

Minister Says Too Early To Assess Hospital Plan

"Will Prince Edward Island's premium system of financing the hospital insurance plan prove satisfactory? Health Minister Dr. Robert McNeill said last evening, "It is too soon to tell."

The Minister of Health said that 98 per cent of the province's population was covered by the plan but foresaw the possibility of a cutback to about 85 per cent or a little more as has happened in other provinces when some private individuals stopped paying their premiums.

"The hospital insurance plan has been in operation here less than three months. When it was first discussed there was apprehension in some quarters that the hospitals would be flooded with patients and that doctors would be unable to cope with the situation."

"In a series of interviews with officials in all three counties it was found that, generally speaking, some hospitals had a noticeable increase in admissions and discharges but also a much shorter patient day stay in hospital."

"Other hospitals did not notice any appreciable difference since the hospital plan came into effect compared to the same period last year."

NOT OPPOSED

"From the insurance company standpoint, no one contacted appeared to be violently opposed to having the government take the basic ward rate structure off their backs."

"One spokesman for a national group insurance sales plan commended the introduction of hospital insurance for having made people more conscious of improved hospital insurance accommodation."

"The manager of one of the province's largest private insurance companies stated that they were increasing insurance plan coverages to include private room rates and cover patients' loss of income while in hospital," the minister said.

The next question posed was what effect the hospital insurance plan had on the individual hospitals from a financial standpoint?

Some reported deficits, placing the blame on uncollectable accounts owed by uninsured persons but, as one official stated, "if the hospitals can not operate on a business basis and collect their overdue accounts from persons capable of paying them, they should turn to community support as was always the case in the past."

COMMISSION STATEMENT

In view of the fact that some misunderstanding may still exist regarding the relation of the hospital insurance plan to the general hospitals throughout the province, the following statement was requested from the Hospital Services Commission and released last evening by the chairman Dr. L.E. Prowse:

"According to the agreement signed between the federal and provincial governments, the federal government will share in payment for the actual cost of hospital care provided to persons insured under the plan. This does not allow hospitals to

make a profit on their operations.

"Patient care which is the responsibility of various other agencies such as Workmen's Compensation, Department of Veterans Affairs, and others is paid for also on the basis of actual cost."

"Under any hospital insurance plan which is not compulsory for persons who are not insured. In some cases this may be due to actual inability to pay the premium required and where this is apparent following a means test, they will be regarded as hospital indigents and their hospital bill will be paid from provincial and federal sources."

HOSPITALS' RESPONSIBILITY

"This leaves only the group who are able to insure themselves but who do not wish to avail themselves of the benefits of the plan. As in the past, responsibility for collecting from this group must remain with the hospitals."

"When the hospital insurance plan was inaugurated all current assets, including uncollected accounts, were left with the hospital. In all cases these assets were considered adequate to meet the current expenditures of hospital operation. It should be noted that hospitals have always been one of three months in arrears in the collection of accounts. The hospital insurance plan is designed to pay hospital costs for insured persons within 30-60 days of the incurring of the account, so providing more prompt payment than was formerly the case."

"Payments to hospitals are based on an annual budget submitted by the board of trustees of each hospital and approved by the Hospital Services Commission. This budget is established on the basis of expected utilization of the hospital, and where a greater number of patient days of care is provided, the commission makes an adjustment to compensate."

"It is fully realized that any hospital may incur additional extraordinary expenditures which could not be foreseen at the time the original budget was submitted. Where this occurs, the commission has agreed to support the additional costs where such expenditures can be justified."

Refugees

(Continued from page 1) his daughter Dognomila, 28, and his son Jovan, 27, crossed into Italy from Yugoslavia four months ago. They were unable to migrate because Jovan is suffering from TB.

Before their escape, Krisan served a year in jail for open opposition of communism. The family was in constant trouble because of its persistence in openly demonstrating its belief in the Serbian Orthodox religion.

Pavel Covic, 25, escaped to Italy in 1951 when he was 17 years of age seeking freedom to practice the Roman Catholic faith. He was married in 1955 to a Yugoslav refugee and learned he had TB in 1956.

Covic and five others crossed the Adriatic Sea to Italy in 1951 in a small fishing boat.

CAMEO
KENSINGTON
Playing Friday and Saturday 7:15 - 9:15
Matinee Saturday 1 p.m.
"Ma And Pa Kettle at the Fair"
Yes it's an oldie but still funny.

PROCLAMATION
Saturday, Dec. 26, 1959 has been proclaimed a civic holiday in the Town of Souris.

Signed
Wendell Birt
Mayor

"CITIZENS OF MONTAGUE"
Personally inspect your own property for fire hazard. Make this a fire free holiday.

At this time I would like to thank all for their kind co-operation and wish you the best holiday season ever.

D. H. COFFIN, Fire Chief.

MAYFAIR
THEATRE, MURRAY RIVER
Fri.-Sat. Dec. 25-26, Time 8 p.m.
"PARIS HOLIDAY"

In Color with Bob Hope, Anita Ekberg and Marsha Hyer
A terrific comedy-drama. Fast action. The best Bob Hope Show ever produced—believe it or not.
We Extend Season's Greetings—Mayfair Theatre Corp.

Islanders Facing Prospect Of 'Green' Yuletide Season

SUMMERSIDE BUREAU OF THE GUARDIAN

A light snowfall is all that is needed to make the Christmas scene complete, but with Christmas literally only hours away, it looks as if old man winter has forgotten the Island this year, for the time being at least, and Island residents will be celebrating a "Green Christmas" this year.

The absence of snow however, does not alter the Christmas spirit and feeling of good will, which prevails over the land at this time of year.

For months now people have been doing their Christmas shopping in order to escape the hustle and confusion of last minute shoppers, who leave everything until the time draws near for that jolly old gentleman to make his appearance.

All over the province residents have been busy during past weeks decorating their houses and establishments and making preparations for that one big day.

SANTA CLAUS LANE
In Summerside, Christmas

Lost Gift Is Returned

MONTAGUE—Honesty, one of the qualities shared by St. Nicholas and most individuals, made Mel MacDougall of Canada Packers one of the jolly old lad's Christmas assistants.

While travelling between Montague and Charlottetown, Mr. MacDougall noticed a large carton on the road, and on investigating, found it contained a quite valuable Christmas gift, obviously for some child.

Wishing to return it to the rightful owner, Mr. MacDougall took the gift home and waited for the morning Guardian which contained a lost ad for the missing carton.

Mr. MacDougall was only too happy to have the gift returned in time for Christmas.

trees have been erected on every parking meter on Water Street, the main business section of the town and each merchant has decorated the trees that appear in front of his establishment with the result that each side of the street presents the appearance of a long column of brightly colored lights: which has been

appropriately named "Santa Claus Lane."

Not to be outdone the town of Kensington has strung multicolored lights at intervals across each approach to the town and across many of the main streets. This project was completed by the Lion's Club with the co-operation of the merchants in the town.

The same is true for practically all Island centres as homes, stores, lawns, streets, trees in front of the residences, all bearing Christmas scenes and decorations.

Although many people enjoy the trip into the woods to get their Christmas tree, there are some people that take the easy way out and buy their tree. For the latter the Summerside Y's Men have been selling trees since Dec. 10th with such success that several hundred trees have been sold.

NATIVITY SCENE

The Y's Men also supplied the trees for Santa Claus Lane and have erected a Nativity scene in a parking lot on Water Street, which is attracting a great deal of attention from passersby, who take time out from their Christmas shopping to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

This evening as many of the boys and girls are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Santa, members of the Summerside Legion, Kinsmen Club and A.Y.P.A. will be delivering gifts and toys to needy families in the area.

The Legion also gives families of needy veterans a complete Christmas dinner consisting of a turkey, potatoes, cranberry sauce and all the trimmings.

Aketa CGIT Holds Vespers

MONTAGUE—The Aketa CGIT group held its national Christmas vesper service last Sunday at Trinity United Church, Montague.

The leader Mrs. Lloyd Fraser, conducted the service assisted by Miss Norma Anear and Miss Barbara Mabon.

The scripture passages were very effectively read in unison by the group.

Assisted by the senior choir, the girls sang "Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" and "O Holy Night" with Florence MacDougall taking the solo part. Mrs. L. A. Johnston presided at the organ.

Those taking the part of candle lighters were Elizabeth Swanson, Donna Campbell, and Faye Pearson.

Serving as ushers were Dorothy Anear and Mary Hewitt and the offering was received by Myrna Beck and Marilyn Anear.

Following the recessional hymn, Rev. J. M. Fraser pronounced the benediction.

NOTICE

The following places of business will be closed on Christmas and Boxing Days, Dec. 25th and 26th.

We thank you for your co-operation and extend to you our appreciation for your patronage during the year and wish you A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Waddell Bros. Parker Canfield
Crapaud Creamery S. D. Dixon
Mac's Meat Market Crapaud Barbe Shop

CHRISTMAS

Perhaps
It's not until late at night,
When the last gift
Is wrapped and tied . . .

The tree lights are turned on . . .
The children are asleep,
That the real meaning of
Christmas
Comes once again to us.

The holly . . .
The carols . . .
The hustle . . . bustle . . . and
The gifts
Are but a small part
Of the Christmas spirit.

A spirit that expresses
The love of God
And mankind . . .
Kindling with the birth
Of a Babe,
A new hope for the future,
And a trust

That His guidance will
Help us find our way to
Peace for men of goodwill.

May that Love . . .
Hope . . . and Trust
be yours this Christmas
. . . and always.

Hennessey Funeral Home
Kent Street, Charlottetown



ALL PATIENTS ARE REMEMBERED

The White Cross Christmas gift campaign, sponsored by the P.E.I. branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, has made sure no patient at Riverside Hospital will be forgotten this year. The drive for gifts was begun some four weeks ago and the response was excellent, Arthur Peake, president of the branch said yesterday. The gifts were collected at receiving centres in Souris, Montague, Charlottetown, Summerside, and Alberton and brought to the hospital

Murder Attempt Hearing Set For Souris Dec. 30th

MONTAGUE BUREAU OF THE GUARDIAN

The hearing of an attempted murder charge against Joseph Scully of Morell Indian Reserve was adjourned until Dec. 30th by Magistrate James B. Johnston, QC, in Kings County Magistrate's Court at Georgetown yesterday.

The hearing is now set for Souris and Scully has been remanded to jail. He is charged with attempting to murder his son, Peter Scully with a 22-caliber rifle on or about Dec. 15th.

The accused is represented by J.P. Nicholson of Charlottetown. The wounded man is a patient in the Charlottetown Hospital where he is reported to be recovering from the bullet wound.

Louis Allan Joseph Acorn of Lower Montague charged under the Excise Act had his case adjourned for two weeks with the consent of M. J. McQuaid, QC, representing the Revenue Department and J.P. Nicholson representing the accused.

A resident of St. Mary's Road was fined \$20 and costs for having liquor which had not been purchased on individual permit.

FIVE DRIVERS

Raymond Benjamin McKee-man, Point Pleasant, was fined \$75 and costs following the completion of evidence in a charge of driving while impaired. He was represented by Mr. Nicholson.

George Sextus McPhee of St. Georges, charged with having the care and control of a motor vehicle while impaired had further crown evidence against him. His case was adjourned to Jan. 6th. Mr. Nicholson, represented the accused.

George Francis Rose of St. Andrews charged with driving while impaired had his case adjourned for two weeks. He was not represented by counsel.

Russel William McIntyre, Mt. Stewart, charged with driving while intoxicated also with joy riding had both charges against him adjourned to Dec. 30th at Souris. He was represented by

ISLAND BRIEFS

WITH PARENTS

Kenneth MacDonald, student at Dalhousie Law School, will spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacDonald, Commercial Cross.

AT BLOOMFIELD

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scates, Free-town, are welcome Christmas guests of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.R. MacCausland, Bloomfield.

STUDENT HOME

Lawrence Lewis, student at Dalhousie University, is spending Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lewis, Cascumpec.

OFFICERS TESTIFY

It was inadvertently reported in yesterday's paper that three fisheries officers testified that Upton Fraser, Alberton South fisherman was present in a boat stopped by a fisheries patrol boat in an incident earlier this year. Although three fisheries officers testified in the court case at Summerside on Tuesday, only one said that Mr. Fraser was present in the boat. The other two said they could not identify him as being present at the time in

weeks ago and the response was excellent, Arthur Peake, president of the branch said yesterday. The gifts were collected at receiving centres in Souris, Montague, Charlottetown, Summerside, and Alberton and brought to the hospital

They will be distributed to the patients tonight. Here Mrs. Laura Kilchen, of the School of Nursing and Dr. A. J. Murchison, hospital superintendent, admire the glittering array of presents that have been collected.