

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 5, 1913.

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THE HOUSING PROBLEM

In reply to an inquiry from the Times concerning cottages for people of small income, erected at comparatively low cost, Mr. John N. Ihlder, field secretary of the National Housing Association of the United States writes:

"I have recently been in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where I find that a commercial builder is erecting very good one-family detached cottages at from \$1,200 to \$1,400, lots \$200 to \$400. This expense could, of course, be reduced by building the cottages in groups or semi-detached."

Mr. Ihlder says he is convinced that housing must be treated as a business proposition, and that the houses of working men must stand on their own feet financially, as philanthropic house building never can keep pace with the growth of a "prosperous city, while the principle underlying it is wrong and tends to raise new and serious social problems. Mr. Ihlder adds:

"I am very much interested in what you say about the development that is coming to St. John, and hope that you have seen your problems in advance you may be able to avoid the housing ills that afflict so many of our cities."

There is a housing famine in the city of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and the situation is so serious that a committee of business men has been appointed to consider the whole question. A correspondent writes:

"The plan at present regarded with special favor would enable even working-men to build their own houses with the aid of credit accommodation from the city and from the lumber companies. The plan also contemplates the sale by the city of lots on easy terms and on a non-transferable basis with a view to keeping them out of the hands of speculators."

There is also a housing famine in Medicine Hat, and a letter from that city says: "The city council sought authority from the legislative assembly to erect houses, if the need should arise, to the extent of \$100,000 per year. This authority was granted, and so far as known, the idea is unique among municipalities in Canada. The city council of Medicine Hat, however, has no desire to build houses, building business except as a last resort. Should it be necessary, the council will submit a by-law to the electors for that purpose, and when the houses are built they will be rented to tenants—not sold and allowed to get into the hands of speculators—at a low figure, enough to provide cost of upkeep and sinking fund."

THE NEED OF THE PORT

The difficulties connected with providing the needed additional facilities at West St. John for next winter's traffic make it advisable to send a delegation to Ottawa in order that the whole matter may be placed clearly before the government. This could not be done nearly so well and certainly not as expeditiously by correspondence, since there would be many questions to ask and answer before the whole situation would be made clear to those who have not personally witnessed the congestion of the last season, or obtained on the spot a full knowledge of the various proposals which have been considered by the citizens' committee. The grain conveyors must be constructed at berth No. 5 and 6. If there is any doubt, and there is grave doubt, whether the Cornolly wharf can be completed in readiness for next winter's business, then some alternative plan must be provided. One suggestion is the straightening of the extension of berth No. 6. In connection with the whole matter there is said to be some doubt about getting enough timber to do the work. The whole situation is best with difficulty, and the best way out of it is for a delegation to go to Ottawa and place the matter very clearly before the government. Since ninety per cent. of the traffic in winter is through business, the whole country is interested in seeing that ample facilities are provided; and if the conditions which have developed call for a large expenditure at this port, it is in the interest of the whole country that it should be done without hesitation and without delay.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

In two important respects the sentiment of the National Council of Women has undergone a notable change during the last few years. When the question of children's playgrounds was first brought to the attention of the Council, comparatively little interest was shown, and for several years little was done. Gradually, however, local councils here and there began to agitate for supervised playgrounds, the council in St. John being one of the most active. At last week's session of the National Council in Montreal a good deal of attention was given to the subject of playgrounds, and the council also placed itself on record in favor of opening all school buildings as social centres. Not only so, but recommendation was adopted that the various local councils investigate the problems of childhood, with a view to securing the establishment of a federal bureau of child welfare under expert direction. The action taken by the National Council means that in every centre in Canada where a local council exists its influence will be behind all movements for the promotion of the welfare of children. The

council is also strongly in favor of medical inspection in schools, and has declared itself in favor of having this work provided for by the governments of the provinces. The council also favors the establishment of night schools and better salaries for teachers. In thus taking advanced ground in all matters relating to the more healthy development of child life, the Women's Council will be a most important factor in solving problems which are receiving far too little attention in all Canadian cities.

The National Council has also experienced a change of sentiment with regard to woman suffrage. Not many years ago this question found little favor at meetings of the National Council, but last week a resolution favoring the franchise for women on equal terms with men was adopted. This action will strengthen the hands of the equal suffrage societies throughout the country, and if militant tactics are avoided it will unquestionably hasten the time when women will be given the right to vote.

The National Council of Women has become a force in Canadian life that must be reckoned with, and there is great need of the influence which such an organization can exert in many directions for the public good.

MAINE AND THE TARIFF

Those who are interested in the lumber industry and the potato industry in the state of Maine are opposed to the tariff revision proposed by the Democrats, on the ground that it will injure their interests. Mr. Guernsey, one of the representatives of the state in congress, in a recent speech dwelt upon the great value of the pulp and paper industry of Maine, and declared that the proposed tariff revision would be very injurious. In the course of his speech he said:

"Great paper mills are on the eve of construction along the St. John river in Canada. Pass this bill unamended, and you will insure the delivery of the great wood products from more than four million acres of Maine forests to paper companies along the St. John in New Brunswick for manufacturing into a finished product to the upbuilding and growth of the Dominion of Canada, not alone for the present but for all time. Pass this bill unamended and you will prevent the development of this great raw material producing territory within the United States and prevent the development of its vast undeveloped water powers equivalent to 200,000 horse-power now running to waste."

Mr. Guernsey also referred to the fact that the potato growers of Aroostook county received much higher prices last year than those of the Canadian provinces and in this connection said:

"Add to the foreign competition the competition of Canada with her lower priced hands, lower paid labor and cheap water transportation from the maritime provinces to Boston and New York markets and it will be seen that the Maine potato grower will, under the provisions of the pending bill, suffer from severe shrinkage in his last investment and in loss of market for his product. All considered, the present 25 cents duty is none too much to properly equalize conditions with the potato producer, foreign or Canadian."

It will be observed that Mr. Guernsey is not one of those who think that the maritime provinces would have suffered if reciprocity had been adopted. On the contrary he objects to the competition which would have taken place under reciprocity, and yet these were politicians in the province who had the hardihood to say that reciprocity would be bad for the New Brunswick farmer.

We are told that the naval bill will come up again at Ottawa about the middle of the week, and that it will be forced through by closure if necessary. If that course is pursued it will be the duty of the senate to throw out the bill.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier will speak tonight in Toronto, the hot-bed of Toryism in Canada. The report of his speech will be awaited with greater interest at this time than would be the speech of any other man in Canadian public life.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Intercolonial Railway is to be placed in charge of one man who is to be responsible to the minister of railways. The Standard's Ottawa correspondent says that the change "is said to inaugurate a period of great expansion." Much of the success of the new venture will depend upon the extent to which the new general manager is or is not interfered with for political purposes by the minister of railways.

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Dr. Melvin, the medical health officer, in the bulletin published in the Times on Saturday emphasizes very strongly the importance of cleaning up the yards and vacant spaces in the city, declaring that if this were done there would be a substantial decrease in infant mortality. What stronger argument could be presented in favor of cleaning up every backyard and alley in St. John? Dr. Melvin's remarks should appeal to every householder, and especially to those who live in the more congested and less cleanly parts of the city.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

SUNDAY, MAY FOUR.

Sir Louis Davies, judge of the Supreme Court of Canada since 1901, was born sixty-eight years ago today in Prince Edward Island. He has enjoyed a distinguished career, having been successively premier of his native province and minister of marine and fisheries in the dominion government.

The Hon. Gordon Hunter, chief justice of British Columbia, is fifty years of age to day. He was born at Beamsville, Ont., and went to British Columbia in 1892, where his rise has been rapid.

The Hon. C. E. B. De Boucherville, veteran French-Canadian statesman, is ninety-one years of age today. He was born at Boucherville and, as a youth, studied medicine. Since 1867 he has been a legislative councillor of Quebec and twice for short periods was premier of the province.

MONDAY, MAY FIVE.

Adam B. Crosby, a prominent citizen of Halifax, was born in Belfast, Ireland, on May 5, 1859. Coming to Halifax, he went into the shipbrokerage business. He has held office as alderman and mayor and has been returned both to the local legislature and to the dominion house.

Frederick Dane, member of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway Commission of Ontario, was born on this date in Belfast in 1861. He was for many years in the export business in Toronto.

The Hon. J. N. Kirkcaldy, was born in Cork county, Ireland, on May 5, 1845, and came to Canada in 1864. He practiced law at Port Hope. He went west in 1884, and took a prominent part in political affairs. He was called to the bar in 1892.

LIGHTER VEIN

Socrates had dropped in on Plato, and it was about mid-time. "I suppose," said Plato, "Xanthippe is rather—"

"Yes," hastily interrupted the old philosopher, "and she's cleaning house—besides!"

PREVAILING DISEASES

Ma's health is in an awful way. We none of us dare leave her; The doctor told us yesterday That she had Suffrage Fever.

Pa's eyes just go no good at all, He has conjunctivitis; He's read and read since early fall About this Suffragette.

Tom's chucked his job for fair, I think; He's wavin' 'em, confound him! The doctor told us yesterday That she had Suffrage Fever.

But sister's in the worstest way, Her brains are just afloatin'. She's on the rampage every day For some place to do votin'.

—Lurana Sheldon.

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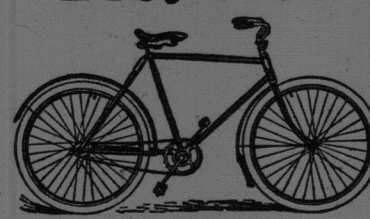
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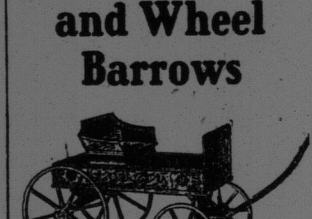
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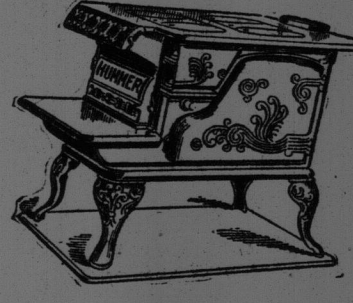
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AN ORANGEMAN'S VIEWS

In the Orange Sentinel of April 10 James Bryan of Gillingerton, Ontario, writes as follows:

"Editor Sentinel—Your paper reaches me through a friend and I beg to state that in my opinion it would have a much wider circulation both among members of our order and among Protestants generally if you did not take such a one-sided stand in politics. I do not understand how you can ask members of our order to support the Borden-Rogers-Pelletier-Nantel-Blondin combination. The three latter represent the church party in the province of Quebec. In my humble opinion our order was duped in the last dominion elections. Many Orangemen in Canada will refuse to support said combination in the next fight."

"So far as Sir Wilfrid Laurier goes, I believe he has always tried to be fair to all classes and creeds."

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MORNING LOCALS

William P. McFarlane, who was arrested some time ago on suspicion of setting a number of fires, was taken to the Provincial Hospital, Lancaster, on Saturday, on an order from the police magistrate. On Saturday afternoon a horse attached to a carriage bolted while traveling down Burpee Avenue and collided with a telegraph pole and the front of Mr. Wade's drug store in Wall street. The occupants, Mrs. Charles Lawton, of Richey street, and her daughter, Mrs. D. H. Ellison, of Summer street, were thrown out. Both were badly bruised and shaken, and Mrs. Lawton fractured her arm.

Fire in a barn used by Thomas Brosman in the rear of 259 Main street last evening caused damage to the extent of \$100, covered by insurance.

Dr. Wilkes, Mrs. Wilkes, Miss Dorothy Nason and Dr. McNeil reached St. John at seven o'clock last evening, coming in Dr. Wilkes' automobile from St. Stephen, which place they left at eleven o'clock a.m.

TO MAKE THINGS BETTER
It's good to be cheerful; but one way to make this old world better is for the fellow that can't sing to stop trying. — From the Washington Star.

HOME-MADE RESPECTABILITY
By never letting their left hands know what their right hands are doing, some men fool themselves into believing that they are respectable.—Washington Post.

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