NEWS FROM THE CITY HALL

HOUSING PROBLEM BECOMING ACUTE

Foreigners Say They Can't Procure Fit Houses and Must Live in Hovels.

MANY PLACES CLOSED

Dr. Hastings' Report Announces Twenty-Three Houses Condemned.

Housing conditions in Toronto are becoming worse, according to the medical officer of health in his April report. He states:

"Complaints are continually coming in of excessive overcrowding and unsanitary houses, not only among foreigners but English-speaking families as well, who claim it is impossible to procure suitable abodes, and the best we can do in such cases under the circumstances (and there are very many at the present time) is to insist on conditions of cleanliness. When it is possible to do so occupants are forced to remove, and places unfit for habitation are condemned and placarded.

"During April we have condemned and closed up twenty-three dwellings as unfit for habitation. Of these ten have been pulled down.

"The foreign population of the city has increased considerably during the past three months, and housing conditions seem more aggravated than ever.

"The department has experienced considerable trouble recently from an invasion of gypsies, tribes from different countries, apparently not without means, but regardless of sanitary or clean methods of living—crowding into places, no furniture of any kind, sleeping and living like animals. Thru the efforts of the police, and aided by the Dominion authorities, we have succeeded in having the whole of this class deported."

CENTRAL STEAM SUPPLY FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES

Controller Simpson Wants Reserve Power and Heat Provided.

Very soon Controller Simpson intends to suggest to the board of control a comprehensive scheme that will supply steam from one central plant for use as reserve power by the Toronto hydro system, the waterworks, and for heating of all the downtown section. "The time is coming," he states, "when Toronto will have one central heating plant."

H. H. Couzens of the Toronto hydro, will investigate the feasibility of a central steam heating plant. He was given this authority yesterday by the controllers. The investigation will be costly.

A MYSTERIOUS TRIP.

Controller McCarthy leaves town this morning and will not return until Monday evening. He declines to make known his destination.

TRIP TO MONTREAL.

Ald. Ryding and Controller Church are in Montreal today, representing the City of Toronto at the Good Roads Congress.

FREE EXCURSION TO BUFFALO

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We are arranging for a FREE excusion to Buffalo on May 25th for the benefit of our clients who would like to investigate BUFFALO real estate values.

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TORONTO - ONT.

CITY IS OPPOSED TO SUPERANNUATION

Controllers Sign Petition Against Enforced Retirement of School Teachers.

Mayor Hocken and every member of the board of control yesterday placed their names to the petition asking the board of education not to fulfil its intention of superannuating teachers at the ages of 60 and 65 years.

This petition has already been signed by ten thousand people in Toronto. It reads in part: "We believe it not in the interest of schools and certainly it would be a grave injustice to those principals and teachers who have been doing their work well up to the present time and are capable of continuing to do so, and we know it is contrary to the practice of every other walk of life."

No time has yet been set for presentation of the monster petition to the board of education.

WATERWORKS HAD LARGE DEFICIT

Report Places Loss for Past Year at Over Hundred and Forty Thousand.

Alderman F. S. Spence has said the waterworks made $16,000 for the city last year, and others have declared there was a large deficit. A report of statistics issued last night by the waterworks department shows a deficit of $141,371 for 1913.

However, it is claimed by some that the deficit for last year should really be but $20,000 because the $121,479 raised by special tax last year should be applied to the stated deficit of $141,371.22.

This and much other information is to come before the council when water rates are again discussed next meeting.

CAR CRASHED INTO TELEPHONE POLE

Motorist Badly Hurt Trying to Avoid Running Down Girl.

CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS

Two Women Fall Downstairs, Young Cyclist Injured by Wagon.

In trying to avoid running down a woman, Lynwood Lloyd, 58 Nassau street, ran his motor car into a telephone pole at the corner of Bloor and Grace streets, at 9 o'clock last night, and is thought to have sustained a fractured skull when he was hurled against the post. He was conveyed to the General Hospital in Speers' ambulance, and is in a critical condition.

With him in the car at the time were George Falger and Albert Humsphere, both of 78 McCaul street. Falger was bodly bruised and cut, but was able to go home, while Humsphere escaped injury.

HURT ON "RACER."

While adjusting the gear on one of the cars on the racer at the island yesterday afternoon, Charles Jones, an employe, had his face badly cut by another car suddenly jolting the car on which he was working. He was conveyed to the General Hospital.

FELL DOWNSTAIRS.

Mrs. Gray of 41 Poucher street, fell downstairs at her home yesterday and broke her right leg. She was conveyed to St. Michael's Hospital.

RUN DOWN BY AUTO.

S. Stagneur, 6 Elm avenue, sustained a broken right leg when run down by a motor car at the corner of Gould and Yonge streets yesterday afternoon. He was conveyed to the General Hospital in the police ambulance.

SHOULDER DISLOCATED.

Robert Collins, while at his work in P. C. Scott's iron works, 448 East Queen street, had his shoulder dislocated yesterday afternoon. He was taken to the Western Hospital, where his condition last night was quite favorable.

SLIPPED ON GANGWAY.

While walking down the gangplank of the steamer Corona last night, a Russian, who gave his name as Chapman, slipped and broke his ankle. He was taken to St. Michael's Hospital.

YOUNG CYCLIST INJURED.

While riding his bicycle north on Yonge street near Glebe road, Albert Skidmore, age 16, was run down by one of Cole's motor trucks, driven by Edgar Lasham, 20 St. Albans street at 5.30 yesterday afternoon, and may be fatally injured. The motor truck was also going north, and the front wheel passed over the lad's body. Dr. Bond attended to him, after which he was conveyed home.

INJURED HER EYE.

While in a fit of convulsions, Mrs. May Nicholson, 1 Brant place, fell down a flight of stairs and injured her eye. She was removed to the General Hospital where her condition is not considered very serious.

WILL ORGANIZE NAVAL RESERVES

Government Takes First Step Toward Training of Volunteer Forces.

TORONTO AS CENTRE

Will Be Headquarters of One of the Three Divisions.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 20. — A volunteer naval reserve force for Canada will soon be an accomplished fact. An order in council has been passed by the government and signed by the Duke of Connaught authorizing the establishment of such a force.

A sum will be placed in the supplementary estimates sufficient for this year's work and preparations for the organization of volunteers have already been made by the naval service department.

The first volunteer naval force to be established is at Victoria, B.C., where there has been an official organization for some time maintained by private individuals. This will receive official recognition. Admiral Kingsmill has left for Victoria to arrange details.

The Niobe and Rainbow will be utilized for the Atlantic and Pacific for training purposes, and in course of time other war vessels will be secured for training purposes on the great lakes.

Instructors from the British navy will be engaged.

The headquarters of the new force will be at Ottawa, but it will be divided into three divisions: the Atlantic, the great lakes and the Pacific. On the Atlantic coast the divisional headquarters will be Halifax, and the scope will be all along the St. Lawrence as far as Montreal.

Toronto Headquarters.

Toronto will be the headquarters of the great lakes division, which will include the Ottawa River, the upper St. Lawrence, the great lakes and all waterways as far as the Rocky Mountains.

Esquimalt will be the headquarters of the Pacific division, which will have control of all the waters west of the Rockies. There will be three systems of training available for volunteers of all classes.

For those who live near the seacoast there will be drill at home and periodical training on one of the war vessels. Volunteers of the second-class will include those who live along the great lakes and waterways. They will be drilled ashore by reserve officers and special instructors.

The third class will include fishermen and other competent seamen. They will drill aboard ship. The annual period of drill will be 21 days, and there will be companies of one hundred men.

So many applications have been received that at least twelve companies will be formed this year. This is the first practical move made by the government towards training Canadians for the navy, who would be available in the time of need, and it is expected to be hailed with enthusiasm all over the country.

NEPHEW OF DIAZ SAID TO BE HERE

Aspirant to Mexican Presidency Believed to Be Staying in Private Hotel.

From the persistent refusal of August de Rio to be interviewed by the press or discuss the personnel of the party of six Mexicans who registered with him at the Westminster Hotel, 244 Jarvis street, it seems pretty certain that Felix Diaz, nephew of Porfirio Diaz, and an aspirant to the presidency of Mexico, is at present in Toronto.

A man who claims to know the noted Mexican by sight stated positively yesterday that he identified him while motoring up Yonge street. His description tallies exactly with portraits of Diaz.

The party arrived Monday last from Niagara Falls, N.Y., and engaged one of the highest price rooms in the quietest hotel they could find. The only name on the register is that of Rio, but the place assigned for the address has been left vacant.

VICTORIA HOLIDAY FARES.

Special Train Service From Toronto, May 23, 25, 26.

The Grand Trunk Railway System will operate special train service in connection with Victoria Day holiday traffic, leaving Toronto Union Station as follows:

Leave 7.30 a.m., May 23, for Agincourt, Markham, Stouffville, Uxbridge, Blackwater Junction, Lindsay and intermediate stations.

Leave 8.20 a.m., May 23, 25 and 26, for Brampton, Georgetown, Acton West, Guelph, Elora, Fergus, Drayton, Palmerston and intermediate stations.

Leave 1.30 p.m., May 23 and 25, for Whitby Junction, Oshawa Junction, Bowmanville, Newcastle, Port Hope Junction, Cobourg and intermediate stations.

Leave 4.15 p.m., May 23, for Hamilton, Brantford, Woodstock, Ingersoll and London.

Leave 4.30 p.m., May 23, for Agincourt, Markham, Stouffville, Uxbridge, Blackwater Junction, Lindsay and intermediate stations.

Leave 10.45 p.m., May 23 and 26, for Brampton, Georgetown, Acton West, Guelph, Berlin, New Hamburg and Stratford.

Return tickets will be issued between all stations in Canada east of Port Arthur, and to Detroit and Port Huron, Mich.; Buffalo, Black Rock, Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge, N. Y.

Single fare—Good going and returning May 25 only.

Fare and one-third—Good going May 23, 24 and 25, valid to return until May 26.

Secure your tickets early at city ticket office, northwest corner King and Yonge streets. Phone Main 4209. 45

GAS FUMES CAUSE BLAZE.

A fire in the O'Keefe Brewery, corner of Victoria and Wilton, caused $800 damage at 8.30 last evening. The blaze was started by ignition of gas fumes.

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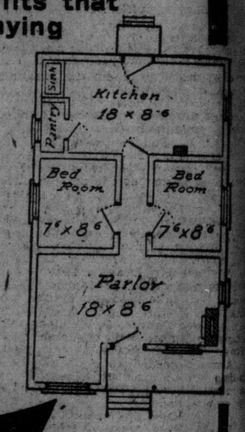

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MRS. ASTOR AGAIN AT LONDON HOME

Attends Gala Opera Performance in Honor of Visiting Royalty.

LONDON, May 17.—Mrs. John Astor and her daughter Muriel have arrived from New York and are again settled in their residence, No. 18, Grosvenor square. They are spending this week-end at Cliveden as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Waldorf Astor.

At the gala performance of opera at Covent Garden in honor of the King and Queen of Denmark, Mrs. John Astor looked very handsome in silver gray brocade with mauve orchids, a light fichu of lace over her shoulders and silver shoes.

Among the numerous other American social stars present the smartest of all was Mrs. John Ward, formerly Miss Jean Reid of New York. Her black gown was embroidered with tropical birds and foliage in raised gold draped round the figure, and her hair was dressed high with a diamond plaque at one side.

Other Americans at the opera who were conspicuously brilliant were:

The Countess of Ancaster, in white brocade with heavy embroideries of silver and ruby paste, a new ornamentation from Paris, and a high spiked diamond crown and necklace with a pendant of rubies.

Her sister, Lady Alastair Innes-Ker, in clinging gown of cloth of silver, embroidered with crystals and pearls, a girdle of crystals and diamond tassels around her slim waste; her hair done in the high fashion of the moment and crowned with diamond flowers, while she wore diamond earrings almost touching her shoulders.

Lady Randolph Churchill, wearing magnificent black and gold, looked younger and brighter than ever.

Mrs. James B. Drake was in cloth of gold with magnificent rubies. Mrs. Duke does not intend to do much entertaining at Crewe House just yet, and has made no definite plan for Ascot. She will give a few big dinners after Ascot, and when court mourning ends will give a ball. In the meantime she is giving small, smart dinners. Next week she will go to Paris for a fortnight.

The Duchess of Marlborough will give a big dinner party in Sunderland House a week from Monday, followed by a dance, which is expected to be rather sensational in the way of costumes and the introduction of some of the new dances of the season not found on the programs of more conventional hostesses. The chief attraction will be the tatao dance, which has already been seen in Paris, where it was learned by some of the prettiest and smartest women here at special classes under the direction of a French professor.

Ambassador W. H. Page's wife has resumed her Thursday afternoons at No. 6 Grosvenor square, and they are largely attended by both American and English society people.

Baroness von Andre has opened her house, 142 Piccadilly, and will soon give a series of dinner parties.

There have been a number of small, smart dinners among American women in London this week. At one, with Mrs. Walter Burns as hostess at her beautiful house on Grosvenor street, not more than a dozen people were present, and about a dozen more came in afterward for bridge and a half-hour concert in the drawing-room.

FIRE IN BEDDING FACTORY.

Caused by a piece of steel falling into moving machinery and sending a spark to a pile of combustibles, fire did $2000 damage to the premises of the Antiseptic Bedding Company, on Parliament street near Queen, yesterday afternoon. Two hours after the firemen had left, the flames broke out again in the building, but were quickly extinguished again.

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