

EARLY BEGINNINGS OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PHARMACEUTICAL
ASSOCIATION.

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The Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association was founded at a meeting held at the Board of Trade Rooms, Charlottetown on the morning of June 14, 1905. The provincial legislative had passed "an Act of Incorporation of the Prince Edward Pharmaceutical Association" on May 5, 1905 and presumably there had been earlier meetings between the pharmacists and the government regarding the legislation. Mr. George E. Hughes, of Charlottetown was elected chairman for the organizational meeting of the Association. There were twelve pharmacists present. They gave their approval to the legislation and accepted it as the constitution of the Association. It was necessary for each one to demonstrate that they met the requirements of the Act for Membership in the Association. When this was done an election for Council and its executive was held. The Organizational meeting then adjourned until the afternoon, when the first official meeting of the Association, chaired by the first president, Mr. C.D. Rankin of Charlottetown.¹

There had been an earlier attempt to organize an Association in the province.² The druggists of Charlottetown, in 1894, had held a series of meetings. Price-cutting was a problem at that time, and in March 1895 an agreement was signed by the pharmacists of Charlottetown stating that they would sell all patent medicines and other goods usually kept in the drug store at the marked retail price on the package or advertised by the manufacturers.³

At a later date, one of the druggists had second thoughts about the agreement that he had signed and the following was reported in the December 1895 issue of the Canadian Druggist:

"as a result of one Charlottetown druggist wishing his name withdrawn from the agreement entered into last spring, and regulating the price of proprietary medicines, all other druggists have lately met together several times and formed themselves in to the Druggists Association of Charlottetown, with its object 'the mutual benefit of its members'.

The Associated druggists renewed their pledges to uphold the scale of prices agreed to last spring, regulating the retail price of many drugs and medicines in common demand, and transacted other business calculated to encourage a feeling among the druggists to protect their rights and further their interests."⁴

The first Act allowed for the registration of anyone "who had at least four years of experience in a drug store and who has been, or was at that time, engaged in the business of chemist and druggist in the province." Such persons were required to present evidence of this and pay the required fee before August 1st. A board of examiners was established to examine other candidates seeking registration.⁵ Candidates were required to "write a fair and legible hand and must spell correctly. He must possess a knowledge of English grammar, algebra, geometry, geography, bookkeeping and arithmetic and the rudiments of the latin language". The pharmacy subjects which had to be passed were materia medica, chemistry, practical pharmacy, dispensing and botany.

Some of the first applicants had to be rejected for "want of proper qualifications". Mr. Johnson, the first registrar reported that "naturally those rejected were not very well pleased, particularly in one case, where the applicant applied to the Lieut-Governor-in-Council asking that they overrule the action of the Pharmaceutical Association, and a committee consisting of the Hon. A. Peters, Attorney General, Hon. F.L. Haszard and Hon. S.E. Ried were appointed to look into the claim. The applicant appeared personally before this committee and the writer was also summoned to explain the action of our council and show all papers connected with the applicant. The result was that the action of our council was sustained. The decision of the Government in this case greatly strengthened the hands of the Association and there has been no appeal from the decision of the Council since that time."⁶ By June, 1906, fifty-three persons had registered. There were still several cases of stores being conducted by unqualified persons and the secretary-registrar stated that "considerable correspondence had passed between the writer and the parties accused of violating the Act; but I am glad to be able to report that in each case the matter has been amicably settled to the satisfaction of Council".⁷

The first president, Mr. C.D. Rankin had been practising pharmacy since 1869 and operated a drug store on Grafton Street. Richard M. Johnson, the first secretary-registrar had attended the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1893 and graduated with honours and the degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy. He then returned to Charlottetown to practice in partnership with his brother and in 1900 he had assumed full

responsibility for the business when his brother retired. The other members of council were Hon. Geo. E. Hughes, M.L.A., Hammond J. Mabon of Souris (Mr. Mabon had worked in Boston for four years), H. Allison Ellis, Charlottetown (Mr. Ellis had practised in O'Leary, Kensington and Montague and was the first treasurer of the Association . He later moved to Lashburn, Saskatchewan due to health reasons of his wife), A.W.P. Gourlie, Summerside and Dr. D. Darrach. (Dr. Darrach was a graduate of the Harvard Medical School and practiced medicine until 1883 at Margate and Kensington. He had opened a drug store in Kensington and upon his retirement from Medicine he operated that store until the early 1900's).⁸

Fees were initially \$4.00 per year and at the July 1905 council meeting it was reported that \$116.00 had been collected.⁹ In 1907 it was agreed that the Registrar-Secretary should receive a yearly salary of \$25.00 and that council members would be paid their railway fare to attend council meetings. At that meeting, a resolution favouring the formation of a Maritime Pharmaceutical Association was passed and it was stated that such an Association would be of "great benefit to the Drug Trade of the Maritimes".¹⁰ Although the minutes do not make direct reference to the proposed Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, it is apparent the Prince Edward Island Association believed at that time that a Maritime Association would be more useful. The Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society had sent a letter of greetings to the Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association and had invited the members from Prince Edward Island to attend their annual meeting in Amherst.¹¹ The minutes of the Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society state

that a letter from the Prince Edward Island Association was received proposing a Maritime Association rather than a Canadian Association. Mr. Dalton of Summerside attended the Nova Scotia meeting. The New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society also had three representatives, Mr. Fairweather, Mr. Rodd and Mr. Woodruff, attending the Nova Scotia Meeting. At that meeting a resolution was passed supporting the formation of a national organization for pharmacy.¹³ The Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association appointed Mr. G.E. Hughes as their delegate to attend the conference held later in Toronto which resulted in the formation of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.¹² Apparently Mr. Hughes was unable to attend and Mr. Alex Gourlie served as the delegate from Prince Edward Island at the meeting which resulted in the organization of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.¹³ Mr. Gourlie was an able representative of the Island and was a strong advocate of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association in its early years. He was a native of Summerside, where his father had started the first drug store in that community. Mr. Gourlie was a 1902 graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. He had first practised pharmacy in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan and in 1903 returned to Summerside on the death of his father to assume the responsibility of the family drug store. He was a president of the Prince Edward Island Association in 1908 and died at the early age of 32.¹⁴

One of the early problems facing the Association was enforcement of the Pharmacy Act. In 1908 Council appointed Mr. Nelson Younken as its Inspector. A letter was sent to the National Drug Company asking that drugs, chemicals and patent medicines not be sold

to general stores. ¹³

In 1910 Mr. MacKinnon and Mr. Johnson were delegated by the annual meeting to interview the Charlottetown druggists regarding early closing, with the intent that drug stores should close at 9:00 p.m. each week night except Saturday and that stores would be open on Sundays for only one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. ¹⁶

In 1910 Mr. Hughes and the Secretary held talks with the Attorney General regarding doctors who owned or operated drug stores. ¹⁷ Physicians could register with the Association, without examination, for a fee of \$10.00. In 1914 the annual meeting formed a Legal Committees "to wait upon the Government in reference to amending the Pharmacy Act in order that doctors be prohibited from registration unless they passed examinations." ¹⁷ Although there was a report at the next annual meeting in 1915, the minutes do not indicate the government had been agreeable to changing the Act. Mr. Foster reported "that although nothing definite had been done it was not expecting too much if we won our point in the near future prohibiting doctors to register without examination." ¹⁸

In 1909 the Association received correspondence from Nova Scotia proposing the formation of a Maritime College of Pharmacy. No action was taken by the Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association and in 1911 the Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society started the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacy. Sixty years ago, in 1917, the Maritime College of Pharmacy replaced the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacy. At the Annual Meeting held on June 13, 1917

there was a discussion regarding whether or not the Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association should support the Maritime College. The Association decided it would not affiliate with the Maritime College of Pharmacy at that time.¹⁹ In later years there was further discussions regarding this and eventually in 1951, the Association entered into affiliation with the Maritime College of Pharmacy.

In 1909 a resolution was sent to the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association expressing agreement with the principle of reciprocity of diplomas.²⁰ A similar resolution was also approved in 1914 when the Education Committee of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association was determining how many provinces were in favor of reciprocity.¹⁷ The prices of drugs and store hours were continuous problems in those early days. In 1915 it was agreed that a price list compiled by the Charlottetown druggists would be mailed to all druggists and the druggists were asked to indicate their acceptance of the list. At the 1915 meeting, Mr. Miles of National Drug and Chemical Company, assured the members that his Company would not sell to anyone who wanted to start a "cut-rate" store.¹⁸

Pharmacy in Prince Edward Island had been enriched over the years by its individual members. The Association has always been small in members, however this has enabled them to work together more as a family and allowed a high level of participation of its members in the deliberations of the Association. The Pharmacists of the province should be proud of the fact that they have the oldest continuously operating Pharmacy in Canada as well as other Pharmacies

whose histories go back many years. The members of the Association have always been very much a part of activities occurring on the Island. The following is an excerpt taken from a 1895 issue of the Canadian Druggist:

"The Island press is unanimous in declaring that the exhibit made by Mr. W.R. Watson of Charlottetown, at the Provincial Exhibition, held a few days ago, was not only the handsomest in the building, but the finest ever made by any business house in the province. The exhibit attracted large crowds which were very interested in it. Besides Mr. Watson's own preparations, there was a cabinet of rare drugs, another of elegant pharmaceutical preparations, a very handsome pyramid of perfumes, large sponges, brushes, costly carved pipes, original package of drugs, beautiful cases of cigars and a series of large cards covered with sundry articles arranged in artistic designs, and representing various departments of the business. The exhibits represented a great deal of work and enterprise, and should bring favourable results to the exhibit. Mr. Davies was the only other exhibitor among the Druggists. His exhibits did not consist of drugs, but of a fine line of the "comet" bicycles for which he is the Charlottetown agent. Mr. Davies not only rode in the bicycle races, but was the first to import a wheel built for two into Prince Edward Island." ²¹

This is the second time that the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association has met on the Island. The 1925 meetings were held at Prince of Wales College Hall, Charlottetown, August 3rd to 6th. A special "Summer Tourist" rail fare was available for \$165.00 from Vancouver to Charlottetown via Halifax with an option of travelling from Fort William to Quebec City by boat. In publicizing that meeting, the Canadian Druggist commented as follows:

"There doesn't promise to be anything unlucky about the convention of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association this year even if it is to be the Thirteenth Annual Convention. - - - - The choice of Charlottetown, P.E.I. for this year's convention was a particularly happy one. It is ideally situated and has been together with Halifax, one of the strongholds of progressive pharmacy in the East for more than half a century.

There will be a real holiday atmosphere about this present gathering. Charlottetown, owing to its location, is a vacation point of much charm."²²

At that meeting what was described as 'the greatest year' in the history of CPhA' was reported. The balance of money owing to the Gibbard estate for our journal has been paid, British Columbia and Quebec had rejoined the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, and Sir William Glyn-Jones had travelled across Canada regarding price maintenance. Canadian Pharmacists were united in their support of a Proprietary Article Trades Association as a means of preventing

price-cutting.²³ Hon. Geo. Hughes was Chairman of the local Committee and Premier Stewart and Mayor MacKenna extended official welcome to the province and the city. Mr. E.A. Foster was elected as Vice-President of the Association while Hon. G.E. Hughes was named as Honorary President. Dr. Rusby, Dean of Pharmacy at Columbia University spoke on his trip to South America to search for jungle plants used by the natives of that continent. The social program included a visit to Col. MacKenna's Vimy Ranch at Brackley Beach, a reception at Government House, and a sail by moonlight on Hillsboro Bay. The convention closed with a banquet at the Beach Grove Inn. The program lasted until after midnight, with numerous toasts, speeches, and musical entertainment. Mr. Burbidge spoke of previous conventions and the people from the Island who had attended past conventions and remarked that it took 18 years for CPhA to have its first convention on the Island.²⁴

The Canadian Pharmaceutical Association after an absence of fifty-two years is again meeting in Charlottetown. The tradition of hospitality from that early meeting still remains as well as the opportunity for all present to fully enjoy the beauty of this wonderful historical island. The early beginnings of the Association required men who were willing to devote their time and effort to the establishment of the Association and to provide leadership to the profession in Prince Edward Island.

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