

## THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

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G. H. GREENE  
Editor and Publisher

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1918

### COMING RESPONSIBILITIES.

These are times of social unrest, and never before has there been such discontent with poverty.

The social condition of the people, the problems of labor and capital, poverty and wealth, are forcing themselves upon all intellectual men and women to-day, and political parties are vying with each other in offering solutions for these problems.

The unequal distribution of wealth, no fair-minded person can defend, and as a result of which millions of people are underfed, underclothed, stunted in body and mind; and that vice, immorality and insanity are the direct results of this unequal distribution.

From British statistics it is found that one-ninth of the population own one-half the national income; and the wealth of some is so great that they cannot devise means of spending it. A New York lady, a leader of fashion, made the statement that in order to dress "smartly" a lady must spend \$40,000 a year; and another instance of extravagance has been given by a Mr. Scott, a London merchant and dog-fitter, of a lady's order for her dog for the coming winter—a dog's bedstead, fur coats, laced boots (one-half a guinea a pair), silk-braided blankets and nickel-plated foot warmers, for Fido when he goes travelling.

This is in striking contrast to London's poor. When the last census was taken, 2,700 men, women and children had neither means or shelter. They were found crouching under stairways, arches, or in the streets; and the same night the Salvation Army and other shelters were accommodating as many more. In that great, wealthy city, the condition of these people was worse than that of the savage.

New York is another city that has a serious problem to solve. It has 350,000 living rooms inhabited by people into which a ray of sunshine never enters.

The great City of Glasgow has 16 per cent. of its population living in a one-roomed tenement. When the children who lived in these rooms were examined it was found that the average height of a boy was 4.7 inches below that of a boy who lived in a four-roomed tenement. And the unwholesome conditions arising from this unsanitary way of living made them a prey to all manner of disease and death. These conditions may seem foreign to us, but their effects are radiating through the country, and are affecting both our social and physical conditions.

Until the nation sees that its first duty is to organize its resources; that the means to maintain a healthy and civilized existence shall be within the reach of all in return for a reasonable amount of labor. No system, however well organized, can work effectively, which has thousands of its human beings seeking shelter under archways, while dogs are sleeping under silk-braided blankets. A healthy rural condition cannot exist where urban conditions are so defective.

One of the conditions of a happy home is comfort. Comfort does not imply wealth, finely furnished homes, and daintily served meals; it means cleanliness, pure air, order and economy.

To partly remedy the evil under which our poor are suffering, we should see that a building inspector be appointed, whereas no contractor should be allowed to build without a permit from the government. We should also have our schools built on the best sanitary principles, our pupils under medical inspection, while every little town, village and country section should have an active Truant Officer. We have many truant officers in the province, but the worst active is foreign to the majority of them.

As our women are our chief home-makers, and carry much of the responsibility for the educating of our children, may they not feel it a duty devolving upon them to co-operate with men in this much-needed reform.

As our children are our greatest asset there cannot be too much care expended on their mental and physical development, in order to make them good, useful, Christian men and women.

### LOCAL MENTION

The Public School examinations are being held this week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Surerus, of Greenville, were visiting in town on Sunday.

Mr. Wesley Betzner, of West Flamboro, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Neff.

Rev. Mr. Cranston, of Nelson, and Rev. J. F. Wedderburn, of Knox church, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

Mr. Clancey and Miss Nellie Betzner, of Greenville, were visitors at Mr. and Mrs. Peter Neff's, Sunday.

Mrs. H. Bousfield and daughter, of Hagersville, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Prudham, Main street.

The contract for the redecorating and painting of the Methodist church has been awarded to Messrs. Sawell & Davis, of this town.

Mr. Douglas Guy McGregor and bride, of Kitchener, visited at "The Clunes", the home of Dr. and Mrs. McGregor, this week.

Mr. Chas. Sparks and wife motored from Buffalo, N.Y., last Saturday, to the home of R. Sparks, Mill street, returning to their home Sunday.

The turn-out at last week's dance in the rink was very small and unless the attendance is larger the week-end dances will probably be discontinued.

Mrs. John Durant, of Glenwood, whose only son and support has been drafted, is now staying with her daughter here, Mrs. Gordon Buttenham.

We have cancelled our order for an automobile and intend purchasing an aeroplane as soon as Ford begins the manufacture of them. We have great faith in Henry.

Willfred Langford, who was some time ago confined at the base hospital, Toronto, with scarlet fever, is spending a two weeks' furlough at home before reporting to Niagara for duty.

Harold Smith, of the Royal Bank, Toronto, R. T. Robinson, Miss Hattie Denison, Miss Margaret Corr, and Mr. Herbert Naylor, all of Toronto, were visiting at G. W. MacNeil's for a few days.

Mr. MacNeil, head salesman of the Hasselair Shock Absorber Co., who is an ardent nimrod, took his gentlemen friends on a fishing trip to Lake Medad. The fishing was good, but Mr. Robinson played too much. The joke did not get away from Mr. Smith.

Wm. Clark, wife and daughter of Lead City, South Dakota, and Mrs. H. M. Anderson and W. Thompson of North Bay, are visiting at Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Thompsons, 4th concession.

Dr. Michell, sister and lady friend of Toronto; Mrs. Norman Hempstead and friend of Aylmer and Mr. Clement of Milton are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Baker.

The W. M. S. of the Methodist held their regular monthly meeting yesterday. Reports were read from the Missionary convention by Mrs. Facey and Mrs. T. Allen, which proved so interesting that a large part had to be left over for the next meeting.

A deputation will shortly wait on our Council and present a petition signed by the heads of households, praying that the Curfew bell be rung in the village at 9 p.m., announcing that all 19 and under must be in their respective homes at that hour. This would have the effect of compelling a number of our love-sick swains, whose present hours for visiting their adored ones is anywhere from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. to cut the comedy and switch off onto standard time, which is 7 to 9 p.m. The joke is that they generally select homes where no dog is kept.

### Women's Institute Meeting

On Wednesday, June 26th, the North Wentworth Women's Institute will hold their annual convention in Roller Rink, Waterdown, at 2:30 p.m. The executive will meet at 1:30 p.m. (new time).

The District President Mrs. George will occupy the chair. The Government delegate, Miss Yeates, of Port Credit will be the speaker for the afternoon. West Flamboro and Sheffield Institutes will furnish the program.

In 1912 a committee was appointed from the Waterdown Women's Institute to reclaim our Union Cemetery from disorder. An opportunity will be given the ladies visiting the convention to see it in its present condition.

Any one interested in patriotic work may visit the work room in McGregor's hall over the Drug store.

Refreshments will be served in accordance with the Food Act of Canada.

### Garden Party Meeting

The weekly meeting of the Patriotic Garden Party held last Tuesday evening was given over to discussion of ways and means of making the Fourth Patriotic affair the greatest success. Mr. Alex Davidson occupied the chair. Mr. Stewart Gallagher was given a standing vote of thanks for his offer to motor the committee in charge of the canvassing for donations in Hamilton.

It is expected that a class No. 1 program will be submitted by the Program committee at next Tuesday's meeting.

All citizens are urged to attend these meetings.

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### A Timely Warning

Some one has been picking the bloom off of the shrubs in the Union cemetery. If repeated the parties will be prosecuted.

The Trustees.

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