

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1916

## How Toronto Waifs Are Cared For By The Children's Aid

Cases of 755 Children Dealt With in Eight Months, and 34,000 Since 1891--The Home Described

(Toronto Star Weekly) You take poor scrubby little "it" to the Children's Aid Society at 229 Simcoe street. In a number of ways not apparent to the naked eye this rambling building is much like the Kingdom of Heaven. For one thing it is open day and night. For another thing, they never seem to see the exterior of a small, well-kept, well-meaning soul inside him. To gain admission from the terrors of the outside world one need not produce a birth or health certificate. He doesn't

even need to know his name--so often he hasn't any.

### Many Dramatic Moments

But there is a good, healthy Martha at the door, and there is an initiation which she administers. The more truly awful you are the more trying the initiation. Your rags of clothing are burned and pretty usually your hair cut off. Sometimes parts of it have to be shaved. And you are bathed and refurnished till you are as clean and far more antiseptic than any lily of the field.

That drug store of a bathroom has witnessed many dramatic moments.

"I heard the most awful screams one day," related the superintendent, Mrs. Duncan, "and I hurried over from the other wing. As I came up the hall I was met by a kiddie of five in her birthday suit, screaming at the top of her voice 'I'm being drowned, I'm being drowned.'"

According to custom the nurse had been immersing the new arrival in a bath of warm water. When this reached her waistline she abandoned all hope and wiggling her wet little body away from her captor she fled for help. She had never before seen a bath. Very many have not.

In addition to dirt and vermin these waifs bring with them terrible skin and scalp diseases. Horrible, is it not? But it is the Children's Aid which enables us to shudder comfortably away from them. We know they are being doctored.

"You couldn't possibly do it if it weren't for love of children," remarked Mrs. Duncan.

"Yes," replied the visitor doubtfully, "but it takes something deeper-rooted than that. Something we each label according to our own theology. Some call it consecration and others call it God."

### Separated for a Time

These new additions to the family are not allowed to mingle with the other children of the shelter. They might spread disease. So there is a separate wing in which they live for a time under medical supervision till they are pronounced clean and healthy. It is a probationers' course. In this wing they have an open playroom, dining room and separate dormitories for girls and boys.

Last winter one of the new children brought measles, but through this precaution the disease was not allowed to spread. Upstairs there are separate hospital wards for boys and girls, each with speckles and shining as any ward in the big city hospitals.

When the new arrivals graduate they join the big family in the other wing. To see if they have a good time one should visit them informally. The visitor walked in on them by the back entrance last week, stepping bang into the playground from University avenue.

And the visitor was met head-on by Kitchener's army singing "Good Luck to the Boys of the Alliance." In default of khaki the army wore divers pieces of sackings. It was distinctly a 1916 army, containing as many privates as privates.

The drummer was a little fellow whose legs couldn't keep up, and whenever the army turned a corner he was lost from sight, to come rushing frantically up all out of breath with a "wait for a fellow expression. But he beat his wooden hoop with a bit of stick most manfully.

The banner was a doleful bit of sackings on a long stick, so that if any local Conservative reading this has a flag to spare, he might send it round, care of Mrs. Duncan. She will know the general, and present the colors with the ceremony. Indeed, being a Conservatory graduate, she has taught them all that they know of singing. And their rendi-

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tion of "God Save the King" was highly creditable.

The bits of children too small to be recruited were accommodated with model swings and tecters, and here and there a tiny girl nursed a doll in the sunshine.

### A Model of Cleanliness

Inside the building is a model of cleanliness. The schoolroom is planned exactly as the kindergarten rooms of other city schools, and the walls are festooned with exhibits of plasticine modelling, weaving and drawing. But an added feature is the row of leather boot-tops fastened to wooden slabs.

"No, they are not to teach boot-making," was the explanation, "but so many of our children are not as mentally efficient as the average, and that is how we teach them to lace their shoes. It is almost impossible to teach them with words."

This room also boasts a good piano, the gift of a "kiddies' friend."

Each morning there is a tooth brush drill, and in a cabinet on the wall hangs each labelled tooth brush. Cabinets in the bathroom have hooks for each child's labelled towel, and more cabinets in the bedrooms contain the nightgowns. So shiny and speckless are the floors everywhere that one would suggest the children requisition the government for rubber heels for such as are unsteady on their "pina's."

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All the outside, sunny rooms have been given over to the children.

The Children's Aid Society of Toronto has placed seventy-nine waifs in foster homes in the last eight months. Thirteen of the older girls in the home have been sent out to work and their wages are banked to be given them when they are twenty-one years old. In the same period 755 children were admitted to the shelter and their cases satisfactorily disposed of in some way. Since 1891 the society has dealt with the cases of over 34,000 children. Fifteen boys from the Home are now at the front.

Courting is about as expensive as matrimony.--Mr. Macquisten.

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Glass Spoon-holders.....	5c.		
Glass Pitchers.....	5c.		
Glass Salt and Pepper Shaker.....	3c.		
Glass Berry Dishes.....	10c. and 15c.		
Teapots.....	15c. and 18c.		
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During process of moving Switchboard, Telephone service in **West Exchange** will be discontinued. Service will be resumed as soon as lines are re-connected, which should not be later than Monday night.

The Company regrets to cause this interruption of service and has arranged to give emergency service to districts served by West Exchange with Stations connected direct to **Main Exchange**. These Stations will be located at the following points:

**FAIRVILLE, T. H. WILSON'S DRUG STORE,**  
MAIN STREET, MAIN 3360

**WEST END, N. B. TEL. CO., NEW BLDG.,**  
DUKE STREET, MAIN 3361

**WEST END, N. B. TEL. CO., OLD BLDG.,**  
KING STREET, MAIN 3362

**WEST END, W. C. WILSON'S DRUG STORE,**  
133 UNION STREET, MAIN 3420

West Subscribers may obtain free service to Main Subscribers from these Stations. Charges for Long Distance Calls will be collected at time of conversation. Due to the limited number of Stations we are able to install, the Company respectfully requests all persons using these Stations to limit their conversation to a period not over three minutes.

In order to give Main Subscribers an opportunity to reach persons located in West End by telephone, in cases of emergency, a messenger service will be maintained at the Old Office on King Street. Upon request a messenger boy will be sent to residence or place of business of person desired, and request him to come to the nearest Emergency Station. Connection will then be made with the party calling.

Without doubt this move will cause some annoyance and inconvenience and we earnestly solicit your co-operation in making it a success.

**The New Brunswick Telephone Co., Ltd.**