

The Evening Times and Star

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THE HOUSING QUESTION.

Considering the purpose for which it was called, the meeting of the Community Council last evening was not a complete success. Some of those who spoke got too far away from the real subject of discussion, and many who might have contributed valuable suggestions were silent. The result of the whole discussion was a resolution which will bring no practical results until a committee which should have been appointed last evening goes into the whole question, and submits a practical proposition, that will suggest how money may be raised, where cheap land suitably located as to water and sewerage and transportation may be secured, and under what conditions houses may be built that will be comfortable and sanitary, and within the reach of the workingman's income. Before the city council takes action it will insist upon a concrete proposition that would justify it in guaranteeing bonds. There is no prospect that it will itself proceed to build houses.

But last night's meeting was not without good results.

Mr. W. F. Burdett set out very clearly the need of housing reform. It only needs a little study of the facts he presented to convince anyone that there are too many families paying a rental too high for the accommodation they get, and living under conditions which are not desirable for bringing up families of children. The contrast between some St. John houses thrown on the screen and the workmen's cottages in Brantford at about the same rental was too striking to escape observation.

Mr. F. Neil Brodie showed very clearly the need of radical reform of the building laws, and he also gave very valuable information on the requirements for economical construction of houses, with an estimate of cost which should form an excellent basis for deliberations as to the practicability of a housing scheme in St. John.

The representatives of labor who were present were emphatically in favor of the city itself building the houses, but submitted no data to show that the city could build them to rent at a low figure without a heavy burden of taxation, or in effect subsidizing the homes of some members of the community, which would amount to the same thing as paying a part of the present rental of a certain number of households. It may be argued, it is true, that it is up to the city council to get the houses built cheaply enough to ensure a low rental, but merely saying the thing does not accomplish it, nor ensure a desirable class of buildings.

If a committee including representatives of labor and such men as Mr. Burdett, Mr. Brodie, Mr. T. H. Estabrooks, Mayor Frink and perhaps one or two others had been appointed to go into the whole question of money, land, materials and labor, submitting a practical report, there would have been something to work on. As the case stands no practical results at an early date need be anticipated.

Mayor Frink indicated some of the difficulties of the situation, and though he intimated that the municipality might fairly assist in overcoming them he suggested a plebiscite before such action was taken. The resolution as adopted merely confines the council's action to the terms of the present housing law.

There is the other question of improving conditions in houses now occupied, and reform of the building laws is essential to such action. This phase of the subject can better be dealt with when the report of the partial housing survey has been published.

The chief merit of last night's meeting is that it has focused public attention on the whole question, and revealed the great necessity for clear thinking and united action to solve a community problem. No meeting is an utter failure which reveals to a community some of its defects and offers at least some practical suggestions to provide a remedy.

PREMIER FLEMING

Premier Fleming asks the people to believe that the lumbermen of the province were eager to raise a fund for the benefit of the Conservative party in this province, but that he warned Mr. Berry not to have anything to do with it.

How then does he explain the meeting in his room in a hotel in Fredericton, at which Mr. Berry, and the lumbermen's treasurer, Mr. Brantley, and the other treasurer, whom Mr. Fleming himself nominated, Mr. E. R. Teed were all present and at which he warned Mr. Brantley that anything Mr. Berry said about Mr. Teed would be all right?

But does Mr. Fleming expect the people to believe that the lumbermen, some of whom were American citizens, and some of whom were politically opposed to the Fleming government, would get together and voluntarily contribute sums varying from \$1,000 to \$20,000 for purely political purposes, to be used for the benefit of one particular party?

The Globe says:—"Lumbermen very well knew they were giving money for business and not political reasons." Just so.

IS IT SATISFACTORY?

"Altogether the premier's statement is quite satisfactory."

In these words the St. John Standard expresses its view of the admissions made by Premier Fleming before the Royal Commission yesterday. The Standard describes the premier's story as a "a plain, straightforward story," and says that it "merely confirms what everybody, whether they are prepared to admit it or not, must have realized for many years, that under the existing method of running elections it is necessary for all parties to have campaign funds."

In another paragraph the Standard says: "There is no merit in being hypocritical about it."

The story of Mr. Fleming which is "quite satisfactory" to the Standard is that he, the premier of this province, knew a campaign fund was being raised among the lumbermen; that he named his friend and neighbor Mr. E. R. Teed as the proper man to be the treasurer of the fund; that he received for his company a loan of \$15,000 from the fund, and received from it also the sum of \$8,000 for his Gould stocks, and that for a time while Mr. Teed was in he had in his own possession the keys to the safety deposit box containing the fund.

Mr. Fleming denies that he received any personal advantage from the fund or that it was raised at his suggestion, and says he knew of no pressure being brought to bear to induce the lumber operators to contribute.

Suppose we assume that Mr. Fleming was so simple-minded as to believe that the lumbermen, some of them American citizens, and some of them political opponents, were willing to contribute to the party fund so soon after an election, when no funds were needed; but accept also his statement that he knew about the fund and took enough interest in it to name the treasurer—to the people agree with the Standard in saying that such a course pursued by the premier of a province is "quite satisfactory?" Let us hope not.

Whether the Roblin government in Manitoba is justified or not, its party is in a popular minority, as its candidates received less than fifty per cent of the popular vote.

The Chatham World expresses the opinion that the return of Premier Fleming to control of affairs would result in his government being swept out of power at the next election. That election should not be delayed.

The Fredericton Mail observes:—"Mr. Pinder seems to have got ahead of the business-like Borden and Fleming governments. And we have it on the authority of Col. McLeod, M. P., that 'Mr. Pinder is not a good business man'—enough said."

One of the boys who is implicated in recent burglaries is credited with saying that big grafters are not punished, while small thieves get the limit. This may have been a bid for sympathy, but where did the youngster get the idea? Has he been reading the papers?

Was it a "grandstand play" when Mr. Fleming's counsel got an adjournment yesterday so that The Standard's report of Mr. Fleming's testimony might go to the country without the cross-examination? The Standard, which is an authority on grandstand plays, might be able to answer this question.

The Standard gravely informs its readers that hard times are good times. Yesterday it said: "The Dominion revenue for the opening quarter of this fiscal year shows some decrease. But of late years it has been mounting up at such a rate that a slight reaction is a healthy sign."

The more the people hear about the timber lease graft, the more keen becomes their desire for further knowledge of Valley Railway finance. The Globe says that "people must have gasped with astonishment when they read the story told by Mr. Teed." They may gasp again before the Valley Railway inquiry has been completed.

The Hon. J. K. Fleming must have very little faith in good government and honest government if he thinks it must be bolstered up by huge campaign funds. Surely with only two opponents in the house he had a clear field to give the province such good and honest government as would render a huge campaign fund unnecessary. Has he done it?

If Premier Fleming knew that the lumbermen were providing a fund for the benefit of the government party at a time when the question of what the renewal of their timber leases would cost them had not been settled, should he not have regarded it as an attempt to bribe him and the government, and spurned it with the scorn of an honest man?

A Liverpool lady sustained a serious injury in the street was carried to a surgical home for an operation. While lying in great suffering on the operating table she dictated and signed her will, which the two surgeons witnessed. The operation proved successful.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

Jimmy No Help.

An old couple in Glasgow were in a very depressed state owing to dull trade. Thinking that their son in America would help them, they wrote stating their trouble, and saying if he did not send them some money they would have to go to the poorhouse. Three weeks passed, and then came a letter from their son saying:—"Dear Mither and Fother,—Just wait another fortnight, an' I'll come home an' gang wi' ye. Your affectionate son, Jimmy."

Cutting.

The beautiful girl was greatly loved by the poverty stricken scribe who had nothing but his mother wit to commend him. The girl having thought the matter over, decided that a balance at the bank might accompany the next offer, and the scribe was somewhat embittered in consequence. They stood together upon the steamer, and as they leaned over the rail the girl said with a sigh, "I love the sea."

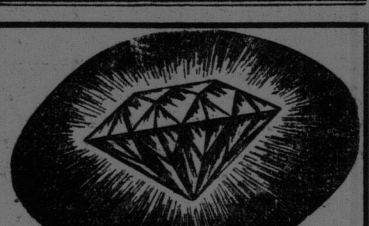
Limited.

At an agricultural show held each year in a small town in Ireland prices are given for the best turnout donkey and cart. The prize for this was usually won by a local doctor or a local solicitor. After the show one year the farmers and laborers protested that it was not quite fair to expect them to compete successfully with the well-cared for and well groomed turnout of the doctor or the solicitor. In consequence of this protest the following provision appeared in the schedule for the following year:—"All legal and medical donkeys excluded."

Latest Golf Cheat.

The doctor, (attending the golf mania)—"Um, your temperature, my dear."

The Patient—"And what's bogy, doctor?"



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HOME RULE AMENDING

BILL LIKELY ON THURSDAY

London, July 16—The policy of the government with regard to the home rule amending bill will be settled at a meeting of the cabinet today. Yesterday Premier Asquith announced his intention of placing the bill down for discussion on Monday provisionally, but Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will probably be given to the finance bill and the second reading of the amending bill will be moved on Thursday of next week.

NO WEDDING.

Ceremony Stopped by Clinton Town Clerk—Former Husband Alive.

Clinton, July 16—Mrs. Edith St. Clair of this town and Joseph Carney of Albany were at the residence of Rev. H. C. Speed and all was in readiness for their marriage when Rev. Mr. Speed received a telephone message from James H. Carr, town clerk, not to perform the ceremony.

Charles Press of Sterling, father of Mrs. St. Clair, had just appeared at Mr. Carr's office and notified him that Mr. St. Clair is living. Mrs. St. Clair declared that her husband had secured a divorce, but all she had to show was a letter from a lawyer. Mr. St. Clair is said to be living in Nashua, N. H.

MARRIED ONLY A MONTH.

Frederick K. Hamilton Arrested in Sulphur, Ok., on Way From Boston.

Sulphur, Ok., July 16—Frederick K. Hamilton of Oakland, Calif., was arrested here charged with having passed a fictitious check. The arrest was made at the request of the Oakland chief of police. Hamilton had just returned here from Boston with his bride of a month. The warrant is sworn to by Mrs. W. A. Kinier of Oakland, sister of Hamilton's bride.

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If you are a woman with the right kind of a room to rent to young men or young women, a Want Ad in this paper will find them for you—at slight cost. This paper goes into good homes and is read by substantial people. Therefore the results come from this class.

Why not decide right now

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