the boxes cheese could not be delivered in Great Britain in a representable condition. Now, if it is desirable to have cheese in boxes at all, it is surely important that the box should be strong enough to reach its destination in a sound condition. A great many shipments of cheese are landed on the other side with twenty five per cent of the boxes broken. Indeed some reports from the inspectors show a large percentage. This simple means that one quarter of the money paid for the boxes has been spent to no purpose. And that is not all, for the broken boxes in a shipment, while detracting from the actual value of the cheese which they once contained, make the whole lot less attractive to a purchaser.

What are the reasons for this unsatisfactory state of affairs? In the first place we have increased the weight of our cheese, and at the same time reduced the strength of the box by using thinner veneer and an inferior quality of elm. It is evident also that there are many box makers who have never properly learned their trade, as a large proportion of the boxes are only half put together.

The increasing cost and scarcity of elm, and the demands of cheese manufacturers for a cheap box, have induced the veneer cutters to reduce the thickness of the veneer, until much of that now offered for sale is entirely too flimsy for the purpose. It should never be cut less than full five to the inch. A great deal of it is six and some seven to the inch.

Another fault in the veneer is that the log is often not boiled sufficiently to soften the wood; consequently the veneer knife shatters it while cutting and gives it a tendency to split easily. Another result of insufficient boiling or steaming is that the salts of the wood are not extracted; consequently boxes made from such stock mould very readily.

When I began buying boxes for the cool curing rooms, said Mr. Ruddick, I insisted upon getting heavy selected veneers. The box makers tried to persuade me to accept the thin veneer, some claiming that it would stand more rough usage than the thicker material. I have had to give two cents above the regular price for such boxes, but it paid to do so, for the reports on shipments from the curing room showed only one and two per cent broken. Of course these shipments were all carefully loaded into the cars and not left standing four or five tiers high, to be thrown down and smashed by the first shunt. Hundreds of boxes are broken in that way. I believe there is almost enough wasted in trimming boxes, either in the cheese factory, or at the warehouse to make up this difference of two cents. Boxes are now worth at least one cent per inch in depth, and that part which is cut away is absolute waste.

If boxes are not thoroughly dry when put on the cheese, the growth of mould is started. This is particularly the case in cold weather when the boxes dry slowly.

In aiming to have the cheese fit the boxes without trimming, it is well to remember that a box which measures twelve inches deep when newly made, will shrink to eleven and a half inches as it dries out. The same box will expand again to nearly its original depth after it has been in a warehouse for a week or so, because it absorbs moisture from the cheese. In fitting dry boxes to the cheese it is necessary, therefore, to have the cheese

project at least one quarter of an inch above the edge of the box. One would think it hardly necessary to call attention to the importance of having the box of the proper diameter to fit the cheese snugly. No box will support the handling that is not supported by the cheese on the inside. Yours very truly W. A. CLEMONS, Publication Clerk.

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