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THE TIMES AND ITS NEIGHBORS.

The Colonist has announced that it will shortly issue an evening paper. The management of our contemporary makes no secret of the purpose behind its enterprise. It is going to bring out the Evening Post for the purpose of "getting even" with the Times for exposing the forgery of the Borden telegram. Mr. J. S. H. Matson, the managing director of the Colonist, boasts in the streets of the city that he will "put the Times out of business." This is not the first occasion upon which the Colonist has tried the same kind of game. But the Times is here and will be in the field as a business proposition when people who have invested their money in Colonist enterprises are wondering at their own credulity.

Here is an outside view of the situation here which will doubtless be read with interest by members of the party for which the Colonist, the Post and the Week assume to speak. It is from Vancouver Saturday Sunset:

"The Tory party in Victoria must be in pretty bad case. By the meddling of the machine in municipal affairs and the growing dissatisfaction of decent and influential men in the party it is rapidly losing ground. Moreover the telegram forgery has been steadily getting in its deadly work with the influence and prestige of the Colonist, which has waned almost to the vanishing point. So desperate has the situation become that the managing director of the Colonist, J. S. H. Matson, is reported to have associated with him that delectable mining-engineer-editor-lay-reader William Blakemore, in the establishment of a new daily paper to be known as The Evening Post and which is designed to be planted in the hole into which the Colonist is so rapidly sinking. Mr. Matson has been for the last fortnight engaged in a more or less abortive - chiefly more—campaign of soliciting advertising for the new sheet.

"Apparently the Colonist mass of putridity is to be salted, peppered and oiled with the sanctimonious smugness and unctuous piety of Bill Blakemore. The Colonist is to be smothered with the lost overcoat and embalmed with the sweet-scented patchuli of righteousness which permeates the virtuous atmosphere of the Week. The Colonist stench must be very awful when such desperate measures are necessary. Blakemore's sweet humility and well advertised holiness are precisely what the situation requires. The editor of the newspaper with a mission to redeem the record of the Colonist must be a man who can walk to the office with measured tread on Sunday morning with a large sized Bible under his arm. He must be solemnly stupid in the presence of the human errors and frailties of, ahem, say his mechanical superintendent at or about election time. He must be capable of towering righteous rage upon occasion and it must be fully as real as thunder and lightning made on the stage. He must be a man of broad sympathies and ever willing to extend advice and comfort to feeble virtue in erring men and women. He must upon a moment's notice be able to turn his office into a chapel wherein he may listen to the penitent tale of tempted and frail humanity—the frailer the better.

"Is it not about time that those who are responsible for the welfare of the Tory party—and those Tor whom it is responsible in office—should take steps to rid it of the slime and crawling things which have attached themselves to it in Victoria? Has the party's sense of decency, yes, its instincts of self preservation, become so obsessed that it is willing to be ridden by and bossed by such men as are in control of its interests in Victoria? Has it sunk to such a pass that it will accept the Evening Post as its mouthpiece? Its enemies can wish for nothing better. Does it want to become the laughing stock of the Kootenay? When it becomes known in Nelson and Fernie that Blakemore is the directing spirit in the Conservative party in Victoria the sound of derisive hilarity with which that knowledge will be greeted will be likened only unto the midnight serenade of a hundred coyotes, all gone crazy. Incidentally it will be the death-knell of confidence in the decency and self-respect of the Conservative party in British Columbia."

"HARBINGERS OF SPRING."

Our neighbors in the East, who have just succeeded in shaking themselves free from one of the worst snowstorms of their long winter season, are in rhapsodies because signs of spring are said to be manifest upon every hand. The birds which were driven to more genial climes by the first fierce blasts of the hard season are beginning to arrive; the snow is disappearing, and blue skies with soft winds are cheering the spirits and warming the blood, inducing that flow of spirits which will soon find vent in the annual crop of spring poetry. All these manifestations are hailed as "harbingers of spring." But, most cheering signs of all, the grass is beginning to appear, and, wherever there is a bare spot, or one can be made, the small boy is playing marbles. All these things are good to read about out here, where winter has been ousted from the lap of spring for many weeks and the marble season, if we have such a season in this blessed land where marbles and golf and football are played all the winter through, has been succeeded by more strenuous forms of play. And as for the grass, has it not been green during the whole of the winter solstice, with the exception of that period of temporary aberration, lasting three or four days, when frost prevailed and played havoc with exposed water pipes in the streets and households of Victoria? Yet, in making these invidious comparisons, let us remember that "the Lord tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." The Eastern winter is long and hard, but there are compensations. We are told that the long period of rest is good for the soil; that it tends to make the earth bring forth of her fruits in greater abundance. There is no question that this contention seems to be justified in the harvests of the prairies and of the farther East. Besides, think of the hilarity of spirits produced by the annual evidence of renewed life in Nature. The birds are coming north, this year bringing with them multitudes of human migrants, presaging an increase of that material prosperity which is accounted of more value in the estimation of practical business men than the sonnets of spring rhymers.

POLICE THEORIES AND LEGAL TORTURE.

A correspondent of the Toronto Globe paints a strong word picture of Mr. George T. Blackstock, the eminent Canadian criminal lawyer who is conducting the case for the Crown in the sensational Kinrade murder mystery. The writer expresses wonder and amaze at the intellectual and physical qualities displayed by this eminent gentleman in examining the witnesses who gave evidence before the coroner's jury. The subtlety and ingenuity of Mr. Blackstock's methods in probing into the private life of some of the witnesses, including the domestic relations of the family of the murdered girl, compels this writer, apparently, to fall down and worship the eminent King's Counsel as one possessing most uncommon attributes. Yet the press which is now pouring incense before the person of Mr. Blackstock would be torn with indignation if a hapless suspect were placed in a "sweat box" by the police of any Canadian city in the hope of finding a clue to another mystery of crime. After all, is there any essential difference between suffering torture at the hands of the police and being wrenched by a higher authority? The Crown prosecutor admittedly did make some of the witnesses in the Kinrade case sweat. He put them upon the rack while still suffering from the shock of the blackest offence, possibly, known to Canadian criminal annals, and plied his levers until tortured nature found relief in insensibility. And this is the sort of thing which is being lauded as evidence of more than ordinary talent in the composition of a Crown prosecutor.

In his conduct of the Kinrade case Mr. Blackstock is evidently proceeding upon a theory developed by the police. That theory, although delicately kept in the background, is apparent enough to all who have followed the proceedings. In the limitations of their understanding, the officers of the peace find no motive for the crime outside of the Kinrade household. They are striving hard, therefore, to weave a web of circumstantial evidence around one of the members of the family, involving a depth of human depravity and passion almost beyond comprehension. The police theory may be quite right; yet is it not possible that the helplessness of authority in two other cases which occurred in Hamilton, Ont., not so long ago may have influenced it in its course in the Kinrade case? Is there not a possibility of almost unspeakable injustice being added to terrible affliction in the vain hope of vindicating the character of the police for keenness, vigilance and thoroughness in their business?

The truth is that in the Kinrade case, as in other cases, the police appear to be quite helpless in the face of something which transcends their limited understanding or comprehension. But, as they have been outwitted by criminal resourcefulness and ingenuity before, they are loth to admit the possibility of such a thing again. They will now take long chances in the hope of vindicating their reputation as guardians of the public.

A BONNIE FECHT.

Toronto is still in the throes of a very bitter controversy over the utterances of a prominent Methodist divine. The leaders of the orthodox school of ecclesiastical thought are conducting their side of the battle with great acerbity. Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada, is determined that no latitudinarianism in thought shall be permitted within the fold of the denomination if by the exercise of authority such a manifestation can be prevented. He believes that every word and verse of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation were written under divine inspiration. He is a literalist of the most uncompromising type. He brushes aside the arguments of logical deduction, based upon scientific investigation, as unconcernedly as he would cobwebs in the corners of his library. The story of creation as read in the rocks by geologists has no effect upon his mind. When a rationalist tells him that there is ample corroborative evidence that man has been established in business upon the earth for many thousands of years anterior to a certain momentous event as recorded in the Scriptures, the Doctor holds the erring individual in derision. Another rises in his place and says that Niagara Falls must be not less than thirty thousand years old, because its term of life is recorded in the erosion of the rocks, whereupon the General Superintendent lays him prone with an apt quotation from the first chapters of Genesis, buttressed by inspired utterances selected from other portions of the holy book. The venerable gentleman is not to be moved from the strong rock of his faith by the wheedling phrases of meek spirits who, by encouraging or permitting liberality of thought, would bring about an armistice and ultimately smooth the difficulty over. He is going to fight the battle to a finish and finally exitinguish the hopes of the radicals of the church or be himself either extinguished or relegated to the background.

Dr. Carman is strongly supported in his position by Hon. S. H. Blake, K. C., an Anglican who also delights in any kind of controversy, political or religious. The distinguished lawyer has dropped a bombshell into the area of conflict which has had the effect of extending its circumference measurably. He has demanded an investigation into the teachings of the professors of Toronto University whose field is that of Oriental languages. The lecturers in the provincial seat of learning are charged with leaning in their expositions towards the "higher criticism." Their views are therefore to be investigated. Nor is that all. Other religious denominations have been dragged into the squable as a result of the thoroughness of Mr. Blake's work. "Already the Methodists are deep in it, the Anglicans are at it, and so are the Baptists. Now it is the Presbyterians," is the manner in which one prominent professor describes the situation. "It looks as if Hon. S. H. Blake were eager to get a battle going all along the denominational line." The controversy is no business of the secular press. We decline to take any part in it, except in so far as is necessary to keep our readers informed of the progress of a struggle which may prove historical in its effects. If anything, we admire the dour determination, the inflexible character and the stern orthodoxy of the able superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada. Dr. Carman, when accused of being dogmatic and unprogressive theologically, retorts that he comes of a dogmatic race, of a dogmatic family; that there are evidences of dogmatism in every force that rules the universe; that therefore he occupies an impregnable position, and that generally the firm rock of orthodoxy may be shaken from its base as soon as he. Generally his position may be summed up as that of one who knows that all truth is to be found within the pages of one book, that the speculations and investigations of the so-called higher critics who profess to be in search of truth are but vain imaginings, and that the effect of their preachings is to unsettle the faith of the people, with results which no responsible teacher can contemplate without serious misgivings.

FEATURES OF THE SESSION.

The session of the British Columbia Legislature for the year 1909, while nothing of a sensational nature resulted from it, was notable for three things: First, the unexpected strength displayed by the opposition in its attacks upon the outposts of the government; second, the evident increase of confidence upon the part of the opposition in its leader; third, the transparent fact that the McBride government feels that its administration of the affairs of the province cannot successfully endure the test of keen criticism. An administrative policy whose chief feature is summed up effectively in the one word "jolly" obviously lacks the essential element of permanency. Mr. McBride is a master of the art of "jollying the people along." That is positively the only attribute as a leader of a party with which he is endowed with the exception of a gift of administering patronage in such a way as to convey a conviction that no individual or district which does not support the government need expect anything from the government. But the people soon become wearied with that kind of thing. There is a palpable feeling of resentment arising in the country against the present administration on these accounts.

Our only reason for referring to the session of the Legislature which has just closed is to call attention—if that be necessary—to the evident increasing confidence and strength of the opposition, and to the remarkable hold the leader of that opposition has obtained upon the confidence and esteem of his followers now that he has become firmly grounded in parliamentary procedure and has gained the necessary experience as leader of his party.

The gentlemen of the press who sit in the gallery which obscures the commanding figure of Mr. Speaker may be admitted to be fairly good judges of the mental qualities and personal graces which command success in a public man. Like the journals with which they are connected, they have their personal preferences and their political leanings. (Newspaper men have absolutely no prejudices.) The press gallery is agreed that Mr. J. A. Macdonald is without a peer as a debator; that he probably never had his equal on the floor of the legislature of British Columbia. Some of them say this openly; others merely hint at it, because their media of communication with their readers do not consider it would be discreet to be too candid in such a delicate matter. The leader of the opposition, then, by common consent, is the most imposing figure upon the floor of the legislature. He approaches all subjects of discussion in a spirit of fairness, keeping in view at all times in his incisive criticisms the factor which should be the first consideration—the true interests of the people of the province. His methods are direct, candid and sincere, yet forceful and convincing. In this respect he is the direct antithesis of his chief opponent, the leader of the government, whose involved style of argument, reeking with persiflage, at all times redolent of the hustings, carries a conviction of insincerity.

The session was a good one from the point of view of the opposition, a hopeful one for every elector of the province who wishes that province well. Should there be a dissolution before another session, as seems likely because the leader of the government is aware that his party is rapidly losing the purely fictitious strength it gained temporarily on its policy of trumping up grievances against the federal authority—should Mr. McBride decide upon an appeal to the people, he will be met upon the battleground by a united opposition, confident in the strength of its cause and proud of the acknowledged position its leader has gained in the few short years he has been in public life.

The Times has been favored with many and various expressions of opinion upon the important subject of the most suitable pavement for the James Bay causeway. The matter is emphatically one for persons technically qualified to determine. Wooden pavements have been tried for a considerable period in the city of Victoria. They have been laid down under varying conditions, and there surely ought to be sufficient data at the command of our expert officials to permanently settle the question of their value from the point of view alike of those who use them and those who pay for them. If conditions as to ultimate cost, which includes all the factors of construction, maintenance and durability, are anything like equal, no one who has had experience in cities where brick or stone roadways prevail would give the latter preference over wood blocks. The Times is not inclined to accept the proposition that noise is a desirable thing because it gives an impression of activity in business. We do not concede the argument that a brick causeway would disturb the guests at the Empress hotel to be of any weight. But the effect of unnecessary din upon the nerves of residents of Victoria ought to be taken into consideration. If wooden pavements fulfill the requirements as to cost as fully as brick, there does not appear to be any reason for departing from the civic policy which has prevailed in the past. Of course in cases where the persons who have to meet the cost of constructing a pavement manifest a preference, there is no reason why their wishes should not be met.

* * *

It is almost extraordinary to think that in one of the most populous of the states of the American union a boy should be boldly kidnapped and held for ransom. The Whitla case bears a strong resemblance to that of little Charley Ross, who was spirited away by bandits a great many years ago and never again heard of, although all the arts of the most accomplished detectives were exercised in the efforts to trace him. It is rather disquieting to think that the practices of the brigands of inaccessible Eastern Europe should be introduced with an approximation to success in this continent. If one band of miscreants could be caught and made an example of, the effect might be salutary.

* * *

If the consumers of the United States believe the Payne tariff to be the final expression of scientific fiscal exactitude, we do not see any reason for the trusts to complain. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer says the tariff, except as it is likely to affect lumber, is the nearest to perfection of anything in the line that has yet received the consideration of Congress. Our contemporary does not seem to object to reciprocity in coal, although coal is one of the products of the state of Washington which argues that it is in need of protection. Probably our Seattle contemporary hopes that none of the nations which produce coal will hasten to comply with the conditions which predicate its free admission into the United States.

—The sisters of St. Joseph's hospital beg to tender their sincere thanks to the ladies who honored them by their presence and who contributed so generously to the shower of table napkins on St. Joseph's feast.

Will New Carpets Interest You?

This is the time of year for new things; Nature takes on her new garb, and we all want new clothes to feel in harmony with the Spring spirit. How about the house? Don't you want new carpet or floor coverings? Rooms that looked all right during the dull weather may not look so now, and a new carpet does wonders toward improving the appearance of a room. Our new ones are here. Your inspection is solicited. To show them would be a pleasure.

WINDOW DISPLAY, BROAD STREET WINDOWS

Our stock of these goods has never been so complete or up-to-date as it is this season. Almost every day adds NEW ATTRACTIONS for the housefurnisher to our already large collection.

We are now showing a full range of colorings and designs in the new "Crompton" Axminster Carpets. This is the finest grade English Axminster Carpets, and our designs in this line are absolutely exclusive.

Our new stock of Wilton and Brussels Carpets has just been opened up. The selection of designs and colorings in these lines are very extensive. We now feel that we are in a position to furnish a carpet that will blend with any color scheme that the purchaser may have in mind, no matter how modest or how fastidious the taste may be.

New Carpet Squares

We have a very extensive assortment of Carpet Squares, in Axminsters, Wiltons, Brussels, Tapestry and Wool Squares, in sizes varying from 6 ft. 9 x 7 ft. 6 to 11 ft. 3 x 13 ft. 6.

Smart Little Suits for Misses

During the last week we have opened a lot of Misses' Suits, that are unusually smart and attractive, and are well worth a careful inspection.

MISSES' SUIT, made of taupe worsteds in a self stripe. Coat is semi-fitted with saddle effect over shoulders and the back trimmed with covered buttons, roll collar and cuffs, finished with buttons. Skirt Princess style with three-inch fold around bottom, finished with buttons. Price $30

MISSES' SUITS, made of pretty light striped worsted. Coat semi-fitted style with rows of covered buttons on back, roll collar inlaid with reseda green silk, roll cuffs of cloth, lined throughout with silk. Skirt plain with four-inch fold around bottom. Price $35

MISSES' SUIT, made of striped navy worsted. Coat semi-fitted, with rows of buttons down back, roll collar of corded silk, finished with braid and buttons, plain sleeve with braid and buttons. Plain skirt with rows of buttons on front panel. Price $25

MISSES' SUITS, made of pretty light striped tweed. Coat semi-fitted, trimmed with buttons, roll collar, strapped with self, plain sleeve. Skirt Directoire style, with row of buttons down front and four-inch fold around the bottom. Price $25

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

ENGINEER SUES FOR INJURY IN THE WOODS

Struck by Log and Knocked Into His Engine—Asks for $10,000.

(From Monday's Daily.)

An action for damages for personal injuries is being heard by Mr. Justice Irving and a jury to-day. John Woodriffe, a stationary engineer, is suing G. A. Vipond for $10,000 for a smashed leg and alleged permanent injury to the limb. The defence is that the accident occurred through plaintiff's own fault.

The following jury was sworn: Arthur Thornton (foreman), Robt. H. Barr, George H. Barraclough, Charles H. F. Blake, Edward Cave, Thomas Luscombe, Alex. Hinkley Pankhurst and John W. Wagg.

W. C. Moresby and R. C. Lowe are acting for the plaintiff, and W. H. Langley for the defendant.

The action is being brought under both the common law and the Employers' Liability act, and Mr. Langley raised the preliminary objection that the notice required by the act was defective in many points. His lordship was satisfied, however, that it was a sufficient notice.

Woodriffe told his story with the aid of a plan of the scene and a model. His counsel produced the plan, which called forth the remark from the judge that one plan for judge, jury, witness and lawyers to look at was most unsatisfactory. He suggested a postponement until half-a-dozen copies were made. Then Mr. Langley brought out the model, but Woodriffe took exception to its correctness. In the end the witness was allowed to go on.

The plaintiff was working at Cowichan Lake, where Vipond had a logging contract, and was running a donkey engine. While a log was being drawn out of the woods on October 30, 1907, it struck him on the leg and knocked him in among the machinery. His leg was badly fractured and for several weeks he was unable to work, while he will probably suffer from the effects permanently.

The case is still in progress.

KEEPING RESIDENCE DISTRICTS CLEAN

By-law to Be Introduced to Restrict Classes of Business There.

The civic by-law which was before the council for some time last fall, dealing with the exclusion of certain classes of business from the residential sections of the city, is to be again brought forward. After some little discussion it was laid over when it was under consideration before. Ald. Stewart intends to move the adoption of this by-law and it will probably come up at to-night's meeting. It specifies the various trades which are not to be allowed in closely-settled residential blocks.

The businesses included in the list are breweries, brickmakers, blacksmith shops, boiler shops, bowling alleys, billiard or bagatelle rooms, blood or bone boiling establishments, chemical works, cabins, dance halls, foundries, fish mongers, fish curers, fish canneries, hide warehouses or hide dressing establishments, laundries and warehouses, livery stables, oil refineries or extracting plants, paint works, piggeries, live or dead poultry dealers, stables, saw or planing mills, soap works, soap boilers, skating rinks, saloons, tanneries, tallow smelters, tripe boilers, or any industry employing steam or electric power.

In regard to stables and cow-byres it is proposed that none shall be erected within ten feet of street line or the side boundaries of the property, nor within five feet of the rear line, connected with the sewer, and that present buildings shall be connected with the sewer system by a date to be fixed. Stables are to be ventilated.

Another by law which Ald. Stewart intends to take hold of, also laid over from last year, is that dealing with the sub-division of city lots, especially in reference to the laying out of lanes and streets.

VANCOUVER DECIDES TO HOLD EXHIBITION

Association Leases Hastings Park—Council to Be Asked for Grant.

Vancouver, March 20.—At the meeting of the executive committee of the Exhibition Association held in the city hall last evening, it was definitely decided to hold an exhibition during the present year, and steps were taken to get matters in working order without delay.

J. J. Miller, president of the association, reported that with some difficulty they had at last got the lease of the grounds at Hastings to the exhibition Association signed. While the lease was restricted in several ways he believed it could be made to work successfully. He thought the council would grant any reasonable request.

W. E. Flumerfelt, organizing secretary, reported that he had canvassed the situation throughly, and 99 people out of 100 were in favor of going on with the exhibition at once, and holding one this year. Of course they had not much time to get up a very comprehensive exhibition, but there were certain features that might well be introduced.

A motion to hold an exhibition in 1909 was then carried unanimously.

Mr. Clarke then proposed that a committee of the association be appointed to meet a committee of the city council to decide on an agreement as to the best means of disposing of the $50,000 voted by the by-law. Ald. McTaggart said he understood that the money was voted for an exhibition at Hastings park specifically. Mr. Clark's resolution carried.

PANAMA LIBEL CASE.

Government's Suit Will Not Be Dropped, According to Attorney Samson.

New York, March 22.—The Panama libel case against the Press Publishing Company and Caleb Van Hamm, one of the editors of the World, will not be dropped so long as he is district attorney, was the statement made by U. S. Attorney Samson here to-day. Furthermore, in his belief, he said the World cases would be tried here, before those begun elsewhere under similar indictments were brought to trial.

New York, March 22.—John Starrin, the noted steamship owner, died today at his home, aged 83 years.

CANADA'S RELATIONS TO BRITISH NAVY

Joseph Martin Thinks Dominion Should Subsidize Forces of Old Land.

Toronto, Ont., March 22.—Joseph Martin, K. C., late of Vancouver, addressed the Canadian Club on Friday on many subjects relating to the Empire. He supported with characteristic vigor the proposal that Canada should give a subsidy to the Imperial army and navy, and opposed with the same directness Imperial federation.

"When I remember," said he, "the terrible amount of poverty in the Old Country, a condition of things which we do not approach here, I am ashamed of the people in Canada who are asking the Old Land to do anything for us. They say, 'We want you to tax the food of these poor unfortunate individuals who do not know when they get up in the morning where they are going to get meals for the day, and this money is to go to swell the pockets of the Canadian farmer.'"

Referring to Sir Hugh Graham and his reported threat that if Great Britain did not do more for Canada with regard to her defence Canada would do something serious, "I would like to ask Sir Hugh Graham," said Mr Martin, "what right Canada has to say a word with regard to its defence. It is a great impertinence on our part to suggest anything, because we pay nothing. What would we do with ourselves if we did cut loose? If I have rightly watched the result of the poll I think that interested persons in Canada and the United States would get voters in the Dominion, with the proper application of money, to favor being taken into the United States."

SEVEN-MILE RECORD.

New York, March 22.—George Bonhag, of the Irish-American Athletic Club, broke another American indoor record on Saturday night at the indoor meeting of the Twenty-second regiment. Bonhag ran in a seven-mile race against a relay team consisting of F. G. Bellars, New York Athletic Club, and J. A. Lee, unattached. He covered the distance in 35 minutes 50 3-5 seconds, which takes 1 minute and 32 2-5 seconds off the old American record of 36 minutes and 54 seconds.

NEW CANADIAN RECORDS.

Jack Tait, at the R. C. B. C. indoor meet held in Toronto, covered the three-mile distance in 14 minutes 58 2-5 seconds, which is 11 1-5 seconds faster than the Canadian record, held by Tom Longboat.

George Goulding set a new Canadian record for the mile walk, 6 minutes 28 3-5 seconds, one second faster than the American record.

The world's records for the mile walk are: Amateur—A. T. Yeomans, Bath, 6 minutes 19 3-5 seconds. Professional—W. Perkins, Lillie Bridge, 6 minutes 23 seconds.

—Sunday morning at the corner of Chambers and North Park streets a large collie dog attacked a lady, pulled her down and tore her dress, only releasing her upon the arrival of assistance of people living nearby, who drove the brute away. Residents in that part of the city are complaining of the number of dogs allowed to run about without tags.