

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1920

To Preserve Infant Life Of Prime Importance

(Montreal Herald.)
The Dominion Child Welfare Conference in progress at Ottawa again directs attention to a subject which, it is becoming more and more evident, is closely associated with the welfare of the community. Interwoven with this subject are many others concerning domestic life and the various problems of every day existence. Overcrowded tenements, insufficient nourishment, the high cost of food, the care of the mother in maternity, recreation, nursing—all these enter into a consideration of a problem the solution of which means so much to the future of the dominion.

The suggestion of a dominion-wide educational campaign is a good one, and the aid of the Dominion Department of Health has been promised. As usual in so many good movements the Province of Quebec stands out as one of the leaders in this movement. Under the Child Welfare Commission rapid strides have been made in the province as far as educational propaganda, recreational facilities and nursing and medical attention are concerned. A child welfare week has been held in Montreal for the past four years. One of the delegates expressed the opinion that it should be a week of 365 days.

The infant mortality of every country is alarming. Of the children who die before reaching the age of twelve months the main cause of death is premature birth or debility, and it is now fairly well known that the debility at birth is very largely brought about by some error of diet on the part of the mother before the child is born. Medical men tell us that another of the chief causes of death among infants is disease of the stomach or intestines, due to defective food, or food that the stomach or intestines cannot digest.

An investigation carried out at Brighton, England, revealed the fact that mortality among infants fed on cow's milk was forty-eight times as great as among breast-fed children; and among those fed on condensed milk and other artificial foods, it was ninety-six times as great as among those fed on mother's milk. The medical profession are agreed that defective teeth are caused by defective diet. Sound teeth depend chiefly on the food taken in the early part of life. The effects of improper feeding in early life are seen in adult life—stunted growth, mis-shaped legs, "pigeon chest," and all those circumstances that made up the "C-S" population found to exist to such an extent during the war.

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For the prevention of these malnutritional disorders the public requires to be educated on the question of proper food for both mother and infant. It has been said that an increase of 10 per cent. in the milk supply for the home would be of more service to the workingman than an increase of 100 per cent. in his wages.

GIVES HIMSELF UP TO POLICE

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
Philadelphia, Oct. 25.—William Purdon Brines, the University of Pennsylvania student charged with the killing of Elmer C. Drewes, the Dartmouth College senior, surrendered to the police this afternoon and after a two minute hearing before a police magistrate, was committed to the county prison without bail.

A COMMUNITY HOUSE FOR WOMEN WORKERS.

Progressive Measures Adopted by N. B. Firms on Behalf of Employees.

(Financial Post.)
The Atlantic Underwear Company of Moncton, an industry in which a large amount of Nova Scotia money is invested, is well supplied with orders and the mills are kept actively at work. The company has made a new departure in the erection of a community house for its women employees, of whom there are more than 100.

Moncton is a boom town these days, and it has been a very difficult matter for the employees, many of whom come from the country, to obtain lodging places except at a high price. Accordingly, the company has fitted up a community house on its own property where the girls can live in comfort and in decent surroundings. The building includes a rest room, dining room, hospital and dormitories. An experienced housekeeper has been engaged and the rate is put down at cost. It is expected that this improvement will make the "labor turnover" much less, and that the improved health of the workers will produce greater efficiency.

Another New Brunswick concern that spends large sums in the care of its workers in this way and with good results is the Fraser companies, lumbermen. At their mills they erect hotels of handsome appearance for the accommodation of their workers. This undoubtedly pays, for men work more contentedly and steadily where living conditions are thus made more worth while.

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