
RETURN

To an Order of the House for all papers and correspondence relating to the appointment of a Resident Physician for the Asylum for the Insane at New Westminster.

JNO. ROBSON,

Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
23rd January, 1885.*

R. I. Bentley, M.B., to the Provincial Secretary.

NEW WESTMINSTER,

March 14, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honour to apply for the position of Resident Physician to the Asylum for the Insane, the filling of which appointment is, I understand, in contemplation by the Government.

May I beg permission at the same time to offer for your consideration in reference to this appointment a few suggestions which have occurred to me as the result of my present practice in the Asylum and Hospital in this city. In doing so I venture to assume that the physician to be appointed would be required to give up so much of his time to the duties of his position as practically to make it impossible to devote any great attention to outside work, because I believe it to be generally conceded that the treatment of the insane by a physician, and the attention to them demanded of him if any degree of success is to be expected, imperatively requires the most careful and constant supervision on his part; and it is, I may be allowed to say, commonly understood that the contemplated appointment is due to the recognition by the Government of these facts.

But while I believe that a physician would find any general practice incompatible with the duties in question in proportion to the extent of such practice, there are other positions here in the appointment of the Government the duties of which, being consistent with regular attendance at certain hours, except on rare occasions, would not interfere with the most careful attention to all the requirements of the position in question.

May I take the liberty, then, of suggesting to you whether the desirability of combining the positions I have referred to in the person of one physician, requiring him to devote all his time and attention to them, may not be worthy of consideration, as being best calculated to secure the most efficient performance of the necessary work, and at the same time to secure this advantage without increasing materially, if at all, the present outlay.

If these suggestions should be deemed worthy of consideration, I shall be glad to state more fully the reasons which have led me to consider such a plan desirable, and the way in which it may be carried out successfully.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. I. BENTLEY, M.B.,
Med. Off. P. L. Asylum.

The Provincial Secretary to R. I. Bentley, M.B.

VICTORIA, B. C., 17th March, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, applying for the appointment of Resident Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane.

Owing to the absence of the Hon. the Premier, consideration of the subject will be delayed for some time, but the earliest opportunity of bringing your application and accompanying valuable suggestions before the Government will be taken.

Meanwhile, if you should think proper to place me in possession of the reasons to which you refer, as having led you to suggest the amalgamation of offices, it might tend to facilitate matters.

I am, &c.,
(Signed)

JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

R. I. Bentley, M.B., to the Provincial Secretary.

NEW WESTMINSTER,
March 26th, 1884.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 17th instant, I beg to state that should the suggestions mentioned in my report for the year be carried out it would make a great improvement in the usefulness of the institution.

The duties of a Medical Superintendent at the Asylum would allow of at least a couple of hours absence every day to attend to the requirements of the other institutions here; and should these all be connected by telephone, it would make the scheme quite practicable. The combination of the salaries of the Superintendent and Medical Officers here would make the amount up to \$2,600, leaving very little extra to be made up by the Government to secure these advantages.

I would suggest that the physician's house and the fence to enclose the grounds be put up as soon as possible, as nothing can be done towards giving the patients healthful work without the supervision of the physician.

I would also suggest that a surgery be fitted up in the building, with a complete stock of medicines, &c. This would lessen the present expensive way of having prescriptions put up in town.

Should the appointment be given to me, I would devote all my energies to the cure of those under my care; and with my knowledge of the peculiarities of each patient, I am sure I could make improvements in a number of those there now.

If I am to be appointed and could know of it before it would be necessary to commence duty, I would ask for leave of absence for a month to visit the Asylum at Toronto, in order to inspect the workings of the institution there.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. I. BENTLEY, M.B.,
Med. Off. P. L. A.

The Provincial Secretary to R. I. Bentley, M.B.

VICTORIA, B. C., 12th May, 1884.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that you have been appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, and Medical Officer of the Gaol and Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster.

In consideration of your giving up private practice and devoting your whole time to the above duties, your remuneration will be at the rate of \$2,500 per annum, with free lodgings, fuel and light.

The appointments, as above, will not take effect until such time as the buildings at the Asylum shall be sufficiently advanced to render such action desirable, but you are informed thus early of the decision of the Government in order that you may have, in accordance with your wish, an opportunity to visit the Asylum at Toronto and inspect the workings of that institution.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JNO. ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

The Provincial Secretary to R. I. Bentley, M.B.

VICTORIA, B. C., 18th November, 1884.

SIR,—In my letter of the 12th May last, informing you of your appointment as Resident Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, and Medical Officer of the Gaol and Royal Columbian Hospital, it was stated that the appointment would "not take effect until

