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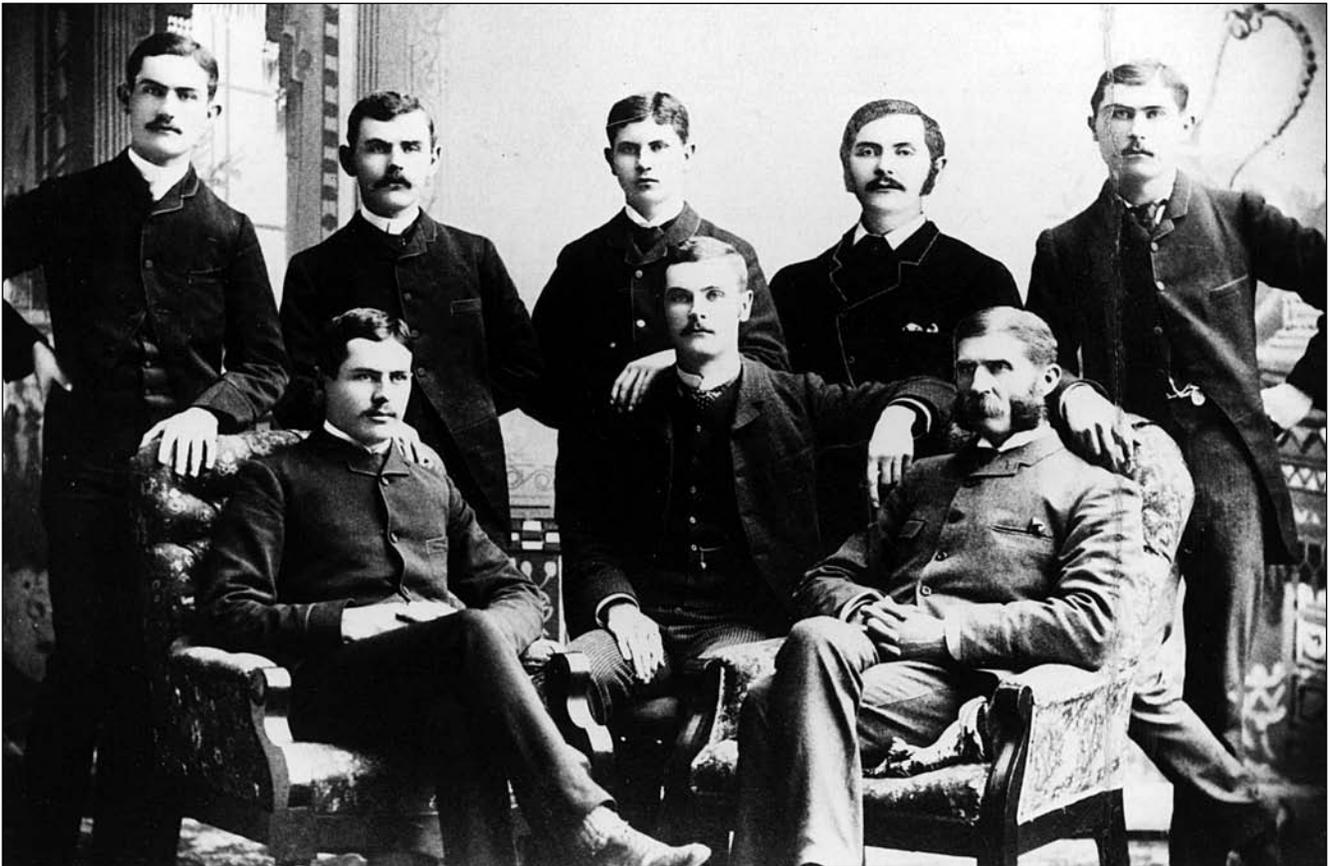
**JAMES DELAMERE LAFFERTY, MD
1849-1920**

The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories

IN recent years the romantic aspects of the medical profession have been so thoroughly exploited by journalists, novelists, and Hollywood, that the mere historian can hardly fail to be dull. In order to be really dull, this article will ignore the thrilling and curious aspects of the doctor's life in territorial days, and devote itself to a theme which, with no appeal for Hollywood, has yet profound and permanent significance for one who too often is reduced to a merely symbolic role in medical drama, the patient. The development of public organization and control of the medical profession in the Territories is an interesting local phase of an old and widespread practice in the western world. Formerly guilds and similar organizations exercised rather rigid controls over all trades and callings. After a brief trial of the *laissez faire* method, public control was resumed, this time by national governments, which today are expected to protect the anxious customer to the last thread. In the learned professions, where the scientist is also an artist, and therefore prone to excessive individualism, public control can be most usefully exercised through the members themselves. The early relations between government and the doctors in the Territories, the increasing need for some organization and control of the profession, and the resulting organization and activities of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the North-West Territories, may be without romantic glamour, but are certainly not without interest, human and professional.

Hilda Neatby, Saskatchewan History, 1949. Reprinted in Part 2.

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The Lafferty Brothers, Fred George, Alan, Leslie Alex, William (inserted), Charlie Alex, Tom, James (front, right), circa 1886/87

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JAMES DELAMERE LAFFERTY, MD 1849-1920

... an ebullient, effervescent, entertaining, well read pro westerner, [he was]...a shrewd judge of character with great drive and persuasion. His ceaseless activity and broad knowledge were constantly on call.⁽¹⁾

Introduction

Dr. James Delamere Lafferty was the physician and NWT/AB Registrar, whose drive and influence guided the North West Territories Medical Council and College from 1901-1906 and the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons, from 1906-1911. He was the central figure in the transition of the North West Territories Medical Council (College and Association) to the equivalent organizations in Alberta (1906) and Saskatchewan (1908). The transition did not go smoothly as it occurred during their most rapid period of growth. Post 1905 he faced a legal challenge to his authority and modus operandi.

Although Dr. Lafferty became the Registrar in 1901 on short notice, he brought considerable experience to the position. When he closed the books on the NWT Medical Council in 1906, it was in a strong financial position with cash or equivalent assets valued at over \$40,000.⁽²⁾ It was a testimony to his competence in business and banking.

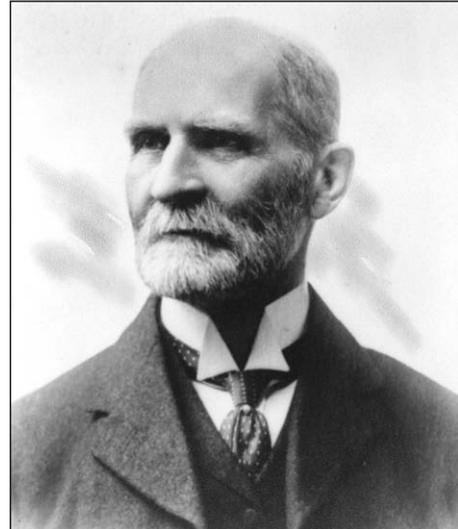
As the Registrar Lafferty was the physician to whom many came for counsel and advice. Concurrently he handled all the correspondence and information requests to process the registration or credentialed of every physician in the NWT and Alberta.

Years after he retired as the Registrar in 1911, Dr. H.C. Jamieson used Lafferty's files to record the registration data on over 150 pre1911 registered physicians, in his source book, "Early Medicine in Alberta, the first 75 years", published by the AMA in 1947.⁽³⁾

From Youth to MD 1849-1871

James Delamere Lafferty was born in Perth, Ontario in 1849. He had seven brothers and four sisters.⁽⁴⁾ Two of his brothers became physicians: Allan M. in Lethbridge, Alberta, and William in Perth, Ontario. Another brother, Tom, became a lawyer and moved to Calgary.

After attending local schools, the future Dr. Lafferty took a position as Deputy Registrar of Titles in Kingston, Ontario, working until he had enough money to enter medical school.⁽⁵⁾ This experience heralded an interest in registrar type work, an experience that would benefit him in the years that followed. James Lafferty entered Queen's medical school and graduated on March 28, 1871. He was



Dr. James Lafferty, 1910 6-4

1. Lafferty, James D. Obituary. Calgary Albertan, July 20, 1920.
2. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories," Saskatchewan History 2(2): 1-15, Spring 1949. Reprinted in Part 2, and in the CACHB 14(4): 61-77, February 1950. The wind-up funds were \$41,683.16. The original division of assets was set at 50:50. Saskatchewan physicians objected because they had registered many more doctors in the 1905-07 period. The issue was settled belatedly in 1912, as noted in the AMA/CPSA Proceedings for that year (page 37).
3. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, pages 141-198, AMA, 1947.
4. Gray, S. Genealogy Research, Section IV, Jessie P. Grant, pages 15-33, 142. A copy of the 145 page manuscript was deposited in Glenbow, Calgary, December 14, 1992.
5. McDougall, Gerald M., *Medical Clinics and Physicians of Southern Alberta*, pages 22-24, 39, UofC, 1991. Harris, Fiona C.

twenty-one.⁽⁶⁾ Queens would beckon a second time sometime after 1881, with a request to return and join their Faculty. Lafferty declined the offer.⁽⁷⁾

Practice in Perth and Pembroke 1871-1881

After graduation Dr. Lafferty returned to Perth, Ontario for a year of practice. While in Perth, he lived with his parents. A year later in 1872, Dr. Lafferty traveled to New York with McGill's Dr. William Osler, to become a senior resident at the Ward Island (now Bellevue) Hospital. There he worked for two years before doing a stint at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. It was followed by a trip to London, England, where he took a postgraduate course at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.⁽⁸⁾

Dr. Lafferty returned to Pembroke, Ontario near Ottawa to start a new practice in 1873. Later that year he married Jesse P. Grant on December 2, 1873.⁽⁹⁾ The Lafferty's must have planned to stay in Pembroke as Dr. Lafferty bought a house and four years later he purchased a drugstore, which he owned from 1877-80. In 1880 he was appointed the associate Coroner for Renfrew county.⁽¹⁰⁾

The pre Calgary years 1881-1885

In October 1881 Dr. Lafferty accepted an offer to become the Chief Surgeon for the eastern division of the new CPR railway.⁽¹¹⁾ By late 1881 Lafferty and his family were in Winnipeg or at the CPR railhead. As the rails headed westward, the Lafferty's may have moved to Regina possibly as early as 1882.⁽¹²⁾ By the time the CPR transcontinental railway was completed in November 1885, the Laffertys had moved to Regina.⁽¹³⁾ No doubt unnerved by the proximity of Regina to the battlefield of the second Northwest Rebellion from March-May 1885, they moved permanently to Calgary in December 1885.⁽¹⁴⁾



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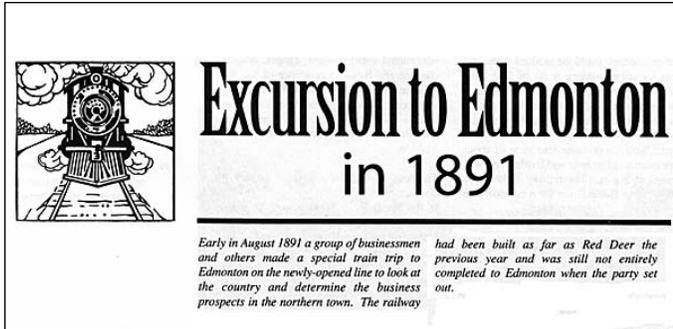
C&E (CPR) railway sod turning by Lt. Governor Dewdney and HRH the Duke of Connaught, Calgary, July 21, 1890

The pre-Registrar years 1885-1901

Once in Calgary, Dr. Lafferty secured the CPR main-line and nearby Indian Reservation medical contracts. He retained the CPR contract until 1889. The Indian contract he kept until 1911. Not infrequently it led to patient visits to see Dr. Lafferty at his house. Visitors would peer in the window to see if he was at home. On one occasion a Chief looked inside for Dr. Lafferty. Lafferty opened the window and invited him in through the window. During the entry process Lafferty removed his abscessed tooth in a "down and out" struggle. On the way out, Lafferty presented the Chief with a two dollar fee. The Chief replied that he was the one who should receive the payment, for the pain and suffering that Lafferty had inflicted upon him.⁽¹⁵⁾

In 1886 Dr. Lafferty had a summer visit from an old friend, Dr. William Osler.⁽¹⁶⁾ That same year Drs.

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6. Gray, S. "Geneology Research", page 16.
 7. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", CACHB 5(4): 12-16, February 1941. Details on Dr. Lafferty's own registration are recorded in H.C. Jamieson's *Early Medicine in Alberta*, page 141.
 8. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", page 14.
 9. Gray, S. "Geneology Research", page 138.
 10. Gray, S. "Geneology Research", page 17.
 11. Gray, S. "Geneology Research", page 18.
 12. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", page 12.
 13. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", page 13.
 14. Gray, S. "Geneology Research", page 19.
 15. Diehl, F.M. *A Gentleman from a Fading Age, Eric Lafferty Harvie*, pages xix, xxvii, 16-20.
 16. Hogan, David B. "Osler Goes West". *Annals, RCPSC* 33(5): 316-319, August 2000. Reprinted in Part 2. Osler came west from August 4-27, 1886, at the invitation of his brother and CPR shareholder Edmund Osler. The party of 6 visited Lethbridge (Mewburn) and Fort Macleod (Kennedy) Aug 15-18. Dr. Lafferty escorted the party around Calgary Aug 18. They "expressed unbounded admiration of Calgary and the country surrounding" as reported on page 8 of the *Calgary Tribune* on August 21, 1886.



Board of Trade trip from Calgary to Edmonton, taken by the Lafferty's, August, 1891 6-5

Lafferty, Andrew Henderson and Neville Lindsay made the first pitch to Mayor G.C. King of Calgary for a hospital. Undoubtedly Dr. Lafferty's medical experience in Winnipeg taught him of the importance of a hospital to treat the typhoid cases that arose from the railway construction crews. Although rejected in 1886, the group continued to meet. By 1889 they were successful in securing a four and a half acre parcel of land from the territorial government along the Bow River flats on the north side of the river for a hospital, although it would not be used until 1907.

Dr. Lafferty's ability as a diagnostician, and competence as a physician quickly led to an active and busy Calgary practice. In 1888 trader David McDougall of Morley was making a buckboard trip to his ranch on the Red Deer River. He developed a searing abdominal pain the second day out on the trail. His daughter Georgie piled him into the buckboard and drove the team back to Morley at full speed. She sent an urgent telegram to Dr. Lafferty, who arrived in Morley on the CPR train later that morning. Lafferty remained at McDougall's bedside for several days, treating his ruptured gallbladder as best he could.⁽¹⁷⁾

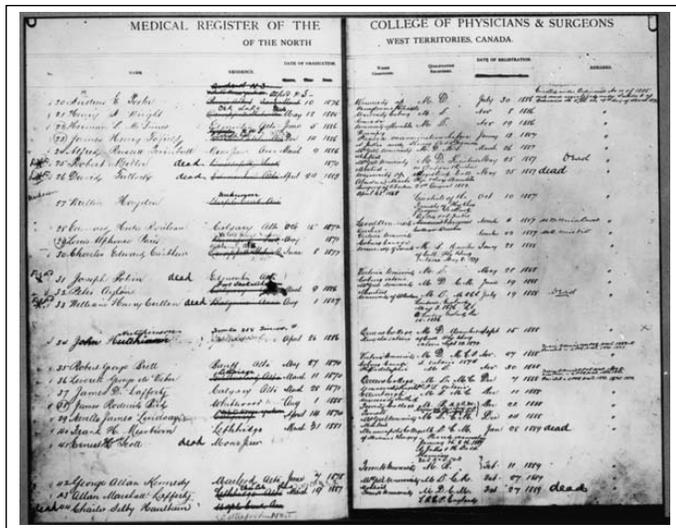
As Dr. Lafferty's practice expanded, so did his other obligations. In 1889, he decided to reduce his CPR contract responsibilities. With the concurrence of the CPR, he transferred the mountain CPR medical contract to Dr. R.G. Brett of Banff. Then he advertised for a partner and selected Dr. Harry Goodsir (H.G.) Mackid of Lucknow, Ontario, who joined him in late 1889.⁽¹⁸⁾ The two managed the Regina to Donald section of the CPR contract. They added the C&E railway medical construction contract in 1890. Later that year the two doctors split their medical practice amicably. Mackid carried on with the Regina to Calgary CPR contract. Eventually that contract was passed to H.G.'s son Ludwig Stewart (L.S.) Mackid, when H.G. Mackid died from diabetes in 1916. L.S. Mackid continued the CPR contract until 1950. It was the second longest CPR medical contract to remain within one family.

In 1890, Dr. Lafferty ran for and was elected Mayor of Calgary. During his year as mayor two major events occurred. The first was the construction of the C&E or Calgary and Edmonton railway from 1890-1892. It was leased to the CPR. The sod turning for the Calgary to Edmonton section occurred on July 21, 1890.⁽¹⁹⁾ A surge in typhoid cases soon followed.⁽²⁰⁾ The section from Fort Macleod to Calgary was completed by 1892. The second event was the securing and renovating of a house as Calgary's first cottage Hospital to treat the typhoid fever patients. It opened in November 1890 with Drs. H.G. Mackid and N.J. Lindsay as the medical staff.⁽²¹⁾

The NWT College Registrar years 1901-1906

In 1888 Dr. Lafferty registered as physician #37 under the 1885 Northwest Territories Medical Ordinance Act.⁽²²⁾ A year later he joined eighty-nine colleagues at the CMA annual meeting in Banff.⁽²³⁾

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17. Warrender, Susan *Mr. Banff, The Story of Norman Luxton*, page 54, Bear Enterprises, 2003. Georgie McDougall married Norman Luxton in 1904.
18. McDougall, Gerald M., Harris, Fiona C. *Medical Clinics and Physicians of Southern Alberta*, pages 22-24.
19. (Lafferty, J.D.) *100 Year History of Calgary*, Calgary Centennial Souvenir book, Century Calgary, page 37. Provost Publication 1975. Lafferty was assisted if not preempted in the sod turning by Territorial Lt. Gov. Hon Edgar Dewdney and the visiting Governor General, the Duke of Connaught.
20. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, page 31, 34, 49, 89. AMA 1947.
21. Hartwick, E., Jamieson, E., Tregillus, E. *The Science, the Art and the Spirit*, Volume 5: 308-311, 317-321, Century Calgary, 1975. Also see the *Calgary General Hospital 1890-1955*, 65 years of community service, page 1, CGH, 1955; and E. McNeil's "Women of Vision and Compassion: The Foundation of Health Care in Canada", *Alberta History* 50(1): 17-19, Winter 2002. For another perspective on hospital development in Calgary from 1886-1891 see J. Ross-Kerr's *Prepared to Care*, pages 20-23, AARN 1994.
22. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, opp. page 54, pages 43, 44.
23. Lampard, Robert "See from where you cometh, The CMA Convention of 1889" (Banff). *Alberta Doctors Digest* 29(4): 4-9, July/August 2004. For a photo and identification of the participants see Dr. H.C. Jamieson's *Early Medicine in Alberta*, opp. page 48, and the *AMB* 31(1): 5-7, February 1966.



Second Page, NWT Medical College Register 6-6

Immediately after the meeting, the North West Territories Medical Association was formed, with Dr. G.A. Kennedy as the first President.

The following February, Dr. Lafferty was elected as one of five members of the new Medical Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the NWT.⁽²⁴⁾ Lafferty remained on the NWT Council continuously until 1906. Dr. Brett stayed on as well. During that seventeen year period, Dr. Lafferty was elected President in 1893 and again on two subsequent occasions. He was also Vice-President twice. In 1901 he became the third NWT medical Registrar from 1901-06, when Dr. Hugh Bain of Prince Albert died suddenly.⁽²⁵⁾ The change in Registrar also moved the office of the Council from Regina to Calgary.

In 1902 Dr. G.A. Kennedy became the President of the NWT Medical Council. He held that office from 1902-07, overseeing the work of the Registrar. These appointments likely had the effect of combining the NWT Medical Association and Council and centralizing their activities and minute books in Calgary.⁽²⁶⁾

Lafferty's responsibilities as NWT Registrar significantly increased during his time as Registrar as did the number of physicians. So did his salary, which

went from one hundred to seven hundred dollars per year.⁽²⁷⁾ The NWT Council remained responsible under the 1888 Ordinance, for conducting all licensing examinations and maintaining a physician register.

In 1903 Lafferty became responsible for the College's discipline and prosecution policy. His first step was to retain a law student to travel up and down the Calgary and Edmonton railway, and other branch lines throughout Alberta and Assiniboia, to charge or de-license unregistered physicians. It generated considerable reaction from communities that were under doctored, as well as a protest from the Minister of the Interior, Edmonton Bulletin newspaper editor Frank Oliver. Lafferty stood his ground. The same year Dr. Lafferty reorganized the Committee on Discipline and undertook the first unprofessional conduct hearings. Two were held. One hearing was for not diagnosing a rash caused by smallpox. The other was for failing to take proper steps to prevent a nurse engaged in a septic case from attending a mother in confinement.⁽²⁸⁾ Following the second, the physician was issued a reprimand.

Access to bacteriological testing became important in 1896 when the Widal test for typhoid was discovered. It confirmed the presence or absence of salmonella, the bacteria which caused typhoid fever.⁽²⁹⁾ The first



First Alberta Medical Council circa 1906. Back row 6-7 Drs JD Lafferty (Registrar), GA Kennedy, unknown. Front row Drs TH Whitelaw, RG Brett (Pres.).

- 24. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the Northwest Territories", Saskatchewan History, 2(2): 7, Spring 1949. Dr. Brett may have missed one two year term.
- 25. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", page 7.
- 26. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", page 8. Further discussed in G.E. Learmonth's The 50th Anniversary of the Alberta Medical Association, AMB 20(3): 51-57, August 1955.
- 27. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories". In 1898 there were 89 physicians registered in the NWT (page 7). By 1906 the number of physicians registered had increased to 957 (page 8). This number is high, probably reflecting a high turnover rate of physicians.
- 28. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", pages 13-14.
- 29. Wehrle, P., Top, S. *Communicable and Infectious Diseases*, ninth edition, 1981. The contagious nature and transmission routes of typhoid fever had been identified 1873; the bacteria species Salmonella in 1880; the Widal agglutination test in 1895; its use in identifying typhoid in 1896; and a preventative inoculation in 1909.

First page, Saskatchewan Medical College Register 6-8

laboratory on the prairies had been built in Manitoba in 1897.⁽³⁰⁾ Several years later a request was made to the NWT Legislative Council to establish a bacteriology laboratory in Regina. An agreement was reached between the Territorial Assembly and the NWT Medical Council, whereby the Council would purchase the laboratory equipment for \$3,795.65, and the Assembly would provide the staff.⁽³¹⁾ The laboratory service was free to members of the NWT Medical Association. The laboratory was in operation by 1905, with Dr. C.A. Charlton as the first Director. Dr. M.R. Bow would become his assistant and temporary replacement in 1911.

The Alberta College Registrar years 1906-1911

As soon as the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were formed, Dr. Lafferty was directed by the

NWT Medical Council to draft a Medical Profession Act for Alberta and Saskatchewan. Dr. Lafferty probably wrote both Acts. He charged \$500 for his services. The Acts were passed in 1906 and 1908 respectively.⁽³²⁾

The transition from one Territory to two provinces was not devoid of problems. Physician and population growth was rapid. There was a desire by NWT physicians not to pay registration fees or rewrite examinations. The first Alberta Medical Act was drafted in 1906. In a test case brought by Dr. W.A. Lincoln of Calgary against Dr. Lafferty and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), Dr. Lincoln sought to practice without Provincial Registration. The College lost the lower court case but then won it in the Supreme Court on May 7, 1906.⁽³³⁾ The Act was passed on May 9, 1906 but revised the next year.⁽³⁴⁾ All NWT registered physicians were grandfathered under the revised Act.⁽³⁵⁾ Any physician wanting registration after the Alberta Medical Act was passed, had to comply with the new terms and conditions and write the registration exam.⁽³⁶⁾

In February 1906 Dr. Lafferty was instructed to call the first meeting of all physicians practicing in the Province of Alberta, to consider forming an Association. It was held in Calgary on March 7, 1906. Those present agreed to form the Alberta Medical Association. Dr. Lafferty was elected the AMA's second vice-president. Dr. Brett was the President. Dr. Lafferty moved that Dr. G.A. Kennedy be appointed the first honorary President of the AMA.

30. Carr, Ian, Beamish, Robert E. *Medicine in Manitoba*, pages 61-63, 1999. There were 147-568 cases of typhoid fever per year in Manitoba from 1894-1897.

31. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", pages 14-15.

32. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", page 15. Also see Dr. G.E. Learmonth's "The 50th Anniversary of the Alberta Medical Association", *AMB* 20(3): 51-57, August 1955 and H.C. Jamieson's *Early Medicine*, page 53, for notes on the first College meeting on October 18, 1906. The reason for the Saskatchewan delay may have been the litigation initiated by Dr. W.A. Lincoln (Lincoln vs Lafferty/College) over Alberta's 1906 Medical Profession Act, which did not grandfather NWT registrants. Another reason may have been the wavering interest of Saskatchewan doctors in participating in the proposed Western Canadian Medical Federation. A third may have been the delay in payment to the Saskatchewan Medical Council, of the NWT Council wind-up funds.

33. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", pages 1-15. The challenge by Lincoln was successful in the lower court before being overturned in an appeal to the Supreme Court. The Act was changed before it became fully operational, to allow grandfathering.

34. (Lafferty, J.D.) Reports of Local Editors, *WCMJ* 1: 31, 132, 268, 380-381, 1907.

35. CPSA Minutes CPSA Minutes Volume 1: 29, 38, July 4, 1907.

36. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, page 53. They were also grandfathered in Saskatchewan. The first four registrants in Saskatchewan were Drs. Brett, Lafferty, Mewburn and Kennedy of Alberta. There was no reciprocity between the Alberta and Saskatchewan colleges. Twenty-six wrote the registration exam in 1906. Twenty-seven physicians wrote on February 26, 1907 after paying the \$50.00 registration fee, *WCMJ* 1: 380-381, 1907. From 1910 to 1912, 193 physicians wrote the council examination. In Calgary alone the number of physicians increased from 10 (1902) to 35 (1907) and 64 (1915). In 1905, Calgary (population 20,000) had one doctor for every 600 people.

The first AMA annual convention was held on September 4, 1906, in Banff at Dr. Brett's sanatorium. Dr. Lafferty was appointed to a committee to draft a Code of Ethics, which recommended that the Ontario Code of Ethics be adopted. The recommendation was passed that same day.⁽³⁷⁾

Dr. Lafferty was then instructed to organize the first meeting of the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons. At the October 18, 1906 meeting, Lafferty was elected the Registrar-Treasurer, a post he filled from late 1906 to 1911.⁽³⁸⁾ Dr. Brett was elected the first President.

As College Registrar, Dr. Lafferty continued to be responsible for setting and conducting medical examinations for registration. On one occasion when Lafferty was the presiding examiner, he was called to attend a medical emergency. He put the class "on

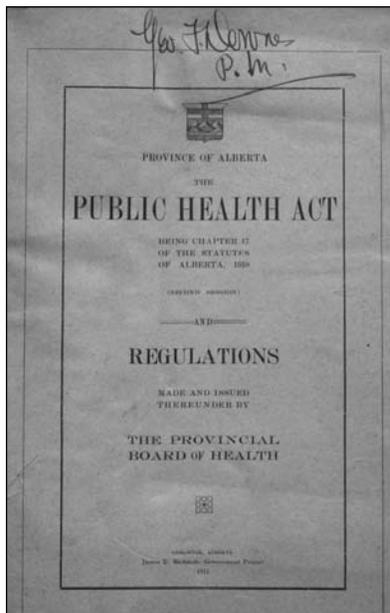
their honor". One student took advantage of the opportunity. He was the only one to fail the exam.

As Registrar, Lafferty worked closely with Drs. Brett, Kennedy, Braithwaite, Milroy and Patterson to address the problem created by the lack of a Dominion Medical Council to examine new doctors.⁽³⁹⁾ He was particularly concerned that the North West Territories avoid becoming "the dumping ground for the overflow of the rest of the Dominion".⁽⁴⁰⁾ His input contributed measurably to the passage of the Canadian Medical (Roddick) Act in 1912. It created the Medical Council of Canada.⁽⁴¹⁾

Other Medical Activities from 1900-1911

From 1900-1910, Lafferty was actively interested in the movement to establish a sanatorium for tuberculosis care in western Canada. He wanted a sanatorium built, preferably in Calgary. Lafferty was unsuccessful, but he continued to help the BC Tuberculosis Society, to fundraise the \$60,000 needed to build the first western sanatorium in Tranquille, BC in 1907-1908.⁽⁴²⁾ In 1908 Dr. Lafferty served on the Board of the Canadian Medical Protective Association, which started in 1906.

Just before the 1905/6 transition, the NWT Medical Council (NWTMC) and NWT Legislative Assembly had completed the building and equipping of the



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Alberta Public Health Act, 1911

Contract medicine resulted in the founding of many medical group practices. As a company or organization grew, it would often become necessary for a physician to form a group which could enlarge to provide medical care for the growing company or group. Groups were being formed for contract medicine as early as 1889, when Drs J.D. Lafferty and H.G. Mackid went into partnership in Calgary to look after the Canadian Pacific Railway. Contracts were made with industries such as coal companies, lodges, associations of teachers, farmers and many other groups or organizations.

From Medical Clinics and Physicians of Southern Alberta 1875-1960, UofC Press, 1991

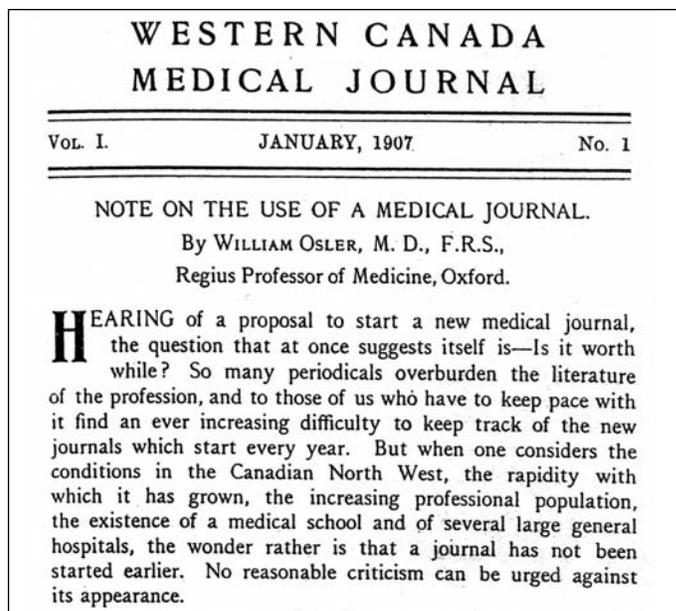
37. Learmonth, George A. "The 50th Anniversary of the Alberta Medical Association", Alberta Medical Bulletin 20(3): 54-56, August 1955.
38. (Lafferty, J.D.) Reports from Local Editors. WCMJ 1: 31, 1907. The triumvirate of Brett, Kennedy and Lafferty continued as the Alberta Council officers. The Alberta Medical Executive Council of the College was expanded from 5 to 7. Drs. E.A. Braithwaite (Edmonton), A. Hotson (Strathcona), W.J. Simpson (Lacombe) and F.H. Mewburn (Lethbridge) were elected as the additional members.
39. Lafferty, James D. Discussion(s) on "Western Reciprocity", WCJM 3: 112-120, 229-241, 370-371.
40. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", page 9.
41. Kerr, Robert B. *The History of the Medical Council of Canada*, pages 14-23, MCC, 1979. Dr. Kerr made no reference to the involvement of the Alberta and Manitoba physicians to form the Dominion Medical Council, through the Western Canadian Medical Federation initiative.
42. Fagan, C.J. WCMJ 1: 129, 330, 398-9, 1907. The BC Sanatorium quickly filled and then limited its applications to BC citizens only, WCJM 1: 512-513, 562. Trustees for a Manitoba Sanatorium for consumptives chose Ninette for their location as recorded in D.A. Stewart's "The Place and Work of the Sanitarium" WCJM 3(8): 339-341, August 1909. Dr. Ernest Wills opened a temporary private TB facility in Mount Royal (Calgary) that operated from 1904 to 1909. For more details on it see D.B. Hogan's "Calgary, Climate and Tuberculosis", RCPSC Annals 35(7): 430-434, October 2002. Reprinted in Part 2.

NWT laboratory in Regina.⁽⁴³⁾ It became the Saskatchewan provincial laboratory. Another one had to be built in Alberta. It was, in Edmonton in 1907. After the passage of the 1907 Alberta Public Health Act which Lafferty helped draft, he was appointed the first Chairman of the Provincial Board of Health.⁽⁴⁴⁾ He held this post from 1907-1910. One of his first public health projects was to survey Indian Schools for Tuberculosis. Lafferty and Dr. Peter Bryce found eighty percent of the students had signs of TB. Their recommendations were partially implemented.⁽⁴⁵⁾

As the first President of the Calgary Medical Society in 1906/7, Lafferty introduced for discussion the issues of lodge and contract practice.⁽⁴⁶⁾ Lafferty contended that medical contracts lowered the standard of care by lowering the visitation rates. He further criticized the mal-distribution of medical work that followed. His positions were interesting in light of the CPR contracts (1886-1889) and the Indian medical contract he held from 1886 to 1911.

Contract practice became a longstanding and festering issue.⁽⁴⁷⁾ Alberta physicians wanted to retain the fee for service system. Saskatchewan physicians after 1916 increasingly favored a rural municipal doctor system. Three decades later, one quarter of all Saskatchewan municipalities had signed part time or full time municipal doctor contracts. In Alberta, even the long-standing CPR contract held by Dr. H.G. Mackid was criticized. The CPR Vice President settled the discussion of that contract by refusing to negotiate it.

In 1909 Dr. Lafferty became one of Alberta's hospital inspectors, a position he retained until at least 1918. Dr. Lafferty retired from active practice in 1909. Two



Western Canadian Medical Journal, 1907-1915

years later in 1911, he retired as the Registrar and was succeeded by Dr. George MacDonald.

The Western Canadian Medical Federation Movement, 1907-1911

The most vexing issue faced by the College in 1907, was the same one that faced Drs. Bergin and Roddick, the organizers of the Hospital Service in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885.⁽⁴⁸⁾ How could a physician's training, qualifications, and competence be assessed for interprovincial registration and military recruitment purposes?

The North West Territories Legislative Council had passed the first Ordinance in 1885. It created the first NWT medical registration system.⁽⁴⁹⁾ The Ordinance

43. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", pages 13-15.
44. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, pages 72-73, opp. page 80. The new Act was discussed and supported by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA). Minutes of the CPSA, page 29, July 4, 1907.
45. Lux, Maureen K. *Medicine that Walks*, pages 128-133, UTP, 2001.
46. (Lafferty, J.D.) Reports of Medical Societies, WCJM 1: 29-30, 131-133, 1907. Dr. Lafferty also held the view that life insurance and complete medical examinations should be charged at the same rate or \$5.00 per examination.
47. McDougall, Gerald, Harris, Fiona C. *Medical Clinics and Physicians in Southern Alberta*, pages 3-26.
48. Bergin, Darby *The Medical and Surgical History of the North-West Rebellion of 1885*, pages 8-9, Lovell, 1886.
49. Neatby, Hilda "The Medical Profession in the North-West Territories", pages 3-4. In the 1885 Ordinance, the "right to practice for money" was limited to 1) those with a degree from a University or authorized body in His Majesty's Dominions (fee \$5.00); 2) British subjects in the NWT who had practiced for more than one year and who possessed a USA degree (fee \$5.00); 3) British subjects in the NWT who practiced for more than one year and passed an exam before two colleagues (fee \$25.00); 4) future British subjects wishing to practice (fee \$50.00). Registration was compulsory, with illegal practice subject to a fine of \$100.00. The adjudicator was the Lieutenant Governor.
- Dr. Lafferty (n.d. circa 1887) wrote to Lieutenant Governor Dewdney asking for Legislation to "exact proper medical education and such other qualifications as will ensure properly qualified medical men in meeting their expenses on an equal footing". Many he said were "utterly unfit" like a former NWMP veterinary surgeon practicing in Calgary. "I should not like to be placed on the same footing". Presumably he meant retired NWMP hospital surgeon-veterinarian "Doc" John Lauder. In 1886 only seven physicians were registered under the 1885 NWT Ordinance, as noted in Jamieson's *Early Medicine in Alberta*, page 44.

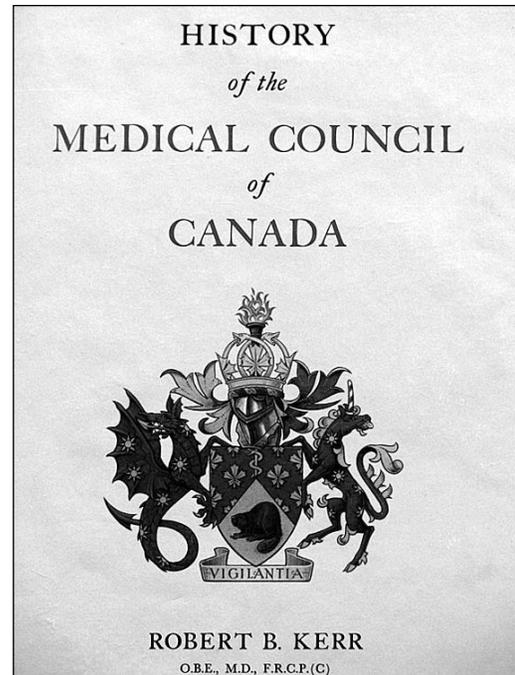
required two letters of reference and satisfactory interviews with two existing registrants. The Act was amended in 1888 to establish a College and governing Medical Council to assess the credentials of all new physicians.

After the 1906-08 period, physicians could not move their practices between Alberta and Saskatchewan without having to re-register. To address the issue, the Western Canadian Medical Federation was proposed. It was to be formed in 1907.⁽⁵⁰⁾ Its function was to set a common examination and allow successful candidates to be registered in all four western provinces, without writing any additional examinations. A bi-monthly "Western Canadian Medical Journal" (WCMJ) was started to promote the profession and the western federation movement. It was published in Winnipeg, from 1907-1915.

At the 1908 AMA meeting, Dr. Brett summarized the progress made towards a western federation. He noted BC preferred a north-south association of medical men with Seattle.⁽⁵¹⁾ Dr. G.A. Kennedy jumped back into the fray in late 1908, when he wrote a let-

Discussion on Registration in the Four Western Provinces
The question of the four Western Provinces uniting together and adopting some scheme of registration that would raise the standard of qualification and would permit any applicant complying with the conditions thereof, to practice his profession in any one of these Provinces, is one that ought to appeal very strongly to every member of our profession truly and sincerely interested in the uplifting and maintaining of a higher standard. To bring about such a result is worthy of the best effort of every one of us. It was hoped that every Province would at the first opportunity pass the necessary legislation, and no difficulty was anticipated until action was taken by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec, expressing disapproval of the Roddick Act, and memorializing the legislature to refuse the necessary legislation, and regrettedly the request of the Medical Council was acceded to, and the legislation was refused, although a large and influential body of the Profession in the Province was in favor of the Act. The result of this action by the Legislature of Quebec leaves the Roddick bill a dead letter on the Dominion Statutes.

Editorial, Western Canadian Medical Journal 3: 229, May 1909



Medical Council of Canada, OHawa 1979

ter to the WCMJ, once again recommending the Western Canadian Medical Federation as the solution to the portable registration problem.⁽⁵²⁾

Dr. Lafferty followed with a thirty-two point outline on how the federation could be formed and operated. Ever pragmatic, he said he did not support immediate reciprocity as Alberta and Saskatchewan wanted, since their Acts required four years of training, while BC and Manitoba required five. He did outline three options for proceeding. The detailed outline demonstrated his ability to conceptualize organizational problems, detail the options, and make progress towards a solution.⁽⁵³⁾

While consensus on the implementation of a national registration plan was not achieved at the August 1909 CMA meeting in Winnipeg, the discussion process was restarted.⁽⁵⁴⁾ Through the representations of Drs. Brett, Kennedy, and Braithwaite who attended the 1910 Saskatchewan Council meeting, a western Canadian consensus was achieved by December 1910. More importantly a national agreement was reached in 1911 and the Dominion Medical Council was established on November 7, 1912.⁽⁵⁵⁾

50. Jamieson, Heber C. *Early Medicine in Alberta*, pages 64-66, opp. page 65.

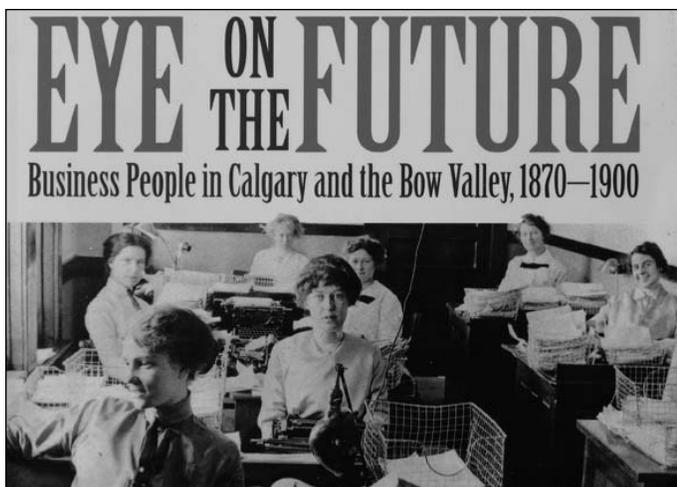
51. Brett, Robert G. WCMJ 3: 112-120.

52. Kennedy, George A. WCMJ 3: 34-35, 80-81, 126-127, 1909.

53. Lafferty, James D. WCMJ 3: 229-241, 370-371, 1909.

54. Hughes, G.O. Editorial WCMJ 3: 531-534, 1910 and WCMJ4: 129-132, 370, 421, 1910.

55. Kerr, Robert B. *The History of the Medical Council of Canada*, page 22. Also see the profile of Dr. E.A. Braithwaite for the 1910 Saskatchewan Council discussion, and the profiles of Drs. Brett and Kennedy for their involvement.



by Henry C. Klassen, UofC, 2002

The Laffertys and Banking 1882-1893⁽⁵⁶⁾

Lafferty's interests were by no means limited to medicine. As early as 1882, he persuaded British investors to fund a chain of private banks on the prairies. They become known as the Lafferty and Smith Banks. The first Lafferty and Smith Bank was opened in Regina in October 1882. It was followed by the opening of a branch in Calgary in April 1885.⁽⁵⁷⁾ By then the bank was known "all over the northwest" and Lafferty and Smith were "private bankers of experience".⁽⁵⁸⁾ By December 1885 Lafferty's wife Jessie had joined the partnership. The Head office was moved from Regina to Calgary. Dunn and Bradstreet assessed her net worth at \$8,000. By 1886 the bank had branches in Edmonton, Moose Jaw, and was profitable.⁽⁵⁹⁾ More branches were started in Emerson, Brandon, Portage La Prairie, and Lethbridge. In 1887, Dr. Lafferty's medical office was conveniently located adjacent to the Calgary branch of the Bank.

Dr. G.D. Stanley commented years later, "few who knew him ever believed that his banking enterprise added anything to his own private bank account". Dr. Stanley supported his story with a Lafferty anecdote. Lafferty was often too busy to send out bills. On one occasion he was on his way to Ottawa when

he met a patient on the CPR platform. The patient reminded him that he could not get a statement or bill from him. Lafferty settled on the spot with the comment "I probably would charge \$50 in an itemized bill – but \$25 would be of more use to me now".⁽⁶⁰⁾

Lafferty's son Geoffrey, who returned to Calgary after WWI as a lawyer, indicated otherwise. He said that the banking chain extended from Manitoba to the Pacific Coast. Although it was an avocation interest with his father,⁽⁶¹⁾ Geoffrey Lafferty inherited a substantial amount of real estate in Calgary from his father's estate in 1920. He subsequently spent much of his time managing the properties.⁽⁶²⁾

The story that the Lafferty and Smith bank charged 24% per year interest rates was disputed by pioneer Lethbridge pharmacist J.D. Higinbotham, but there was some truth to it.⁽⁶³⁾ Lending rates had been commonly 24% for small ranches and 12% for the larger ones. The small ranch rate fell to 18% per annum after the arrival in Calgary of the Bank of Montreal (1886) and the Imperial Bank (1886). They were chartered banks.⁽⁶⁴⁾

The Lafferty and Smith Bank experienced substantial growth in the late 1880's. In 1887 the net worth of the Lafferty and Smith Bank was calculated at \$20-40,000 and the net worth of James and Jessie Lafferty at another \$23,000. The banking partnership was dissolved on February 23, 1889. Immediately afterwards, the Laffertys formed the Lafferty and Moore Bank. It was operated by their wives. Each husband signed a letter of credit for \$50,000. The Bank of Montreal provided a further \$100,000 letter of credit. By 1890 the Lafferty and Moore bank was calculated to be worth \$20-40,000. It prospered until 1893 when the Bank of Montreal acquired it.⁽⁶⁵⁾

Other Business Interests

Dr. Lafferty participated in many of Calgary's early ventures, outside the banking business. In 1886 he

56. Klassen, Henry C. *Eye on the Future – Business People in Calgary and the Bow Valley 1870-1900*, pages 121-132, UofC Press 2002. T.N. Christie, an experienced banker, became the first Calgary Manager for the bank.
57. Klassen, Henry C. *Eye on the Future*, pages 122-123.
58. Barnes & Elliott *Calgary, Alberta, Her Industries and Resources*. March 1885, page 52. Reprinted by Glenbow, n.d.
59. Klassen, Henry C. *Eye on the Future*, page 124.
60. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", pages 14-15.
61. Blue, John "Geoffrey G. Lafferty", in *Alberta: Past and Present* Volume 2: 276-279, 1924.
62. Gray, S. "Geneology Research", page 59.
63. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", page 13.
64. Klassen, Henry C. *Eye on the Future*, pages 130-132.
65. Klassen, Henry C. *Eye on the Future*, page 127. For more comments on the 24% interest rate see G.D. Stanley's "James Delamere Lafferty", CACHB 5(4): 15, February 1941 and J.D. Higinbotham's contrary view, in the CACHB 6(1): 11-12, May 1941.

was involved in a large sheep ranch venture on the slopes of Nose Creek.⁽⁶⁶⁾ On February 19, 1886 he organized a meeting at his home with Calgary business leaders including James Lougheed. That meeting started the discussions that led to the building of the C&E (CPR) Railway to Edmonton (1890/91) and to Fort Macleod (1892).⁽⁶⁷⁾ The Laffertys rode one of the first trains to Edmonton on a three day excursion in August 1891.⁽⁶⁸⁾ After his year as mayor, Lafferty became a member of the first Calgary Board of Trade. He was the President of the Volunteer section and sat on its first Board.⁽⁶⁹⁾

Another Lafferty venture involved several colleagues who had initiated Calgary's first power company. It provided direct current service to the downtown hotels. An agreement to expand the power system was reached with the Eau Claire Lumber Company. Then the two companies became embroiled in an argument over whose boilers and whose dynamos would be used in the expansion. The Lafferty Company proposed an expansion of their direct current system, while the Eau Claire Company wanted to use alternating current, which their engineers said was much safer. Eventually Lafferty gave in, with the provision that all those who helped start his company would be treated fairly.⁽⁷⁰⁾

Politics 1887-1917

Lafferty ventured into NWT politics in 1887 and ran under the Liberal banner in the Territorial election. He came in third, defeated by D.W. Davies of Fort Macleod, the I.G. Baker manager for Alberta. Running in second place was Richard, later Senator Hardisty, the manager of the Hudson Bay Company in Assiniboia and Alberta.⁽⁷¹⁾ Lafferty entered municipal politics in 1890 and was elected the Mayor of Calgary.⁽⁷²⁾ Lafferty also became Chairman of the Calgary School Board.

When Dr. G.D. Stanley arrived in 1901, Lafferty was instrumental in helping him relocate to the town of

High River. Despite their different political persuasions, they remained friends throughout their medical careers.

According to Bob Edwards of Eye Opener fame, Lafferty had been rumored to be Alberta's first Lieutenant Governor, five months before Alberta became a province in 1905. In a "news story" Edwards described the hypothetical inauguration. "Lafferty was in great form ... escorted by a body-guard of influential real estate sharks. The teepees and shacks were tastefully decorated with bunting and streamers, appropriate mottoed – "God bless Lafferty". At the Grand Central Hotel a stop was made for a drink. ... A similar stop was made at every hotel on Jasper Avenue. ... Dr. Lafferty gorgeously attired in his new Windsor uniform with a four point Hudson's Bay blanket carelessly thrown over his shoulders to keep out any drafts ... Bishop Legal, representing the Pope stepped forward to place the cocked hat on Lafferty's head and crown him but the new ruler ... seized the cocked hat ... placed it on his massive koko, thus following in the footsteps of his great prototype, Napoleon".

"In his acceptance speech Lafferty said ... it affords King Edward and myself unalloyed pleasure to greet you on this red lettered day ... I know of no act of the Liberal party which has given His Majesty and myself such sincere gratification ... (His Majesty) ... is all tickled up the back. My old friend James Riley is not here to participate in your acclamations. Doubtless like many of my appendicitis patients he feels considerably cut up ... Accompany me uptown and we shall again visit all the hotels at my expense ... The much heralded inauguration ball...turned out a fizzle. Only ladies were present ... Dr. Lafferty has endeared himself to the citizens ... but would need three or four Collinses tomorrow morning before he could get on his cocked hat".⁽⁷³⁾

66. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", page 15.

67. Klasssen, Henry C. *Eye on the Future*, pages 227-231.

68. A Reporter Calgary Herald, 13 August 1891 reprinted in Alberta History 52(1): 24-26, Winter 2004. The Laffertys, Board of Trade members, family and friends made a 3 day excursion on the newly completed C&E (CPR) railway to Edmonton and St. Albert in August 1891. It took eleven hours each way.

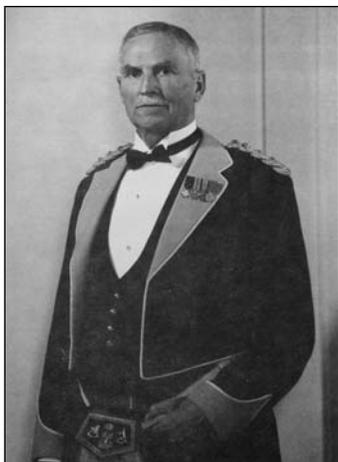
69. Peach, Jack *The First Hundred Years: The History of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce 1891-1991*, page 3, 1991. In 1891 the Calgary population was 3800. Forty-six merchants became founding members of the Board of Trade on May 2, 1891. P.J. Nolan was Secretary and Alexander Lucas, Chairman. Dr. Lafferty was the President, Volunteer citizens group. He was listed as a banker.

70. Stanley, George D. "James Delamere Lafferty", pages 15-16.

71. Higinbotham, John D. CACHB 6(1): 11-12, May 1941.

72. McDougall, Gerald, Harris, Fiona C. *Medical Clinics and Physicians in Southern Alberta*, page 23.

73. Dempsey, Hugh A. *The Best of Bob Edwards*, pages 45-49, Hurtig 1975.



6-15

Eric Lafferty Harvie, LL.B.

Correspondence does indicate that Dr. Lafferty received support from Liberal Prime Minister Laurier to be nominated as the second Lieutenant Governor of Alberta in 1910. The political scene in Alberta was disrupted that year by the Rutherford scandal. Incumbent H.G. Bulyea was re-appointed for another five year term, to be succeeded by Conservative Dr. R.G. Brett as Alberta's first medical Lieutenant Governor in 1915. Lafferty broke with his Liberal traditions and his friend Laurier in 1917 over the conscription issue. He joined Borden's coalition and gave speeches throughout the west supporting Borden and conscription.⁽⁷⁴⁾

Lafferty and his Extended Family

Friends described Dr. Lafferty as an ebullient, effervescent, entertaining, well read pro-westerner. Contemporaries described him as a shrewd judge of character with great drive and persuasion. His ceaseless activity and broad knowledge were constantly on call.⁽⁷⁵⁾

In 1905 Dr. Lafferty hosted his nephew Eric Lafferty Harvie, who visited Calgary.⁽⁷⁶⁾ Harvie was impressed by the city, and by his relations who had already moved to Alberta. They included two uncles who were physicians (J.D. Lafferty in Calgary and surgeon Dr. A.M. Lafferty in Lethbridge), and Harvie's aunt who was the wife of lawyer James Short. Harvie decided to stay and joined the Short firm as an articling lawyer. He became a registered lawyer after a

vote by the nine benchers including R.B. Bennett in 1911. It was the same Eric Harvie whose oil and gas income in 1948 exceeded the oil revenues of the province Alberta. The Glenbow Alberta Museum stands as an example of Eric Harvie's foresight, and as one of the indirect legacies of the member of the Lafferty family who helped bring him to Calgary, Dr. James D. Lafferty.

Dr. Lafferty died in Calgary on July 29, 1920. His colleague, Lieutenant Governor Dr. R.G. Brett was one of the pallbearers.⁽⁷⁷⁾ At the time of his death, Dr. Lafferty was survived by three sisters and four brothers. They included Mrs. James Short of Calgary and Dr. Allan M. Lafferty of Lethbridge.⁽⁷⁸⁾ Dr. and Mrs. J.D. Lafferty had six children: five sons (James G. born in 1875, Frank Delamere in 1876, Geoffrey in 1882, Guy A. in 1879 or 1880, and Herbert), and one daughter Anne born in 1879. Anne died sometime before 1891.⁽⁷⁹⁾

Frank Delamere Lafferty's wife was a goddaughter of Sir Wilfred Laurier. Frank D. Lafferty became a Brigadier General during WWI. As a munitions expert, he was appointed Superintendent of the Dominion Arsenals. He died December 1, 1919, a year after the WWI armistice. He was remembered for the next sixty years by competitions for the Lafferty Cup, which recognized "excellence in sports" in the Armed Services of Britain, Canada and Australia.⁽⁸⁰⁾ The grandson of Geoffrey Lafferty, Richard D. Lafferty, was one of the partners who initiated the Montreal based Lafferty-Harwood investment firm.⁽⁸¹⁾

Related Profiles: Lindsay, Brett, Kennedy, Mewburn, Mackid, Stanley, Bow

Related Perspectives: Military Medicine and Medical Care in the North-West Rebellions of 1870/71 and 1885, Osler Goes West, the First CMA Convention in Alberta, the Medical Profession in the North-West Territories, Climate, Calgary and Tuberculosis

Key Words: NWT Medical Council, NWT Medical Association, Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons Registrar, Western Canadian Medical Journal, Osler, TB, Lafferty, Smith/Moore Banks, Eric Harvie and Frank D. Lafferty

74. Gray, S.

"Geneology Research", page 24.

75. Lafferty, James D.

Obituary. Calgary Albertan, July 30, 1920. Also see Stephen Gray's "Geneology Research", page 20.

76. Diehl, F.M.

A Gentleman from a Fading Age, pages 17-20.

77. Stanley, George D.

"James Delamere Lafferty", page 14.

78. Lafferty, James D.

Obituary. Calgary Alberta, July 30, 1920.

79. Gray, S.

"Geneology Research", pages 33-60.

80. Gray, S.

"Geneology Research", pages 33-39.

81. Gray, S.

"Geneology Research", pages 33-36, 61.