

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 13, 1919

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NATIONAL HOUSING.

The Times prints today an article from the Toronto Star on the subject of housing, in which it is pointed out that the federal government passes the problem on to the provincial governments and these to the municipalities, which take no action, and thus the country is left where it started. There is much talk but no houses.

This view of the situation has also struck Canadian Finance of Winnipeg. They need at least three thousand new houses in Winnipeg, and Canadian Finance agrees with the special housing commission of Toronto that municipal construction of houses is not desirable. That commission said:—

"The city has been urged to take advantage of the government's proposal, but your commissioners are unable to see what advantage it would be to Toronto, since the whole risk, both capital and interest, falls upon the municipality. On the contrary, we view the plan with much apprehension and as being fraught with grave danger, inasmuch as it invites municipalities to undertake building schemes and assume liabilities which may seriously involve them."

While believing, however, that the building should be done by the ordinary contractor, the Winnipeg Journal concedes that at the present cost of construction the private builder is not eager to erect houses, and could not erect them to rent at a figure within reach of the workingman's income. Hence it believes the federal government should give real financial assistance for the benefit of the tenant. It says:—

"Houses constructed during abnormal times must of necessity cost more than they would if constructed in normal periods. This means that the individual or municipality desirous of providing work for the building trades during the readjustment period is to be penalized by having to pay an abnormal price for house construction. This does not seem fair and will retard building activities unless the individual receives some practical assistance from the authorities. As the problem is admitted by Sir Thomas White to be a national one, it might be advisable for the Dominion government to follow the example set by Great Britain and shoulder the extra cost entailed by construction during 1919, and thus encourage home building. Such direct financial assistance would be practical demonstration of the federal government's interest in a national problem, and it would then be doing more than merely acting as the financial agent of the provinces in procuring funds for financing the project. This would be preferred to the other alternative, i. e. municipal construction, which would result in the extra cost being finally charged up to the home-purchaser."

It is perfectly clear that some one of the governments, federal, provincial or municipal, must do more than lend money at five per cent in order to get houses built cheaply enough to be within reach of people of small income. The British government regards housing as a necessity which must be faced nationally. We have not yet begun to face it nationally in Canada.

SCHOOL SOCIAL CENTRES

An effort has been made in St. John to persuade the people that the use of school buildings as social centres is dangerous to the community. Here is what Mr. A. L. Stoughton, adviser to the Greater Winnipeg Plan Commission says of such community organizations as the South End Improvement League in St. John. His reference is to country and village communities, but applies equally to cities. He says:—

"The organization may be called a Community Club or any other name, but it should welcome to its activities every member of the community, without restriction. It should be absolutely free from bias of religious or political or other opinion and dedicated wholly to the betterment of the community and every member of it. It should have a programme of meetings and entertainments extending through the season, pre-empting one night of the week for it which would afford sufficient variety to satisfy everyone. These would properly include lectures, readings, debates, concerts, plays, good moving picture shows, entertainments, social gatherings, suppers, fairs and competitions for farm and home products. Local efforts would be largely used, with an occasional lecturer or musician brought from without. All sorts of matters of real personal interest would be discussed, from husbandry, dairying, stock and fruit raising and housekeeping, to history, political economy and world movements. The social spirit should always animate the proceedings, to promote cordiality and good feeling. The hearty greeting and the warm hand-grasp are worth more than the knowledge acquired."

"The club meeting would be the place in which all questions of public interest would be considered and policies decided upon, whether of projects for raising money for charitable purposes, or of schemes for village improvement, where everyone would have a voice, as in a town meeting, the town council being in this way reliably informed of public

sentiment. It would thus have a variety of functions, fostering education, recreation, entertainment, the public concern, improvement of farming, etc., but the essential beneficence would be its knitting together all elements and individuals of the community in a common sympathy and interest. The place of meeting should preferably be in a good school building, as the more young and old are brought to the school for all purposes the better."

Such an organization is really more needed in the city than in the country, and the school building should be the centre of its activities. In St. John, however, the use of an unused room in a school building one night a month has been refused.

A HOPEFUL OUTLOOK.

Addressing the members of the Engineering Institute at Ottawa yesterday Hon. F. B. Carroll pointed out that as a result of the war an abnormal condition of mind exists throughout the world. He agrees that everything possible must be done to relieve the state of unrest, but regards the future with a confidence which should mark the utterances of every Canadian at this time. Among other things he says:—

"We have troubled times ahead unless we practically eliminate unemployment, as this condition is the source of Bolshevism. Therefore, it is the duty of every employer to see that every man possible is employed at a fair wage. This should especially be done by the great corporations who have made money during the war."

"There is no country, concerned in the war that is in a better economic condition than Canada, and notwithstanding the fact that the war has caused a very large public debt, I have absolutely no doubt that Canada will rise to the occasion and continue to be one of the most prosperous countries in the world."

Mr. Bonar Law says that the dangers he fears most in England are lack of credit and fear to engage in new enterprises. He urges the people to keep their heads, in which case he believes there will be no great danger of serious unemployment. This is wise counsel, but the government must be as bold and firm in grappling with the problem of unemployment as it was in dealing with war problems. Otherwise the discontent will grow.

Action must be taken to prevent in future such accidents as occurred at the west side ferry floats yesterday afternoon. This is the second within a year, and each had serious results. Yesterday's tragic event brings the matter to a climax. If nothing else can be done passengers can at least be prevented from going forward of the cabins while the boat is being docked.

Hon. F. B. Carroll: "We feel it our duty to take steps to spend the public money to remedy these causes of unrest, and we are going to spend this money where it will do the most good towards relieving unemployment and for the benefit of the returned soldiers."

It was the great ambition of one of the characters in a recently published short story to fill the office of Sacred Wolloh in a fraternal organization. That would be a good title for the chief custodian of a St. John school house.

The municipal authorities will commit a serious blunder if they merely repair the old court house. If at all practicable a proper municipal building should be erected on that site.

The new president of Germany says his government is arranging for complete disarmament and demobilization. That is a very wise policy for Germany.

Was Pulled Through THE TRYING TIME IN A WOMAN'S LIFE

Mrs. H. Membury, 325 Seaton street, Toronto, Ont., writes:—"I have used Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills and found them to be of great benefit to me. In fact, I consider they saved my life, and I have told many of my neighbors about them."

Two years ago last November I was in poor health. The doctor said it was change of life, as I was over forty years old, and that I would have to be very careful of myself. Shortly after that I received an awful shock that nearly killed me. The doctor my husband sent for said I would soon be all right, and sent up some medicine, but it only seemed to increase the trouble. I was then taken to the hospital. The doctors examined me, but could not understand my case.

Then they sent for a specialist, as they began to think it was my mind. When the specialist came he was baffled, for I answered his questions all right. Every day I was getting weaker, and when my husband came he could see that I was going, as I could read his thoughts, but said nothing. Next day a friend came with a cab and took me to their home. They got a box of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. I started taking them and began to get better, and at the end of two weeks I could walk around the room. I am now well and able to do my own work. Price 50c. a box at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co. Limited, Toronto, Ont.

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JAMES CHARTERS, TWELVE YEARS OLD, KILLED ON FERRY

Three Others Seriously and Two Slightly Injured When Piling Crashes to Deck of Steamer Ludlow

A very serious accident occurred shortly after 5 o'clock last evening when the ferry Ludlow while approaching the docks on the West Side crashed into the east side floats. According to George H. Waring, ferry superintendent, no medical aid was available at West St. John. The seriously injured were then brought to the east side, on the 5.20 trip of the ferry and willing hands among the passengers did everything possible to relieve the suffering of the injured. The three were in an unconscious condition. At the east side the ambulance received the patients and rushed them to the General Public Hospital where the Charters boy died within ten minutes. Little James Charters, aged twelve, seriously injured, while Miss Elsie Whipple and Miss Mary Alston, both of West St. John, were slightly injured. R. W. Wignmore, M. P., and T. T. Lantalan were on the ferry and witnessed the accident. They assisted in extricating Mrs. Treacartin, who was pinned under the fallen log. Immediately after the accident the seriously injured—The Charters boy, Mrs. Treacartin and Milton Belyea—were carried into the cabin and medical aid was summoned. At the same time a call was sent in for the ambulance to be ready to receive the injured at the east side floats. According to George H. Waring, ferry superintendent, no medical aid was available at West St. John. The seriously injured were then brought to the east side, on the 5.20 trip of the ferry and willing hands among the passengers did everything possible to relieve the suffering of the injured. The three were in an unconscious condition. At the east side the ambulance received the patients and rushed them to the General Public Hospital where the Charters boy died within ten minutes. Little James Charters, aged twelve,

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years, accompanied by his sister, Margaret, eight years old, came to the city after school for the purpose of purchasing valentines and they were on their way home when the young lad met his death. The two were standing in front of the women's cabin and were closest to the falling spar. The boy received the full impact of the blow and his sister narrowly escaped his fate. Besides his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Charters, one sister, Rose, aged twenty-one months, survives. The sad circumstances surrounding the death will elicit the sympathy of all.

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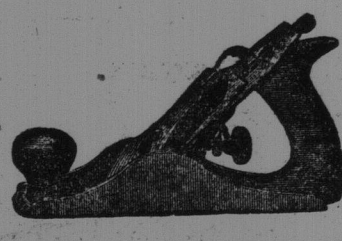
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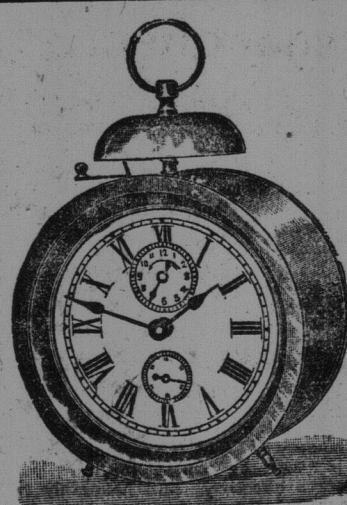
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C. OF E. INSTITUTE.

At the annual meeting of the Church of England Institute held in the institute rooms, Germain street, last evening, reports from the various committees were read showing that the institute had passed through a very successful year. Canon Armstrong, the president, was in the chair, and during the meeting was re-elected for the ensuing year. Owing to the absence of the secretary, R. A. Coupe, Rev. H. A. Cody, rector of St. James' church, Broad street, acted as secretary for the evening. The president's and treasurer's reports were read and confirmed and both were extremely encouraging, showing that the institute was in a very flourishing and good financial condition. Mrs. Jan McAvity presented the report of the ladies' association, which was read and confirmed. The reports contained excellent account of the great amount of work that the association accomplished during the last year.

Miss H. L. Reed gave a very delightful talk to the children in the Protestants' Orphan's Home yesterday afternoon.

Did YOU Save That Dollar On Your Sunday Dinner?

An ordinary dinner on the last Sunday in January cost a dollar less than it did the Sunday before, according to one market expert, who is showing how the tide of food prices so long at the flood is beginning to turn. The Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger considers the "dissolution of the league of rations" to be in sight when "eggs have begun the Humpty-Dumpty act; butter charges are in a melting mood" and "meat bills are facing a decline." The drop may not be any "shocking, joyous surprise," but the Boston Globe is certain that "gradually it will wiggle its way down to the things we buy at the corner store."

Read the leading article in THE LITERARY DIGEST this week (February 15th) and learn why editors throughout the country are jubilant over the tendency toward declining costs of living everywhere evident. The article goes into much detail and covers such necessities as corn, oats, barley, rye, beef, poultry, pork, cheese, eggs and butter; also clothing.

Other striking articles in this number are:

Italy's Claim to Dalmatia

What the Representative Press of Italy and Jugo-Slavia Says on Both Sides

Religious Press on the Prohibition Amendment

Labor Reconstruction Programmes

Mr. Burleson Under Fire

German Austria Finding Itself

Timber's Horn of Plenty

Nutcracking Extraordinary

American Composers Tested By Hofmann

The Revealer of Spain

Best of the Current Poetry

A Flurry Over Britain's Embargo

The Toll of War and Pestilence

The Future of Germany's Colonies

Success of the Electric Battleship

Safety for Women in Factories

Our Railway Mileage Shrinking

Socializing Germany by Education

A Huge Drive for Missions

The New and the Old Poland

News of Finance and Commerce

Personal Glimpses of Men and Events

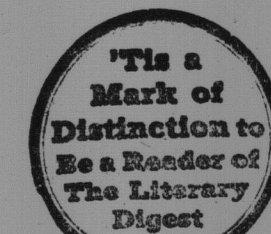
Many Interesting Illustrations, Including Cartoons

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you to pick out any subject of interest and get the vital points in a moment. You will admire its stand for the whole truth when you see every question presented from every viewpoint. You will feel the appeal of its many interesting stories of individual experience and enjoy the humorous, suggestive cartoons. You will read THE DIGEST from cover to cover. Get this week's number and see if you won't.

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The Literary Digest

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