

LUNATIC HOSPITAL INQUIRY

One of the Commissioners Threatens To Retire.

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

Are Present and Take an Active Part—The Commission Define Their Position—Trustee Board Claim That they Did Not Know the Building Was Cold—Mr. Cotton on the Witness Stand—Mr. Peters Delivers Himself on Mr. Cotton's Position—Matilda Wrote the Note.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Dr. H. D. Johnson sworn.

He has been practicing in the city for a number of years. He lived in the asylum for four months in 1885, during Dr. Blanchard's absence. He had just graduated, and had taken lectures on insanity, but had no experience in treating insanity previous to that time. The patients were not classified then. He attempted to classify them on his own account. The place was considered to be full. There was a complaint of overcrowding at that time. It was at least as full as it should be. He remained there over night. He gave medicine and visited the patients at night. No record was kept. There was a prescription book. There was no history kept except the report of the cases as they entered the hospital. There was no written report as to whether the patient had other diseases. He had

been called up at night several times, but not often. He administered the remedies himself, and during his absence Mr. R. McDonald administered. It would be a great advantage to have trained nurses, and a permanent doctor is a necessity. He saw the food food when he was in the wards. The was plain and apparently good. Did not know about the heat as it was summer. There was an order given to look after the beds. The house was kept clean as could be. He had the privilege of refusing admission to patients, but did not have specific instructions whom to refuse. He thought that the doctor should be expert in mental diseases as well as an ordinary practitioner. Expert knowledge tends to the recovery of the patients. After graduation a medical man should go into a large institution and take a thorough course in the treatment of the insane. There are such institutions. One of the defects in the management is the want of a resident physician. Trained nurses should be in the institution. There is too much economy exercised. For instance in drugs; the cry when he was there was, "you are spending too much money." More money should be expended in treating the insane. The patients should be classified and proper work provided for them. The employes should be free from government control. The Board should also be free from government control. The whole institution should be free from government control. The occupation has much to do with the patients. There should be a hospital room in connection with the institution.

Salt Rheum for 5 Years

The prompt and permanent relief that Burdock Blood Bitters gives from the burning, itching and endless torture of salt rheum is something that cannot be obtained through the use of any other remedy.

Even in the worst cases of long standing when applied externally and taken internally according to directions it cures quickly and completely.

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ANOTHER SNAP

We have too many Glass Preserve Jars (quart size) on hand. So in order to reduce our stock at once we have decided to put the price of them

"away down," It will pay you to buy now, even if you won't require them till next season.

BEER & GOFF'S.

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Spring Trade

The time has come when you should look up your wardrobe and see how you are fixed for spring wear. In the event of your deciding to invest in a suit or overcoat, etc., act promptly by ordering the same from

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pointed on merit only. The authorities should have the power to discharge the doctor. He had held the above ideas for years. Doctor Blanchard is a man who knows his business very well.

To Mr. Rogers—Witness had not any special qualification in treating insane people. He considered the average of cures should be based on the number of curables. He did not think it fair to take the average of the incurables with the curables. There should be two departments, one for incurables and one for curables. He thought Dr. Blanchard an intelligent practitioner and that he knew his business well. He had often consulted Dr. Blanchard in cases of his own practice, and found him clever. In as much as insanity is often caused by diseases of other organs than the brain, it would be advisable for the doctor to consult with other specialists in some cases. The history of the patient should be taken and the patient thoroughly examined as to all his organs.

To Mr. Rogers (city)—McDonald had the medicines there and he found him very reliable. He found him reliable in all he pretended to do. He never knew him to make a mistake. McDonald on the whole is a pretty smart man. As a principle, witness did not think it advisable to have untrained men compound drugs; but McDonald was quite competent to administer drugs when mixed.

To Hon. Jas. R. McLean—He thought it not good practice to leave the institution without a medical attendant for days. Of course when patients are about the usual way it might be safe.

To Mr. Rogers—The chances of recovery are better if the doctor visits his patient every day.

To Dr. Conroy—He had heard that restraining appliances were not used in some institutions, but if they are excluded it would be necessary to have a staff of nurses thoroughly trained and of good ability.

Minnie Doherty sworn.

To Dr. Conroy: She had been employed two years in the Asylum. Witness took one night in the week as watch. She thought that the patients are well looked after. The food given the patients is about the same as given attendants. Sometimes the meat was not good. Some days there would be a strong smell and taste of the meat, but she did not know whether it occurred before or after it reached the Asylum. The patients have complained more than once. She thought things are all well enough. All the attendants were complaining in the spring among themselves. She knew Mary Jane McInnis. She did not complain to any member of the neglect.

To Mr. Rogers: There were specks in the porridge for a while in the spring. The milk was not good, there was grounds in it. It was worse than she had seen at home. The milk is all right now. Sometimes the porridge was not cooked, not often. The porridge used by the patients is the same as that used by the attendants. There is not any difference made between the attendants and patients in the preparation of food. She did not know whether the meat was bad when it came or not. She had not heard any complaint of sick patients being neglected. She had not been warned about telling outsiders of the ill treatment of patients. She never heard the patients complain. She never knew of the water freezing on the floor, nor of the patients being cold in bed. Sometimes the patients would kick the clothes off and be naked an hour. She had to wear extra clothes in doing her duty. Patients that are violent are locked in the guard rooms. The attendants go to see them every hour. The patients are never kept in the rooms all day, but are let out some hours during the day. The beds are changed and clean sheets are used. She did not know of patients suffering from being cold in the rooms.

To Dr. Conroy—The female patients wear two woolen skirts, shoes and a dress beside; also woolen stockings.

To Mr. Rogers—She did not know of snow beating in. She never had occasion to gather up snow. She never heard any of the patients complain of cold at night. If the sheets are not left out she went and got them.

Hon. Jas. R. McLean (sworn)—To Mr. Rogers—He is a trustee. The duty of a trustee is to visit the institution once a month to see that things are all right; to see that the building is properly ventilated and the food is good; that the engineer is doing his duty; that the apparatus is good, etc. The supplies are bought by tender. The meat, flour, tea, sugar, clothing, etc., is purchased by tender. Samples are sent and the best article selected for money to be paid. Mr. J. A. Farquharson's tender for flour was the lowest. He delivered some that was not good, but when notified he changed the brand. The store keeper inspects the food. If the meat is too plentiful, it is corned. The patients like salt meat. A quarter to a half carcass is taken at a time. There has not been any complaint of late; about a year ago the butter was not good. The supervisor and medical attendant have not complained of insubordination. The attendants are sometimes suggested for appointment by the Premier. The choice is left with the Superintendent. He knew of none appointed for political principles. He believed that the in-

fluence of the attendants have a good deal to do with the recovery of the patients. There was a complaint some time ago about the heating. The flue is defective. The blast system of heating is in contemplation—the same system as in Prince of Wales college. The complaint about the heating was not heard until this summer, and that was by the Grand Jury. He had no knowledge of neglect. The building is overcrowded. In 1891 he had the closets replaced, and steel clad baths were placed in. The wash basins were removed because they were not clean, and broken. The duties of the doctor are those of a medical attendant. It always occurred to him that the time given by the doctor to the patients was insufficient. The small percentage of cures is explained by the large number of idiots admitted. He had never made a study of the percentage. The board had never discussed the percentage particularly. There are patients there who should not be there. Many would become well if separated from the idiotic class. It is impossible to separate them under existing circumstances. The employment of the patients is necessary. Many are carpenters, and Mr. McPhail has them at work at their trade.

To Dr. Conroy.—The medical Superintendent employs the hands. He, (Mr. McLean) never made any appointments. He understood that the medical attendant was consulted. It might be possible that the males are appointed without the medical Superintendent's permission. He thought \$1000 a small salary for a doctor who would give his whole time to the institution. Mr. Ball supplies the meat at the present time. Mr. Henderson transferred his contract to Mr. Ball. The trustees visit the institution month about. The medical superintendent accompanies the trustees as a rule. No doubt it would be advisable to have a medical man on the Board.

To Mr. McEachern.—The government like to see how things are going.

To Dr. Conroy—The trustees never receive any report as to the conditions of patients. He felt disappointed that he had not heard of a death some time ago. People throughout the province are sometimes surprised to hear of the death of relatives.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Dr. Blanchard recalled:

To Dr. Conroy—Mr. Farquharson engages the male attendants. He [Dr. B.] was never consulted in the matter of employing the male attendants. Up to the time the McLeod administration went out of power he used to employ the attendants. He had nothing to complain of in the matter of obedience. The female attendants are, as a rule, employed by the Medical Superintendent or Mr. McPhail. The Trustees do not visit the institution as the trustees used to do in former years. They do not take the same interest, or at least they do not manifest it if they do. Formerly the Trustees would average two visits in a week. In the year 1883 some 119 visits were made by the Trustees. After the change of administration the visits were less, and last year there were 14 visits for the year. He had told the Government that the inmates had no sufficient accommodation. At one time the patients were classified; but the place became overcrowded, especially when he removed to the city the understanding was that he was to devote a part of his time to practice. The salary is too small for all his time to be devoted to the hospital. He was refused more salary when he asked for it. There is no hospital in the institution, but the convalescents have a single room allotted to them.

To Mr. Rogers.—The hospital was never used, as there was plenty of room in the wards at first. The present building will accommodate 140 patients; it will not accommodate more than 150. There were 120 patients when he asked for more room—that was in the year 1884, and was before the attic was made into rooms. The understanding at a meeting held then was that he should devote as much time to the institution as he thought would be sufficient. The arrangement was temporary. The Trustees took into account that his salary would be only \$1000. The efficiency of the institution has suffered by the absence of a resident physician. He had called the attention of the Trustees to the per centage of cures made. He had not had a formal consultation about the heating. Mr. McPherson made application for a boiler in October 1898. He (witness) had not asked for an improvement in the heating apparatus because it needed an entire change in the system of heating. The patients suffer from the cold. The temperature is taken morning and evening. The fires were on when the temperature was taken. The temperature should be 55 to 60 degrees, the former is rather cool. Of course the temperature is much lower at night.

Hon. Jas. R. McLean here took the floor and said that it had evidently slipped the doctor's memory that the present Government had placed a new boiler in 1894 and that the one now asked for is the second boiler.

Dr. Blanchard resumed:

To Mr. Rogers.—There are a worse

class of patients admitted now.

To Dr. Conroy.—He had no control over the admission of patients.

To Mr. Rogers.—He held the ground that no matter how helpless the case it should be under skilled treatment.

To Hon. Jas. R. McLean.—During the time of residence he gave all his time. He visited the patients in the forenoon, sometimes in the afternoon and always at night. After moving to Charlottetown, he spent from an hour and a half to five hours. Some times he visited twice a day and many times over night.

To Hon. Jas. R. McLean.—In cases where patients are dangerously ill they get special food. When the patients are very ill the relatives are notified either by telephone or letter. Dr. Fraser was practically dying for years. He had received no complaint from Dr. Fraser's relatives.

To Mr. Farquharson.—He had applied for more salary, but had been refused.

Mr. Farquharson said that he had no recollection of being asked for more salary. Mr. Farquharson then stated that as Chairman of the Board of Trustees he never knew anything about the cold hospital.

To Mr. Rogers.—There has not been extra fires. He had not applied for extra fires. It was a rule that the fires be banked no matter how cold.

Mr. Farquharson.—Then if the building was cold the Trustees never knew it.

Mr. McEachern said that this is not a question of Governments.

Mr. W. L. Cotton sworn.—He is Editor of the Examiner. He took an active interest in the public institutions and had visited the Asylum on several occasions. The building is kept very clean indeed. Sometimes a slight odor was noticeable in some rooms. He never visited the Asylum at night, it was in the afternoons. He tasted the bread and it was good. He never was in the larder. He never noticed how the food was cooked, but saw it on the tables. He knew nothing of the conduct of the officials. A letter was received during his absence and when he returned it was handed to him and after enquiring into the matter he decided to publish the letter in the Examiner. He knew nothing of the charges personally. As far as he knew the correspondent is of good character. He thought the correspondent knew a good deal about it. He did not know where she is now. He had given the names of witnesses to the Chairman of the Commission. Some came into his office of their own accord and some he sent for. Minnie Doherty's name was given when the letter appeared in June last. He objected to give the name of the correspondent. The name was included in the list he gave Mr. Rogers and one was employed in the institution at the time. He thought the others had left the institution.

Mr. Farquharson said that he would like to say that in the Examiner newspaper Mr. Cotton had taken him [Mr. Farquharson] to task and said that perhaps he would try and fix up the report of the Commission. He thought Mr. Cotton as editor should aid the Commission in securing all the evidence possible.

Mr. A. P. Peters said that he thought it most an extraordinary proceeding for a witness not to answer the questions asked. Mr. Cotton had no more privilege than any other witness.

Mr. Rogers—You must leave the matter with us, the Commission.

Mr. Peters afterward said it was a burlesque and an injustice. He (Mr. Cotton) has no more privilege than any other man. He has no privilege and has got to tell the truth and the whole truth.

To Mr. Rogers.—Mr. Cotton proceeded to state that the first letter came when he was away in the country. The second letter was not inspired by him. He had given all the evidence possible.

Dr. Conroy then stated that the duty of the Commission is to acquire into the state of the institution. Politics would have nothing to do with the work of the Commission, at least so far as he was concerned. The duty of this Commission is not to confirm statements made by Mary Jane McInnis and as far as he was concerned it would be conceded in that manner, or he would retire from the Commission. The letter in the Examiner is not mentioned in the scope of their enquiry.

Mr. A. Peters said that he admitted that Dr. Conroy understood his position as Commissioner. But here is a charge made by a person who is presumed to know and here you have the very man on the witness stand who can give you the name. That woman should be got and brought before the Commission. If her sworn statements confirm the statements made in that letter the institution needs renovating.

To Mr. Rogers.—Mr. Cotton said that he had given all the information on the list furnished.

Mr. S. Blanchard.—I suggest you ask Mr. Cotton if Mary Jane McInnis wrote that letter.

Mr. Rogers.—Did Mary Jane McInnis write the letter?

Mr. Cotton.—No!

Mr. Rogers.—Did Matilda write the letter?

Mr. Cotton.—Yes!

Hon. Jas. R. McLean said he supposed that the Commissioners knew that Miss McInnis applied for the position of matron.

Dr. Conroy—That will come out in the evidence and we will find that out before we get through.

Mr. McPhail recalled:

To Dr. Conroy He could not say whether the meat become tainted before or after its arrival at the Hospital. Mr. McDonald would know. He believed the refrigerator would keep the meat good. He remembered the cleaning of the sewerage tank. He had some men take the dirt away and spread it on a field. It was diluted with the water and was not very offensive. He did not know of the soil pipe filling up. The sewerage is not carried out past low water mark. He had felt the effects of the offense at the house. There are only the ordinary beds in the house. There are no special beds provided for extreme paralysed cases.

Hon. Jas. R. McLean—There never were any dismissals since the present government come into power. The patient is less liable to be abused now than previously owing to the experience of the attendants. The attendants are better trained in kindness than formerly.

Dr. Blanchard said he took exception to that statement and contended that the attendants had always been trained to be kind to the patients.

Mr. Farquharson—The man is on oath and cannot be interrupted.

Mr. Rogers then told Dr. Blanchard that he would have an opportunity to speak afterwards.

Mr. McPhail then modified his statement and Dr. Blanchard said that he was satisfied with modification.

Mr. H. Smith sworn:

To Mr. Rogers—He is secretary to the Board of Trustees. There was only one complaint and that was by Mary Jane McInnis. The supplies are got by tenders and are supposed to be of the best quality. The tenders do not call for special brands.

He knew nothing about the quality of the flour, knew nothing of the trustee's business. They mark the tenders, he considered the best is necessary. There is no specified quantity, and the bills differ.

(Continued on the Third Page.)

INFORMATION FOR SHOPPING BY MAIL

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POSTAGE RATES—4th class matter—Parcels may be sent by mail at the cost of 1 cent per ounce (16c per lb). The limit in weight is 5 pounds, and in size 12 inches deep, 12 inches wide, and 24 inches in length. Should goods ordered weigh over 5 pounds, they can be put up in two or more parcels.

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