

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1918

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HOUSING REFORM.

At yesterday's meeting of the Associated Charities the housing question was discussed by ladies whose visitations take them into the wretched tenements which some people are compelled to dignify with the name of home. Consider a basement flat below the sidewalk level, where three rooms are too damp for use, and the tenants, herded in the other rooms, must pay rent for all. Or a tenement into the half of which the water pours whenever it rains. Or a miserable flat so cold that it cannot be made warm. Or an old wooden tenement with many tenants, good and bad, thrown together by their common poverty, with none of the privacy which is prized so much in a real home. Consider the effect on the health of the inmates and the children as well as bodies of the children. If we are to rear a healthy generation, physically, mentally and morally, we must give the children a chance. The housing problem is one of the great and pressing problems of the city. It is charged that some landlords make money out of the grim necessities of the poor. It is also charged that the man and woman who are raising a large family have exceptional difficulty in getting desirable tenements. But, worst of all, it is actually true that many families must live in houses whose owners should be compelled to make extensive repairs. It is true there are some families who would make a wreck of any tenement, but that cannot be made an excuse for wholesale disregard of housing conditions in general. The question must be faced fairly and courageously, and no haphazard method of dealing with the problem will bring the desired results. It is a community problem, to be dealt with by the citizens as a body.

THE HIGHWAY ACT.

The bill concerning highways which Hon. Mr. Veniot presented in the legislature yesterday is in its general principles a notable and much needed advance on all former road legislation in this province. There will be of course difficulty in dividing the roads into trunk roads and branch roads, because of local demands, but after the policy has been adopted and inaugurated an adjustment of rival claims of different sections can be made by degrees until justice has been done to all.

A most important change, long overdue, is that which gives the people of the parishes, along branch roads, the authority to elect their own supervisors, who must publish their accounts for the scrutiny of all their neighbors. This will be a guarantee that none of the road money will be wasted, any more than in the case with school money. The question of statute labor is also left with the people to decide. Perhaps it would be better to have no statute labor, but the bill leaves the decision with the people of each parish to be decided by vote. With the right kind of supervisor or even statute labor should produce fairly good results.

So far as trunk roads are concerned, the bill gives the minister authority to appoint the supervisor, and as a good deal of permanent work will be done this is quite proper; but the supervisors must post their accounts just as in the case of those on branch roads, so that the people will know exactly what is done with the money. The great merit of the new measure is that it brings the administration of the roads department closer to the people.

The bill also provides for the patrol system, which has proved so great a success wherever inaugurated, as for example in Maine. This reform has long been urged, and will prove of immense benefit. It is very desirable that the rule of the road be changed to conform with that in other parts of Canada and in the United States, where traffic turns to the right. The clauses providing for better protection of roads from destructive heavy traffic in spring are greatly in the interest of the taxpayer and user of the roads in summer. The increase in the property tax and poll tax to provide funds for road work will not involve hardship, for the ratepayers will get more than their money back in improved means of communication. Hon. Mr. Veniot invites criticism and will welcome suggestions in working out the details of the bill. It is a thoroughly progressive measure and a courageous attempt to give this province a system of good roads. The Foster government is redeeming its pledges and deserves the highest credit for sincerity as well as for a business-like grasp of public affairs. Hon. Mr. Veniot has not spared himself in his study of the road problem, and the result of his work is a tribute to his marked ability.

The Standard is highly pleased with Commissioner Stevens. This, however, does not dispose of the evidence given at the enquiry into Valley Railway affairs. That record stands, and the people are as competent as the commissioner to arrive at a verdict. Their verdict differs from that of the commissioner.

A FAIR PROPOSITION.

"It is the opinion of this committee and we believe of citizens generally, that whatever may be said for or against the necessity for increased rates, existing legislation should not be modified in the interests of the Power company, until the interests of the city have been fully considered and guarded."

This paragraph from the platform of the Committee of One Hundred will commend itself to every member of the legislature as the statement of a fair and reasonable proposition. The city gave the franchise under which the New Brunswick Power Company does business. It uses the city streets and derives its profits from the people in return for service rendered. Is the service adequate? Is not the company with its present rates getting a very large profit on the real amount of money invested? The people are convinced that it is, and they are also aware that the service is not adequate. The company's annual report lately issued shows a surplus after paying all interest and dividends, although the interest charge had been largely increased without any improvement in the service. Clearly, then, there should be no legislation empowering the company to increase rates until the interests of the city have been fully considered and guarded.

The capture of Odessa by the Germans ought to have some influence upon the deliberations at Moscow today. It may soon be the turn of Petrograd to witness the entry of German soldiers, if the Bolsheviks are permitted to continue their work of destroying Russia.

The opposition is making great headway at Fredericton. One has only to read the Standard to perceive that the "Fosterites" are mannikins, and Mr. Murray and his followers a galaxy of shining intellects almost wasted in the dull atmosphere of a provincial town.

The food board at Ottawa has thrown upon the municipalities the task of enforcing regulations to prevent waste of food. Will they have the courage to act? What about the waste of potatoes in New Brunswick?

Germany is pressing steadily eastward. That will at least give more time for the Americans to get their armies and air squadrons transported to the western front, where the war is to be won.

The submarines got eighteen British vessels last week. Of these fifteen were over 1,600 tons. Ship-production must be speeded up to meet a critical situation.

MUST RETALIATE ON THE GERMANS

Allies Should Meet Foe's Industrial Weapons With Their Commercial

London, Mar. 13.—The Evening Standard says: "Germany is to have free commercial access from Russian territory to Persia and Afghanistan, also a perfectly free hand for exploiting the rich coal and ore deposits of Spitzbergen. In Armenia she secures through Turkey control of the great oil fields of the Caspian. The German Eagle already holds in its talons a greater part of the mineral wealth of Europe, from Germany and Belgium to Galicia and Poland. What reason prevents the Allies from securing Spitzbergen against the enemy and also indulging in a policy of economic retaliation? The Evening Standard has for months urged that the Allies, who hold the greater part of the world's raw material supply, coaling stations and waterways, should use this powerful weapon to the full, yet, through some panderer, not only is the weapon not used, but our doctrinaire politicians demand that it shall under no circumstances be employed. It is well known that President Wilson looks forward to an ideal state of affairs, in which economic warfare shall go to the same lumber room as military war, but that presupposes a reformed Germany. If Germany adopts, as she is doing, a policy of naked plunder, it would seem imperative that no scruple, however lofty its inspiration, should stand in the way of self-defence. U. S. Favors Boycott.

"Business men in America are rapidly coming to the view that the economic weapon must be used against Germany, if only in the first instance as a threat, but a threat that, in certain circumstances, will be carried into effect. President Wilson's eventual conversion to that view. At the same time it is well to remember that a realization of Germany's tremendous scheme of economic aggression is subject to a military decision that will be arrived at some day on the western front."

Lord Crewe has decided to sell further portions of his Cheshire estates, including farms and other portions at Sandbach, Warringtonham, Sproston and Bunbury.

The Chicago Vacant Lot Association hopes to see a quarter of a million food producing gardens in the Windy City this year.

HAMBURG-BAGDAD NO LONGER SLOGAN

German Enmity of Britain Transferred to United States—Latest Dream in Berlin

The Hague, Mar. 14.—Since the British captured Bagdad and Jerusalem the tendency of Germany's projects for expansion has changed its direction. The cry "from Hamburg to Bagdad" has lost its enchantment; Paul Rohrbach's ideas are gaining importance. His slogan "Drang Nach Osten" sees in Persia and Afghanistan possibilities for German economic expansion which were never dreamed of in the days when Russia stood up. The oil fields of South Russia, with areas of territory where cotton and cereals could be grown, are being regarded as most important in helping to prepare complete independence from America. The intense enmity felt against Great Britain is now directed against the United States. The German optimists believe even in the possibility of German-British-Japanese commercial cooperation in Asia. The idea that England will connect Egypt with India by the formation of a new Arabian kingdom, a Jewish Palestine and by Mesopotamia, no longer creates fear, as many

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Ladies' New Spring Footwear

Laced boots, 8, 8 1/2 and 9-inch tops, in A, A, B, C, D and E widths. Prices from \$3.75 to \$15 per pair. Made in Vic Kid, Dull Kid and colors and modern tone. We will be pleased to show you our styles, even if you are not purchasing.

For present wear we are showing Black and Dark Tan calf, 8-inch Laced Boots with Neolin soles, C, D and E widths. These are very popular. Black, \$7.00 and \$8.00; Dark Tan, \$5.00 and \$6.00 per pair.

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Most of the misery and ill-health the humanity is burdened with arise from disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels. If you are feeling out of sorts, hat pains in the stomach, especially after eating, bilious spells, headaches, sea sickness, coated tongue, salivary or mucus complexion, specks floating before eyes, you should take a few boxes of Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills and note the change.

Miss Ida Hogan, Dunrobin, Ont. writes: "For over five years I have suffered great agony from pains in my stomach. I tried several remedies, but got no relief until a friend advised me to take Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills. I started with two vials, and before I had one quite used I found much relief. I continued until I used four vials, and they have completely cured me. This was fourteen months ago, and I have not had the slightest return since. The best praise I can give them is not enough."

Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills are 25c. a vial at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

German politicians are convinced that their unity of interests will bring England and Germany together some day, to combat America's economic expansion. A Liberal German politician, said to me, "England will like us as a neighbor in Africa, better than a France weakened by this war."

The opinion is gaining currency generally, that this war will accentuate the situation as it existed before 1914, and that the militarized nations will have to carry the burden of armaments as great as before this war. This growing opinion explains why the thought is no longer expressed that the German peace treaties on the east front are in flagrant

opposition to the Reichstag peace resolutions of July 19. This opinion prevails even in Austria, where the government is trying to conciliate the Bohemians by constitutional reform.

REVOLUTIONIZE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Are we serious in our attempts to combat the fire waste? The records of 1917 hardly prove it. To the most superficial observer it is obvious that we are directing our energies along wrong lines.

Despite first-class fire fighting equipment and firemen amongst the most expert in the world, our losses continue unabated. Our most efficient fire brigades are utterly discomfited by the raging conflagrations that, with increasing frequency, destroy buildings, devastate whole communities and wipe out human life. Canadian municipalities spend millions of dollars annually for the maintenance of fire departments and a few paltry dollars in fire prevention. Without depreciating the

provision of adequate fire extinguishing facilities the short-sighted policy that neglects preventive measures must be condemned. The fire departments of the country should be revolutionized. For every dollar appropriated by municipalities for fire protection, fifty cents should be used for fire prevention.—J. G. S. in Conservation.

Blanket authority over foodstuffs has been refused to Administrator Hoover by congress.

Sold Out To D. Bassen

We bought the stock of A. J. Russell, 79 Main St. A Liberal German politician, said to me, "England will like us as a neighbor in Africa, better than a France weakened by this war."

\$1,800 Worth of First-Class GENERAL DRY GOODS Best Selected Stock We won't take any advantage of the bargains we bought, but will give the bargains to the public. The prices are old, the goods the best. From East and West, North and South, come and get your share. Our Bargains are Your Bargains.

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