

The Evening Times and Star

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THE HOUSING PROBLEM

In connection with the discussion in St. John on the subject of the three-decker tenement, some facts brought out in a paper on "The Home as a Factor in Public Health," by Mr. John Hilder, of New York, published by the National Housing Association, are of interest. Mr. Hilder points out that when England called for volunteers for South Africa, only 11,000 applicants in Manchester, only 3,000 were physically fit to enter the army. This astounding fact raised a storm in parliament and brought about an investigation by a royal commission, which reported that, great to improper food, the principal cause of the deterioration of the men of the country was the crowding of the population in insanitary houses.

Mr. Hilder submits very striking figures to prove the evil effects of bad housing. Then he goes on to show the beneficial results arising from the creation of model villages and suburbs. He says there are in the United States to-day over twenty industrial villages or suburbs created by men or corporations who employ great numbers of workers. The men responsible for their erection believe that wholesome living conditions mean more efficient workmen.

Mr. Hilder goes, however, to England for one of the most striking illustrations of the benefit of good housing. Four miles from the workingmen's district of Birmingham is the model industrial town of Bourneville. Out of every 1,000 children born in the workingmen's district of Birmingham, 331 die in infancy. Out of every 1,000 born in Bourneville, only 65 die in infancy. In concluding his paper, Mr. Hilder makes these observations, which ought to commend themselves to the people of cities everywhere: "A life is coming to be regarded as a commercial asset. It must be made to yield as much as possible on the investment. And so, though it may make some of us to admit it, therein lies the hope of making our cities what the boosting clubs are so fond of calling them, 'cities of homes.' It is not due to fine spun theory, but to common sense and economy, that the commission form of government and the short ballot are finding favor in our eyes. It is not due to pitiful tales of suffering and wrong that our cities are beginning to consider the possibility of wiping out the slum. It is due to the growing realization that the slum means an economic loss, that its presence indicates ignorance on the part of the citizens and inefficiency on the part of the government."

It is announced that the Canadian Northern Railway will be bringing grain to Quebec this fall. No doubt the Canadian Northern as well as the Grand Trunk Pacific will be ready to deliver freight at St. John before the necessary terminal facilities have been provided.

In connection with the discussion of sanitary conditions in this city, the Times learns that there is only one inspection to the plumbing inspector, except for a time in the spring. It is obviously impossible for one man to perform all the duties of a board of health inspector in a city the size of St. John. This is a state of affairs which surely ought to be remedied without delay.

The Montreal Telegraph makes a striking comparison between the mental attitude of Hon. J. D. Hazen and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. "We are masters of the situation and intend to hold that position," says Mr. Hazen. "We are your servants; you are our masters," says Sir Wilfrid. In the statements of the two men are set forth clearly the mental attitude of the two parties. The Liberals feel it their duty as well as their privilege to serve the interests of the people. The Tories regard themselves as masters, and the people as their servants.

It is apparently decided that Hon. Clifford Sifton will succeed Lord Strathcona as Canadian high commissioner in London. Mr. Sifton is a man of great wealth, and also of great ability, and his services to Mr. Borden during the reciprocity campaign call for recognition. There will no doubt be some supporters of the government who will say that so important an office might fairly be given to a man who had fought the battles of the party in at least more than one campaign, but Mr. Sifton's services were of such an eminent character, at a time when Mr. Borden was glad to get help from any quarter, that he may feel himself under a special obligation.

The announcement that two special trains bringing 650 Americans possessed of considerable wealth, but seeking new homes in Canada, have arrived in the western provinces under the guidance of the Canadian Pacific Railway department of natural resources, emphasizes two facts. The first is that the newcomers realize the great advantages offered by Western Canada, and the other is that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is making very special efforts to bring in new settlers to the territory which it serves in the west. When its interest in the eastern provinces prompts

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 Dr. W. H. B. Atkins, one of Toronto's leading physicians and who has represented Canada at international medical congresses, is fifty-four today. He has had a notable career as practitioner and professor.

Rev. James Ballantyne, professor of church history and government at Knox College, Toronto, was born near Stratford, Ont., on August 22, 1837. He has been on the faculty of Knox since 1889, being prior to that a Presbyterian clergyman.

Milton Lewis Hersey, chemical expert and assayer, who made a fortune in the Cobalt silver camp, was also born on this date in the year 1850 at Montreal. He was for a time a lecturer at McGill.

By affiliating with the Canadian Press Association not only brings its membership into closer touch with the journalists of other parts of Canada, but should by the union, place itself in position to be of greater service to its members as well as to the general community.

Col. Hon. Sam. Hughes now proposes to enter upon the task of breeding horses for the Canadian militia. We are told that he will study the question in Italy, France, Germany and Switzerland.

An Ottawa despatch to the Standard says that the recent troubles in Nanaimo and Nova Scotia are the cause of the visit of Hon. Mr. Crothers to the old country. He has just sailed, and it is announced that he will not return until the 1st of October.

Hon. Mr. Foster has returned from Australia and China and Japan. He has not secured any new markets for Canada, but has made the important discovery that Canadians should eat more rice from Japan, and sell more wheat to that country. He discovered also that there should be a good market for lumber and pulp in Japan.

It is a bright spring morning, and Berlin is bathed in a glorious sun, in the grounds of the great Imperial Schloss glisten and gleam. The band of the First Dragoon Guards, of which King George, is a colonel, is playing a fine old German chorale in the square of the castle, about which squads of soldiers are marching quickly.

At the main-entrance to the Castle, four soldiers of the Dragoon Guards are on sentry duty, and they bring their rifles with a sharp rattle to ground as they come to attention when we pass up the steps and through the open portals.

In the entrance-hall there are a number of soldiers on guard, and, indeed, throughout the Castle the military element is far more in evidence than it is in any of the British Royal Palaces.

As one ascends the wide central marble staircase, one glimpses remote back-rooms of the Kaiser's private apartments, and vistas of immense windows. Everywhere there is a sense of great spaciousness and color and light.

We halt opposite a large apartment on the second floor, the great double doors of which are wide open, and by which two soldiers stand erect and as motionless as statues.

It is the morning reception-room, and it is at the moment full of visitors—they are mostly men, who for the greater part are in military, naval, and diplomatic uniforms. Crizzled-looking generals, fresh-complexioned and rather cheery-looking young officers, and graver-looking ordinary black frock-coats.

There are perhaps half a dozen ladies in the room. The clock in the square booms out eleven, and almost on the last stroke there comes the sound of the clinking of spurs outside the room. The buzz of conversation dies down, and the next moment the Emperor, followed by the Crown Prince, enters the room, both wearing the undress uniform of the Prince's regiment.

The Kaiser stands talking to a small group for a few minutes, and leaves the room, and hard upon his heels follows a short, spare, wiry, sharp-featured man wearing ordinary morning-dress.

He is Herr Henser, the Kaiser's business secretary. In the British Royal household there is no such office which at all corresponds to that which is so ably filled by Herr Henser.

The Kaiser's business interests, both the public and private, are much wider than our monarch's. His Imperial Majesty is the actual owner of a big pottery establishment, and is largely interested in many business ventures, the Royal Opera is under Royal control, and in many other ways the Emperor is directly interested in business affairs, and is much closer in personal touch with the business life of his subjects than the British people would like their king to be.

The Kaiser's "working-room" is a little room, and is the only room in the palace which is not open to the public. It is a small, square room, and is the only room in the palace which is not open to the public.

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very large apartment with four big windows. Trouble at the Opera

On the walls there are a number of maps, and several framed designs of warships that were drawn by the Emperor himself. On one of the walls there is a first-rate pencil sketch of King George and Queen Mary, and a fine oil painting of Queen Alexandra, and in a corner of the room there is a large marble bust of King Edward.

About the room are models of warships, aeroplanes and aircraft of various kinds, and in one corner a finely-modelled bronze statue, some four feet high, of the Kaiser in a suit of armor, a powerful work of art that greatly pleased the "War Lord"—as the statue is entitled.

The Kaiser takes his seat by the writing-table, and by his side sits his business secretary. Soon both are busy going into the papers and letters that have been arranged for the Emperor's inspection.

There is a lengthy document from the manager of the Imperial factory. The business secretary has marked certain portions of it in red ink, and takes down the Emperor's instructions on the points dealt with in the marked passages.

DECAY OF MANNERS Have Deteriorated World Over, Says Lord Rosebery

"The Decay of Manners" was the subject of an address by Lord Rosebery last week to the boys of the Royal Grammar School at Guilford End. Lord Rosebery, who presented prizes to the boys, referred to a school statute framed 800 years ago, that "courtesy and good manners are to be established by all good means," and proceeded: "The men of the seventeenth century were, I suspect, the gentlest-bred Englishmen ever produced, partly because they possessed good manners themselves and partly because they realized the enormous importance of courtesy and good manners in the common transactions of life.

"Now, we English people, and, I am afraid, still more, we Scotch people, are never famous for good manners, I think

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