

BRIDGE MATTER IS REOPENED

Mayor Schofield, George Cushing and F. C. Beatty, who went to Ottawa on Saturday, returned yesterday, and Mr. Cushing made it known that as a result of their visit the Dominion Department of Public Works has ordered that work on the new C. P. R. bridge at the Reversing Falls shall not be proceeded with, pending a new survey and a further investigation of conditions to decide whether the bridge shall be raised to the height deemed necessary by those interested in the free navigation of the river.

Mr. Cushing and Mr. Beatty took with them to Ottawa drawings, tables and figures, prepared by R. H. Cushing, C. E., and affidavits from men using the bridge, and personally acquainted with all the conditions bearing upon the question of the height of the bridge.

On Monday, accompanied by Hon. Mr. Wignmore and Stanley E. Elkin, M. P., they and the Mayor had a conference with the Minister of Public Works. The deputy minister and the chief engineer of the department were also present, and the whole thing was gone into at some length. In view of the facts

and arguments presented Hon. Mr. McCordy, Minister of Public Works, decided that work should be held up pending a further survey and investigation, as stated. Mr. Cushing said yesterday that they had a courteous reception from the minister, and that Messrs. Elkin and Wignmore had given them active and energetic assistance. It is thought a new survey will be made by the resident engineer of the Department of Public Works and that there may be another hearing on the matter. The delegation was evidently very successful, as many here had taken it for granted that the case was already closed. It has been reopened, with good prospects.

MONTREAL DEFECTIVES.

To the Editor of the Times:—
Sir,—Speaking of the statement of Dr. G. M. Hincks, Toronto, I would say that his estimate, 160,000 mentally defective persons in the Dominion of Canada seems to err, if at all, on the side of conservatism, especially when we consider the frequency with which one meets with some form of feeble-mindedness in our every day work.

A considerable number of terms are employed to designate this group, but the term "feeble minded" must be a compromise because there has not grown up, as in the case of the insane and the criminal, a social concept and a method of procedure for labelling.

In general this group called feeble-minded includes those individuals who are mentally deficient—that is inadequate at the social and psychological

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levels of re-action—and whose defect is due rather to an arrest of development than to any destructive process of later life as so often thought. While this definition is necessarily very crude, we apply it in the broadest general way. The concept of the arrest of development is not a simple one. The arrest may be due to inherent defect (hereditary), to injury of the brain, disease before birth (congenital), to injury to brain in early years of life, to extraneous factors—hereditary deaf-mutism may cause feeble-mindedness if not corrected by special education; a high degree of myopia (short-sightedness), adenoids, and many other causes may operate. So it is seen that we are not dealing with a unitary concept in any sense, and if we will survey the social problems into which feeble-mindedness projects itself as an important factor this is the further emphasized. These problems include not only those of the idiot, imbecile, and feeble-minded as ordinarily understood and as found in institutions, but the problems of the juvenile delinquent, the

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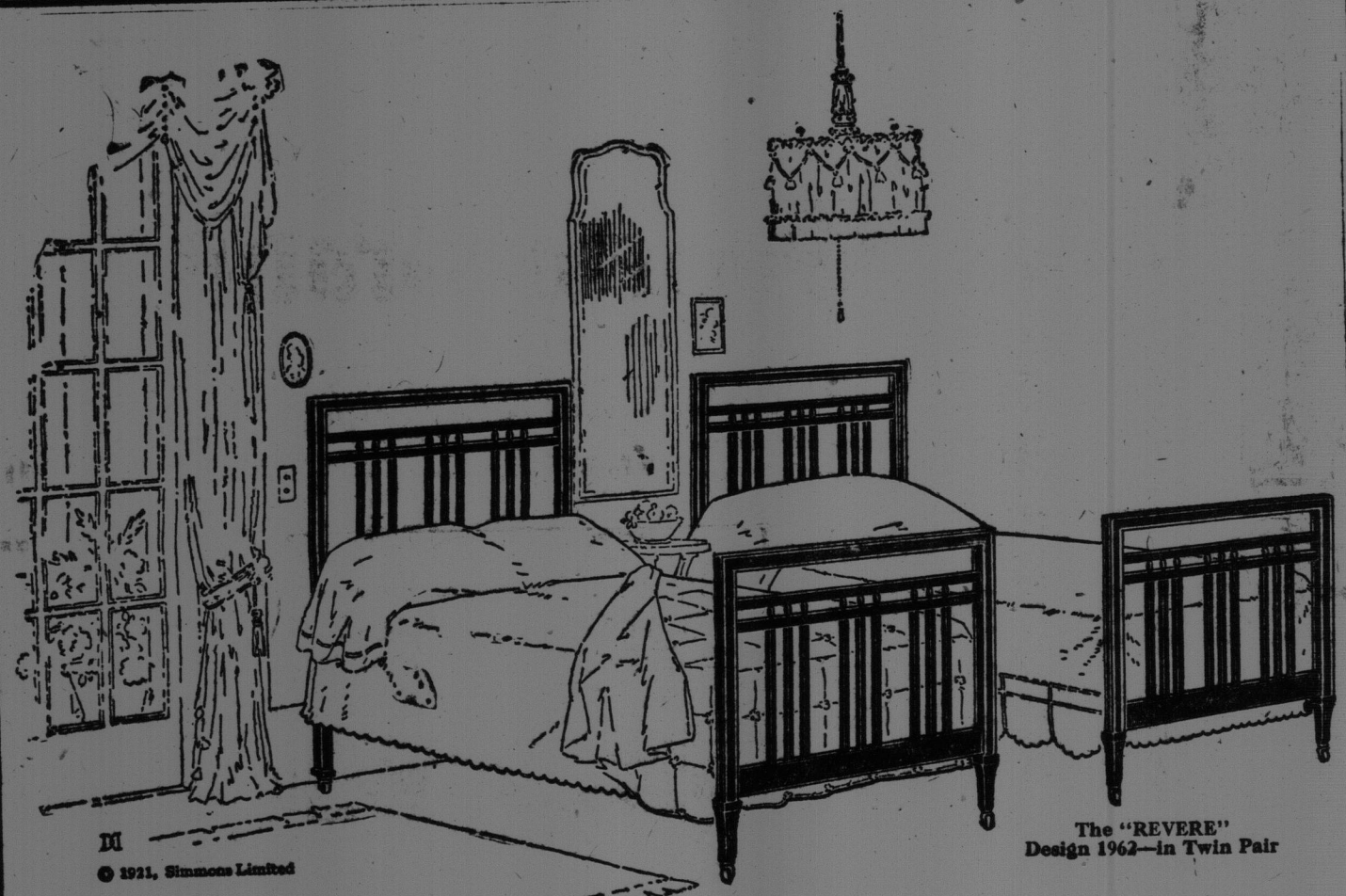
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criminal and the prostitute. Of these two latter classes recent surveys seem to indicate that conservatively fifty per cent. could be included in the feeble minded group. In addition to these groups there are the "backward" and a typical children—for the most part at present problems in our schools—a large percentage, no one knows how large, of the vagabond, unemployed and pauper classes. Add to these a large number of the "epileptics," and some slight idea may be obtained of the complexity of the problem, or one phase of the complexity of the problem that is included



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In mental hygiene measure as is being taken up by our minister of health, Hon. W. F. Roberts.

Adjutant E. Fagner of the Salvation Army has arrived from Montreal to take over her duties as matron at the Evangeline Maternity Home in Princess street, and Adjutant Laura Clark, who has had charge of the hospital since it was opened five years ago, leaves for Halifax where she will have charge of the large new maternity hospital which the Army has recently built there.

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