

THE AMAZING ADVANCE IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

CALLS FOR CLOSE TO

Two Million Dollar Public Health Program In P. E. Island Annually

An expenditure of two millions of dollars is necessary each year for the Provincial Dept. of Health to keep pace with the amazing advance in medical science in recent years. Public Health has expanded in Prince Edward Island so quickly and comprehensively that it calls for one of the largest outlays of our local Government Departments.

However, the accomplishments of the all important services rendered cannot be measured in dollars and cents. The health of the citizens of Prince Edward Island is of first importance with our Provincial Liberal Government and their achievements in Public Health is one of the brightest chapters in their remarkable record of successful accomplishments.

One of our leading Island doctors tells the story as follows:

What I am most interested in as a physician, naturally, is the health of our people and what is being done not only to alleviate but also to prevent disease.

First, we must have hospitals and equipment for our doctors and nurses to work in. In this regard we have had unprecedented and very substantial assistance from the Provincial Liberal Government and the Federal Government as well. We receive large grants which enable us to construct and equip the most modern hospitals and nurses homes at Charlottetown, Summerside, Alberton, Montague, Souris and other important centres. And as you know, and as we in the medical profession are reminded every day, there has been an amazing advance in medical science in recent years. We can do things today that were impossible a few years ago. Much of this has been brought about by the unseen and too often unheralded scientists who work endlessly in the laboratories of the world to produce antibiotics and other therapeutic aids to medicine.

To take advantage of this the physician in his busy round of duties must have assistance and this is given most generously in this Province by our ever-expanding Department of Public Health. The ten divisions of this splendid Department have shown a tremendous growth in recent years in a consistent and successful effort to keep pace with the amazing advance in medical science.

POLIO

In this short space it would not be possible to give a complete and comprehensive account of the two million dollars worth of services rendered by the Division of Can-

cer Control, Mental Health, Public Health Nursing, Laboratories, T.B. Control and other health Departments. I will choose just one disease which has given us great anxiety for several years and the consequence of an epidemic of such disease are frightful to contemplate—I refer to Polio. With regard to Polio and its prevention and treatment the Provincial Department of Public Health has been forward, if not ahead, of other Provinces in combating this dread malady. In 1951 a polio centre was opened in Charlottetown for the treatment of patients crippled by polio. This treatment was given at no cost to the patient. In the past few years the Liberal Government also paid 50% of the necessary hospital and nursing care during the acute stage of the disease. Last year the capacity of the Government Polio Unit was sixteen beds (it has now been expanded to thirty beds). Because there were more chronic cases requiring immediate care than the Polio Unit would hold the Department of Health recommended, and the Matheson Government approved, that the excess cases be treated in general hospitals with the Matheson Government footing the bill.

THE SALK VACCINE

We have heard much lately of the new vaccine for the prevention of Polio and some of you might be wondering just what has been done by the Prince Edward Island Department of Public Health in this respect. As public servants they work quietly without fanfare and so little is known of the tremendous good they are doing for our people every day of the year. Outside the medical profession very few people know that the Provincial Department of Health was one of the first in North America to inoculate with the much publicized Salk Vaccine. In April of this year nearly 3000 Grade 1 children were inoculated with this vaccine and it is a tribute to the foresight and capability of our splendid Government Health officials that they had ordered enough vaccine to inoculate 500,000 of our children. We can appreciate this fact today when there is so much talk in other areas in North America whether or not they can get a sufficient supply of this vaccine which Prince Edward Island, under the Liberal Department of Public Health, already has.

MENTAL HEALTH

I could go on to tell you that the new active treatment centre at Falconwood, of more than ninety-bed capacity, which will be so up-to-date that it will not only treat the mentally sick, but will also have provision to assist the emotionally ill, an ever-increasing health hazard. This is just one aid in our mental health program which along with the present and additional psychiatrists (coming next month) will place our mental health program in a position second to none.

TREMENDOUS PROGRESS

We have been making tremendous progress in the Matheson Government's Department of Health. Public Health is the foundation upon which rests the superstructure of every economic endeavor. We are going ahead in Public Health in this Province, we have an ably staffed department with the necessary facilities to operate it successfully and their efforts are supported, both morally and financially, by a sympathetic Matheson Government. Up to two years ago our Premier was the Minister of Health and Welfare in this Province during the big period of expansion in that department and he naturally has a full knowledge of the problem and a very keen appreciation of the problems and difficulties encountered by this department. Today it takes its place, under the capable leadership of Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, with the best in Canada. Under our capable Health Minister, Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, supported by the Premier and the members of his government, Health will continue to be the cornerstone upon which all economic endeavor depends. This is a most favorable situation so far as the health of our citizens is concerned. Our people will want it to continue. All will have the privilege of registering their approval on Wednesday, May 25th. You have the privilege of registering a vote for your own good health, you have the privilege of making sure that everything possible will be done so that your children are given the benefit of the prevention of disease. It should not be necessary to urge you to go to the polls on Election Day to vote Liberal. Most of our citizens will vote LIBERAL to endorse the finest health program that we have ever had in Prince Edward Island. It would be tragic to do otherwise.

DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE

The Department of Welfare is expanding its services to include more of our citizens each year. In the Fiscal year last reported \$554,452.64 was expended on Social Assistance, Extra Mural T. B. Assistance, Child Welfare, Mothers Allowances, Old Age Assistance, Blind Pensions and the operation of Beach Grove Inn.

The Minister of Welfare, Hon. B. Earle MacDonald, is assisted by a very capable staff of Welfare workers who are rendering a wonderful service to some of our needy citizens. The work calls for much tact and patience and must be administered with sympathetic consideration in an efficient manner to help the numerous men, women and children needing assistance.

VOTE LIBERAL

To Continue The Liberal Program of Health and Welfare