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DEBEIORD CAITLE AND SHELLARD Toutes—Pony vehicles, natures, saudies, J. F. Marpies, Popiar Park farm, Hartney, Man. 81tf

A CABLOAD OF YOUNG SHORTHORN grade temales. Registered Cipdesdates, Buorthorns and Yorkshires. Farm near station. J. Bousfield, Mactoregor, Man. 84tf

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Breeders of Aberdeen Augus Cattle. Stock
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## SHEEP

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41.6

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# Solving the Housing Problem

One of the heartening signs of the times is the active interest taken in the problem of housing the poor. That such a matter should have been so long neglected is a reproach to civilization; and too much vigor cannot be put into the movement to remove the disgrace, writes Stoughton Cooley, in the Chicago Public. Overcrowding, families living in one room, families in two rooms keeping boarders, day and night workers using the same bed, windowless rooms, cellar dormitories and general lack of sanitation is the burden of all reports and testimony. And this, too, in spite of laws inspectors and public opinion. The movement to correct this shameful state of affairs is proceeding along two lines.
One is proceeding along the line of palliation. It would enact laws of minimum requirements, where they do not now exist, and enforce those already on the statute books. It would have severe penalties for keeping unsanitary premises; it would compel landlords to put windows in all rooms; and it would prohibit families from living too many in a room, or in cellars, or using beds night and day; in a word it would correct these abuses by arbitrary fiat. It would also have the state assist private capital to build low-priced model houses for workers. Three reasons might be offered in support of such a campaign: It may produce immediate results, even though they be small; it will enlist the support of well-meaning people who cannot at this time be reached otherwise; and it will soon demonstrate the necessity for more fundamental work.

#### **Fundamental Remedy**

The other force directed toward the solution of the housing problem is pro-ceeding along fundamental lines. The work is not so spectacular, nor will the results be so immediate; but they will be more far-reaching and permanent. This plan is simply to reverse the forces that have led to the objectionable conditions. It is an aspersion on human nature to suppose that any landlord-would build windowless rooms or maintain unsanitary premises, except that he thereby obtained a larger income from his investment. And it is a reflection upon human intelligence to think a family would live in one room, when it could afford two, or use a bed night and day, when it could have double the number of beds. The conditions complained of are not due to the niggardliness of nature, nor to the natural depravity of human beings: they are due wholly and solely to man-made laws. The modern city has grown up under laws that have made it the interest of the landlord to do as he has, and compelled tenants to submit to their environment.

# Windows Still Taxed

We smile in a superior way at the ancient tax on windows; and we are moved with compassion at the sight of rheumatic peasants doomed to live in windowless houses. But it was a condition that confronted the home-builder. The law said, in effect. The more windows, the more taxes; no window, least taxes. And his house was built without a window. But have we not said the same t'i ig to our builders? We have not on y said that, but we have said The more windows doors, gables, porches and rooms, the more taxes. The landlord, possessed of a lot, abouts which the city has built walks and pavements, sewers, water, and gas, and within reach of which it has placed schools and fire and police protection, can keep the present disgraceful tenement, and be taxed lightly; or he can put up a good building and be taxed heavily. If it be said that a better building would command more rent, it may be answered that the increase in the value of the lot -under its comparative exemption from taxes-amounts to more than the gain

The Better Way

The new force on behalf of better housing says: The effective way to

abolish windowless rooms is to take the tax off the windows The way to multiply rooms and beds is to take the taxes off of rooms and beds. In a word, take the taxes off of houses entirely and lay them upon the lots. It is the lots, not the houses, that increase in value with better police and fire protection, better schools. and a larger and better population. Hence the burden should rest where the benefit lies. Have your minimum housing requirements if you will, to curb the avaricious few who are slow to see wherein lies their self-interest; but make it the pecuniary interest of the landlord to put up good buildings, instead of maintaining poor ones.

## More Houses and Lower Rents

The result of such a law will be twofold. By causing the construction of more and better houses rents will tend to fall, and by employing more labor to build the houses wages will tend to rise. Hence the victims of overcrowding will find larger quarters at a lower price, and at the same time they will have more with which to pay. That this is not a wild and visionary scheme, but is, on the contrary, a sound business proposition, may be seen from what has already taken place. Vancouver, Edmonton, and other cities in Western Edmonton, and other cities in Canada, have exempted buildings and Canada, have exempted buildings and improvements from taxation. Whether or not all cities shall take up this effective line of work is for their citizens to say The matter is absolutely in their hands. They now have the alternative of confining the movement for better housing to palliative measures, which may relieve some of the more glaring conditions; or they may, in addition to palliative measures, adopt fundamental means that will go to the root of the evil, and effect permanent results.

#### MEAT PACKERS' CONVENTION

The American Meat Packers' convention has come and gone. It merely developed the fact that the killers are seriously concerned over the prospect, if not certainty of a short supply of raw material. The association appropriated \$500,000 to encourage production. Presumably a publicity bureau will be established to print circulars in red ink, telling the grower how easily wealth may be amassed by raising cattle, hogs and sheep, but such procedure will be a joke. The grower is no fool; he dropped live stock production because it was unremunerative, and he will resume beef, pork and mutton making whenever a

favorable opportunity exists.

Proof of this is afforded by current demand for breeding stock cattle, also sheep. The most effective method of restoring production is to maintain a stable and remunerative set of markets and there is no other way.

# The Cranks

Of course the cranks were at the gathering. They were their hair variously, but each of them had a chimerical idea to exploit. One rattlebrained idiot proposed to put the United States army raising cattle and for that matter it might as well be engaged in that stunt as acting flunky for commissioned officers and doing chores around army posts. But with equal consistency the food supply might be expanded by turning the navy into a fishing fleet. Another wanted to bonus the livestock grower; still another to penalize him by placing an exp rt duty on meat products, while the gigantic idiot of the hunch proposed mandatory legislaof the bunch proposed mandatory legislation requiring every farmer to maintain a certain number of cattle, hogs and sheep. On top of this came a report that the federal authorities at Washington pro posed to remedy meat shortage by organizing boys' pig raising clubs and building municipal abattors. Don't laugh immoderately, please; its dangerous. The packers' convention furnished certain newspapers with material for "screams and the "dollar beefsteak" headline was worked to the limit.-Jas. E. Poole.

#### APPLES! APPLES!

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