

## Housing Immigrant Workers

### Careful Town-Planning Needed to Check Growth of Slums.

"In the matter of immigration, we (in Canada) are in the position of a person who has invited guests and, when they arrive at her house, says to them: 'I am very sorry, we have no room for you, but if you will pitch a tent on the lawn until I prepare a guest room, I shall be delighted to have you.' We are in the position of inviting people to come to Canada for whom there is no provision of homes." In these words Mrs. Plumpre, Secretary of the National Council of Women, satirised the treatment meted out in Canada to our immigrant workers.

The sting of this indictment lies in its truth, as demonstrated by the accompanying illustrations and the facts cited below. It is futile to argue that these immigrants should look after themselves. We cannot expect them to lay sewers and plan streets, nor to refuse to live in unsanitary houses when the only alternative is to do without shelter entirely. Forethought by those responsible for the oversight of growing towns, is always needed; it is particularly needful in a country where communities are expanding from hamlet to town and from town to city within a decade. Our civic fathers, Boards of Trade, etc., do devote much forethought to the growth of our cities, but not often of the right kind. The rapidity of the expansion is the only thing considered. To induce industries to locate in their cities, they grant bonuses, tax exemptions, free land sites, and various other gifts and privileges to manufacturers, railroad companies and others, but give no attention to the poor workers who are to work in the factories and shops, and who will become the future citizens.

The accompanying data as to the congestion in the foreign quarters of some of our Canadian cities were collected by Mr. Bryce M. Stewart, M.A., under the auspices of the Canadian Presbyterian Board of Social and Moral Reform. The figures and diagrams speak for themselves and need no comment.

The forests of Corsica, the little island upon which Napoleon was born, are managed by the French government. They produce lumber, firewood, and turpentine, and all parts of the tree are far more closely utilized than in America.

There are nearly six thousand professional foresters in Germany who are associated with various technical societies.

## TESTING OF CANADIAN WOODS

Because of the importance of this subject to all classes of wood users, the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior is about to undertake an exhaustive series of tests at McGill University. Beginning with a few of the more important of the commercial species, every kind of wood in the country will be tested for its strength in various ways, and for different conditions of growth and moisture content. At present the only information we have on this subject is based upon tests of wood grown in the United States; many of which were grown under entirely different conditions to those found in our own country.—*The Canadian Engineer.*

## Laws on Plumbing are Chaotic

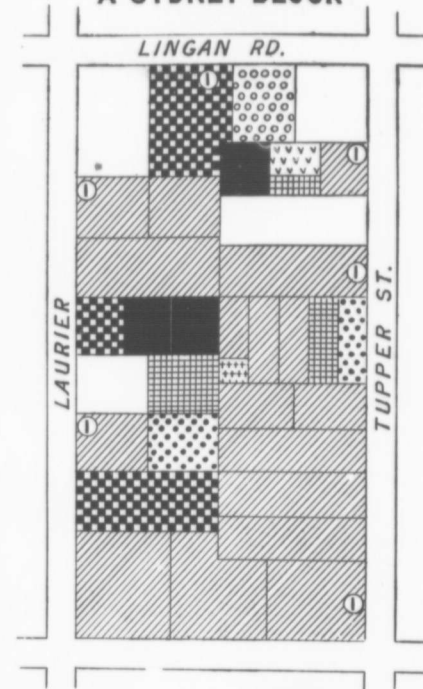
"In the Dominion of Canada we have no recognized universal standards regarding sanitary plumbing and ventilation, but are governed by a multiplicity of laws and by-laws, adopted by the governing bodies of our cities and towns and enforced according to their own interpretation." With these words, Mr. John W. Bruce, General Organizer of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, prefaced an address at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation on the subject of the present chaotic state of sanitary law in Canada, and the need for its unification.









In the course of his address, Mr. Bruce emphasized the importance of sanitary plumbing in its relation to public health. He compared Montreal, with a death rate of 20 per thousand, with Toronto, which has a death-rate of 12.8, and attributed the difference in large part, to the more lax enforcement of sanitary regulations in the former. In many hotels, he said, there were not enough conveniences, neither were they kept properly clean. In apartment houses, conservation of space was such an important item that ventilation was sadly neglected. He blamed speculative building for the unsatisfactory conditions in many private houses. The speculative builder considered outside appearance more than proper sanitation. Inspection was very necessary in workmen's houses, as these men were less able to protect themselves against the negligence of unscrupulous builders.

A great need, very much overlooked in Canada, was public comfort stations. These should be erected not merely in parks and pleasure resorts, but in the busiest portions of our cities, where the need was greatest. As it was, hotels and public buildings had to bear a burden that the cities themselves should shoulder, with the result that the conveniences in these places were sadly overtaxed. Sanitary drinking fountains should also be provided at public expense.

In conclusion, Mr. Bruce pointed out that satisfactory conditions would never obtain so long as each city or town had its own regulations. Plumbers traveling from one place to another had to familiarize themselves with new laws, and sometimes to pass new examinations in every place. Moreover, dwellers in rural districts, beyond the reach of urban influence, were not protected by any legal standard. The solution, he believed, could only be found in a Dominion law, setting up a uniform standard from coast to coast, leaving each municipality free to supplement such standard by by-laws designed to secure adaptation to special local conditions.

## A SYDNEY BLOCK



|   |            |     |   |          |     |
|---|------------|-----|---|----------|-----|
|   | Italians   | 172 |   | Poles    | 22  |
|  | Austrians  | 22  |  | Coloured | 8   |
|  | Hungarians | 11  |  | British  | 15  |
|  | Spaniards  | 4   |  | Russians | 3   |
| ①   | Store      |     |   | Total    | 257 |

Commission of Conservation  
(Courtesy, Canadian Political Science Assoc.)

| 37 Families.   |               |
|--|---------------|
| Married men  | 36            |
| Married women  | 36            |
| Widow with family  | 1             |
| Single woman   | 1             |
| Girls  | 46            |
| Boys   | 44            |
| Men boarders   | 173           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>337</b>    |
| 41 houses occupied, containing                               | 132 rooms and |
| 207 beds.  |               |
| 5 stores in three houses.                                    |               |
| 1 vacant house.  |               |
| 2 separate stores.   |               |
| 19 houses have a newspaper in the language of the occupants. |               |

(Cut No. 24)

5 houses have a newspaper in English.  
34 of the households are owners.  
No baths.  
18 houses had water taps. Three wells were also used.  
3 of the water taps were frozen.  
There were no inside toilets.  
25 householders stated they had no removal of garbage.  
20 cows, 5 horses and a few hundred fowl were housed in the block.  
Rents ranged from \$6.00 per month for a one-story house of two rooms, to \$13.00 and \$14.00 per month for a two-story house of five rooms.  
Wages: \$2.00 and \$2.25 per ten-hour day in the foundry, 22½, 25 and 30 cents an hour in the elevators.