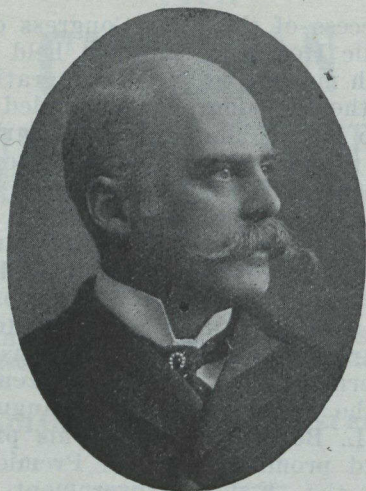


## Garden Cities in England



Hon. Jos. J. Guerin, M. D.  
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At the suggestion of Lord Grey, during my visit to London on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty the King, I visited the Garden City at Hampstead, and there under the guidance of Mr. Henry Vivian and Mr. Unwin, the eminent Landscape Architect, I had the privilege of examining everything in connection with that wonderfully appointed settlement.

The homes of the people are large, airy and picturesque. The surroundings are just what the name indicates: a garden of flowers such as one might dream of finding somewhere in a luxuriant Southern clime. The people are all in active competition with each other lest one might have a less beautiful flower-bed in front of his house than his neighbour. The verdure of the hedges and the trees sets off the houses which are generally white, thus presenting a picture of beauty and order such as one could hardly expect to see, even after having heard the enthusiastic descriptions of Lord Grey, or the earnest pleadings of the originator of the system, Mr. Henry Vivian, who so kindly entertained us on the subject in Canada on several occasions last year.

After hearing Mr. Vivian speak on the subject when he visited Montreal, I expected much, but I did not hope to find a settlement so orderly, or an atmosphere where contentment seemed to reign so perfectly.

There is absolutely nothing about the houses either in front or behind, which would indicate that any of the tenants were not thoroughly alive to his responsibilities in maintaining proper conditions for the individual as well as for the common health. Everything is hygienic in every particular; in fact the place, although in its normal everyday condition, looked as though it had just undergone a thorough cleaning up.

You will appreciate how this fresh, healthy state is so apparent when you understand that nowhere is there to be found such a thing as a back lane. The houses are all semi-detached, with a deep lawn in front, and a bright flower or vegetable garden in the rear. In the Hampstead Garden Suburb there is nowhere to be seen such a thing as a high fence; beautiful hedges everywhere serve to separate one property from another. At places the Highway is separated from the front lawn by a post and chain separation, but this is the exception and only temporary, for, as a general rule the division is effected by sweet smelling brier or wild-rose bushes, while the vegetable gardens in the rear are separated by thick spruce bushes most artistically trimmed and maintained in proper condition by the Company. In fact, everything in connection

with the exterior of the houses, except the cultivation of the gardens, is looked after by the Hampstead Tenants' Society, which corporation is the landlord so to speak, and whose functions I will explain later on.

The principal thing which to my mind is responsible for the cleanliness of the place, more than anything else, is the fact that every tenant is provided with a large garbage can which he is obliged to keep always covered with a tight fitting lid, and into which he is obliged to throw all refuse that he cannot conveniently burn in his stove. This is a system which I expect we will be able to apply to the whole of the City of Montreal; and if we can compel proprietors to supply such garbage cans, it will help in a great measure to diminish the fly plague which is responsible in a large degree for our high infantile death rate. It is inexpensive, and would be a great saving for the proprietor, inasmuch as his property would always be in a clean, healthy condition.

The houses in the Garden City are solidly built of brick covered with stucco, and consequently have a substantial reality as well as a bright, white, clean appearance. They are so placed as to permit of their receiving the greatest possible amount of sunshine for the greatest number of hours during the day. Fresh air constantly and in abundance is assured from the fact that nowhere is there any crowding together of the habitations, everywhere there are open spaces causing the greatest possible ventilation.

When we understand that nowhere on the Estate are there tolerated more than fourteen houses to the acre, and that as a general rule the allotment is eight houses to the acre, we can readily see how from a sanitary point of view everything can be kept pure and free from infection.

Another thing that strikes one on visiting this model settlement is the good fellowship that prevails everywhere among the inhabitants. Everywhere the visitor is received with smiles and cordiality, and the people are only too happy to show the interior arrangements of their homes which they take pride in keeping in a condition in every respect as clean and as bright as the exterior. Each house has every kind of modern commodities, hot and cold water, electric wires, gas pipes, and in fact, everything to make the home comfortable and up to date.

The sociability that is everywhere evident is very striking. Everybody seems to be on friendly relations with his neighbour. This, I consider, is due in a great measure to the recreation facilities that the place provides.

First, in regard to children. Open grounds for play are numerous and spacious; shelters are built here and there that the children may find a haven of security when the weather is unfavourable and where they can continue their amusements, always breathing the full abundance of fresh air.

The older people are also provided with means of recreation in the form of Croquet Greens, Tennis Courts and open parks where they congregate and join in social intercourse.

One of the features of the place is the Club House. This is a large building where the youth of the Settlement can find recreation and rest in reading, as many of the periodicals of the day are provided; or in playing games such as billiards, cards, etc., etc. Refreshments may also be procured at a nominal cost, entirely on temperance principles; in fact, it is a first class Club of which any community might well feel proud, and the only qualification for membership is being an inhabitant of the place.

The Settlement is purely non-sectarian. Lots are set aside for churches, Catholic and Protestant. These