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SPRING SUITS in Serge, Jersey Cloth, Tweed, Gabardine, etc. Sizes 16 years to 48 bust. Prices \$16.00 to \$69.00.

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ORANGES

We have marmalade oranges at 50c. dozen.
California Navel Oranges, 45c., 55c. and 65c. dozen.

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New Filbert Nuts, only 25c. lb. All good.

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6 lbs. fine granulated sugar \$1.00. When accompanied by order for \$1.00 or more of other goods,

Yerna's

BRANCH STORE - WOODSTOCK

HON. DR. ROBERTS REVIEWS WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT

(Continued From Page Six.)

public health legislation. He did not believe that these conditions were any more prevalent in 1920 than they were fifteen or twenty years before, or longer ago than that, but public attention had been directed to them. As he had said before he would state that the service under the New Brunswick Public Health Act was more comprehensive than that of any similar organization in the world. On that account the department had been in receipt of congratulations of almost every Health Organization in Canada and United States. Medical inspection of schools was a matter which should be left with an organization devoted to conservation of life rather than to one concerned in the dispensing of literary education. Vital statistics was the corner-stone of public health, and had been given its proper place in this province. In New Brunswick the one set of officials conducted practically three services. The organization from an authority none other than Dr. Vincent of the Rockefeller Foundation, who had given it high praises. In spite of a certain degree of publicity many were unaware of the manner in which the Public Health Act was carried out. In the first place the Bureau of Health stood in the place of the Provincial Board of Health, which existed under the old Act. In the Bureau the provincial government was represented by one of its members, who was Chairman. Other members were the Chief Medical and Chief Health Officer, as one man filled the two positions for sake of economy, the Chief of Laboratories and the Representative of each of the three Health Districts of the Province. The county organization was subdivision of the District and was connected with the Bureau through its Chairman, who was the District Health Officer. The county organization was called the Sub-district board, which was the field organization. Besides its Chairman it had five members, three appointed by municipal council and two by the government. At present the members gave services gratis, but he believed it would be economy if they were paid a per diem allowance. Some persons had urged that the municipal councils should have the power of appointing the minor officials, but the objection to that was that the personnel of municipal councils changed rapidly, and also the desirability of avoiding anything resembling political influences.

A Fine Organization

The staff of each sub-district Board consisted of first a secretary. Each sub-district was divided into Medical, School Inspectoral areas, Sanitary areas, and Vital Statistical areas, corresponding with the three services. Officials to provide over these three services were provided by the Board and in the case of Sanitation and Vital Statistics, wherever possible and practicable, one official cared for both services. Further economy was recognized by having the Secretary act as Sanitary Inspector, and Vital Statistician in many instances. So, the Sanitary Inspector, Vital Statistician and Medical Inspector were in field work next to the people. Presiding over them was the Board. Between the Board and the Bureau, the connecting link was the District Medical Health Officer, and between the Bureau and the government, the connecting link was the Minister. A Minister being responsible to the people, thus completed the cycle from people to people. He believed this to be the most democratic Health Organization in existence. It was destined to be both economical and efficient.

Had Many Problems

The war had been followed by many suggestions, and Public Health Organization must assist in the solution of some of the problems. Among the measures to be employed was Medical inspection of all children attending school, care of expectant mothers, creation of a healthy and intelligent atmosphere for the reception of the newly born babe, laws of sanitation through every fabric of life, housing. The latter was a universal problem, and was directly connected with public health. It was of utmost importance that houses should be erected upon sites which could be properly drained, where they would receive the maximum amount of sunlight and be shielded as much as possible from northern and eastern winds. Proper plumbing and other matters were of great importance. He believed that authority should be given municipalities to raise sufficient monies to build houses of permanent materials—not wood, for a community of wood might in a night become a heap of ashes—but of brick or cement, raw materials for both of which

existed in huge quantities at various points in New Brunswick.

He believed the Dominion grant for housing, although making a very much desired beginning was insufficient to accomplish effective results. It would be too much to expect a laboring man, for whom these homes were being arranged, to add to his other responsibilities that of a mortgage. If the municipality owned the buildings, a rented just sufficient to cover expenses including a sinking fund could be charged, so that in a given number of years regardless of who the tenant might be, the buildings would be paid for. This would tend to give the poor man a feeling of satisfaction rather than of unrest.

During the past year the Department of Public Health had accomplished considerable amount of work. In connection with small-pox, practical elimination had been reached. 25,000 school children had been vaccinated through Medical inspection of schools, 5,000 other citizens because of occurrences of small-pox had also been vaccinated. The United States ban against New Brunswick had been raised when it was shown that but two segregated cases existed in this province and a ban had been declared against Nova Scotia, scores of sporadic cases originating largely outside New Brunswick had been dealt with. In connection with the raising of the United States ban against the province he would state that at the time that Surgeon General Blue of the United States accepted New Brunswick's statement that there were but two cases of smallpox in the province, Nova Scotia had the disease in no fewer than sixty places, and the city of Halifax alone had thirty-five cases. He also could state that an outbreak of this disease in Westmorland county had been suppressed by the Department but under previous conditions would without doubt have spread through several counties and cost the province thousands of dollars. Scarlet fever and diphtheria had been kept under control. Precautionary measures against future occurrence of Diphtheria had been taken in the form of storing 200,000 units of anti-toxin in his laboratory at St. John. Within a few weeks this would be distributed generally throughout the province, so that those unable to purchase might secure it on a physician's affidavit. The cost to the province was little more than the general retail price. There had been general examination of water supply. Typhoid cases had been investigated and precautions to delay its spread had been taken. Medical inspection of some 2000 schools had been introduced. He felt satisfied as to its ultimate efficiency and was rather proud that the inspection had been given to every school. Within a year or two it would be complete. General sanitation also had been introduced and the premises of every house in the province would be inspected during the coming summer. The data which would be secured in this first annual inspection would be of marked value for future work. The collection of vital statistics under the new system had been introduced in January last. So far there had been reports from 95 per cent of all districts. A condition of affairs in itself very praiseworthy. During February the reports when figured out equaled an annual rate of 10,000 births, 2500 marriages, 5500 to 6000 deaths. The list of births, marriages and deaths was probably as complete as that of any Canadian province of American State.

MR. TILLEY—"Are you getting complete returns from every county?"
HON. MR. ROBERTS—"Yes, we are getting reasonably complete returns. When I mentioned the percentage of 95 per cent I meant that that many officials were reporting. We have statistics from every parish. The data will be checked up in June, and will give us further information."

The speaker, continuing, said that one of the principal criticisms directed toward the work of the department was that it was neither practical nor necessary in the rural districts, although of value in cities and towns. He would say that the letter of the Act was not applied to rural districts where hardship would be worked if strict application should be insisted upon. This referred particularly to the reporting of deaths and births. The criticism to which he had referred could be answered by a few observations. Rural districts often had higher death rates than urban. Sparseness of settlement often rendered united local action impossible. Diseases such as tuberculosis, typhoid, and summer diarrhoeas of children were more fatal relatively in the country than in cities. Sanitation was more necessary in rural districts because of relative infrequency of medical men. Rural water supplies are almost always with

(Continued on page 4)

New Militia Organization.

It is announced that with the exception of infantry battalions, the units in the Canadian militia will be organized on the same plan as authorized under a general order issued in April, 1914. The infantry is being organized on the four company basis and will consist of four companies instead of eight, each company being in command of an officer with the rank of major. The battalion will have a total strength of 441, composed of thirty-three officers and 408 men. The machine gun section is eliminated from this reorganization plan, as these units have been organized into brigades and have completed their training.

"Have a sundae?" may sound effeminate, but it's about the best a man can do.

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