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Evening Telegram

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The Housing Problem MEASURES TO ABATE THE EVIL.

Of recent years the functions of the State have been widely extended, and within its activities have been included what hitherto would have been considered unwarranted interference with the liberty of the subject. Owners of factories, for instance, are to-day compelled to carry out certain regulations and to submit to official inspection; the income tax collector can delve into the innermost recesses of our private affairs; in other countries parents, willing or unwilling, have to send their children to school; the authorities can interfere in our domestic affairs if in any manner they are objectionable to our neighbors, and in a hundred ways the State exercises a care over its citizens as a father over his children. We no longer look upon it as an interference but as beneficial to ourselves and in the interest of the general public.

In nearly every democratic country the same principle has been applied to the housing problem, and the conditions which were caused by the war—restriction in building activities, enhanced prices of everything and particularly of rents, the increased number of marriages, the influenza epidemic, and the demands of returned soldiers, enlightened by what they had seen and learnt in other countries—awakened the State to a full sense of its responsibility in the matter.

Sir William Hearst, Prime Minister of Ontario, in referring to this matter in 1918 said: "The more investigations I make, and the more consideration I give to the housing problem, the more important it appears to me, and the greater appears the necessity for immediate action."

It has been argued with much force that as it is not a war problem only, it is largely if not entirely an industrial and national one, and that so far as public credit might be required to meet the situation, the responsibility rests with the Dominion Government.

Speaking from our own experiences during a three and a half years search for a residence of almost any kind, we were forced to agree with the builders that they could not afford to erect houses for rental. The workman's plight was equally apparent in as much as he was asked to do the impossible by paying in rent for a suitable house an amount altogether out of all proportion to his earning capacity. Another phase of the situation, and the one with which we had the least sympathy, was the excessive rents or prices demanded for houses which could be better designated as hovels unfit for human habitation.

The plan adopted in Ontario to meet the difficulty, when the Federal Government had voted the money for the purpose was to distribute the amount among the municipalities which could build themselves, or loan it to building companies or to individuals.

This plan was based on the practice already operative in New Zealand and in England, with modifications to suit local circumstances. There was no semblance of charity associated with the idea. The whole transaction was maintained on a business basis. In New Zealand a small deposit having been made, the money was loaned for a period of years at 7 per cent. per annum. This was afterwards modified somewhat. In England about 70 per cent. of the cost was advanced at current rates, and in Ontario even a larger proportion of the total cost was allowed at 5 per cent. for periods varying with the different class of building. A mortgage was taken against the loan, and the owner of the house was encouraged to pay off his obligation by a reduction in the rate of interest as the amount was brought down.

Of course under such a plan the State or the Municipality as the case may be lays down certain regulations. For example, the privilege is not extended to those who are in receipt of a salary which is sufficient to enable them to provide houses for themselves. The maximum loan is fixed, the conditions under which buildings may be erected, their situation and their specifications are determined. Certain regulations with regard to heating, lighting, and ventilation have to be observed; houses can only be built on suitable sites, and must have water and sewerage connections.

Such a scheme put into practical operation in St. John's, and wherever it is possible in the outports, would confer upon the people an incalculable boon. A beginning was made in the city a few years ago by the Council and by certain citizens, but for reasons that need not be gone over again the movement hung fire and then died. Elsewhere the plan has been eminently successful; there have been few bad debts and in many cases the full amount of the loan has been paid back in a short time.

A necessary preliminary to such an undertaking in St. John's is the extension of the car line. Already the town is congested, and there are not sufficient open spaces. Factories, laundries and even stables are actually connected with private residences in the middle of the town. With the extension of the tram service not only would the unsanitary conditions be improved, but the value of real estate would be enhanced, houses at present isolated on account of the absence of means of transportation would become more valuable, and the service itself would be of practical benefit and a far more valuable asset to its owners.

Sudden Death of Sir Walter Davidson.

Yesterday, his Excellency Sir W. L. Allardice received a cable message stating that Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of New South Wales, had died suddenly at Sydney.

American Schooner Lost Anchors.

Capt. Abram Kean who was at Carmanville in connection with the American schooner Copperfield returned yesterday by S.S. Sun. The Copperfield whilst anchored near Pickford Island came near drifting ashore and was only saved by the assistance of some local motor boats. Later, when it was desired to tow the vessel to Carmanville, it was found that both anchors had fouled and in consequence the cables had to be slipped. Captain Kean was at the scene in the interest of the underwriters.

Miss T. M. Power, A. T. C. I., resumes lessons in Piano, Violin, Singing and Theory, Monday, September 17th. Is also open to receive engagements for Piano or Violin in orchestra work. Phone 1848R, 5 Alexander St., Sept. 17th.

The Passing of Sir Walter Davidson, K.C.M.G.

The news received over the cable yesterday to the effect that Sir Walter Davidson, K.C.M.G., had died suddenly in Sydney, N.S.W., will be received with the deepest regret by the whole community. During the years of his administration in Newfoundland by the devoted interest that he took in our general welfare, and the wholehearted manner in which both he and Lady Davidson associated themselves with every social movement that was undertaken during his term of office, he has established for himself a name in Newfoundland history that generations to come will recall with the greatest regard and respect.

Shortly after his arrival the ominous cry of war sounded throughout the world with paralyzing effect. It was a moment when a strong man was required at the head of affairs and one who could by his grasp of the situation and by his ready resource and courage galvanize into life and action the people in his care. Newfoundland was fortunate in having as her Governor such a man. Stimmed by his example, and roused to the necessity of immediate action, the people throughout the island responded in a manner that was fully in keeping with the best traditions of the race from which they had sprung. As year followed year and the strain and anxiety grew greater, so did his strength and energy seem to increase, and he in his selfless devotion to the people, and in the knowledge that his work had been successful and that he had won the esteem of those over whom he ruled.

Following his term of office here he was selected by the Imperial Government to fill a similar office in New South Wales at a time when conditions were critical in that country. Well might he have advanced a plea for rest after his strenuous years of service, but such was not Sir Walter Davidson's way. He threw himself into the work and undimmed by criticism or even by violent opposition to what he knew was the right course to pursue, he persevered and eventually proved even to his opponents that he was their friend.

At the earnest request of the people of New South Wales his tenure of office was extended, and now just as he had decided to take his well earned rest, part of which he hoped to spend in Newfoundland, the call elsewhere came suddenly and, like the great soldier that he was, Death found him at his post.

From every section of the community will go out deep felt sympathy to Dame Margaret, who, during the whole of that trying period, proved such a worthy helpmate in all that he undertook, and who so well fitted to aid and assist in such duties. The message of sympathy of His Excellency the Governor will find an echo in the heart of every Newfoundland-lander.

Sir Walter Davidson was born sixty-four years ago at Killybegs, County Down, Ireland. He was a Cambridge man, and entered the Civil Service in Ceylon in 1880, where he occupied various positions of great responsibility throughout a period of twenty years. From 1902 to 1904 he was Colonial Secretary in the Transvaal Administration. The next eight years were spent as Governor of the Seychelles Islands. In 1913 Sir Walter came to Newfoundland, leaving New Zealand, prior to assuming his Australian Governorship. He was twice married, his widow being a daughter of the late General, the Hon. Sir Percy Pettibone, and closely connected with the noble families of Denbigh and Bath. Two daughters of the second family survive and one son of the first.

From Cape Race.

Special to Evening Telegram. CAPE RACE, Today. Wind light and variable, weather clearing; nothing heard passing. Bar. 29.70; Ther. 50.

Scientific Lecture to the Board of Trade.

Professor Huntman, Director of the Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrew's, New Brunswick, gave a very interesting lecture on the scientific investigation of the fisheries before a large gathering at the Seaman's Institute to-day. His Excellency the Governor presided. The lecturer was introduced by Mr. I. O. Outerbridge, President of the Board of Trade. His Excellency as head of the community extended a hearty welcome to Prof. Huntman, and his co-adjutor Mr. Gardner, who represents Newfoundland through the International Committee of Deep Sea Investigation. His Excellency expressed his pleasure at our being on the right track at last to obtain accurate information in regard to what has been and still our greatest asset.

Professor Huntman in his opening remarks referred to the hospitality he enjoyed both on the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts. He pointed out at Red Bay where in spite of the hard conditions of life of the people were exceptionally kind. The New Brunswick station, he said, had sent out this season two ships (one a motor boat to the Bell Isle Straits and this returned with a good voyage the objective being fish, bait and date in reference to currents. The study of the latter, he said, was of prime importance to us. During the course of his investigation drift bottles had been put out of St. John's from S.E. Digby and on South West Coast from S.E. Kyle. The bottles put out near St. John's drifted into St. Mary's Bay, but the only others found that drifted on the coast were put off at Iceland showing that the current does not go westward beyond St. Pierre. The outstanding result on the West Coast showed that one bottle went up the straits to Flower's Cove. This summer investigation also showed that there was a great difference in the temperature of the waters on both sides of the straits and indications were noted of a circulation of the water both north and south through the straits. The results might be summarized as follows: That the movement in the straits at flood tide are north, at ebb tide they are stronger on the south. The rate being 6 miles in the tide going north, and 9 miles coming south on the Labrador side. The fog was 50 per cent. greater on the north side. There was also a marked contrast in the temperature of the water and the climate both were higher on the south side. Dr. Huntman exhibited a number of bottles containing the actual life found in these two currents. In the water from the Arctic were mostly jelly fish and in that from the gulf there was red food. Another bottle he exhibited showed caplin fry. These were taken at St. Anthony Bay. It is surprising the importance of the movement of the food of certain species of the latter, namely codfish as we know it here. Rock cod which is abundant in Arctic waters and never seen South of Nova Scotia and the third the true tomcod—one of these taken in Big Bay was exhibited. The true codfish will not inhabit the warm water of the tom cod's habitat nor the cold water of the rock cod. The lecturer stated knowledge as to temperature of the waters is of importance for us and it is we are to make any advance, organization is necessary. Canada he said was a demonstration that the work was important. They had two scientific stations one on the East and another on the Pacific Coast and they were now erecting additional stations. At the conclusion of Dr. Huntman's lecture Mr. Gardner gave a short address which was greatly appreciated.

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

REVOLUTIONARIES IN TRANS-JORDANIA DEFEATED IN SANGUINARY FIGHT. JERUSALEM, Sept. 18. Latest accounts concerning an attack by tribesmen on camp of Emir Abdullah in Trans-Jordania are to the effect that revolutionaries surrounded Amman early Sunday morning and cut telephone and telegraph wires. After fierce engagement revolutionary tribesmen were routed, fled southward toward Medina, leaving eighty-two dead including some of their chiefs.

FURTHER DETAILS OF BERKELEY FIRE.

BERKELEY, Calif., Sept. 18. Thirty families in the residential district of Berkeley burned to the ground at three-forty-five to-day and the wind had swept the flames to within three blocks of the University of California where five thousand students are in attendance. Four city blocks were being wiped out and the fire was headed towards the business section.

Toll Great Bell of St. Paul's Only for Royal Family.

The great bell of St. Paul's, London, England is tolled only on the death of a member of the royal family in the line of descent from any English sovereign. The honor is paid only to a member of the royal family who could under any circumstances succeed to the throne. This rule does not apply to the consort of the sovereign, or of a prince or princess on the steps of the throne. The booming of the great bell of St. Paul's was the first intimation of the death of the Prince Consort, which occurred at 11 o'clock on the night of Saturday, December 14th, 1841. Outside the royal family the only persons for whom the bell is tolled are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Dean of St. Paul's, and the Lord Mayor of London dying in his year of office. The bell tolled in the occurrence of a death in the royal family the Home Secretary at once communicates with the Lord Mayor, desiring him to convey news to the Dean of St. Paul's with a request that the great bell may be tolled. The bell is tolled at intervals of a minute for an hour.

Advertisement for Butterick patterns. Title: 'The latest style from Paris—At your service!!'. Text: 'A little time, a little money and the Deltor are all you need in order to be the best-dressed woman in your community. You will find the Deltor—a wonderful sewing guide—enclosed with every new Butterick Pattern. Buy your pattern at our Butterick Pattern counter and then visit our piece-goods counter. Here you will find serge, crepe satin, silk crepes, heavy crepe de Chine, jersey—all the popular materials in the new shades. The Deltor shows you with pictures how to lay out your pattern on the least possible amount of material, how to put your dress together, step by step, and how to add the finishing touches that give your dress a delightful Parisian air.' Images: Three fashion sketches labeled 'Butterick Design 4724', 'Butterick Design 4662', and 'Butterick Design 4693'. Text: 'Always use Butterick Patterns with the Deltor! The October Delineator is Here. THE ROYAL STORES, LTD.'

Supreme Court.

(Before Mr. Justice Kent.) In the matter of the alleged insolvent estate of Gertrude Truscott of St. John's, Shopkeeper. Gertrude Truscott sworn and examined. On motion of Mr. C. E. Hunt the petitioner is declared insolvent and is committed to the custody of the Sheriff of St. John's. In the matter of the Insolvency of Frederick House of St. John's, Merchant. Mr. L. E. Emerson for T. & M. Winter; Mr. L. Curtis for alleged insolvent; Gibbs, K.C. for the Lanes Thread Co.; Mr. H. A. Winter for Job Bros. & Co.; Mr. Pinsent for the Roy Bank of Canada.

Police Court.

A drunk who was disorderly on the public street was fined \$2. A motorist was fined \$10 or 30 days for driving at a speed dangerous to the public. The evidence showed that the car was driven through Topsail and up over the hill at 30 miles an hour. The speed was verified by Inspector General Hutchings, who stated that he attempted to overtake the accused. At the start the cars were 75 yards apart and when a stop was made the accused's car was about 100 yards ahead. During the chase the Inspector General's speedometer registered 11 miles per hour.

C.C.C. Band Concert, Victoria Park, to-night, weather permitting.

REARWARD LIVERY FOR CORNER.

TO-NIGHT C.L.B. Band Concert in Bannerman Park.

On passing along Water Street day one cannot help being struck by the very attractive play in their window of those beautiful Venetian Blouses. Indeed that is what we take this opportunity of sending our congratulations to our good old friend.

Floral Tributes to the Departed.

Nothing so nice as Flowers to express our sympathy. We can supply you with all the latest styles in floral tributes. We are now having a special sale on our flowers. We are now having a special sale on our flowers. We are now having a special sale on our flowers.

Shipping.

S.S. Kassala, 2500 tons register, has arrived at Salmonier from Scotland to load pig props. Schooner Debanah II, 28 days from Oporto has arrived at Burin with a cargo sail.

Coastal Boats.

S.S. Prospero sails on the Northern Coastal Service to-morrow at 10 a.m. S.S. Watchful has recoupled and will probably sail on the Fortune Bay route this evening. S.S. Susu sails at 2 p.m. to-morrow on the Pogo Service.

ROAD WORKS BEGINS.

Work on the Kenmount Road will begin to-morrow and it is anticipated that about 300 men will be employed on the job. The contract price is said to be \$12,500.

GAME POSTPONED.

To-night's football match, Faldians vs. Guards has been postponed.

WANTED—A Flat.

Wanted—A Flat, consisting of 3 or 4 rooms, take possession immediately. Address: 123 St. John's Street, St. John's.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'THE ROYAL STORES, LTD.' and other fragments.