

## NEW BRUNSWICK CONDITIONS TOLD BY DR. SHEARER

At the mass meeting in St. Andrew's church after the evening service last night, Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer, secretary of the local service council of Canada, in a vigorous and outspoken address criticized present conditions in New Brunswick as regards the enforcement of the prohibitory act and the prevalence of gambling, and also enumerated the many advances made in progressive legislation in the dominion for furthering social welfare.

Rev. F. S. Dowling, the chairman of the meeting, led the opening devotion, and Rev. H. A. Goodwin made an appeal for the support of the New Brunswick Social Service Council. The mass meeting was held as a preliminary to the annual meeting of the New Brunswick Social Service Council, which is to be held today.

Touching first on recent federal legislation Dr. Shearer declared the new laws evidenced an awakening conscience in the people and indicated that parliamentarians were increasingly favorable to legislation towards social betterment. This augured well for the country's good.

The object of prison life should be reformation rather than punishment, he maintained, and when consistent with social well-being those convicted for the first time should be given a second chance. It was to achieve this that the new probation act was passed. This act gave power to the judge or magistrate to suspend sentence and put the guilty person under the charge of some individual who became the probation officer and found employment for the one under sentence. Payment for the work done by the one under sentence was either to go to members of his or her family or to be kept until supervision was discontinued. If he or she made good, the period of probation might be terminated at the will of the judge or magistrate.

This law, Dr. Shearer predicted, would prevent thousands from becoming jail-birds and would also be a large economic saving to the country.

Three amendments had been passed at the last session of parliament looking towards social betterment and he then mentioned in turn: First, there was the amendment to the Canada Temperance act, which provided that export liquor warehouses such as those in the city of St. John, which he considered a serious menace to the enforcement of the provincial prohibitory law, could be eliminated as soon as the provincial government invited the federal government to declare the amendment in force in the province. Then the warehouses must close their doors.

The second amendment effected the criminal code, making it a crime for a male to have intimate relations with a female who was feeble-minded.

The third amendment was to the opium and narcotic drug act, and increased the penalty for sharing in the drug traffic to seven years' imprisonment, adding whipping to the penalty when a juvenile was supplied with drugs. In the case of an offender who was an un-naturalized alien deportation was to follow after serving the sentence.

To refute statements that prohibition had brought an increase in the drug habit, Dr. Shearer quoted from government statistics regarding importation of drugs, giving the following figures:

Drugs Imported in	1919	1920	1921	1922
Cocaine (ozs.)	12,833	6,968	8,310	2,952
Morphine (ozs.)	80,087	25,198	12,124	8,774
Opium (lbs.)	24,263	15,698	2,993	1,700

He pointed out how the drug habit was decreasing rapidly under prohibition, and said that if convictions were more frequent it meant there was a more rigid enforcement of the law. The number of convictions for the different provinces in the last year were as follows: Prince Edward Island, 0; Nova Scotia, 9; New Brunswick, 14; Manitoba, 15; Ontario, 66; Saskatchewan, 88; Alberta, 101; Quebec, 237; and British Columbia, 323. The wet provinces, Quebec and British Columbia had 562 convictions, out of a total of 845 for the dominion, and Ontario, which had the same population as those two provinces, had only 66 con-

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victions. Of the whole 845 convictions, 646 were against Chinese and eliminating the Chinese convictions, Quebec and British Columbia had 119, as against 14 in Ontario. In view of the deportation clause in the recent amendment, the undesirable element of Chinese would be got rid of. Generally speaking, the Chinese were desirable citizens, Dr. Shearer believed, and he said it was only one element of its Chinese which was concerned in the drug traffic.

### The Feeble-Minded.

Speaking of the care of the feeble-minded, Dr. Shearer commended Nova Scotia for passing legislation authorizing the establishment of a farm for the care of the feeble-minded. The farm had not been secured in Nova Scotia yet, but New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had not even legislation giving authority for the establishment of such a farm. Quoting Dr. C. K. Clark, of the Canadian National committee on Mental Hygiene, Dr. Shearer said one-half of all crime, two-thirds of all prostitution and two-fifths of all venereal disease were attributable to non-care of the feeble-minded, and all this might be removed if the feeble-minded were intelligently cared for in schools and in later life.

He related what had been done in Vancouver in opening twenty-four special classes for the feeble-minded and placing a specially trained superintendent in charge of the classes, each of which had a specially trained teacher. They were called industrial classes, he said, and so popular were they that normal boys and girls would plead to be allowed to go into the "industrial classes." New Brunswick's only method of caring for the feeble-minded at present was to place them in the asylum for the insane, hindering their development and hindering the proper care of the insane. He urged the establishment of a farm for the care of the feeble-minded in New Brunswick, in order that they might have a chance to develop industrial activities. He assured his hearers the farm would be self sustaining, and in the first instance would cost less than to care for the feeble-minded as they were being cared for or to neglect their care altogether. The government might need no urging, but he asked those present to use their influence to obtain a farm for the feeble-minded by awakening public opinion.

### A Two Weeks' Tour.

In closing his address, Dr. Shearer spoke of what he had seen in a two weeks' tour through the province, in the company of Rev. H. A. Goodwin and Rev. W. D. Wilson, secretary of the New Brunswick Temperance Alliance. He could again praise the province, he said, as he had already done throughout the dominion, because it was the first province to establish a ministry of health. Already splendid work had been done by that department, which he found was ably administered and ably led.

He believed the people wanted to know the truth, so he would tell them with regret that everywhere he had

## YOUNG BOY RUN OVER BY STREET CAR ON SATURDAY

A serious accident occurred on Saturday about 12:20 p.m., when Wilson Deloy, five years of age, was knocked down and his right leg run over by a street car at the corner of Britain and Sydney streets. He was rushed to the General Public Hospital and the leg was amputated at once at the thigh. His condition was considered still very serious last night. The street car was in charge of Motorman John R. King at the time that the affair took place.

It is said that the little boy had been to a nearby meat store and had just rushed out on his way to 232 Sydney street, where his mother, Mrs. Nettie Deloy, of New Britain (Conn.), was visiting her father, Wilson Dobbin. It was raining very hard at the time street car No. 114 was proceeding down Britain street and the motorman did not see the child who is said to have run in front of the car. Motorman King said that the first intimation which he had of the accident was when he saw the front of the car strike the boy. He informed the authorities that he was not positive then that it was a child that he had hit, but he immediately stopped the car.

### FEW WOOD PRESERVATIVES

Forest Products Laboratory Finds Most Substances Valueless.

A list of the various substances that have been used or suggested for preserving timber from decay would include a surprisingly large proportion of those known to industrial chemistry, says a statement issued by the United States Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis. By-products for which no use could be found have often taken their last stand as possible preservatives of wood. There have been sent to the laboratory for testing of their preservative qualities, the condensed fumes of smelters, the waste of liquors of pulp plants, the refuse of tanneries, the skimmed milk of creameries and a wide assortment of compounds under trade names.

Very few materials, say the statement, have been found to have value as wood preservatives. Most of them lack one or more of the requirements which the Forest Products Laboratory has indicated as essential in a satisfactory compound.

"To preserve wood against decay," the statement continues, "a substance must first of all be poisonous to wood-destroying fungi. Decay in wood is not due to direct chemical action or action of the elements, but is always the result of the activity of these plants which feed on the wood and thus destroy it. To prevent fungous infection the preservative must be able to penetrate the wood thoroughly enough to form a continuous exterior shell of poisonous treated wood deeper than any surface checks which are likely to develop, and to retain its toxicity, or poisoning power, under service conditions."

"Safety in handling and use is another important consideration. A wood preservative must not be a dangerous poison to men and animals, a highly inflammable substance, nor a material injurious to the wood-destroying fungi. If it seriously corrodes iron, steel or brass its use is limited because of its action on the treating equipment and on bolts and metal fastenings in contact with the wood in service. Color, odor and effect on paint are sometimes of considerable importance."

"Provided a preservative meets these requirements, its cost, availability and uniformity will largely determine its usefulness. There are materials of established protective value now on the market which are both cheap and plentiful. The standard wood preservatives in the United States are zinc chloride and coal tar creosote. Their value has

been established by many years' use on millious or railroad ties, poles, posts, paving blocks, mine timbers and other wood treated with them. "Search for new and better preservatives is constantly being made, but in the meantime the wood preserving industry has at its command these reliable materials."

### MUSICIANS' OUTING.

Walter Logan, commodore of the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club, was

host yesterday to a party of friends connected with the musical profession, including members of the orchestra of the Imperial theatre. The party went up the Reach in the flagship Vagabond and dinner was served at the summer cottage of Howard Holder in the Long Reach. Ideal yachting conditions featured the trip, which afforded a great chance for relaxation on the part of those present. The party returned to the city last evening. Commodore Logan intimated that he intended making the outing an annual affair.



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