

F. T. UNDERHILL
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MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER



16 HASTINGS STREET EAST
TELEPHONE SEYMOUR 3270

September 22, 1930.

Hon. E. L. Haitland, K.C.,
Barrister and Solicitor,
626 Pender Street West,
Vancouver, B. C.

Sir:

With reference to our conversation of September 13, 1930 in which you asked me to state why it is necessary to continue my appointment as a Provincial Analyst (without salary) when the City of Vancouver has the authority of a Dominion Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act, which latter authority was granted the City of Vancouver after eighteen years of negotiation between the City Council and the Dominion Government, during which time my name remained obscure in order that the City and not the individual should receive Federal recognition which together with Provincial authority is so essential to the successful administration of Public Health Laboratory work--

I beg to state that the authority of this City under the Food and Drugs Act is limited, being confined to drugs and such food stuffs as are specifically mentioned in the Act. There are many instances in which the regulating and control of foodstuffs rests entirely with the Provinces and in these cases the lack of supervision or authority over the commodities in question would become a serious matter for the City of Vancouver.

In order that you may better understand this situation, I mention one commodity with which our City Council is deeply concerned as coming within the latter classification. I refer now to the milk supply of this City, amounting to approximately seven million gallons per year, and in which connection the City of Vancouver spends many thousands of dollars each year through its Laboratory and Inspection Staffs in securing and maintaining a milk supply which is wholesome and free from disease. The Public Health Association in Convention in 1929 and again in 1930 officially recorded the City of Vancouver as having attained the highest honour in Canada for the quality of our product and its freedom from pathogenic organisms, together with effective control of the raw supply at the farm, this condition was made possible as a result of authority given by my appointment as a Provincial Analyst, as is also the very low rate of Infantile Mortality with which the quality of milk is so closely associated.

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In examinations under the Coroners Act, which is a Provincial measure, the City of Vancouver is interested through its Laboratory to the extent of about 180 exhibits per year taken from different parts of human bodies. These are examined in order to determine the cause of death, together with numerous other exhibits connected with suspect murder cases. Examinations such as the above are of a serious nature, upon the results of which, in many cases, depends the life or liberty of accused persons. In the different Provinces of this Dominion, reports upon this branch of toxicology are submitted only by Provincial Analysts. Assistance is given by this Laboratory to coroners in various parts of this Province.

In connection with our City water supply; examinations are conducted daily and samples collected at intervals from watersheds supplying adjacent municipalities. This is a Provincial measure. The Laboratory undertakes the complete analyses of about 600 water samples per year.

Examinations and reports are conducted for the Provincial Fire Warden--this work is completed with no thought of regard.

Action under the Provincial Health Act is greatly facilitated by having the authority of a Provincial Analyst combined with my authority as Chief Food and Dairy Inspector for the City of Vancouver.

I believe, Sir, that the few cases mentioned above will be sufficient to show the necessity for the City of Vancouver retaining this appointment.

The City of Vancouver maintains one of the largest and most modern equipped laboratories on the American Continent and this is the only Laboratory in British Columbia equipped to undertake the work of Criminal Research Analyses and Investigations. The resources of this Laboratory, together with my experience of twenty-three years as City Analyst, has been placed at the disposal of and freely used by the Provincial Police Departments of this Province and this assistance freely given has been a very important and vital factor in the work of this branch of the Government Service.

In this connection I would call to your attention a case which I am at present working upon at the request of the Provincial Police Department of this City. The case is

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that Rex vs. Charles Zipping -- charged Rape

Exhibits received are as follows:

Sept. 18, 1930 from Provincial Constable Le Roux

Suit from Vaginal --- (Spermatozoa)

Two girls undergarments (Spermatozoa)

Sept. 19, 1930. from Provincial Constable Le Roux

One mans shirt (Seminal stains--Spermatozoa)

Sept. 20, 1930 from Provincial Constable Le Roux

One girls dress (seminal stains--Spermatozoa)

Suspect human hair (4 exhibits) classification--
Structure identification

Suspect dogs hair (2 exhibits) classification--
Structure identification

Examinations such as the above are conducted with no thought of reward.

The reputation of this Laboratory during my 23 years as Chief Analyst is well known to yourself and is a distinct and valuable asset to the technical staff of our Provincial Government.

Appointments carried in my name are of no effect upon myself as an individual--they belong to the office of the City Analyst--and were obtained at the request of the City Council in the interest of the citizens of Vancouver.

I would respectfully suggest, Sir, that should our Provincial Government contemplate any action with reference to the withdrawal of the appointment of Provincial Analyst held in my name for the Corporation of the City of Vancouver, that the City Council be officially notified in order that the City's problems and needs in this regard may be clearly placed before you by the proper authorities.

I thank you, Sir, for the kindness which you have extended to myself and trust that I have not made this letter unduly long.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

John F. C. B. Vance
City Analyst