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MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

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Health Department

150 HASTINGS ST. E.

VANCOUVER, B.C. March 31st, 1917.

John F. C. B. Vance, Esq.,
City Analyst,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Vance:-

With reference to your request for a ruling as to permitting the public to be present at the chemical analyses carried on in the City Laboratory, I feel that it would not be wise to permit them to do so, for it must not be forgotten that a large proportion of the cases under examination are Police Court cases, and not infrequently some of these may be sent to a Higher Court for trial. Others are for the examination of milk and water, and in the case of milk, prosecutions may follow, and I can readily see that the lawyer for the defence might ask if there had been others present, (students, etc.), and would try to make out a case of the samples being mixed or the examination interfered with.

I understand that some of the applicants are either students or teachers at the University, and I would point out that they have a very good chemical laboratory at the University at the present time, and while we are only too pleased to reciprocate courtesies it amounts to this - you must either admit all or exclude all.

I can foresee that the time may come when you will receive applicants who wish to be taught analytical chemistry. In that case I would certainly recommend to the Council that no one without some previous knowledge of chemistry be allowed to attend, and that you be supplied with the necessary paid assistants, for it would be impossible for you to teach and carry on the City's work without adequate qualified assistance.

In conclusion, I would remind you that the Council on November 4th, 1912, passed the following resolution:-

"Recommended that hereafter the public be excluded from the City Laboratory, except on the written permission of the Medical Health Officer."

If you wish we might take this matter up again before the Council.

Yours truly,

H. J. Dick Clarkhill

Medical Health Officer.