

hend that in drinking the clear, cold water from their shallow private wells they are imbibing the bacteria laden seepage from their privies or barnyards, and when fur-

thermore they understand that better conditions are within their reach, they will be ready to do their part in the work of improvement.

THE EMPIRE AND THE WORLD ABROAD

Housing Problem in England.

When John Burns, the workingman Cabinet Minister of England, fathered the town planning bill as his first official parliamentary infant, and engineered it successfully through the House of Commons in the face of stormy opposition, he was hailed as a hero by his colleagues, and naturally felt proud.

But while he was receiving the congratulations of all who were crying out for better housing accommodation, more beautiful towns and healthier surroundings on the one hand, he exposed himself to an avalanche of personal abuse prompted by slum landlordism, which felt bitterly the invasion of its vast territorial interests.

And now it has dawned upon the president of the Local Government Board that the enthusiasm of his friends was premature, for their plaudits are not yet justified by the results.

He is now face to face with a problem more acute, perhaps, than that which prompted the town planning idea itself. For the operation of the act, which came into force recently, meant the wholesale wiping out of huge areas covered with unsanitary working class dwellings, especially in rural districts, and the result is that thousands of poor families are being driven from their homes without any alternative accommodation except the workhouse or the barns of their neighbors.

In Kent and some other counties bordering on London there are already hundreds of families who are obliged to seek the hospitality of the hopfields.

No man is more disturbed over these unexpected results of his town planning scheme than John Burns himself. His elevation to the position of a Cabinet Minister did not add to his popularity among the rank and file of the working classes, and it is now feared among his friends that his town planning zeal may lead to his political undoing.

But meanwhile he passes the blame on to the local authorities, who should be able, he thinks, to rise at once to an emergency of this kind and provide the necessary habitations for the dispossessed families. He is reminded, however, that houses to accommodate thousands of persons can not grow like mushrooms, and that he should have foreseen the difficulty he was creating before he put his act into force.

It must be explained that the slum landlords of the country are conspiring to bring discredit upon the town planning scheme and that many local authorities are aiding them in their campaign of resistance to the working of the act.

The landlords declare it would not pay them to put the old houses into the sanitary condition required by the act, while they can not run the risk of having them inhabited in their present state, in view of the penalties which the act imposes. The result is that evictions, recalling some of the old scenes in Ireland, are now a matter of frequent occurrence in the rural districts of England. The situation has become so acute in the counties adjacent to London that the canvas tents used by coronation soldiers have been asked for to shelter some of the ousted victims.

No act of parliament placed on the statute book of England has ever provoked more determined opposition from the landlord class, and it looks as if the battle was only opening.

Australia and Tuberculosis.

The results obtained in the crusade against tuberculosis in Australia are likely to give an educational impetus to the other countries in the world, according to one of our correspondents who has recently visited the island continent. Less is known by the outside world about Australia than any other civilized country, and the writer was surprised to find health conditions there better than in any known