



“The only Indian hospital in the Northwest”
Dynevor Indian Hospital, 1896 – 1957



A collection of settler sources curated by Chris Willmore



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Transcribed and curated by Chris Willmore
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Cover: Detail of a map from the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Dominion of Canada* (1880).
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Founding and Early Years

Preliminary donations¹ (January, 1896)

The committee of the Dynevor Indian hospital have been pushing the necessary repairs² so as to allow of Dr. Rolston entering upon his duties as soon as possible. They would beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following articles, and most heartily to thank the kind donors for the same: Two iron bedsteads and springs, a large case of tinware, 50 lengths of stove pipe, 6 elbows, 6 locks, 1 teapot, 6 graniteware plates, 3 pudding dishes, 1 foot-bath, 1 oil can, 6 lamps, 2 tea-trays, 1 dozen knives and forks, 1 carving knife, fork and steel, 2 butcher knives, 1 axe (handled), 1 buck-saw, 1 shovel, 1 spade, 1 hammer, 1 hand-saw, 5 lbs. nails, 2 papers of tacks, 3 coils of stove pipe wire, 2 washtubs, 1 washboard, 3 smoothing irons, 2 brooms, 2 scrubbing brushes, 2 rocking-chairs, 3 dressing tables, 2 looking glasses, bedside carpets, 1 mattress, 1 wash-stand, 1 sack of rolled oats, \$10 towards purchase of cook stove.

Some other contributions are promised, and as the hospital has no endowment or other sources of support, the committee look to the Lord's people for the help necessary to carry it on. The following articles are still needed and would be thankfully received by Archdeacon Phair, foot of Granville street, city: Chairs, washstands, carpets, looking glasses, bedding, table linen, groceries.

“Ministrations in their own language”³ (April, 1896)

It is time to say a few words to the many friends who have kindly helped us in beginning what promises to be an unspeakable boon to large numbers of our suffering Indians.

The hospital, although not formally opened, has now within its walls a poor sufferer whose heart-felt thankfulness and gratitude it would be difficult to describe. This poor woman, hearing that there was a house, the doors of which would be open to receive her, and in which she would be tended and ministered to by people who spoke her own language and knew her ways, gladly availed herself of the opportunity and, after arranging with her friends, a journey of nearly fifty miles was undertaken to exchange her little shanty, and calling upon neighbors for whatever they might choose to send her to eat, for a nice comfortable place among friends, with whom she would feel happy.

Visiting her in her ward a few hours after her arrival, it was easy to see this poor woman felt she had exchanged for the better.

¹ From DYNEVOR INDIAN HOSPITAL. (1896, January 15). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3

² The site of the hospital was formerly a church residence.

³ From Phair, R. (1896, April 10). DYNEVOR INDIAN HOSPITAL. *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3. Written by Robert Phair (1837 – 1931).

It was specially pleasing to have this assurance, inasmuch as there is an innate feeling of aversion among the Indians to going to a hospital, and it is difficult to elicit from them why they feel so. Among the reasons usually given are the separation from friends, to whom they are specially drawn when poorly; want of the sympathy that comes from ministrations in their own language, and last, and greatest, of joining with others in the exercise of religion in their own tongue, at times when they feel their need.

The committee are hopeful that if there be anything in the above, the institution just opened has anticipated the difficulty. The hospital stands in their midst, is under the supervision of Christian people, and the nurse is a native who speaks English and Indian thoroughly. The majority of the committee speak Indian, and can talk, therefore, with any of the patients in their own tongue. The clergy who visit speak the language of the people, and one of the committee is the chief of the band.

The medical superintendent is applying himself diligently to acquire a knowledge of the language, feeling keenly the great weakness of interpretation, and the utter impossibility of forming a proper diagnosis without better data than is usually obtained by interpretation.

It has been the endeavor of the committee to make the hospital, as far as possible, a place, not only where the sufferings of the Indians can be alleviated, but a place also where they will be taught lessons how better to take care of themselves and families when they return. In this department [the hospital] is sadly lacking, and it is felt a great work may be done, but we shall need the co-operation and help of Christian friends if this work is to be what it should be.

Among the things urgently needed at once is a well. This is a real necessity, and we trust it will soon be met by some kind friends.

The committee would like to thank those who have helped us in making the necessary repairs, those who have sent gifts of furniture and provisions, those who have kindly provided articles of clothing and bedding, and those who are trying to lighten the financial responsibility by becoming annual subscribers, especially one gentleman who has the honor of being the first annual subscriber of \$100.

The committee would like to state plainly that the Dynevor Indian hospital is not bound by any hard and fast rules; one of the minutes at a recent meeting reads as follows: "The Dynevor Indian hospital is open to any Indian who may need hospital treatment," and not require isolation, and that invalids will be admitted in such numbers and attended as long as our funds will enable use to do so. It is not the intention of the committee to go into debt but simply to do what we are able with the means at our disposal.

Having but one patient at present, Dr. Rolston is more free to respond to some of the many pressing calls from outside invalids, some of whom are too poorly to come to the hospital for treatment. The doctor was truly grateful to be able to attend a complicated case one night when skillful and immediate action was called for, and to learn soon after that the poor woman was out of danger.

The committee are pleased to report that Dr. Rolston is ably supported by his wife in their work of faith and labor of love. Mrs. Rolston, in addition to her work indoors, visits the houses of the Indians and finds the people most willing to receive her instructions in sanitary matters.

Altogether the committee feel the Indian settlement is largely indebted to the presence and influence of Dr. and Mrs. Rolston among them.

R. PHAIR

Supt. Indian Missions, Chairman of Committee.

“Cause for great thankfulness”⁴ (May, 1896)

The friends and supporters of the Dynevor Indian hospital will be pleased to know that the patients recently admitted are all doing well. Mrs. Sinclair, the invalid from Fort Alexander, who for the last six weeks has been carefully tended, hopes soon to return to her home. It was pleasing, when visiting the institute a few days ago, to see this poor woman able to walk about and render little services to her companions in the same ward. It was also nice to hear her expressions of gratitude for all the kindness and care she received; she was strong enough to be able to help in preparing herself some articles of clothing to be in readiness for her return at an early date. It is cause for great thankfulness that this poor woman has so rapidly recovered strength after a recent serious operation. Reading at her own request a passage from the Indian Testament, she said it was all true in her case – God had blessed her and made her well, and she would go home and tell her friends what great things He had done for her.

On another bed close by lay a younger woman on whom an operation had been performed a few days ago. I could only say a few words to cheer and encourage this patient, who, I am thankful to say, is progressing favorably. I was particularly struck with the appearance of a little motherless child not far from Mrs. Sinclair’s bed. This poor little one had almost lost the sight of both eyes and had various other complications which, with the utter lack of care and attention, proved almost too much for the strength of the little one, but the doors were thrown open and the father carried the little one up to her little bed, and I trust by God’s mercy she too will soon be out of danger. Passing from the female to the male ward I was very much touched with the appearance of an old man with a chronic cough, who had been admitted the day before; poor fellow, he had long been a stranger to anything like comfort or ordinary care, and so seemed to think his present quarters a great change for the better. I fear his case is a serious one, but it is nice to be able to minister to him and make the closing days of his life as comfortable as possible. It is a great comfort to the committee that the patients are ministered to in their own tongue and attended to generally by their own people. It is also gratifying to feel that the medical

⁴ From Phair, R. & Rolston, P. W. (1896, May 19). DYNEVOR INDIAN HOSPITAL. *The Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 6. Written by Robert Phair (1837-1931) and Dr. Peter William Rolston (1831 – 1922).

superintendent is ably assisted, when operations are necessary, by a medical practitioner from Selkirk.

Besides the special indoor work Dr. Rolston has been able to attend to a large number of out-door cases, some requiring skilful attention. The committee feel their anticipations regarding the hospital are being fully realized, and the Indian settlement is fully aware of the great boon they have among them. It is hoped when our wants are more fully met, and kind friends become aware of the good work being done, we shall have still greater things to speak of. Meanwhile, we will thank God and take courage; if we could only speak of cases already treated we would be able to say we have all been amply encouraged by the work done.

We are thankful to be able to tell our friends that we hope to be able to speak of a much needed well as a realized fact in the near future. The report of the medical superintendent will speak for itself.

ROBERT PHAIR
Supt. Ind. Missions.

BI-MONTHLY REPORT

I arrived here on March 11th, and on the following day the first persons came for medical aid. As the wards were not fitted up no patients were admitted for treatment during this month, but medical aid was given to 72 different cases, and 19 cases were attended at their homes, including one of child birth, which specially needed medical assistance. A very suitable woman was engaged as nurse, of good character and well known, a good Christian woman who is conversant with the three languages – Cree, Ojibwa and English – an indispensable qualification in this institution. She commenced duty on March 26th and has given great satisfaction. On April 2nd the first inpatient was received, an Ojibwa woman from Fort Alexander, in a weak state from hepatic dropsy. On April 27th an operation was performed, giving relief, and now she is moving about and hopes soon to go home. Ninety-three out-patients were treated during April; nine cases were attended at their homes, and among these two deaths occurred; one from croup and one from convulsions.

P. M. ROLSON
Med. Superintend't.

"Neither funds nor endowment"⁵ (May, 1896)

I have long felt that the lack of accommodation, where care and attention could be bestowed was the great want and weakness of our work. Many of our Indians have been induced to accept this care and attention under the patronage of Rome, where Sisters have carefully attended them, and priests have tried, and sometimes succeeded, in rebaptizing them. Looking over the long years of the past, I cannot help feeling those who have watched this state of things, have been much to blame.

⁵ From Phair, R. (1896). Provincial. *Letter Leaflet of the Woman's Auxiliary*, May 1896, p. 220. Written by Robert Phair (1837 – 1931).

Again, there was the difficulty of obtaining a suitable physician, who, with his wife, would take charge of the hospital. We also needed a nurse and these required come to us not only with special qualifications, but without any promise of remuneration, as the hospital, having neither funds nor endowment, would necessarily be entirely dependent upon the gifts of those whom the Lord would incline to aid in carrying on His work.

I need not say with what thankfulness I tell my readers, that first of all an eminently qualified medical man and his wife have offered on the above lines, and that only this morning a suitable nurse sent me the following message: "I offer myself in His name and with His grace will devote my life to His work."

This letter is sent to the Lord's people, first, to ask them to join in the committee in prayer that God, who has so wonderfully blessed His work in this land, may make this effort, this hospital, near West Selkirk, on the banks of the Red River, henceforth to be known as Dynevor Indian Hospital, a real monument of God's marvelous grace and wonder-working hand among those red men and women, whom we would long to lead to His blessed feet in the waning hours of life.

"Without any promise of remuneration"⁶ (June, 1896)

Ven. Archdeacon Phair gave an account of the Dynevor Indian hospital which he said was now a reality. It had been in his mind for a long time. He had longed for it, seeing for many years the impossibility of the Indians, when sick, obtaining proper medical care. He acknowledged the assistance of the ladies' auxiliary in the accomplishment of his object. The house, which was the one formerly occupied by the late Archdeacon Cowley, had been bought for a nominal sum from the church missionary society, which had given a donation for carrying on the work, besides. He told how Dr. and Mrs. Rolston had offered their services, without any promise of remuneration. Susan Spence, daughter of the late Rev. Baptist Spence, was engaged as nurse. Only about sixteen inmates could be accommodated. There were four or five at present. The doctor attended some 90 out-patients, and his wife was doing a good work also. There was a population of 1,200 Indians in that vicinity.

⁶ From ANGLICAN WOMEN. (1896, June 22). *The Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 6.

“Allow me to thank you”⁷ (July, 1896)

To Mrs. Ker, President Grace Church Branch, W. A., Dynevor Indian Hospital, Manitoba, July 16th, 1896.

Dear Madam,

Allow me to thank you very sincerely for the bale which arrived yesterday, containing contributions from [the] Grace Church Branch of the Women’s Auxiliary, also Junior Auxiliary, Guild of St. Katherine, and Ministering Children’s League. They are all in beautiful order, and contain a quantity of things which we required.

Please thank the little folks for so kindly ministering to the wants of the poor, sick Indians. The scrap books are not only a great delight to them, but to others, to whom the doings of the outside world are ever interesting. Pictures and illustrated papers are eagerly sought for by all of us. Dolls, too, are a great amusement. We had one woman here for a month, with dropsy, whose great delight was to dress and undress a doll we gave her. We are exceedingly glad to get second-hand clothes, too. There is a constant demand for clothes for patients going way, and also for out-patients – for I need not tell you Indians are generally poor. [They] come in rags and go out in what is given them.

We have a good many come in very sick. After being here a while, with cleanliness and care, proper food and treatment, they go out strong and well. We hope to be able to enlarge the building, for the demand is greater than the accommodation. Unfortunately, this country is so young and so poor we have to look to our friends in Eastern Canada and the old country for help to do this.

With very kind Christian regards to all your helpers in this good work. Believe me, yours in the Master’s service,

(MRS.) [Cecilia] F. Rolston.

“Their gift is most opportune”⁸ (September, 1896)

My Dear Mrs. Irvine,

I have to thank you and the kind donors for the \$55 for the Dynevor Indian Hospital, received by cheque. The receipts will be signed by the Treasurer and forwarded you at once. I would like to assure you and the members of the W.A. who have so kindly helped us that their gift is most opportune, coming as it does when our funds are very low. I am sure Dr. Rolston and his good wife will be cheered and encouraged by this kind help.

The Dynevor Indian Hospital differs somewhat from other institutions of the same class inasmuch as it has no endowment or other sources to which to look for help, but is simply dependent upon the gifts of kind Christian friends, and I am

⁷ From Rolston, C. F. (1896). To Mrs. Ker. *Leaflet of the Woman’s Auxiliary*, September 1896, 383-384. Written by Cecilia Fancourt Rolston (1841 – 1908).

⁸ From Phair, R. (1896). Provincial. *Letter Leaflet of the Woman’s Auxiliary*, September 1896, 393-394. Written by Robert Phair (1837 – 1931).

thankful to say God is raising up help for us in many places we did not expect, and I believe that as the Hospital is such a great blessing to the poor Indians, it will be no less a blessing to those who, through it, give the cup of cold water in the Master's name to some of the sufferers of this land.

Reports come to us from time to time of invalids brought in, some of them from a great distance, who after a short stay in the Hospital, and with God's blessing on the care and attention bestowed, return to their homes to make known to their friends what great things God has done for them.

The Hospital is managed by a medical Christian man; the nurse is a Christian woman, an Indian who reads and prays with the patients in their own tongue. The clergyman of the parish visits it regularly, and the poor sufferers are pointed to the Lamb of God as the one who alone can comfort them. Mrs. Rolston has a large class of the women to whom she imparts instruction in domestic matters.

I need not say that any help in the way of groceries or clothing for patients will be most welcome; indeed material to be used in the sewing classes would also be very useful. Anything in the way of medicine or strengthening food of any kind would be a blessing to the Hospital. We find food and good care with God's help go a long way in restoring many of these people. Nice pictures, suitable for the walls; pieces of carpet for the floor, anything to make the room look a little more bright would, as you will see, help much.

I must ask you on behalf of the committee, on behalf of these poor Indians, and on behalf of a large circle of patients, to thank the Quebec Branch of the W.A. most heartily for their kind Christian help in this great work. We shall have to look to such friends for much practical sympathy if this work is to be maintained. Our Indian Mission Funds are far behind, and the Hospital cannot be pushed ahead of the Indian work, and for this very reason. If the women of Canada do not give it a place close to their hearts, I do not see how it is to be carried on; but I believe it has that place. Evidence of it comes to me from time to time, and for this and other tokens of God's approval we thank Him and take courage. I am, dear Mrs. Irvine, on behalf of the Committee, thankfully yours,

R. PHAIR.

“The only Indian hospital in the Northwest”⁹ (March, 1897)

The Dynevor hospital is located on St. Peter's reserve, a few miles from Selkirk, and was opened last fall, with Dr. and Mrs. Rolston in charge. During the past year the doctor has treated hundreds of out-door patients as well as those within. Indians of all creeds are received, it being the only Indian hospital in the Northwest.

⁹ From INDIAN HOSPITAL AID SOCIETY. (1897, March 16). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8.

“All things which we find most useful”¹⁰ (June, 1897)

Your barrel containing so many kind gifts to the Hospital arrived on Saturday, for which accept our hearty thanks. They are all things which we find most useful, and now that the Spring, we hope, is coming on, we are glad to have some pretty as well as useful things to make the place look bright. This evening I gave one of your mufflers and warm vests to a poor woman who was exceedingly glad to get them. The weather remains, some days, very bleak and cold although from all appearances at present old-timers predict a flood around Winnipeg. Please remember me most kindly to all the kind friends who thought of me, and express my gratitude to them for their very useful and acceptable presents.

“Most anxious to have a furnace”¹¹ (October, 1897)

On Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock a meeting of the Dynevor Indian hospital aid society will be held at the residence of Archdeacon Phair, Lusted street. The society are most anxious to have a furnace put in the hospital before winter sets in and friends desiring to assist in this work should do so without delay.

Furnace found and funded¹² (January, 1898)

At a meeting of the Dynevor Indian hospital aid society held on Monday afternoon the gratifying announcement was made that owing to the diligence of the members, not only had a furnace and sanitary apparatus been installed, but that the funds of the society had been greatly augmented by the handsome donation of \$500 from a generous lady in New Brunswick, for which the thanks of the society were cordially tendered. It was also noted with pleasure that the accomplishment of a heating system for the hospital was effected through the kindness of the McCleary Mfg. Co., who supplied the furnace at an almost nominal price. The friends of this deserving institution will be pleased to hear that many much needed additions have been made to the equipment of the building itself, but there is yet much to be done.

“Nice useful things”¹³(February, 1898)

Allow me to express our gratitude for the nice useful things contained in your bale. The bottles of cod-liver oil, carbolic acid, etc., came in good order, and are very acceptable in the surgery where there is a great demand for these things. My husband

¹⁰ From

Rolston, P. W. (1897). From Mr. Rolston. *Leaflet of the Woman's Auxiliary*, June 1897 1896, 383-384. Written by Dr. Peter William Rolston (1831 – 1922).

¹¹ From REPORTORIAL ROUND. (1897, October 30). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8.

¹² From DYNEVOR HOSPITAL. (1898, January 5). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 6.

¹³ From Rolston, C. F. (1898). FROM THE MISSION FIELD. *Leaflet of the Woman's Auxiliary*, February 1898, 144. Written by Cecilia Fancourt Rolston (1841 – 1908).

[Dr. Rolston] desires me to thank you for remembering his needs; not only for the bottles, but also for the cheese-cloth and factory cotton for bandages. The chief ailment among the Indians is scrofula, consequently there is constant bandaging going on. The clothes are always useful; we give them away when necessary, but we find the people value them the more when they work for them, and, as our funds are low, in this way they are a great help.

The Lord is blessing the work, and although there are a good many difficulties at first in establishing a work of this kind, yet we have much encouragement, and feel very thankful that the Lord has opened the hearts of so many of his children to take such a real practical interest in the Indian hospital.”

“We are only commencing”¹⁴ (February, 1898)

My dear Miss Crombie,

Allow me to thank you very heartily for a box of clothing from your Society, which arrived a few days ago, for the “Dynevior Hospital”. Will you thank each member who has so kindly contributed time and trouble, and sent us so many useful things? We very much appreciate the kindness of Christian friends, who though so far off, take such an interest in our work. I enclose a little sketch of “Dynevior,” which I made a little time ago for the *Young Churchman*; it may tell you something of our Hospital and neighborhood. We are only commencing, and “Pioneer” work is always attended with difficulty, but the Lord makes “the rough places plain,” and we must not faint by the way.

Very faithfully yours,

(MRS.) CECILIA F. ROLSTON.

“Reports were read”¹⁵ (April, 1898)

The first annual meeting of the Dynevior Indian Hospital Ladies’ Aid society, held at the Y. M. C. A. rooms yesterday afternoon, was a great success, not so much on account of the numbers there, but the very interesting character of the addresses. [...] The following reports were read: The recording secretary’s showing how with many difficulties these ladies secured a considerable sum towards the furnace and other improvements of the hospital last fall; the corresponding secretary’s, telling of her share of the duties faithfully and efficiently done, and the treasurer’s, from which it appears that after paying for the improvements above mentioned, a small balance remains on hand. These reports which gave great satisfaction, were unanimously adopted. Lady Schultz, the president, then addressed the meeting.

After the address, Chief Asham, accompanied by Rev. Mr. Pritchard and Archdeacon Phair, sang a hymn in Ojibway.

¹⁴ From Rolston, C. F. (1898). MY DEAR MISS CROMBIE. *Leaflet of the Woman’s Auxiliary*, February 1898, 144. Written by Cecilia Fancourt Rolston (1841 – 1908).

¹⁵ From ANNUAL MEETING. (1898, April 23). *The Manitoba Free Press*, p. 24.

Then followed a short and feeling abstract of his department of the work, by the secretary-treasurer of the hospital committee, W. R. Mulock, Q.C., who told with emotion how faith had been tried and the promises of God proved unfailling in several instances, and testified to the spiritual benefit he had received, as well as others, through participation in this work of faith and love.

Dr. Rolston followed with a most unassuming statement of his work, merely touching on the self-sacrifice and devotion with which he and his estimable wife have tended and nursed twenty-eight in-patients, and prescribed for about 1,300 out-patients this past year, with only a native nurse to share the burden, besides making about 300 professional visits to outsiders. He also spoke feelingly of the gratitude shown by the poor patients under his care.

Archdeacon Phair then addressed the meeting.

Dr. Patterson being asked to say a few words, kindly expressed his approbation of the work done and the spirit in which it was carried out. He was of opinion that if a charter were applied for, assistance might at some future time be given by the government. He spoke with great interest and appreciation and was warmly thanked for his encouraging remarks.

After this address Chief Asham, in very good English, bore testimony to his deep gratitude under God to the Church Missionary society in general, and Archdeacon Cowley in particular, who had brought light to his people when sitting in darkness, also to the indefatigable labors of Rev. Mr. Anderson, and particularly to the friends now present, who had been instrumental in opening the hospital in the midst of his tribe to succor them in times of need.

“If you can help us, please do”¹⁶ (April, 1898)

The following comes from Dynevor Indian Hospital:

“If you can help us, please do. We have nice large rooms unfurnished waiting for beds, etc. We have eleven all taken up. If you can send us the three you mention we shall be very grateful, and as for many more as we can get. We have about 1,000 out patients all more or less needing clothing and feeding, and although our friends in the various W.A.’s have been most generous, we *want* all we can get. We have had such a hard struggle, and still have, to tide over these first early days. It is perfectly surprising to us how we have got on at all; and could not have done so but for *bales*, etc., from the East, and the blessing of our Heavenly Father, whose promise of daily bread has never failed.”

The three beds mentioned, we hope, have already gone from Niagara Diocese, and [we] have strong hopes of a similar gift from Quebec shortly. Montreal Diocese has kindly undertaken to supply some much-needed surgical instruments. Dr. Rolston writes that an operating table is a greatly felt want. A new one costs about \$100.

¹⁶ From PROVINCIAL. (1898). *Leaflet of the Woman’s Auxiliary*, April 1898, 184.

“Dr. Rolston’s health broke down”¹⁷ (July, 1898)

Dynevor Indian Hospital, July 18th, 1898.

My dear Mrs. Ker,

The bale from the Grace Church Branch of the W.A. has reached us, so please accept our warmest thanks for all the nice useful things it contained. The various articles sent to me are very much appreciated, and I beg you will express my gratitude to the kind donors for being so thoughtful in remembering me.

I regret to say Dr. Rolston’s health broke down under the work here, and he will not be able to return to it. He is in Vancouver Island, where he has been appointed a district on the coast and where we hope to be of use to the Indians in that neighborhood. I am hoping shortly to join him.

Trusting the Lord will abundantly bless your labors, and much gratitude, believe me, yours sincerely,

[CECILIA] F. ROLSTON.

“Treated to a Christmas dinner”¹⁸ (January, 1899)

The work at the Dynevor Indian hospital has greatly increased during the past five months under the able superintendence of Miss Lockhart, who has won the confidence and good opinion of both Indians and white people. There have been at times as many as thirteen in-patients, and some of them very severe cases – one an incurable, but so suffering that it is impossible to dismiss her unless some other institution would receive and tend her.

At Christmas, in spite of the weariness caused by day work and night watching, and all hands being over taxed, the patients were treated to a Christmas dinner, and all who could walk or crawl down were regaled with turkey and plum pudding. Then the next week there was an “old folks’ dinner” for those over sixty, and sixty-two poor old people, some scarcely able to walk, there enjoyed a fine dinner of turkey, beef and bacon, vegetables, plum pudding, and fruit. Then Santa Claus distributed to each a suitable present. After this the young people had a treat; two Christmas trees laden with gifts, tea, cake and fruit gave them a happy afternoon.

All the provisions and gifts for these happy parties were specially contributed by kind friends, so that the funds of the hospital were not taxed. It is a great encouragement to all interested in this beneficent work when friends thus show their appreciation of the work and their sense of the deep need which is thus supplied.

Among the contributions lately received are the following: One pair curtains and mat, and two yards of oilcloth, Mr. Gibson; six chairs, Scott Furniture Co.; groceries, W. H. Stone; alarm clock, serviettes and six yards of creton, a friend; thermometer, Mr. McKenzie; one bushel potatoes, Isaac Asham; one bushel prize

¹⁷ From Rolston, C. F. (1898). MY DEAR MRS. KER. *Leaflet of the Woman’s Auxiliary*, September 1898, 380. Written by Cecilia Fancourt Rolston (1841 – 1908).

¹⁸ From DYNEVOR INDIAN HOSPITAL. (1899, January 16). *The Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 6.

potatoes, Jacob Thomas; Miss Mulock, \$5; flannelette sheets, handkerchiefs, art muslin, etc., J. Robinson & Co.; parcel of drugs, Mr. E. T. Howard; soup plates and coffee pot, Miss Cowley; milk daily for several weeks, Chief Asham; surgical table, friends in Selkirk; six white quilts, Mrs. Dagg; bandage roller, Dr. Ross; sausages, Mr. Comber; box of toilet paper, friends; coal oil stove, Mr. McCaffry; air cushion, Mrs. Buley; semiweekly Free Press, tools, Mr. Wyatt; artificial leg for poor patient, Dr. Ball; coats and pants, Mrs. Stuart; St. Peter's Sunday school, \$5. For Christmas. Three plum puddings, Lady Schultz and Mrs. Howard; apples, oranges, bacon, Mr. Mulock; tea, coffee, sugar, butter, Robinson & Co., Selkirk; four cakes, Mrs. Dagg; bread and biscuits, Mrs. Mills; roast of beef, Mr. Comber; turkeys, Mrs. Phair.

“Given her services free”¹⁹ (May, 1899)

The second annual meeting of the Dynevor Indian Hospital Ladies' Aid society was held in St. John's school house Saturday afternoon. [...] Lady Schultz, in her report, made particular mention of the indebtedness of the society to Miss Lockhart. On behalf of the society she expressed her gratitude to Mrs. Troop, who had also given her services free, and who had constituted herself housekeeper at the hospital; also to Miss Scott, another indefatigable helper at the hospital. These ladies constitute the hospital staff. [...]

Mr. Mulock advocated an outside home for the ladies who are now working in the hospital, as it was absolutely necessary to their health that they live away from the patients as much as possible.

“Good work has been done in every way”²⁰ (September, 1899)

The report of the Dynevor Indian hospital at St. Peter's reserve, near Selkirk, covering the third year of the work of that institution, is just out. [...] The institution has the confidence of the Indians, who do not care to trust themselves to a large city hospital, no matter how well conducted. They have been coming in increasing numbers to this hospital, and good work has been done in every way. As the patients are drawn in many cases from a long distance, it gives the matron and her assistants an opportunity to present Christianity to heathen Indians. The institution is under the immediate care of Miss Lockhart, graduate of the Royal hospital, Bath, and the city of London hospital, who is assisted by Mrs. Troop, late of Montreal, and several nurses. The hospital is under the auspices of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Rupert's Land being a visitor. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, which are requested to carry out the work.

¹⁹ From DYNEVOR HOSPITAL. (1899, May 1). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4.

²⁰ From DYNEVOR HOSPITAL. (1899, September 21). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5.

“Overworked”²¹ (March, 1900)

Sir – Miss Lockhart, the deaconess nurse (a graduate of the Royal United Hospital, Bath, England, and of the city of London Lying In Hospital of London, England) who has been in charge of this missionary hospital near Selkirk in this province since August 1898, has overworked herself there and has been ordered by her medical adviser to take an ocean trip with a three months’ holiday, which the committee are most desirous she should have. Her work has been voluntary and freely given to our Lord. Among your many readers is there not someone who will volunteer to take her place during her absence?

W. REDFORD MULLOCK,
Secretary-treasurer.

“Much tried by the strain”²² (April, 1900)

From Dynevor Indian Hospital we regret to hear that the doctor has ordered Miss Lockhart to England for a year or six months’ entire rest, her health having been much tried by the strain of the work here. Efforts are being made to find a trained nurse willing to take entire charge whilst Miss Lockhart is away. Money will be needed for her salary; friends in Montreal are helping a little, and the Ladies’ Aid will probably also do something towards raising the necessary amount. Miss Lockhart hopes to meet with someone in England who has already been trained as a nurse who would be willing and able to come out to help her.

“An eloquent address was given by Miss Lockhart”²³ (May, 1900)

Evidently, Miss Lockhart did not go on three months’ holiday.

The Dynevor Indian hospital society held its annual meeting yesterday afternoon in Holy Trinity House, his grace the Archbishop of Rupert’s Land presiding. Under Miss Lockhart the institution was making rapid strides and doing most effective work. [...]

The report of Mrs. Stewart, treasurer of the Ladies’ Aid, showed receipts, \$440.70; expenditures, \$430; balance, \$10.70. [...]

An eloquent address was given by Miss Lockhart, the manager, who briefly stated that the hospital was in need of certain appurtenances such as a pump and windmill, and repairs to the kitchen and operating rooms. There are now eight beds in the women’s ward, five, in the men’s, and three for special cases. In the first eight months there had been thirty-nine patients treated, and in one year after March,

²¹ From Mulock, W. R. (1900, March 21). RE: DYNEVOR INDIAN HOSPITAL. *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4. Written by William Redford Mulock (1850 – 1926).

²² From PROVINCIAL. (1900). *Leaflet of the Woman’s Auxiliary*, April 1900, 182.

²³ From DYNEVOR’S ANNUAL MEET. (1900, May 3). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 6.

1899, there were 102 treated. Miss Lockhart made special mention of Mrs. Troop, Miss Young, Miss Scott and Miss Howard for their faithful work, and of Mr. T. Gill for giving a telephone. In all, over 1,000 out-patients had received treatment.

Addresses were also made by Mr. Anderson, Chief Asham, and Mr. W. R. Mulock, Q.C. The latter showed that the receipts last year were \$2,400, and the expenditures, \$2,100. The government had given a grant of \$500, and this year an additional grant of \$150 was made.

Mr. David Laird, Indian commissioner, also spoke briefly in favor of the work, and was followed by Lady Schultz, who, after a three months' absence, was pleased to be back among the others interested in the hospital. She presented Miss Lockhart with a substantial cheque. Mrs. McFarlane made a motion thanking the press for notices and other services, after which the meeting was adjourned.

“A most stirring appeal”²⁴ (June, 1900)

Miss Lockhart of Dynevor Indian Hospital, whose health has quite broken down under the noble work she has been doing there almost unaided, made a most stirring appeal for this Mission in our own land. She has herself more than she can do, and an assistant is an absolute necessity, especially as there is no resident doctor and much of the responsibility as well as the actual hard work of nursing falls upon her.

The Home which is in use was never designed for a Hospital, and is inconvenient in every way imaginable, and a great many ways unimaginable to our civilized minds. There is no means of heating water for any purpose whatever in the Hospital save on the kitchen stove, which in the case of an operation, etc., must render matters very difficult. All water too must be pumped, [but] the pump is inadequate to the work and is constantly out of order, \$50 this year alone having been spent on repairs. A windmill has become a positive necessity, and it remains with us where the \$155 necessary to its erection is to be raised.

In the eight months from August 1898 to March '99, in-patients numbered 40, representing a variety of disease and surgery, ranging from a whitlow to the amputation of a foot. For all this responsibility, the bulk of which falls upon her shoulders, Miss Lockhart receives no salary. The work is purely a labor of love for her Master to whom she has consecrated her life, and as the last report said, “no one can visit the Hospital without being impressed with the manner in which the work is carried on.”

²⁴ From THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING. (1900). *Leaflet of the Woman's Auxiliary*, June 1900, 276-277.

“Unpretentiously useful”²⁵ (November, 1900)

The Dynevor Indian Hospital is a charity which we are always glad to say a good word for, it is so thoroughly and unpretentiously useful. We have received the fourth annual report, which is well worth reading and impossible to condense. Suffice it to say that this hospital is for Indians only, and is situated on St. Peter's Reservation, near West Selkirk, Manitoba, and is treating a constantly increasing number of both in- and out-patients; last year the in being 72, the out 377.

As the Archbishop said at the annual meeting:

“The Indian is apt to be downhearted when disease comes to him, and succumb. At the same time his constitution is unfortunately often very weak. We find he shirks from strangers, from being thrown entirely among white men, as he would be when placed in our excellent general hospital. He desires when ill to be among his own people. We cannot ignore his feelings, because his recovery depends very much upon his surroundings, and so the hospital is a great boon to the Indian.”

Gifts of money should be sent to W. R. Mulock, Secretary-Treasurer, Winnipeg; donations in kind to Miss Lockhart, Dynevor Indian Hospital, Selkirk, Man.

“No medical superintendent”²⁶ (November, 1901)

At some point, Dr. and Mrs. Rolston left Dynevor (he would die in British Columbia, years later). In other news, Miss Lockhart married Rev. Coates.

The many friends of the [Dynevor Indian Hospital] will be glad to learn that Rev. R. E. and Mrs. Coates (late Miss Lockhart) are now temporarily carrying on the work, as no medical superintendent has yet been appointed.

At a meeting held on Tuesday afternoon at the residence of Archdeacon Phair, the Dynevor Hospital Ladies' Aid were informed that circumstances had prevented the appointment of a thoroughly competent English doctor, with whom the committee have been corresponding; so that there is now no one in view, and the committee are anxious to receive offers of help from any medical man (or woman) who would devote himself to the work as former superintendents have done, for the love of God and man.

Friends who have recently visited the hospital bear testimony to its usefulness and efficacy. One consequence of its existence is the gratifying fact that the general health of the Indian community among which it stands is much improved, while patients from many outside missions such as Rainy River, File Hills, Fort Alexander, Brokenhead, Fisher River, Norway House, etc., have been received and benefited.

Up to the present time God has supplied every need of this work, and the committee are encouraged to believe that their present need will shortly be met, and

²⁵ From The Dynevor Indian Hospital. (1900, November 29). *Canadian Churchman*, p. 1.

²⁶ From DYNEVOR INDIAN HOSPITAL. (1901, November 20). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3.

in the meantime they fully appreciate the self-denial of the devoted friends who have for the present taken up the burden of the work.

“A concert of exceptional worth”²⁷ (October, 1903)

A concert of exceptional worth will be given in Holy Trinity school house on Thursday evening next under the auspices of the women of the Dynevor Indian hospital. The entertainers, who are all members of the staff of the Conservatory of Music, are well known to lovers of good music, vocal and instrumental.

“Netted a neat sum”²⁸ (October, 1903)

The concert given in Holy Trinity school house last evening, under the auspices of the Ladies’ Aid Society of the Dynevor Indian Hospital, was a charming event from start to finish. Talent from the Winnipeg Conservatory of Music provided the program, with a delight that was irresistible. There was not a number on the program but was exquisitely rendered, and which did not hold the auditors almost spellbound. [...] The Ladies’ Aid Society netted a neat sum from the concert.

“No medical aid being near”²⁹ (July, 1904)

Noah Thomas, from York Factory, was brought to Dynevor hospital this week, suffering from a gunshot wound since last Easter, by the accidental discharge of his gun while out shooting. No medical aid being near, he has borne his pains up to the present, when Drs. Ross and Steep amputated his arm at the shoulder. He is doing well and will recover.

“Am kept very busy”³⁰ (May, 1905)

[A meeting of] the women’s auxiliary of the Dynevor Indian hospital, on St. Peter’s reserve, was held last evening in Holy Trinity schoolhouse. The most important business of the meeting was the proposal for an assistant to Miss Mitchell, the superintendent. [...] Lady Schultz [...] read from a letter received from Miss Mitchell, emphasizing the closing sentence of her letter: “I am along still and with dispensary work am kept very busy.” The president made a plea for more generous contributions so that an assistant might be given her. [...]

The report of the treasurer, Mrs. Lash, was received, showing a balance on hand of \$62.61. Mrs. MacFarlane read the secretary’s report, which was lengthy. Reference was made to the donations from Ontario towns and local churches, which

²⁷ From MUSICAL EVENING IN HOLY TRINITY. (1903, October 20). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 2.

²⁸ From TO AID HOSPITAL. (1903, October 23). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5.

²⁹ From SELKIRK TREATY PAYMENT. (1904, July 12). *The Manitoba Free Press*, p. 4.

³⁰ From HOSPITAL WORK ON INDIAN RESERVE. (1905, May 26). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4.

made it possible to supply 90 old people over 60 years of age with warm clothing and a Christmas dinner.

During the year Miss Mitchell reported to the secretary on the work of the year as follows: 34 patients, both male and female, have been treated – 8 men, 4 boys, and 22 women; and over 900 out-patients. Six operations have been successfully performed, with the kind assistance of Dr. Ross. One severe operation for glands on a woman was performed by Drs. Ross and Grain.

The superintendent also tendered her gratitude to the Indian department for its unvarying kindness in contributing supplies for patients and giving them their transportation.

The report of the treasurer of the hospital board, Mr. Mulock, showed the total receipts amounting to \$1,617.72, and an expenditure of \$1,373.62, leaving a balance of \$245.09.

“No white patients are taken”³¹ (1905)

This hospital is entirely for the Indians and half-breeds. No white patients are taken; the rule is to admit no patient who does not receive “treaty money” from the government.

It is situated at a lovely spot on the Red River, about halfway between Winnipeg and the mouth of the river, and is reached by rail to West Selkirk, then a drive of three miles through a well-settled district; the farms on either bank of the river being cultivated by the original owners, Indians and their mixed descendants. The hospital proper was originally the house of the late Archdeacon Cowley, built about forty years ago, and is as substantial to-day as then; the greatest objection to its present use being the small, deep-set windows. It has been used as a hospital about ten years, and at present can accommodate about twelve or fifteen patients. There was a very nice Nurse’s Home built adjoining it, through the efforts of some of the Eastern churches’ missionary aids, but as there has never been more than the one nurse, it has never been used. Miss Mitchell, a graduate of the Southern Infirmary, Liverpool, England, has been in charge for the past five years, and as there is no resident doctor, and she is nurse in charge, dispenser and compounder of drugs, head cook, chief gardener and general factotum, with only one Indian girl in the kitchen as help, one can readily understand why she has only had one short holiday in her five years. In fact, she is a missionary in every way, and has to make ends meet, both in surgical, housekeeping, and all other work.

As her patients are nearly all tubercular, the work gets quite monotonous. If it were not for an occasional shooting accident, it would be almost impossible to continue working for such a length of time in the surroundings.

One case, for instance, came all the way from Moose Factory. In the winter an Indian had been accidentally shot in the arm whilst out trapping, and it was three

³¹ From Crawford, A. M. (1905). The Dynevor Hospital, Selkirk, Manitoba. *The Canadian Nurse*, 1(4), 17-18. Written by Abigail Maria Crawford (1864 – 1913).

weeks or more before he reached the hospital. His arm was in a fearful condition, and had to be amputated at the shoulder. However, for once there seemed to be no tubercular complications, and there was every prospect of his getting back to the north again.

It is marvelous the stoical way in which all Indians bear pain, but it is very sad to see the number which are cut down yearly by their worst enemy, tuberculosis.

Miss Mitchell has the grounds in first-class shape, and takes her relaxation in superintending and making her patients interested in out-door work. Her vegetables were far ahead of those on the farms, and as for flowers and indoor plants, they were many and beautiful.

This hospital is supported by the Government and aided by the Anglican Churches throughout Canada. Though placed in such a beautiful spot, it is shut off in wintertime, and Miss Mitchell deserves all sympathy and honor for the courage and steadfastness in her labors for the bodies and souls of the “noble red man,” who, unfortunately, seems now doomed to be wiped out by the “great white plague”.

Managed by the Women's Auxiliary

From October, 1908, the hospital was managed by the Women's Auxiliary of the Missionary Society for Rupert's Land. It is unclear whether management reverted to other Church of England associations at a later period.

“The only hospital for Indians in Manitoba”³² (July, 1909)

A correspondent sends in the following particulars with regard to the Indian hospital at Dynevor: This, the only hospital for Indians in Manitoba, came under the management of the Women's Auxiliary of Rupert's Land, last October. Since that date Mrs. Pearson, assisted by Miss Whittome, was placed in charge. When the former left to be married, Miss Whittome took charge, assisted by Miss Gibbs, until last April, when Mrs. Coates was able to take up the work again which she had so successfully carried on in the early days of the hospital.

During the nine months the hospital has been under the present management there have been about 44 in-patients, and about 1,000 dispensary patients, besides others treated in their homes. This will show how useful the hospital has been, and what a boon to the sick Indians. The hospital receives an annual grant of \$500 and medicines from the Indian department. There are also two endowed cots. Beyond this, the expenses are met by voluntary contributions, both in kind and in money. The liabilities up to July 1 were about \$1,750, and the cash receipts have been \$1,500. This leaves a deficit of \$250. The treasurer, Mrs. Chambers, of Christ church rectory, will be glad to receive donations, which will be acknowledged through the Free Press and will also be glad to furnish details of the work to those interested.

“Visits the institution once a week”³³ (December, 1909)

Dynevor hospital is an institution which takes care of old and sick Indians. It is situated on the old St. Peter's reservation, and is the only institution of its kind in Western Canada. It has been customary for a number of years to give a dinner to all the Indians on the reserve over 60 years of age. Yesterday was the date fixed for this year's celebration, and there were fifty-four of the old guard of the red people present. They have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and received each on leaving a Christmas box of a plug of tobacco.

The hospital is in what is known as St. Peter's Mission and is at the present time in charge of Nurses Brigham and Whitam and Rev. L. Laronde. The building is about fifty years old. For a number of years Archdeacon Cowley made it his residence, but three years previous to its being taken over in 1896 and used as a hospital it stood vacant.

³² From DYNEVOR HOSPITAL. (1909, July 20). *The Manitoba Free Press*, p. 7.

³³ From INDIANS FEASTED (1909, December 31). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4.

There is an average of about eighty patients the year round in the hospital receiving treatment.

The hospital is well equipped and is supported by voluntary contributions, outside of the fifty cents per day per patient, paid by the Dominion government, which in addition, supplies the dispensary. The hospital takes care of all Indians from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains, which includes the following tribes of the province of Rupert's Land: Musonne, Keewatin, Rupert's Land, Yukon, McKenzie River, Athabasca, Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan and Calgary.

Among those present yesterday was Bishop Andersen of the diocese of Moosonne, who had charge of St. Peter's mission for nineteen years. Others present were: Mr. and Mrs. Dagg. Mr. Dagg is secretary of the hospital board. Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Steep. The doctor is medical superintendent and visits the institution once a week.

"The annual dinner to the old folks"³⁴ (January, 1910)

One hundred Cree and Soto³⁵ Indians and Indian women, with heads bowed by the weight of years, took their seats at a feast destined, perhaps, to be the last with the place face at the Dynevor hospital Thursday. The pipe of peace was passed, cheer was in the atmosphere, but withal there was an unspoken expression on the red man's face that told of his reluctance to give up his camp to the inevitable advance of the white man.

It was the occasion of the annual dinner to the "old folks" at St. Peter's reserve, three miles north of Selkirk, but there was more than the passing tribute of the pale face to his aborigine brother in this year's Yuletide festivities. The occasion marked the time when the Indian must still further recede to the north or take up the white man's task of taxes, interest in municipal affairs and all those things so long distasteful, even abhorrent to the North American Indian. It is estimated that there are more than 100 residents on the reserve who are over 70 years of age.

By treaty the majority of the 1,200 Indians on the St. Peter's reserve decided to accept the government offer of sixteen acres per capita, free and unincumbered, with the privilege of selling at their own pleasure. Many have already gone to the new reserve at Fisher River, between Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg, 150 miles north. There they will farm and fish and live out their days, but the sentiment of the old reserve will be ever with them.

And the older members of the tribes on the reserve will stick just as long as permissible.

REMINISCENCES OF SEVEN OAKS

Richard Prince, a grandson of the first chief on the reserve, Chief Peguis, related to the reporter the story of the killing of Governor Semple, 94 years ago, in

³⁴ From DINED "THE OLD FOLKS" ON ST. PETER'S RESERVE. (1910, January 1). *The Manitoba Free Press*, p. 7.

³⁵ Salteau First Nation.

the battle of Seven Oaks. He was a mere lad then, but as he told of going to the post after hearing of the massacre and of what he saw and heard there, it was convincingly plain that the old man's memory was still clear, notwithstanding his century and odd years of life.

Thomas Bunyon, another aged Cree, recalled the same affair. He said the assassin was a halfbreed.

The Cree, a branch of the Algonquin race, were ever loyal to Canada, as were the Sotos. They were hostile to halfbreeds, but never in the history of the west were they in open conflict with any race or tribe.

RECALLS HIS EARLY ADVENTURES

Thomas Smith, a full blood Algonquin, 89 years of age, grew reminiscent and told of some of the trials and battles of his illustrious forbear, Chief Peguis. Smith came west in 1826 in a canoe. It was the year of the flood, he said, and hardships were many because the water had forced the game far back in the forests. He recalled adventures of the Algonquins as repeated to him when young, and of their prowess when they swept everything before them from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Pacific coast. "But," he added, with a significant shake of the head, "the days are gone when the Indian may chase o'er the hill and dale the mountain doe and live the life destined for him."

HELPED BUILD DYNEVOR HOSPITAL

William Thomas, a Soto Indian, was there. He had helped build the hospital sixty-five years ago. He said he didn't "take treaty." He was opposed to what he termed the speculator's grab. He talked intelligently of the reserve, its purpose and scope, and added: "We, as a nation, are powerless before the white man. We must bow silently though reluctantly before the inevitable. All our work here must be done again."

The Indian women talked but little. They enjoyed their dinners and made merry with the young folk to the tune of the musical instrument that poured forth its strains of changing music and song.

REMEMBER ASSASSINATION OF SUTHERLAND

William Asham, the second chief at St. Peter's reserve, and one of the first settlers, is now approaching 80 years of age. He remembered the shooting of Sutherland's son by Riel's constables, and the turbulent times of the American Indians in the Black Hills, "but on this side," he said, "we were on friendly terms with the pale face and loyal to them."

DON'T TAKE TREATY

John Sinclair, another Indian of advanced years, said he "don't take treaty. Scheme no good. White man rob Indian. Send him into wilderness to die, and maybe come some time with heap wampum, but that only for one day." Then his head sank in his hands and he refused to talk further. Seemingly a cherished hope lay deeply buried within his faltering frame of all that was left of a once "noble red man."

But the chief function of the day was immensely enjoyed by all. It was a potlatch par excellence, in which the pale faces present partook with as much relish as their brother red men.

BISHOP ANDERSON INTERVIEWED

Bishop Anderson, who served for nineteen years on the reservation, told of the object of the hospital and the interest of the church in the present Indians. The hospital building was originally the residence of Archdeacon Cowley. The Indians assisted in its building and at his death it was turned into a hospital for all Indians of Western Canada from Lake Superior to the coast. It is maintained by voluntary subscription augmented by a government grant and is entirely non-sectarian.

The hospital board is composed of Dr. Steep, medical superintendent; J. G. Dagg, secretary; Rev. S. G. Chambers, treasurer, and Canon Murray, chairman; Mrs. Macfarlane, Mrs. Steep and Mrs. Dagg are also active workers in connection with the hospital. Its connection with the church of England is in the diocese of the province of Rupert's Land, which includes the dioceses of Moosonee, Keewatin, Mackenzie River and Yukon. At the present time there are eight patients in the hospital. Tubercular trouble seems to be principally the ailment of those confined to bed, it is stated. Rev. L. Laronde is the present clergyman in the parish.

BITTER MEMORIES OF A WARRIOR

Touching on the subject of their gradual decline as a race, one old Indian said: "Politics seems to have a great deal to do with the attitude of the government toward the Indian at different times. We cannot fight; we must bow in obedience to the white man's power, and is it not but natural that we sometimes appear sullen and allow our sentiments to appear in our actions?"

This was the grandson of a great warrior, the Algonquin chief Apechancon, the great organizer, who had known Pontiac and Tecumseh. And as the old man continued his voice grew stronger; the blood of his sires seemed to warm as he harped back to the days when the red man fought for his rights in the native country against an alien foe. He traced the story to the time when the red man was vanquished by superior numbers and modern methods of warfare. Then, he slowly told of the privations, the law's delay in carrying out promises and finally the reserve.

"The reserve," he almost shouted. "The Indian knows no reserve, no bounds, no confines, but he is forced to recognize them now. And we do so in peace." And as the wrinkled old man gathered himself together and closed his eyes in apparent oblivion to all except the thought that absorbed his mind, it was manifest that he felt that the day was not long before the last of the red men would trek to the Happy Hunting Ground.

"Five hundred pounds of turkey"³⁶ (December, 1913)

For several years a number of friends living in Winnipeg of the Indians on St. Peter's Reserve have given them a dinner at Christmas time. This year the annual treat was given yesterday in the Dynevor Indian hospital building. Invitations were sent to all the Indians on the reserve over 50 years of age, and about one hundred

³⁶ From INDIANS ON ST. PETER'S RESERVE ENJOY A FEAST. (1913, December 31). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1.

and twenty were present. Owing to the beautiful weather preparations were made for a large number and five hundred pounds of turkey, about one hundred pounds of plum pudding and cases of apples [and] oranges, [and] pails of candy were sent to the reserve, where willing hands were ready to prepare them.

As the time for dinner approached, it was soon noticed that the committee had not made too elaborate preparations, for Indians were seen coming from all directions – in all sorts of conveyances – old men and women, who had not ventured out of their homes all winter, were seen hobbling along – who were interesting to talk to of the events of seventy years ago. Many of them are now on the eve of ninety years old; some walked twelve and fifteen miles to be present, anticipating a repetition of the good things they received in past years; others came in dog sleds from Lake Winnipeg. Each Indian, in addition to getting a splendid dinner, was given a pound of tea, a plug of tobacco, a bag of candy and oranges, apples and nuts to take home to their families.

“Increasing usefulness”³⁷ (April, 1924)

Reports presented at the recent annual meeting of the Dyvenor Indian hospital and Home near Selkirk showed an increasing usefulness in the work of the institution. During the year 152 patients were admitted and of these 70 were discharged cured. Splendid service was rendered by the out-patient department.

Additions and improvements to the building and equipment, at a cost of about \$3,000, included the installation of electric light and power, machinery for the laundry, and a domestic water supply. A covered way also has been built between the hospital and the nurses’ home.

“Satisfactory reports”³⁸ (March, 1932)

Satisfactory reports were presented at the annual meeting of the Dyvenor Indian Hospital recently, which was presided over by His Grace Archbishop Stringer. [...] The treasurer, Mrs. A. W. Wilcox presented her statement, which showed a credit balance of \$2,674.76. The hospital serves two classes of patients, the sick and the aged, providing a home for the latter and nursing care for the former. The Matron, Miss M. A. C. Whieldon, stated that during the year 118 patients had been admitted. There had been twelve births. The staff consists of two qualified nurses, two or three undergraduates or practical nurses and a housekeeper. The maids are Indian girls who have given splendid satisfaction. A farm manager is also employed to look after the outside work of the hospital and do repair work.

³⁷ From INDIAN HOSPITAL DOES GOOD WORK AT DYVENOR. (1924, April 1). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 7.

³⁸ From CHURCH AIDS INDIANS WITH HOSPITAL WORK. (1932, March 26). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 12.

“Eggs, too, are sold during the summer”³⁹ (March, 1933)

Archbishop Stringer presided over the annual meeting of the Dynevor Hospital board on Monday afternoon in Trinity Hall. His Grace expressed confidence in the outlook for Indian residential schools, and also for the Indian hospital at Selkirk, Dynevor hospital.

Mrs. A. Code, the secretary, reported ten meetings held during the year at which the board had discussed economies for the hospital. The 48 beds have been filled with Indian men, women, and children most of the year. The patients have enjoyed their magic lantern and the Christmas gifts sent by the W.A. New furnishings for the nurses’ home, a radio for the patients, with a loud speaker – the gift of the Elks, were installed during the year, despite the cut in operating expenses.

Rev. Roy Montgomery reported on the building committee’s work, the year’s story of the farm and out buildings at the hospital. Only 8 acres of the 125-acre farm are under cultivation; hay lands give all the hay required, and cord wood to the extent of 50 cords has been cut on the lands. Holstein cows give an average of 62 quarts of milk a day, some of which is sold. Eggs, too, are sold during the summer.

Mrs. A. Wilcox reported a good financial standing. Receipts for the year were \$16,460.11 and expenses \$13,380.64, leaving a balance on hand of \$3,079.47.

A report on the nurses at the institution was read, recording the death of the late senior nurse who died five days after her arrival in China. The matron’s report was read by Mrs. Code, recording a total of 95 patients received during the year, and 90 discharged, with examinations given 60 people.

³⁹ From Dynevor Board Elects Officers, Hears Reports. (1933, March 21). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4.

Federal Government Ownership

“That was the whole reason”⁴⁰ (July, 1939)

Dynevor hospital, on the shore of the Red river, three miles north of Selkirk, has been sold by the Anglican diocese of Rupert’s Land to the Dominion government for use as a tuberculosis sanatorium for the Indian population of Manitoba.

For 43 years the institution was operated as a hospital for sick and infirm Indians by a board established under the archbishop of the diocese. The sale of the property has been approved by Most Rev. M. T. M. Harding, present archbishop and the diocese executive council.

Church authorities feel that the Indians will be much better cared for under the new arrangement, R. H. Pook, secretary-treasurer of the diocese, said today. That was the whole reason for the transfer of the property.

The hospital, which now has 45 beds, was originally built more than 60 years ago as the rectory for St. Peter’s parish and for years was the residence of Archdeacon Abraham Cowley. The property transferred to the Dominion comprises the buildings and 340 acres of land.

At the time Dynevor was made into a hospital for Indians under the management of the church it was the only institution of its kind in Manitoba. Hereafter it will be conducted by the Manitoba Sanatorium board.

Under the church management Dr. W. H. Gibbs, of Selkirk, was medical officer in charge, with Miss J. H. M. Parke as matron. The nursing staff of three comprised Misses M. Bicknell, M. Blackburn and M. Parker.

“Steady progress”⁴¹ (January, 1940)

Canada is making steady progress in the provision of medical services and hospitals for her Indian population. Among the latest developments reported by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, which is charged with the supervision of Indian welfare, is the purchase of the Dynevor Hospital on the Red River near Selkirk, Manitoba, and the construction of a new Indian hospital at the Fisher River Agency, about one hundred miles north of Winnipeg.

The Dynevor Hospital was formerly a combined hospital and old people’s home operated for Indians by the Church of England. It is being renovated and re-equipped, and will be operated by the Manitoba Sanatorium Board as a tuberculosis hospital for Indians only. The new Fisher River Indian Hospital will serve a community of about 1,500 Indians which formerly had to send hospital patients to Winnipeg. These hospitals are being established as a means of providing needed care for sick Indians at a cost less than that of admitting them to public institutions.

⁴⁰ From Indian Hospital Sold By Church. (1939, July 19). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5.

⁴¹ From Hospitals for Indians. (1940, January 9). *The Redcliff Review*, p. 5.

In safeguarding the health of the Indian population, the Indian Affairs Branch employs about five hundred doctors and dentists on whole or part-time work, and has several hospitals of its own and a small but efficient field nursing service. It supplies medicine both by central purchase and local prescription, and engages in every activity relating to the health of about 118,000 Indians living in about eight hundred separate communities in Canada.

“Fifty patients”⁴² (March, 1943)

While the responsibility for treatment of tuberculosis amongst Indians rests with the Dominion Government, this Board has, nevertheless, been greatly interested in the matter. In 1939, upon its recommendation, the Department of Mines and Resources purchased from the Anglican Church the Dynevor Indian Hospital located about three miles north of Selkirk, and entered into an agreement with the Board whereby we operate it on behalf of the Dominion Government. It has accommodation for fifty patients⁴³.

“They furnished the house, of course”⁴⁴ (December, 1946)

When the girls auxiliary of New St. Peter’s church, St. Peter’s Man., heard of the need for toys among the children at Dynevor Indian Hospital, they made a doll’s house and a family of twelve dolls to live in it. They furnished the house, of course, and dressed the dolls before presenting them to the children.

“The closing of Dynevor Indian Hospital”⁴⁵ (November, 1957)

A decline of tuberculosis among Manitoba Indians has resulted in the closing of Dynevor Indian Hospital, four miles north of Selkirk, Man. Chairman William Whyte of the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba, said Thursday.

He said the last 20 patients at Dynevor have been transferred to Brandon, which will share the treatment of Indians and [Inuit] with the Sanatorium at The Pas, Man. No decision has been made as to the future use of Dynevor Hospital, which is federal government property.

Dr. E. L. Ross, medical director of the Manitoba board, said treatment of tuberculosis was meeting with more and more success due to early diagnosis, new drugs and modern surgery.

⁴² From Stockdill, C. E. (1943, March 6). The Sanatorium Board of Manitoba. *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5. Written by Charles Ernest Stockdill (1881 – 1960).

⁴³ “This hospital, operated by the Sanatorium Board on behalf of the Dominion government, had an average occupancy of 92 percent of capacity.” Free T. B. Treatment for Manitobans Soon. (1944, February 26). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 19.

⁴⁴ From Doll Family and House for Children in Dynevor Hospital. (1946, December 11). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8.

⁴⁵ From Low TB Rate Closes Hospital. (1957, November 15). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 23.

“Prevention of the spread of infection is still the foundation of tuberculosis control and the prompt finding of new cases is the essence of success,” he said.

“Threatened to resign”⁴⁶ (March, 1958)

The superintendent of the Manitoba Home for Girls and her assistant have threatened to resign if the provincial government goes through with a plan to move the home to the Dynevor Indian hospital near Selkirk, Man.

Miss Marjory Tobin, superintendent at the home for wayward girls for seven years, said facilities at the hospital are “hopelessly inadequate” for the care of 32 girls who would be moved with the school.

“Girl Inmates Damage Home”⁴⁷ (September, 1958)

A disturbance at the Dynevor Home for Girls Monday night involving about 16 girls resulted in damage of less than \$200, Attorney-General Sterling Lyon said Tuesday.

The temporary home for girls is located at the former Dynevor Hospital north of Selkirk, Man., 23 miles north of Winnipeg.

Mr. Lyon, who personally inspected the home, said:

“There was a disturbance at the home Monday night which resulted in damage to one room and three doors and a few broken panes of glass. The disturbance, which we know now was premeditated, was initiated by ringleaders of 10 girls who were on remand awaiting trial, and spread to about six other girls who are permanently committed to the home, and who, because of their past behavior, are segregated and on restricted privileges.”

He said the main damage was caused by this latter group to their sleeping quarters. The disturbance began after bedtime when the girls in remand started a sing-song which spread. The remanded girls broke down one door but then confined themselves to just singing and shouting. This disturbance spread to the segregated girls below who then damaged their quarters, he said.

RCMP from Selkirk detachment were called by the acting superintendent, but it took until the early morning hours before the group involved was settled.

⁴⁶ From Threat to Quit Follows Moving of Girls' Home. (1958, March 29). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 14.

⁴⁷ From Girl Inmates Damage Home. (1958, September 24). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 38.