

At present the Health Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare is undergoing reorganization that will lead to an extension of old and the adoption of new activities.

The work of the Welfare Branch is dealt with in Chapter XX.

Subsection 2.—Public Health Activities of the Provincial Governments*

Prince Edward Island.—The supervision of public health matters in Prince Edward Island was placed, on July 1, 1931, under a specially created Department of Public Health. The Province is divided into five Districts: a public health nurse is assigned to each District and is responsible for the inspection of school children, home visiting, home-nursing classes, immunizing and vaccinating clinics, etc. One nurse specially trained in venereal diseases and another specially trained in tuberculosis have the entire Province as their field of operation.

A full-time Provincial Sanitary Inspector, makes periodic inspections of the food-manufacturing plants, school premises, hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, etc., throughout the Province. In addition the city of Charlottetown has a Milk and Food Inspector and a City Sanitary Officer.

A Provincial Bacteriological Laboratory is operated by the Department of Health with a certified technician and an assistant. The Laboratory provides free service for all provincial physicians in respect to the analysis of bloods, spinal fluids, waters and sputa, etc.

The compilation of the vital statistics of the Province is also handled by the central organization and recently all birth certificates for the past twenty years have been micro-filmed for the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The Provincial Government operates a Provincial Sanatorium under a Board of Commissioners and an annual grant is made to assist ex-sanatorium patients where needed, and to help other indigent tubercular persons awaiting admission and their families. Field work in regard to tuberculosis is a public health responsibility and clinics are held periodically at central points throughout the Province.

The Prince Edward Island Tuberculosis League, a voluntary organization supported by Christmas Tuberculosis Seal Funds, works in close co-operation with the staff of the Provincial Sanatorium and the Department of Health. This organization has recently purchased a mobile X-ray diagnostic clinic.

Provision for an annual grant is made to the general hospitals which, in turn, accept as free patients all indigent persons requiring hospital treatment; the expenses for the operation of a hospital for the insane are borne practically in full by the Provincial Government.

The Department of Health operates two venereal disease clinics, one at Charlottetown and the other at Summerside. All necessary medication is supplied free of charge to persons who are not within reach of public health clinics.

Nova Scotia.—In Nova Scotia the Department of Public Health directs its energies to communicable disease control; pre-natal, post-natal, and school hygiene; sewage disposal; safety of milk and water supplies; collection of vital statistics; mental hygiene; and health education. The Department acts in an advisory capacity to local boards of health; makes regulations respecting any

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