The City of Glasgow's Very Successful Scheme-The Scotch City Turns Plague Spots Into Comfortable and Cheap Dwelling Places for Workingmen-Good Work for an Improvement Association.

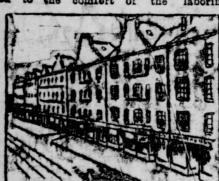
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While so many problems of city government engage attention it might be profitable to thin attention to the workings of the City of Glasgow, one of the few novel cities of the world.

The construction of Glasgo's municipal tenement-houses, whether of the better or poorer class, is admirable.

The City of Chasgow is run for the benefit of the people on strictly business principles. The municipal corporation conirols whatever by their nature are monopolies—water supply, gas and electric lightling, as well as the stockyards, the public
markets, even the old clothes market—and
all are under the jurisdiction of the common corporal.

Eighteen years ago the town council leased the street railway system to a company, and the lease expires this year. The contract stipulated that five years prior to the expiration of the lease a new lease should be made so that both parties could be reached. It is significant of the paternal character of Glasgow's municipal government that the demands made by it in the negotiations largely related to the comfort of the laboring Eighteen years ago the town council leas-



ARTISANS' DWELLINGS, ERECTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF GLASGOW IN THE BALT

men who operate the line. The council said to the company: "You must give better service, employ a better class of men, pay them better wages and work them shorter hours," but negotiations fell through, and the City of Glasgow now begins the operation of her own street

Glasgow seeks the welfare of all its peo ple, rich and poor alike. It is the only city in the world to own lodging-houses. Some may say that in acquiring these it made a virtue of necessity, but, be that as it may, virtue remains.

The municipal tenements consist of blocks of flats on either side of the Salt market. The buildings are four stories in height; the ground floors are occupied by shops. The houses are usually arranged so that on two floors there are three tenements, a tenement of two rooms being on each side of the staircase and a tenement of one room between them. There are also several flats of three rooms each. The tenement of one room is fourteen by thirteen feet. It is fitted with a bed closet (which is expected to answer the purpose of a second room), a scullery, a large press or cupboard, a commodious dresser and a kitchen range. Such an apartment rents for \$40 a year. The two-roomed flats have a lobby fitted with a press or closet. On one side of the lobby is the living-room, which is completely furnished as a kitchen. A scullery adjoins. There is also a bed alcove in the room. On the other side of the lobby is the sitting room, to which is attached a bed closet. Such a flat rents for 49.50 a year. The three-roomed flats rent for \$80 a year. Gas is supplied by the city at the unusual rate of sixty cents per 1,000 feet. There is a laundry at the top of the house for the use of the tenants. These artizans' dwellings are constructed in the most substantial manner. The stairs are stone and the stairway walls are tiles or glazed brick, which are easily kept

It has long been objected that these dwellings do not meet the necessities of the poorest class of laborers. The rents were oo high for men who work in the streets or on the docks and at other kinds of unskilled



SITTING-ROOM OF A TWO-ROOM FLAT IN ONE OF THE MUNICIPAL DWELLING HOUSES OF GLASGOW.

was possible for the municipality to reach these men in any way. If it had been a question of letting rooms to single men the arrangement could have been made easily enough. But the difficulty was to devise homes for large families; and it usually happens that in this part of the world the poorer the man the larger is his family. Houses could be built, of course, but could the poorest class of laborers afford to pay a rent which would return to the municipality an interest of 2, 3 or 4 per cent on its investment? Could the municipality compete in that respect with the owners of rookeries where families live in single apartments? Much deliberation was given to the subject. It was found that the municipality could put up a block of substantial buildings to meet the wants of the class hitherto left untouched, but that it would not be practicable to provide anything more than what are called "one-roomed houses," that is to say, one room to a family.

To be sure the rooms could be divided by a partition reaching within two or three feet of the ceiling—the sleeping quarter being thus separated from the cooking quarter. It was finally decided that a block of single-room tenements should be constructed. A place was cleared at the rear of a block of artizans' dwellings, and a plain building of three stories was erected, with four single-room tenements on each floor, two in the tront and two behind. These were let at rents well within the means of unskilled laborers. The buildings were opened a few months ago, and they have been filled ever since. The experiment is financially successful, but in other respects there is little to be said for it. Of course the apartments are larger, lighter, healthier, better-built than any single room tenements in the old rookeries. Nevertheless, the objections to the herding of a family in one room are not thereby removed. They are merely minimized, and in a very slight degree. It is not by any means demonstrated that annicipality is justified in doing any-

The construction of Glasgo's municipal tenement-houses, whether of the better or poorer class, is admirable.

The stairways, being built entirely of masonry, are consequently fireproof. The stairs themselves and the hall floors are of with glazed tiles or glazed bricks, as the

case may be, and are easily kept clean.

A very large amount of work yet remains to be done on the municipal estate which comes under the administration of the improvement fund. Old houses are still being torn down and crowded areas are being cessively on any single year. Besides, Glasgow, like every other city in the United Kingdom, is suffering from a depression of trade and this is not the time to tighten the screws of taxation

An organization known as the Improvement Trust was instituted to let air, light and, if possible, a little sunshine into the dismal closes and courts of the city, where not fewer than 75 000 harmon being lived. has largely succeeded. The conditions to the older city referred to comes down to us in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They could never be very wholesome, but would be tolerated with a modern Scotch population. But we have evidence that even then the dark places of the city were not free from the hygienic and moral evils has to five from the magistrates and the magistrates the church were, in the magistrates and the church were, in the absence of the police and of street and stair lighting, little able to repress. When, therefore, the great railway works came to be con-structed and other industries were stimu-lated in the west of Scotland, in Ireland, teening with an ever-population, and in Glasgow with its tempting port, when no preparation had been made for it, the inchigrants took possession of the older and denser parts of the town, and the authorities were face to face with an exigency that only a drastic remedy could

The building defects were owing to the straightened lines within which their frugal ancestors lived. So long as the city rest will work out itself. remained within the narrow compass, and y inconvenient unless epidemics or fires occurred. Originally built in village fashion the houses were on the street and the vegetable gardens in the rear. the thrifty sires, in place of breaking new ground as families and populations grew up, built over their gardens and heighten-



KITCHEN IN A FLAT OF TWO BOOMS IN MUNICIPAL DWELLING HOUSES.

ed their houses. Thus High street, Salt market, Gallowgate, Trongate, Gorbals, Calton and other gardens developed gradually into the "closes" and "vennels" which fell to be broken up under the improve-ment scheme of 1866. A bold and serious thing it was on the part of the authorities of 1865 to face the promotion of a bill that necessitated the purchase of all this densely crowded and heavily rented property, much of it, too, divided and subdivided by legal writs into flats and half flats. The improvement act was passed by both houses of parliament, and it gave assessing powers during fifteen years exclusively, i.e., all persons hiring houses or flats in Glasgow above a certain very small rental. Immediate progress of the property, and the town council resolved to impose the maximum rate of six pence per on the evening of the November election of this 1866, occasion was taken to arouse the citi- and improperly elaborated, then the zens against the scheme and its principal brain and its structures are irritated author, Lord Provost John Blackie, Jr. and painful. This is called headache Mr. Blackie was standing for re-election as the practical work of the scheme, and he was slightly outvoted at the poll, to the deep and abiding regret of the general working in badly ventilated rooms, too community. The convictions of its authors little of poor quality of food, or parin the urgency of the work of redeeming taking of too much wholesome food the city from the reproach into which it over-eating. policy were cogently shown, first, in satisfying parliament that a sixpenny rate might be necessary, and, second, in the town council determining that the maxi-

mum be levied in the first year. In going to parliament the sum estimated as necessary to be raised by taxa-tion was placed at £500,000, and the tax was based on that calculation. But it must be kept in view that as time wore on more liberal ideas than those of 1866 were advocated, with the result that many more streets, wider thoroughfares and more efficient sewerage operations have been carried out than was contemplated in 1866, and at an additional cost in ground and works of probably £200,000, and also that the number and the paying power of the

ratepayers have greatly increased. Ex-Bailie Archibald Dunlop was chairman of the committee from 1884, and he and his predecessors in the office have been supported at one time and another by the best men in the town council, who find in the complex affairs of the trust an excellent training school, which serves them in good stead in other departments of the public service. Bailie Dunlop recently retired from the council, leaving with the improvement tax at 1d per pound sterling, and with the prospect that this rate will suffice until the trust is wound up. Only older citizens, familiar with the old city, can realize the vast improvements wrought by the improvement scheme in many ways. Even its supposed failures have been sanitarily beneficial. For example, ground in various quarters, cleared of its buildings, failed to sell, but the health of the district has been thereby immensely benefited. There has, indeed, been no property market for several years, because overbuilding and depression of

## trade, arresting the growth of population, had left many proprietors with a heavy handful of unletterable property. The committee have had to submit to some temporary unpopularity because of this state of matters, yet there is no scheme

of the corporation which has excited or continues to excite more general interest, Old Lad. has its various points more crucially ex-

amined into by intelligent strangers in search of ideas and is more extensively imitated by other great centres than the city improvement scheme of Glasgow.

Discovered by a Newspaper in the London Slums, TO FOSTER FRIENDLINESS

Samuel Plimsoll Would Cut Hatred of England Out of American School Bocks.

Samuel Plimsoll, who has won immasonry, are consequently fireproof. The stairs themselves and the hall floors are of stone and the walls of the halls are faced name "Plimsoll mark," arrived in this country on Wednesday by the Majestic as full of a new project as ever he was of improving the lot of the Brit-ish sailor. He hopes to start a movement here which will at least tend to eradicate what he terms our "inherit-ed and unjust dislike of and ill-feeling toward the mother country." He cleared away. Of course all this is very expensive business. But it is being gradually carried on so that the cost may not fall expensive business. covered from a very severe illness when he started for this country. "I have come to this country," he said, "to see if I cannot find the cause of the unjust dislike the Americans have for the mother country. That feeling is so uncalled for that there must be some cause for it, a fancied cause I think. We in England have no such feeling toward America. We not fewer than 75,000 human beings lived amid surroundings which had become moral and physical "plague spots," a danger and disgrace to civilization, and it has largely succeeded. The condition of

and you cannot find a hint of ill-feeling or envy. It is quite the contrary

"And so I have come to this country to examine the school histories used here. I have been told, and I believe most of them are unfair; that they foster a wrong feeling toward the mother country. I hope to live long enough to bring this to the attention of thinking men and women

"The hatred of America for Engthe green fields were at no point distant, land is unnatural, and if the unjust compactness of building was not serious- cause is removed, at least what I believe to be one of the most potent causes, this hatred, born 120 years ago, and unjustly continued, will die away. England wants nothing of this country; she doesn't want a dollar; she doesn't ask for a rood of land; but she asks for a return of the friendship that the English people as a whole give to Americans. They say that England has reached the zenith of her power, and is on her decline. That may be so; but if the whole of her power, and is on her decline.

That may be so; but if the whole of Europe should rise to conquer England, I doubt if America would stand tions tear her to pleces, destroy her history, her traditions that are com-

mon to both peoples." Mr. Plimsoll does not know how long he will be in this country. The length of his stay will depend largely upon his health. He had hoped to arrive here before the adjournment of Congress, as he wanted to see Sehator Woolcott especially, but he was prevented by illness.—New York Sun.

Just What's Needed. Exclaim thousands of people who have taken Hodd's Sarsaparilla at this season of the year, and who have noted the success of the medicine in giving them relief from that tired feeling, waning appetite, and state of extreme exhaustion after the close confinement of a long winter season, the busy time attendant upon a large and pressing business during the spring months and vacation time yet some weeks distant. It is then that the building-up powers of Hood's Sarsaparilla are fully appreciated. It -five years at six pence per pound and ten years at three pence per that prostration caused by changes pound—and the tax was laid on occupiers of season, climate or life, and while it tones and sustains the system. it purifies and vitalizes the blood.

CAUSES OF HEADACHE. About one-sixth of the blood of the pound. Being entirely a new tax and laid body circulates in the head, and when blood is loaded with impurities The depurating organs-the bowels, a councilor with a view to presiding over failed to carry out the waste of the

# About the Liver

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I hereby wish to thank you for the great benefit derived by me from your Burdock Blood Bitters. For three years I was troubled with liver complaint and tried everything to no purpose. I had almost given up hope, until one day I determined to try Burdock Blood Bitters. I can say now that marked improvement resulted from the use of the first bottle, and at the end use, being completely cured.
GEO. NICHOL, Seaforth, Ont.

I can certify to the above in every W. G. McLENNAN, Seaforth, Ont. Italian Cream for tan and freckles, 25c, at Anderson & Nelles' drug store.

REASON ENOUGH. Washington Evening Times. "Mamma, why is the ocean so angry looking?" "Because it has been crossed so often, Willie."

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Marvelous Genius of a 15-Year

Toiling in a Factory-Specimens of His Marvelous Literay Powers.

Edmund Curtis, now known all over England as the "Boy Poet" of Silvertown," was found in a humble habitation in one of the most povertystricken districts of East London. The credit of having discovered this young genius rests with a weekly newspaper called London. He is 15 years of age. His father descended from a very respectable Irish family, and passed with some distinction through Trinity College, Dublin. By profession an architectural draughtsman, he made an unfortunate investment, and lost heavily. He was left a widower with five young children, and, quitting Donegal, went to England, where he obtained employment at Bury, in Lancacashire, but never regained the position he had lost. He seems to have sunk from a good position to the brink of absolute poverty. Silvertown is the name given to a district abounding in soap and candle factories and other evil-smelling industries. It is, however, in the squalid suburb of the metropolis that Edmund Curtis

after the boy's verses appeared in London the daily papers took the case up and published leading articles in which the poems of the boy poet were favorably commented upon. One paper saw in them "the promise of fine work" and "evidence of great imaginative power." Mr. Andrew Lang found the verses full of promise, comparing them with the school verses paring them with the school verses of Sir Walter Scott, which, he said, "are really not so good as Edmund Curtis'." The Westminster Gazette sent a man to interview the youthas though his head had not been sufficiently turned by the notice he had already received in the public press. The reporter describes his as a bright-faced, intelligent looking lad—still a mere boy, with frank gray eyes, and a smooth, fair skin. He was much affected by the kindness which had been showered upon him, and gave some details of his past life. He was proud of the fact that the family was proud of the fact that the family had lived in Donegal for longer than he could tell, and that there must be

good blood in his veins.

It is to the credit of the editor of London that he has endeavored to protect the lad from the well-meant but very harmful adulation of hys-terical "admirers," who rushed to the office of the paper with "invitations" by to see that crew of mongrel na- on, took the lad up. He at once made ample provision for his education, and with the ready consent of his father, took him straight away into country, where he will breathe pure, health-giving air, and should rid himself of the morbid sentiment which runs through nearly all the lines which have been published. He will not be asked to write any more poetry for some time to come inwriting anything will be discouraged as far as possible. He is apparently in good hands, and if the crowd can be kept back he will be all right. If he does not turn out a

poet, he may at least become a man. THE FACTORY BELL. There comes a sound in the morning When a few faint gleams are heralds of day; And it calls the bosoms by care opprest Back from the peace-giving country Calling them back to the workshops

To the benches long and the beat. Where the In the dew of his streaming, honest

'Tis the factory bell, the morning Harsh are the notes of its tuneless knell. Calling them back from the dreamland fair, Calling them back to the world The loud-clanging factory bell.

alive, As the toilers pour out like the bees The streets are awake with tramp and the noise Of the workers-the men, the wo the boys, Onward the pour to the factory gates, Behind which the meager-paid labor awaits-The labor that stifles the mind and

the soul; And, just as they reach them, there sounds the last toll—
Of the factory bell, the morning bell, Harsh are the notes of its tuneless Calling them back from the dreamland fair, Calling them back to the world of care-

The loud-clanging factory bell. But when the great engine is labor-And the last few sunbeams with gold are aglow. brows become dry,
And the evening is drawing her veil o'er the sky, of the sixth bottle I discontinued its The work is all over, the tools laid All bright for the use of the soon coming day. Hark! all of a sudden a rush and a

For sweet to the ear comes the now-Of the factory bell-but the evening Welcome its tones in the evening swell: And a pleasant meal in the gray

The welcome factory bell. An example of the morbid tone that makes his writings far more remark-able for unhealthiness than for true poetry is the following:

AN APOLOGY FOR MY OWN WRETCHEDNESS I look at the world through the eyes

Is the making of a pie. The making of a crisp crust de-pends largely upon the shorten-ing. Use COTTOLENE, the new vegetable shortening, in-stead of lard, and sogginess will be an unknown element in your pastry. Cottolene should always be economically usedtwo-thirds as much Cottolene as you would ordinarily use of lard or butter, being ample to produce the most desirable results. The saving in a year represents a considerable item. There are many imitations of COT-TOLENE; you should therefore be careful to get the genuine. Sold everywhere in tins, with trade-marks-"Cottolene" and steer's head in cotton-plant

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Of my own misfortunes, and see That sorrow and trouble and wrong

underlies
Mirth and Life's vanity. If any would blame me in seeing
And judging Earth as I see her,
I pray them forgive me as being A sphere wherein even bread Is bitterly fought for, and gained, But the sweating of brows hard Not a word, nor a nod of the head,

strained;
A sphere wherein poverty pinches
Each little baby face,
Where stout-hearted manhood flinche When staring want in the face, Where voices of hungry ones crying Are heard in the street by day, And until the night is dying The drunken ones cursing away. How shall I laugh over life when each

day Brings back these scenes o'er again' How shall I look over life as gay,
When round me are toil and pain? Forgive me, and think not 'tis so pre mature. My grieving o'er life so divine;

But while I am treading the paths of the poor, Their feelings shall also be mine.

Here is a bit of pure invention, for he had never ridden a bicycle when this was written: In the coolness of an evening, When the day's hard work is done, And the sun across the heavens His alotted span has run; Oh! the sweetest hour of twilight, Then to mount the mouthless steed Down the lane of summer verdure, Like a specter gaunt to speed; Down the roads where blushing rose

Loveliest red or daintiest while, Close their pearly petals gently As they seem to say good night; And the lowing of the cattle Comes from o'er the distant hill, And the lark above the pastures Its impassioned song doth trill.

Julian Ralph, New York Morning

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