

tive, but it was impossible to secure the necessary capital. The general public seemed placidly indifferent, and some citizens even questioned the necessity of such a project.

Renewed interest was again temporarily awakened by the visit of another English architect, Mr. Vivian, who, at that time, represented Birkenhead, in the British House of Commons, and was regarded as an expert on this subject. It was stated that he came to Canada on the invitation of the then governor-general, Lord Grey, for the purpose of arousing an interest in the question. In an address delivered under the auspices of the Canadian Club, Mr. Vivian expressed his amazement at the deplorable housing conditions existing in many portions of Canada, particularly in the west. He declared that it was lamentable that in this new country conditions were tolerated, which the Motherland, after a weary struggle, was gradually overcoming. With the aid of a screen illustrations were given by the lecturer, of dreadful housing conditions in a section of Winnipeg, and in other western cities. He then presented an illustration of a scene which he had personally viewed, and which he characterized as disclosing one of the foulest housing conditions he had ever witnessed. "Where do you suppose that foul tenement is?" he asked the audience. Nobody recognized it. "That picture is of a tenement in your own city," he declared.

The audience was surprised and shocked. There was a general feeling that "something ought to be done." Mr. Vivian went away, and after the usual few days of talk, the subject was again dropped. From time to time casual references would be made to the subject, and now and then resolutions would be adopted to the effect that "something should be done." Analyzing these resolutions, the essence of some of them would seem to be that typical form of benevolence experienced by John Smith, who is strongly in favor of Tom Brown doing something for Jim Jones. Many intelligent persons seemed to think that the problem was a very simple one, and did not comprehend its ramifications. Now and then clergymen would publicly lament the increasing juvenile delinquency, and the fact that many young people were out on the streets each evening; but no distinction seemed to be made between what was merely a symptom and the disease itself. It is a significant fact that the majority of boys and girls in reformatories in Nova Scotia come from homes where a decent standard of living could not be maintained.

Seven years ago the present writer, in some remarks made in addressing a leading charitable association in this city, used the following language, as reported in *The Herald* of the next day: