

Gross Mismanagement in The Army Medical Service

Financial Post of Canada a Non Political Paper Shows How Public Money is Being Squandered---Many Men Have Been Pronounced Medically Unfit Upon Reaching England--Means Enormous Taxes for the Pension Fund--Canadian Specialists Are Detained for Minor Duties---Unnecessary Operations.

(Financial Post.)

Evidence is rapidly accumulating that the Canadian Army Medical Service has been disgracefully, if not criminally misdirected from start to finish, while the outlook for the taxpayer, who is largely the investor in Canadian industry, is not encouraging. There is enough information now on record to show that through gross mismanagement we have already incurred, and will have to pay millions in unnecessary pensions for fifty years to come, the way has been opened for gigantic pension frauds.

Men over age, with incurable diseases, and minor defects, have been passed by doctors in Canada. Men have been maimed and made pensioners for life by unnecessary operations performed by incompetents, have developed chronic diseases who might have, with proper care, been completely cured in a few days at the outset.

Regulations Disregarded.

The trouble is not with the civil medical volunteers, practically all of whom have made great personal sacrifices, but with the system and its management.

There are, however, a number of medical officers in Canada who have, perhaps unwittingly, been party to this great injustice to the taxpayers of Canada. They have clearly disobeyed the Medical Regulations and have passed, and sent to England hundreds of men totally unfit for service, who are claiming and will demand pensions.

The result is that recent returns have shown that 50 per cent. of the permanent base duty men in England and 56 per cent. of discharges from the army have never been at the front. On the other hand, many regiments have arrived in England 100 per cent. efficient. There is, therefore, no excuse for medical officers sending drafts

that are found on arrival to be 25 per cent. unfit. A draft of specially good men was called for some time ago, yet out of 57 out of 254 had to be sent back to Canada as unfit for service. In passing unfit men, the medical officers do a still further injustice to Canada, for it takes them away from and helps to seriously hamper the production of war supplies in this country.

Unfits for overseas service form an undue proportion of the admissions to active treatment and convalescent hospitals, thus increasing very greatly, without a corresponding return in military service, the strain on the medical service and the cost to the country.

Moreover, these medical units will assuredly be pension applicants. The longer they are retained in the service the better will be their claim—the more plausible the argument that their disability was contracted in, or aggravated by, their term of service.

Aid Hospitals Unsatisfactory.

The most serious situation, however, is overseas, where a great many influential women, actuated by the best intentions and inspired by the highest motives, have worked hard for our sick and wounded. They have, with their own money, aided by hundreds of thousands collected throughout the Empire, established their own military hospitals in cottages and larger homes, many of them in out of the way places in the little villages and country districts. A few of these have been excellent, but in the majority of cases the work is carried on by the local doctors, often young graduates in medicine with no surgical experience, with untrained nurses to assist them and hospital conveniences of the crudest.

Kitchener foresaw this condition at the outset and refused to recognize these Voluntary Aid Hospitals.

Women of great social influence

worked successfully upon the Government behind his back and secured official recognition of their hospitals. Even so distinguished a personage as the Duchess of Sutherland had a long fight for the existence of her unit. A recent investigation of some of these hospitals showed that 65 per cent. of the Canadians should not have been there at all, and it is a still greater reflection on the management of our own department when the officials in charge of a number of these say that both the New Zealand and Australian Medical Services inspect hospitals, but no Canadian medical official has ever been near them. In fact, there seems to be an entire lack of a clearly defined policy regarding the uses and limitations of hospitals generally, from the military standpoint.

Village Doctors Practice Hobbies.

We have in England some of the ablest Canadian physicians and surgeons and specialists, yet we have had no consulting officers to visit the various hospitals and supervise the surgery, diagnose the conditions and advise treatment. The result has been many serious errors in practice. For example, many cases of early tuberculosis pass unnoticed. Worst of all, many surgical operations have been performed, and it is freely charged, that some of these have been rushed into by young village doctors who regard these as opportunities for post graduate work, or for trying out private hobbies.

It is estimated that one-third of the present inmates of the hospitals are unnecessarily detained, many of them for a year or more. This is encouraged to some extent by the fact that considerable amounts in men and money are contributed by the Canadian government towards their support.

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wait in their hospitals while these are sent for, made and shipped to and fitted in England, often extending over six or eight months after the wound is healed, instead of being sent back to Canada where they would prefer to be.

Specialists Put on Minor Duty.

For these conditions the good people who so generously gave their homes, their money and their services for our Canadians, are not to blame. The incompetence and weakness of the higher medical command is responsible.

Things would have been made much better if the leading Canadian officers had been made available for these hospitals. It was for this service they volunteered. Instead, leading specialists have been put in charge of minor general work. For example, one of our most distinguished specialist surgeons, together with six other prominent surgeons, and about 900 others and 2,800 beds, were sent to Saloniki at the expense of the Canadian people, but there were no Canadian troops whatever in the Mediterranean.

Two of our best eye and ear specialists have been doing general work in a casualty clearing station. A celebrated X-ray specialist was detailed as a regimental medical officer. One of our best specialists in his line has been over there doing nothing while several thousand Canadians have developed, through neglect of expert medical attention, a chronic condition from which most of them will suffer all their lives.

In explanation of this there is a feeling among the leading medical men of Canada that the Canadian Army Medical Department is opposed to the use of our great specialists. Many of them have from time to time offered their services and they have been consistently turned down.

Must be Reorganization.

The above is but a brief outline of the conditions now prevailing which are going to cost Canadian taxpayers so many unnecessary millions during the next two generations.

Any man of business will at once see that there is but one remedy, the placing of our service under a good executive, who can surround himself with the best Canadian specialists, and the concentrating of our casualties at one or two places where their conditions may be carefully supervised and directed by the best consultants and where records for pensions and allowances may be accurately kept. If this is the policy which the Minister of Militia purposes to carry out, regardless of sentimental considerations, there is no doubt he will have the support of the best medical and business interests of the country.

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BIG GAME IN NEW BRUNSWICK

IN the summer season the Province of New Brunswick is a happy land, where the sunny hours speed away on the feet of delightful dreams. In the fall she is lovely in her rich dress of brown; and in the winter, when she is arrayed in her robe of virgin whiteness, she is fair and charming; and if she is then cold, her admirers do not feel that her chillness is a chillness of heart.

This favorite Canadian haunt is preeminently a land of the holiday-maker and sportsman. St. Andrews, where is situated the popular Canadian Pacific Algonquin Hotel, and many other seaside places are loved haunts of the bather and outdoor game player during the holiday season of June, July, August and September. No sooner have the summer holiday folks and fishermen left the province than the hunters of the big game take their places, for at the opening of the big game season large numbers of hunters of both sexes appear with their guns amidst the thick forests of the land. New Brunswick is one of the most popular of the Canadian provinces for big game hunting. Moose, caribou and deer are plentiful in this region.

A magnificent specimen of big game is the moose. When fully grown he weighs over 1,000 lbs. His massive antlers are long and generally average six feet in width. He may be found in twelve of the fifteen counties of the province. It is only the hunting folks and the wary guides who know how to hunt the moose. There is the "calling" done early in the season, and the "still hunting" done later on—in the cold weather. In September and October the moose is often surprised and shot wading in the lakes and rivers, feasting on the roots of water plants. While pursuing the moose, the hunter can distinguish between the tracks of the male and the female, for the male leaves round tracks and those of the female are somewhat pointed. Fredericton, Havelock, Newcastle, Bathurst, Campbellton and Perth are good starting points.

A graceful antlered monarch of New Brunswick is the caribou. He weighs about 600 lbs. on an average. It is a delightful sight to watch him stride at a walking rate, or trot, or gallop over the country. A full grown caribou stands from four and a half to five feet in height. Of this animal there are two varieties, the woodland and the barren ground species. The woodland is somewhat taller than the other and its color is darker about the body, but the horns are lighter. It is generally found in herds of about half a dozen. The barren ground caribou travels in large herds, and its coat is light. This kind is noted for its migratory habits. In New Brunswick the places where the hunters are likely to achieve the best results are North West Miramichi, Restigouche, Upsalquitch, Nepisiguit, and Tobique Rivers. The starting points for these areas are Newcastle, Campbellton,

Bathurst, Chatham and Perth, all of which are reached by the Edmundston Branch of the Canadian Pacific.

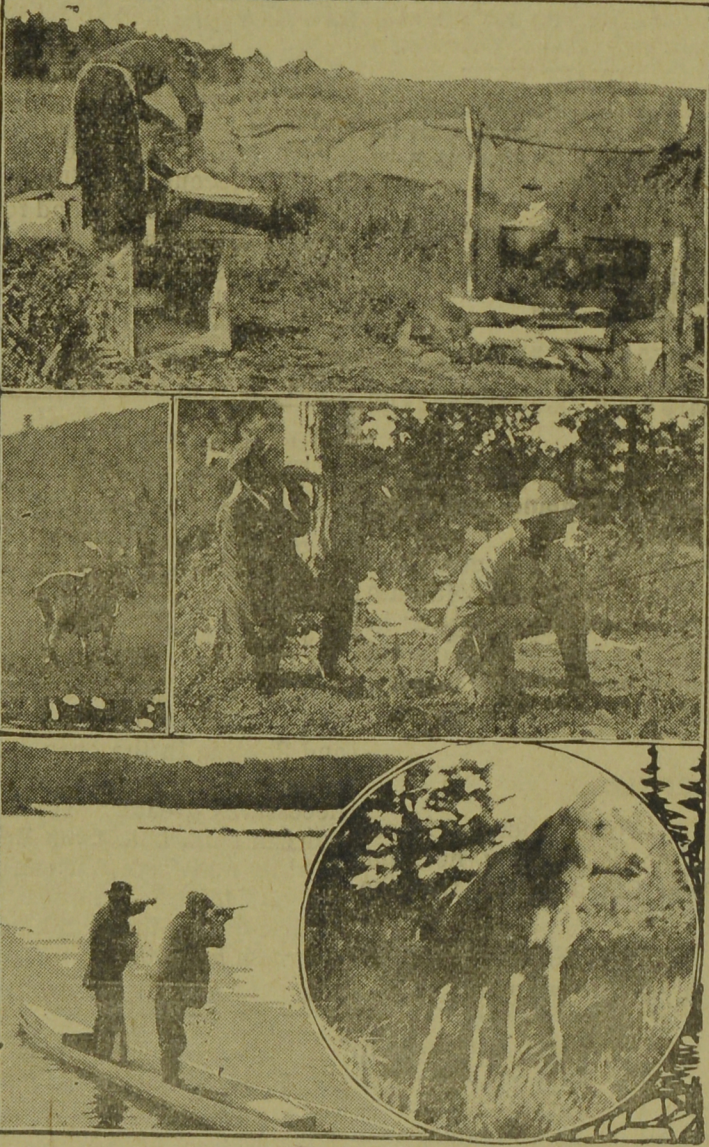
There are few localities in New Brunswick where a deer may not be located. Like the moose and the caribou he gives those who follow him an interesting and pleasant sport.

Sportsmen desirous of hunting the big game of New Brunswick may secure good accommodation at the homes of their guides. Good hotels and boarding houses are also available.

The season for the hunting of the moose, caribou, and deer opens on September 15th and continues to November 30th. Shooting on Sunday is prohibited by law. Non-resident hunters must be accompanied by a licensed guide. The license to kill

one bull moose, one bull caribou, and two deer costs a bona fide resident of the province \$3 and a non-resident \$50. Hunting with bounds is forbidden.

This year the opening of the big game season was marked by the exhibition for sale on the St. John market of moose and deer meat. In recent times there has been a considerable reduction in the number of males amongst the larger New Brunswick game, and the people are becoming alive to the necessity for being more careful. Indiscriminate shooting is being checked to some extent at all events, and it has been suggested that the sale of the meat of big game on the markets should be stopped to discourage the hunter who hunts for the purpose of making money.



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