

The Evening Times and Star

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A GREAT REFORM

A full report of the great speech made the other day by Mr. Lloyd George, on land reform as it relates to conditions in towns and cities, reveals the British government's plan as one which goes to the root of the whole trouble and promises splendid results.

The speaker concerned himself in his address with the land problem in its relation to town planning, housing, and every sort of municipal improvement, including better facilities for transport between congested districts in the city and the suburbs in the country.

Mr. Lloyd George pointed out that the prosperity of the country and of the town are inter-dependent. Neither can prosper if the other is in a state of decay. It was most important to improve the conditions in the rural districts, but just as important to relieve the grievances to which a mistaken policy with regard to land has given rise in the cities and towns.

Land enters into everything in the town, or the industry of the town, the trade and commerce, the recreation of the town, the education of children, sanitation, water, light, and housing. Land enters as an essential element into every one of these conditions.

The speaker here observed that in making this statement he was not using the language of politicians, but of medical officers of health, who pointed to many a district in most of the towns where the dwellings were unfit for human habitation, and were a scandal and a disgrace to a civilized country.

survey by the Imperial government of the whole of the housing accommodation in this island. Note will be taken of every inadequacy, every defect, every insufficiency in housing accommodation, everything which leads to over-crowding and all its evils. There will be an inventory of all the slums, unsanitary character of dwellings, the lack of air and light and space, the absence of any means for healthy recreation, the deficiency of transit arrangements which would enable workmen to get from their work to healthier surroundings—in fact, the survey will be complete and searching.

This survey will be the basis of future operations against slums and over-crowded houses, and, as already stated, power will be given to municipalities to secure land at market value, as a site for homes or for any works of municipal improvement. The cost of the land will be determined by judicial commissioners and not by casual arbitrators. Not only so, but corporations will be encouraged to promote housing reform by the government taking over from them a larger share of the cost of national services, such as education, and by a radical revision of the system of taxation which will relieve the poor man, the trader and the manufacturer, and more equitably assess others who are well able to share the load, but now entirely escape or make a very inadequate contribution.

It is not surprising that this programme of land reform as it relates to the cities and towns has caught the popular imagination in Great Britain, and that the Unionists find it convenient to discuss almost any other subject rather than land reform in their political campaigns.

THE EVENING SCHOOLS
The re-opening of the evening technical classes in the assembly room of Centennial School next Monday evening should result in the formation of much larger classes than those of last year, although the work last winter was very successful and fully justified the opening of the school.

What do the people of St. John propose to do about the St. John Valley Railway and the needed connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific? What is the provincial government doing?
The project of converting Fort Howe into a beautiful park is so universally approved, and the place is of such great historic interest, that the Commissioner of Dominion Parks and Commissioners will doubtless recommend it to the department.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
The Hon. Sir Allen Aylesworth, former minister of justice in the Laurier government, is fifty-nine years of age today. He was born in Newburg, Ont., and practised law in Toronto. He entered parliament in 1905 and was successively postmaster-general and minister of justice.

Lt. Col. Richard Cobdigan of Montreal, who is prominent in military circles and has been president of the Dominion Artillery Association, was born in Montreal on Nov. 27, 1860. He served in the South African War with "K" Battery.

W. D. Dimock, a prominent citizen of Truro, N. S., and editor of the News, is sixty-seven years old today. He was at one time principal of the provincial Model School and has had charge of several exhibitions. He was secretary of the Canadian Exhibit at the World's Fair. He has sat in the provincial legislature and was returned for the House of Commons in 1898.

LIGHTER VEIN

Sammy was not prone to over-exertion in the classroom; therefore his mother was both surprised and delighted when he came home one noon with the announcement: "I got 100 this morning!"

"That's lovely, Sammy!" exclaimed his proud mother, and she kissed him tenderly. "What was it?"

"Fifty in reading and 50 in arithmetic." "Do you know, Miss Huff, I have just read of an artist who painted such wonderful life-like cobwebs on the ceiling of his studio that his servant devoted an hour to trying to brush them down?"

"Well, I can believe that there may possibly have been such an artist," returned Miss Huff, "but there never was such a servant!"

Little Anna received three dolls among her Christmas gifts. Her abundant supply caused her to become slightly restless, and one day an arm came off, exposing the sawdust stuffing.

"Well, you dear, obedient dolly!" she exclaimed. "I knew I had told you to chew your food fine, but I didn't think you would chew it as fine as that!"

"Does the baby talk yet?" asked a friend of the family of the little brother.

"Naw," replied the little brother distastefully. "He don't need to talk. All he has ter do is yell, and get everything in the house worth having."

A musician once wrote that to hear Struss' "Elektra" or his "Domestic Symphony" always made him think of the old Scotch piper who said:

"Ah, there's an nicht I shan't ever forget. There were 19 pipers beside myself in a wee bit parish a' playin' different tunes. I just thoct I was in heaven."

An Odorous Spirit
A woman who attended a spiritualistic seance was invited by the medium to go up to the cabinet and receive a message from the one who has departed to the other side of life. When she came back a friend asked her if she had received a message.

"Yes," she replied, "a voice whispered in my ear."

"Was it a real spirit message?" her friend persisted.

"Well, I don't know," answered the woman; "if it was, the spirit had been eating onions."

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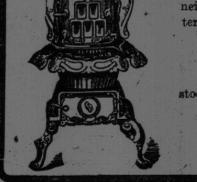
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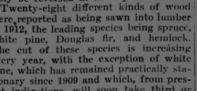
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Queer Island of Herm
The Island of Herm, a few miles from Guernsey, is one of the Channel Islands that suggests other days than these. The German Prince Biucher leases it from the British government, and his house, standing on one of the highest summits of the island, can be seen for miles in extent, and contains forty inhabitants, all dependents of the prince. He does not permit them to own dogs or guns.

Visitors cannot land on the island, except from June to September. There is only one landing place, and no one is permitted to land until he has paid a fee and given a reason for his coming. The law in this feudal isle is enforced by the chief boatman, who holds the office of constable, and who carries a miniature ebony, silver-mounted baton as his emblem of office. Those whom he arrests he takes to a curious little stone prison, shaped like a beehive.

The most fascinating feature of the island is a herd of kangaroos, with a few rock wallabies, which leap about the place as if they were in the heart of Australia. A former resident of Herm brought two kangaroos to the island. The present herd, several hundred in all, is made up of their descendants.—Youth's Companion.

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