

J. George Adami to W.O.
December 8th, 1915.

(typewritten)

My dear Sir William,

I thought it well before answering your note regarding the meeting of the National Council for combating venereal disease, to obtain the approval of Surgeon General Jones, and a little to my surprise, I confess, he was of the opinion that it would be wiser to take no part, his only argument being that recently Colonel Rennie, the A.D.M.S. at Shorncliffe, had been invited to be present at a meeting of the Council there and had been instructed by General Steele not to go. What is the inwardness of this attitude the General could not inform me, unless it be a move to make the British authorities responsible for the state of affairs, and to eventually permit us to be free to take our own action.

But the months are passing by: conditions are getting worse and not better, there are almost as many cases now with 20,000 Canadians in garrison as there were in July with 40,000. The General himself is fairly hopeless about the situation; he says that it is time for the Militia and Defence Act to be put into operation, so as to drive all undesirable women out of the Shorncliffe and Bramshot districts, doubts whether the American system, which I strongly support, would be of any real use. It is all very well, he states, with a small army which can be molly-coddled, but impossible to carry out with our bigger army. The one good suggestion it seemed to me that he had to make was to cease having a special venereal Hospital and make the M.O. of each battalion look after the venereal cases of that battalion. This he thinks would drive home the extent of the evil to the individual Commanding Officers, and would force them to take such steps as would reduce the evil.

Possibly, if Barlow or the Council were specially to invite the General he might be willing to put the case before them and demand less temporising and more active measures.

Yours very sincerely,

(J. Geo. Adami)