

Alberta Chiropractic Association

ORGANIZED 1917



Liberty - Freedom - Progress

Edmonton, Alta.
444 Tegler Blk.,
Aug. 18th. 1941.

Dr. Harold S. Ramsey,
Box 365,
Olds, Alta.

Dear Doctor Ramsey:

Was sorry indeed when I read your letter of July 21st. stating that you could not see your way clear to join our Association this year.

Our Convention lasted two days, and was one of the best we have had for many years. The six new men that wrote their Provincial exams. were present part of the time. At near the close of the meeting we learned that all of them had been successful in passing their examinations. Each of them expressed a desire to join up with us. We immediately voted on them, and they shall become members after they have been in practice 90 days. They are a very fine bunch of boys, and I am sure they shall be a credit to our profession in Alberta.

I believe you are the only registered Chiropractor in the Province who is not a member of our body. In your letter you requested that I write you stating the purpose, aims, and benefits derived from membership in our Organization. I will gladly do so in the following paragraph, and hope that you will not find it too long, nor too uninteresting:

The few Chiropractors who were located in Alberta got together in 1917 and started regular meetings, sometimes they met every ten days, Medical men were at that time urging and insisting the Government to prosecute, and many were fined.

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The Association then hired an Attorney and proceeded to draw up a Chiropractic Act, which they attempted to pass at the following meeting of the Legislature. This failed to pass, and the Medical Association spent hundreds of dollars on detrimental propaganda. The Association then became an Incorporated body, and started to work ~~all~~ the harder. Two or three individual members put around \$500 apiece into the general fund, and the others put in at least \$50 apiece, and more if they had it, in order to finance the successful passing of a suitable law recognizing the Science of Chiropractic as a separate and distinct art in the matter of healing the sick.

After five years of hard slugging, and the expenditure of several thousands of dollars this Association finally were successful in having our present Act passed. We were somewhat disappointed however, as at the last minute the medicos inserted a clause stating that our examining board would be comprised of two Chiropractors and TWO MEDICAL MEN from the University staff.

I must state, in all fairness, that the two medical men were very fair indeed. Before the exams. were held they always handed their lists of questions to us with the request that we delete any question that in our opinion was too stiff or unfair. We did not have to delete many.

Our Association was severely criticised by individuals in the States, and in other parts of Canada, due to the fact that we did not have a strictly Chiropractic Board. (If I remember correctly only one man failed during the time the two M. D's. were on our Board. This man did not write an intelligent paper on strictly Chiropractic questions).

About this time we had considerable money in the Treasury again, and therefor started on a Radio educational campaign. Twice weekly we broadcasted a fifteen minute program from Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. I was President at that time, and recall that several of our members were very much against this. However, the majority ruled, and it was up to me to write and arrange every word of these programs, some job!! We spent around \$900 in this work, and must say that it was a huge success. Those that were against it originally, asked that we carry on for another six months. I was so worn out with the additional work that I refused, but suggested that they carry on individually.

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During this time new Chiropractors coming in were successful in passing their examinations. We bided our time, however, and several years later we were successful in passing an amendment which called for a strictly Chiropractic Examining Board. This was some task. A Chiropractor from southern Alberta, Dr. Clancy, and myself spent three weeks steady up here lobbying, and working and speaking before the Agricultural Committee; against the President of our University, the President of the Medical Association, and their Secretary and other M. D's. Since the passing of this amendment every Chiropractor who is familiar with the various clauses of our Chiropractic Act say that we have one of the finest Acts of its kind in the entire world. There is no question about it - - we have.

Matters of this kind naturally entail the expenditure of a considerable amount of cash. Therefor a levy was imposed upon each member, only small, and did not work any hardship upon any individual. They were all glad to turn in the small sum necessary.

During this time a few of our members were doing quite a bit of work for the Workmen's Compensation Board, while others were getting none of this. (Personally I had been for several years doing about \$100 per month with this Board). I knowingly cut off my nose by presenting a Brief before a Board of Review in Compensation matters, wherein I asked that A Chiropractor be put on their Board. We could not put this over, and I received no more Compensation work as a result. No matter, - I tried to get it over for my fellow Chiropractors anyway, but failed. Of course all this work was done and insisted upon by our Association. This is the way we have always done, and shall do as long as this body is in existence.

Sometime later, when the next Board of Review sat, we were successful. In the present Compensation Board Act, the definition of a "physician" now includes specifically - Chiropractors. An injured workman is perfectly free to have his work done by a registered Chiropractor, and we have no trouble at all in receiving and cashing our checks from such Board. We spent considerable time and cash in securing this amendment to the Compensation Act, however, it was well worth while to every individual Chiropractor in the Province. Since the passing of this amendment the Chairman of the Compensation Board, Dr. Victor Wright, has attended our Annual Conventions, and congratulates us upon the splendid work we are doing in getting workmen back to work quickly, and without the loss of too much time. Our members like Dr. Wright very much, as he co-operates with us to the fullest extent, and gives us much encouragement and advice regarding Compensation cases.

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As we are all well aware - the Medical Association is a very strong and influential body. They do have their little quarrels and disputes amongst their ranks, but outsiders never hear a word of this. (I do hear some of it, incidentally, as several of my closest friends up here are M. D's.).

It is possible that the Province of British Columbia has incorporated in their Act one of the secrets of success which the Medical Association has found to be so useful, although many of us do not admire the B. C. Act. For many years the Medical Association, throughout the world, has power and authority to discipline all M. D's. Non-members, (of which there are practically none) are severely criticised, and practically ignored. New men coming in are required to affiliate with the Provincial Associations, if they do not, it might be questionable whether or not a license would be forthcoming, or if granted, the person in question would undoubtedly be called up on the carpet. Necessarily he would subsequently have to fall in line, merely for his own standing in his community, and so that he would not lose face among members of his profession. There are a few, and very few, among the M. D's. that do not join. These are types that are antagonistic to progress, self satisfied individuals who do not require friendship nor companionship with members of their own profession.

For several years a few of the members of our Association have contemplated and made tentative plans to amend our Act, so that our Association would have complete control over all Registered Chiropractors in Alberta. Under the plan as it now stands, all new aspirants for a license in this Province shall with his application for a license also include the small and nominal fee for joining and application to this Association. Further - our Association would have in its power the disciplining of all Chiropractors. This is as it should be, as none of us would care to come up before any Board of men, composed of the laity. Our own profession are surely competent and fair, to judge upon any matter wherein any individual may necessarily have to be reprimanded. We may attempt to put this plan through this winter as an amendment to our Act. I do not anticipate any trouble in the passing of this plan.

I realize this letter is becoming long, and sounds a lot like an auto-biography, doctor, but I take great interest in giving you this information which you asked for. We have quite a number of educated and intellectual men and women in our ranks, who have guided our work successfully throughout these long years, and for this we should most assuredly be heartily thankful.

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In combating adverse influences set up by individuals of the Medical Fraternity, we need brains....

Quite a number of our members have asked me why you have not joined up with us. I also have wondered why, however, I have given the answer that you would give your shoulder to the wheel next year, which is I sincerely hope, a diplomatic answer.

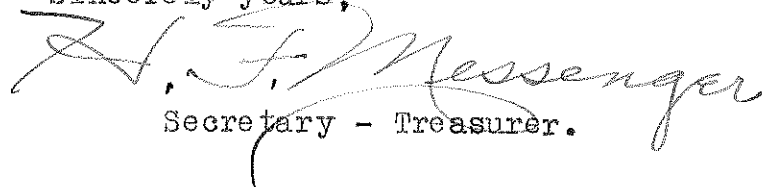
You are a well educated man, doctor. You have a B. A. as well as your Ph. C. To accomplish the goal that we must and are working for, men of your calibre are most necessary as members of our Association. School affiliations are neither here nor there. We do not care nor argue about such things, like they did some years ago in the States. At the present time we desire men who are far sighted, with no thought of self aggrandizement, and who are willing to sit in on a conference and lend their brains and full knowledge to the future, as well as the immediate, progress and welfare of our profession.

In conclusion I want to tell you that next summer we shall celebrate the TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of our Association in Calgary. We will have a three day Convention, and will have an Internationally known speaker to address us. This will be the biggest thing we have ever done, and what's more - we shall do it. The Public will be invited to the address, in one of the large halls in Calgary.

I feel confident, doctor, that you will want to be with us at this meeting, and most assuredly you will feel in your heart that advice and suggestions that you might advance by your affiliation with us should be of immeasurable assistance in our great work of advancing the LIBERTY - FREEDOM - and PROGRESS of this Association. I sincerely hope that this conclusion may become a voluntary action on your part without any further invitation from me. Mail your application for membership to me at your earliest opportunity.

With kindest regards, and do not fail to visit me when in the city.

Sincerely yours,


Secretary - Treasurer.