

# The St. Catharines Survey

INCLUDING THE TOWNS  
OF

ST. CATHARINES, PORT DALHOUSIE  
MERRITTON AND THOROLD



BY

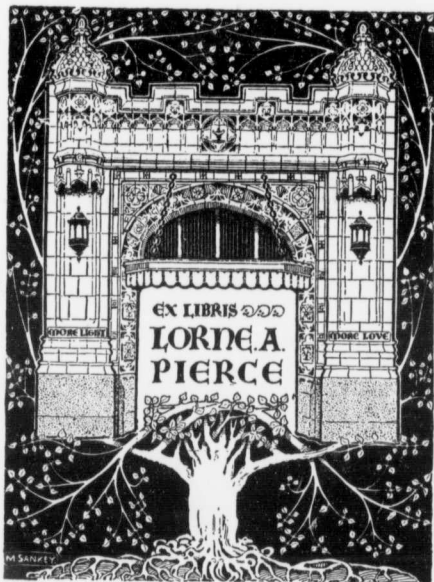
CO-OPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

OF THE

Methodist and Presbyterian Churches

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THE  
ST. CATHARINES DISTRICT  
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Report on a

LIMITED SURVEY

of

RELIGIOUS, MORAL, INDUSTRIAL  
AND HOUSING CONDITIONS



Prepared for the  
ST. CATHARINES SURVEY COMMITTEE  
by the  
Departments of Social Service and  
Evangelism of the  
METHODIST AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

LP

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# Contents

	PAGE
PREFACE .....	4
RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS:	
Church Property .....	5
Ministerial Support .....	6
Missions and Benevolence .....	7
Finance Methods .....	7
Church Growth .....	7
Special Evangelism .....	8
Church Attendance .....	9
Prayer Meeting Attendance .....	9
Religious Education .....	9
The Teen Age .....	12
The Minister in the Sunday School .....	12
Special Sunday-school Equipment .....	12
Teacher Training .....	13
The Library .....	13
Social and Recreational Activities in the Sunday School.....	13
Other Organizations in the Church .....	13
Young Peoples' Societies .....	14
Boys' Organizations .....	15
The Church and Recreation .....	15
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:	
Athletics .....	17
Indoor Amusements and Recreations .....	19
Theatres .....	19
Young Men's Christian Association .....	19
Supervised Play .....	20
The Hall .....	21
MORAL CONDITIONS:	
Public Drinking .....	22
Gaul System .....	23
A Police Matron Needed .....	24
SOME PHASES OF INDUSTRIAL LIFE:	
Women and Girls in the Canning Industry .....	25
Unemployment .....	27
HOUSING .....	30

## Preface.

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THE present survey of the St. Catharines district, of which this pamphlet is a report, was conducted under the direction of the Department of Social Service and Evangelism of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, and was undertaken at the request of the Ministerial Association and certain Women's Organizations.

This opportunity is taken to express our appreciation and thanks to the ministers, householders, business men and public officials who willingly gave the information which makes up a very important part of the survey, and to the various local churches for the financial support which made the survey possible.

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## Religious Conditions

The St. Catharines district is well supplied with religious ordinances. The present survey includes no less than thirty-three places of worship, nineteen of which are in St. Catharines, four in Thorold, four in Merritton, three in Port Dalhousie, and three in the rural Township of Grantham. Of those in St. Catharines, four are Methodist, four Church of England, three Presbyterian, two Catholic, two Baptist, one Lutheran, one Mennonite, the Salvation Army, and St. Paul's Mission. In both Thorold and Merritton the Presbyterians, Methodists, Anglicans and Catholics each have one church. In Port Dalhousie there is a Presbyterian, a Church of England, and a Catholic church, and in the rural Municipality of Grantham two Methodist churches.

The following chart gives the relative denominational strength as shown by the 1911 census:—

	Anglicans.	Baptists.	Congregationalists.	Disciples.	Jews.	Lutherans.	Mennonites.	Methodists, gen.	Presbyterians.	Roman Catholics.	Salvation Army.	Others.
Grantham .....	1012	111	11	16	....	7	5	660	309	286	13	....
Louth .....	355	70	7	212	....	77	192	881	307	90	5	....
St. Catharines ....	3724	751	35	126	109	77	47	3031	2053	2262	108	....
Merritton .....	511	27	....	3	1	2	1	565	241	313	....	....
Port Dalhousie....	463	17	....	8	....	2	....	57	279	315	5	....
Thorold .....	840	51	1	....	....	....	....	510	285	564	....	....
Total.....	6905	1027	54	365	110	165	245	5704	3474	3830	131	230

### CHURCH PROPERTY

The estimated valuation of the church property in the district covered by the survey is approximately \$760,000.00; church building account for \$687,500.00, and parsonages the remaining \$72,500.00. As was to be expected, the larger part of this investment was found in

St. Catharines, the church buildings being valued at \$474,500.00 and the parsonages at \$55,500.00. The church buildings range in value from \$1,500.00 to \$60,000.00, the average for St. Catharines being \$25,000.00, and for all the others, except the three country churches, where it was \$3,000.00, \$22,000.00. The parsonages were valued slightly higher in St. Catharines than in other towns, the average being \$4,825.00, as compared with \$4,250.00 in Thorold, Merritton and Port Dalhousie.

Most of the church buildings are substantial structures, which were erected more than twenty-five years ago, and represent the architecture of that period. Some of these have been recently remodelled to meet the requirements of a more modern church. The church buildings going up during the last few years for the most part have been built by the smaller denominations, and do not represent nearly as large expenditures as some of the earlier churches. The one or two, however, which have been erected by the larger denominations have cost in the neighborhood of \$40,000.00, and very successfully combine both room for needed equipment and architectural beauty.

The church and manse properties present a well-kept appearance. The grounds, though small, are usually well treed and the lawns and shrubs well trimmed. Fifty-two per cent. of the buildings were brick or brick veneer, and 37 per cent. stone and 11 per cent. frame.

The seating capacity of the church auditorium ranged from 75 to 1,000, the average being 420 and the mode<sup>1</sup> 400. The country churches are all one-roomed buildings, but the town churches have from two to twelve rooms, the average having six. One church reported having a new parish hall; 56 per cent. have special room accommodation for a kitchen, 42 per cent. a dining room, 55 per cent. a library room, 30 per cent. a church parlor, and 11 per cent. a partially-equipped gymnasium. All the churches in the open country have horse sheds, as also have 41 per cent. of the town churches.

## MINISTERIAL SUPPORT

Considering the large membership in many of the congregations, the salaries being paid are small. While it is true that the congregations have increased their stipends 41 per cent. during the last ten years, and the large majority provide a manse, considering the demands upon a minister many stipends are still quite inadequate. Nine per cent. receive \$500.00 or less, 14 per cent. receive from \$500.00 to \$800.00, and 32 per cent. from \$800.00 to \$1,000.00, 4 per cent. from \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00, 23 per cent. from \$1,200.00 to \$1,500.00, and 18 per cent. over \$1,500.00. The average giving per member is low, being only \$3.41 per year, 6½c. per week, or less than one cent per day. The largest per member contribution was \$7.83, in the Presbyterian Church,

<sup>1</sup> A measure indicating greatest frequency.



Merritton. In a recent survey made in southern Manitoba the average contribution for ministerial support was \$14.13 per member, and the largest per member contribution \$32.44.

## MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

Nearly all the churches are contributing to missions and benevolences. Last year the contributions amounted to \$2.82 per member; gifts to home and foreign missions amounting to \$2.23, and to benevolences 59c. per member.

## FINANCE METHODS

With two or three exceptions all the churches are self-supporting. The finances are fairly well organized. Ninety per cent. are using weekly envelopes, while 58 per cent. have adopted the duplex system. About 70 per cent. of the congregational revenue is derived in this way from regular subscriptions and the remainder from open collections. Two of the wealthier congregations pay their treasurer.

## CHURCH GROWTH

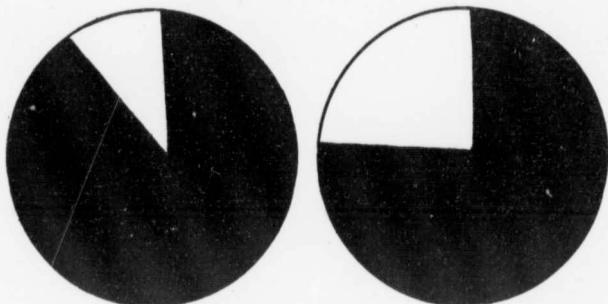
During the last decade the Church has been able to keep its membership abreast of the rapidly-growing population. A careful comparison of the relative growth shows that, while the population has increased almost 36.6 per cent., church membership has increased slightly more than 37 per cent. (37.7). Almost all the congregations have shared in this increase. Of those reporting, 91.3 per cent. are growing, while only 4.3 per cent. are stationary, and 4.4 per cent. decreasing. This marked increase in membership has been shared equally as well by the country churches under consideration.

Admissions into church membership during last church year (1914-1915) amounted to 10.8 per cent. of the total membership and a net gain of 6.7 per cent. Forty-five per cent. of these were admitted by certificate from other congregations and 55 per cent. by confession. Of those being admitted into membership by certificate, 39 per cent. were males and 61 per cent. females, while 43 per cent. of those admitted by confession were males and 57 per cent. were females.

Of those uniting with the church by confession, 77 per cent. were Sunday-school pupils and 89 per cent. of these were under twenty-one years of age.

The proportion of young people under twenty-one years of age in the membership is fairly encouraging, being about 13 per cent. Some congregations appear to have been especially successful in their appeal

#### ALL MEMBERS UNITING WITH THE CHURCH BY CONFESSION.



89 per cent. were under 21 years of age.

77 per cent. were from the Sunday school.

to young people, the proportion running from 15 to 19 per cent. These churches almost invariably are those with the most successful Sunday schools.

#### SPECIAL EVANGELISM

Special meetings in the form of protracted meetings, especially in the larger congregations, have been almost discontinued. Less than one-quarter held such services, and these, with one exception, represented the smaller congregations. In no instance were these special missions carried on in co-operation with other denominations or with other congregations of the same denomination. The length of time of the services varied from five to twenty-one days, and they were conducted almost entirely by the minister and neighboring pastors. Only in one instance was a special evangelist engaged.

One of the larger churches, in place of the protracted meetings, now holds at the beginning of the year a special week of Bible study, as well as devoting the first Sunday in each month to special evangelistic effort. The result in the number of accessions to the membership under this plan have been most encouraging.

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Church attendance, which is usually a reliable criterion of interest, on the whole is good. Morning congregations number all the way from 60 to 500. The average is 225 and the percentage of attendance to membership is 74 per cent., 40 per cent. of whom are male and 60 per cent. female. The evening congregations are even larger, running from 35 to 600. The average is 363 and the percentage of attendance to membership is 89 per cent. The proportion of male attendance is slightly larger, being 43 per cent. and female 57 per cent.

## PRAYER MEETING

Most of the Protestant churches hold a mid-week service. The attendance ranges from 20 to 50, the average being 33 or 12 per cent. of the total membership. About one-third of those attending are males. The larger congregations show a relatively poorer attendance at these meetings than the smaller congregations.

The town congregations do not appear to be very successful in appealing to the country membership. Only  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. of the membership of the town congregations are composed of members living in the country.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Sunday school is "the Church at Bible study," and as such is of vital importance, not only to the life of the Church, but to the cause of true religion. Religious education in recent years is more and more coming to have its rightful place in our church life.

About a third of the question schedule on religious conditions dealt with this important phase of church work. Returns, more or less complete, were received from twenty-two of the twenty-four Protestant schools. In a number of cases these statistics were most complete, and reflect credit upon the secretaries of the respective schools. Three of the five Catholic churches also furnished information as to their Bible school work. In regard to the two Protestant schools which failed to report, some information was secured from the Sunday-school departments of their respective churches. Supplemental data, also, was obtained from these and other sources in order to make the present report as complete as possible.

The strength, on the one hand, of this branch of the Church's work is seen in the success with which the various schools are able to interest their members so as to attain a high percentage of attendance, and to bring them to a personal knowledge of Christ and into member-

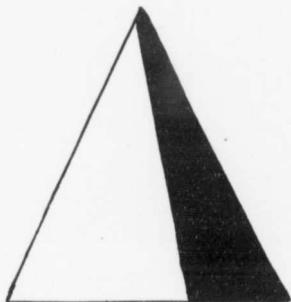
ship with His Church. The weakness, on the other hand, is that the Sunday school is leaving untouched a very considerable part of the population.

The goal of the modern Sunday-school movement is not only to have every member of the church in the Sunday school, and every member of the Sunday school in the church, but also to reach as large a constituency as the church itself—to reach the unreached. Within the organization of the school, provision is made for the whole population, from the cradle roll to the home department; all ages and conditions find a place.

The total Sunday-school enrolment in the district covered by the survey, including pupils, teachers and officers, is approximately 5,300. Of this number 4,809 are pupils and 390 are teachers.

The enrolment, according to age groups, shows that of this number 644 are under 5 years of age, 3,265 are between the ages of 5 to 20 years inclusive, and that approximately 900 are 21 years and over.

OVER ONE-THIRD OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS (5-20 YEARS) ARE NOT ENROLLED IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.



64.3 per cent. already enrolled.      35.7 per cent. yet to be enrolled.

The 5-to-20-years-age group represents what has usually been considered the educational field of the Sunday school. It is, therefore, in this group that any comparison as to how thoroughly the Sunday school is reaching its constituency should be made. In the total population of the district studied there are approximately 5,173 Protestant boys and girls between the ages of 5 to 20 years. Only a little over three-fifths of these, as pointed out above, are enrolled in the Sunday schools. This leaves 1,849, or over 35 per cent., of the Protestant boys and girls

between the ages of 5 to 20 years outside the membership of the Sunday school.

The rapid growth in population and the presence of a large number of newcomers in the district may account in part for a considerable number not having connected themselves with the local Sunday schools. Nevertheless, far too many boys and girls are not being reached.

A united campaign of all the schools considered in the present survey, under some such slogan as that used by the Indiana School, when it became the biggest Sunday school in the world—"This school seeks the last one"—could do much to reach these unreached.

Sixty-seven per cent. of the schools have cradle rolls, the total membership being 844. These range in size from 15 to 106, the average being 40. This department, in some of the schools, has succeeded in securing a large enrolment; one school in particular reports more than 25 per cent. of its total enrolment from this source.

The best showing, as regards enrolment, is found among those in the 5-to-12-year group. The girls are slightly more numerous than the boys, representing 52 per cent. of the enrolment.

If it be true that the test of the Sunday school is its success in retaining its pupils throughout the 'teen-age (13 to 20 years), the schools under consideration are not as successful as might be desired. The enrolment is considerably less than that in the 5-to-12-age group, being 37 per cent. of the total enrolment between 5 to 20 years. There is a slightly larger disparity in the proportion of boys to girls, as the boys represent only 46 per cent. of the total. The average attendance to enrolment of the girls is also better, being 71 per cent. as compared with 67 per cent. for the boys.

The importance of the Sunday school as the recruiting ground for the membership of the church has been shown by the fact that more than three-quarters of all additions by confession were from the Sunday schools. The methods employed to bring pupils to decision for Christ are only secondary, providing there is a true spirit of evangelism permeating all the activity of the school. In 36 per cent. of the schools, where a decision day is held, the results, so far as bringing the pupils to a public confession in uniting with the church, were slightly less encouraging than in the schools where no special day was set apart for evangelistic appeal.

Twenty pupils during the last ten years have taken up definite religious work. Six of these have gone into the ministry, three are missionaries, five are deaconesses, six Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. workers.

## THE 'TEEN AGE

Detailed reports were received from forty 'teen-age classes, eighteen of which were boys' classes. Eight of these boys' classes were taught by men, five of whom were under thirty years of age. Seventy-eight per cent. of these classes were organized, and 62 per cent. used the graded lessons. Of the twenty-two girls' classes, twenty-one were taught by women, 50 per cent. of whom were under thirty years of age. Forty per cent. of these were organized and 53 per cent. used the graded lessons.

The adult department includes nearly 19 per cent. of the total enrolment. This, although far from the goal of retaining every member in the school until unable further to attend its sessions, nevertheless reveals considerable interest. The proportion of women to men was much higher, for 60 per cent. of those enrolled were women and only 40 per cent. men. The average attendance for the women was 68 per cent. and for the men 64 per cent.

Two of the schools—that of Knox Church, St. Catharines, and St. John's, Thorold—have Chinese classes. Twenty-two of the twenty-six Chinese enrolled were in Knox Sunday school, where seventeen teachers were in charge of this work.

Only three schools mentioned have home departments.

## THE MINISTER IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The relation of the pastor to the school shows that in most cases he is in close touch with this branch of the Church's work. In reply to the question, "What does the minister do in the Sunday school," three reported that he acted as superintendent; two as assistant superintendent; six as teacher of the Bible class or men's class; four as substitute teacher; two as general supervisor; two that he reviewed the school, and three that he visited the school. In some of the schools he filled two and even three of these functions.

## SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Very few church buildings have been built with special regard for Sunday-school work. Only one school reports having ten rooms; the average is between four and five, the mode being five. This gives, on an average, one room to about every forty pupils. A number of schools have fitted up the basement for Sunday-school purposes and use curtains to separate the various classes. Sixty-six per cent. report some equipment, such as blackboards, maps, charts, pictures, and

25 per cent. have added lanterns to their equipment, while other schools secure the use of lanterns at various times.

Only one school closes for two months in the summer; all the rest remain open twelve months in the year.

### TEACHER TRAINING

Twenty-one per cent. of the schools reported conducting a teachers' training class. In one school the Bible class is used in this way, the course studied being that outlined in the various denominational publications. A teachers' meeting is held in 29 per cent. of the schools, but, except in one or two cases, is merely a business meeting.

### THE LIBRARY

About two-thirds of the schools reported pupils' libraries. In a few of these the librarian has succeeded admirably in getting the pupils interested in the books. The percentage of pupils making use of the library varied from 20 to 30 per cent. The average was 44 per cent. Two schools have teachers' libraries, and a third is beginning another.

### SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The social and recreational class activities comprise class picnics, socials, baseball, etc. Christmas cheer is provided for the poor by a number of schools. One school reported that the pupils assisted in hospital services and looking after absentees; in another school a fifteen-piece orchestra furnished music for the school. Nearly all the schools have an annual picnic and a Christmas festival, while, in addition, some of the schools hold social evenings for the different departments of the school. Others reported monthly social evenings for the boys and for the girls. In three of the country schools cottage socials are held monthly.

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CHURCH

The other organizations in the Church, apart from the Boards of Finance and those having the spiritual oversight of congregations, number 96 in the twenty-two churches reporting. The Women's Societies are by far the more numerous and active, there being seventy-four in all. Eighteen of these are Ladies' Aid Societies, having memberships rang-

ing from fifteen to ninety, the average membership being thirty-seven and the average attendance twenty-eight.

Twenty-six different societies are organized in the interests of missions. Seventeen of these are Women's Auxiliaries, having memberships ranging from twelve to seventy-four, the average membership being thirty-eight and the average attendance seventeen. Nine are Mission Circles and Mission Bands, with memberships ranging from seven to sixty, the average being thirty-four and the average attendance ten. The large membership and attendance is a fair criterion of the splendid impetus these societies are giving to intelligent missionary endeavor. Considerable missionary literature is distributed among the members, no less than 52 per cent. of whom subscribe for the missionary publication of their respective denominations. The average givings of the Auxiliaries amount to \$2.07 per member, and of the Mission Circles and Mission Bands .79 cents per member.

Among the other girls' societies are to be found two Sewing Societies, three Willing Workers' Clubs, one Girl Guides, one Sunshine Society, one Young Ladies' Club, and two Girls' Friendly Societies. The membership in these different societies ranges from seven to thirty-eight, the average membership being twenty-six and the average attendance fourteen. The name in most cases suggests the society's activities. One of the Willing Workers' Clubs raised \$500.00 for various church purposes. The Girls' Friendly Societies are doing a most valuable work in getting new girls in touch with their respective churches. In an industrial centre, where so many girls are employed, and others are continually coming to seek employment, the Girls' Friendly Society can be of great value in assisting these new girls and bringing them into touch with the Church.

## YOUNG PEOPLES' SOCIETIES

Considering the large number of organizations connected with the various congregations, the Young Peoples' Societies are less numerous than might be expected. In all there are only fifteen societies, twelve senior and three junior. The twelve senior societies include three Epworth Leagues, four Young Peoples' Societies or Guilds, two Anglican Young Peoples' Societies, two Parish Guilds, and one Baptist Young Peoples' Union. Among the juniors there are two Epworth Leagues and one Band of Hope. The average membership is forty-eight, only 38 per cent. of whom are males and 62 per cent. are females.

Men's organizations, other than those mentioned above, are singularly lacking in most of the congregations. Only three were reported, and in these the average membership was only thirty-two and the attendance seventeen. The activities described, such as "general,"



"fellowship," "definite spiritual work," "visiting all classes," while most worthy, are lacking in the concreteness and the practical endeavor which naturally appeals to men. In both St. Catharines and Thorold, where there is such wide scope for practical achievement in the field of civic and social improvement, a federation of the men in the churches, such as the Men's Federation of London, Ontario, would afford a splendid opportunity for definite service in constructive betterment.

## BOYS' ORGANIZATIONS

"The new work for boys contains the germ of a new evangelism—new because its methods are different from those of the typical evangelistic service, but old because its aim is the original one of winning men to Christ."—Coe.

The boys' organizations, outside the Sunday school, include two Boys' Clubs, a Boys' Choir, a Boys' Band, four companies of Boy Scouts and several Boys' Baseball Clubs. None of these organizations may be called definitely religious, but they are auxiliaries of the Church and Sunday school in developing and winning the boys to a manly Christian life. Only one of the clubs makes a religious requirement of attendance at church and Sunday school for membership. It is to be regretted that only one of the boys' organizations (First Methodist Church) is making use of the admirable programme for boys' work to be found in the "Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests." This little booklet will be found most helpful in leadership work among boys.

## THE CHURCH AND RECREATION

Considering the number of denominations represented, there is remarkable unanimity among the ministers with regard to amusements and recreations. All are agreed that in their communities, baseball, tennis, skating, croquet, picnics and lecture courses are helpful. Ninety-five per cent. favor football, church socials and parties, 85 per cent. favor home-talent plays and 50 per cent. the circus. Ninety per cent. disapprove of dancing and 95 per cent. consider card playing and the moving-picture shows in their communities harmful.

In reply to the question, "What is the minister doing to prevent harmful amusements?" the following replies were received: "Preaching against them," "Preaching, warning, abstaining," "His best," "Continually refers to them in private conversation and preaching," "Educating people to a better and more useful way of living," "Preaching Christ crucified and providing Young Peoples' Societies entertainment," "Pointing out the true place of amusements," "Helping to provide

innocent amusements," "He is recommending the useful ones," "Providing helpful and innocent amusements," "Use our own lantern to counteract the effect of cheap theatres," "Organizing church clubs, socials, entertainments, etc., to meet the natural desire of young people for amusement." The following replies were received in answer to the question, "What is the minister doing to provide helpful amusements?" "Not as much as I would like," "Nothing directly," "Suggest and support," "Interested in and encourages healthful and instructive entertainment," "Encouraging outdoor sports among boys and girls—the Boy Scout Movement," "Clubs for men and boys—encouraging Y. M. C. A. directly," "Is with them and leading in outdoor and indoor recreations."

## Recreational Opportunities

The immense value of recreative activities is just coming to be realized. Clean, wholesome, athletic exercise, as well as being of great educational value, ministers in a large way to health and efficiency, to the developing of a brotherly spirit and to the moulding of manly character. The inherent impulse for play furnishes the foundation for all forms of amusements, however widely these forms may differ. This love of play is not lacking amongst the people of St. Catharines, especially the young, but it is manifest in the keen interest and enthusiasm that is shown in the various forms of Canadian sport, such as baseball, football, lacrosse, lawn bowling, golf, lawn tennis, basketball and boating.

Amateur sport prevails largely in all the different games, but there is some professional. This is a regrettable feature, in that it substitutes to some extent at least moneyed interest for the pure love of sport. Another feature which needs to be guarded against is the great desire to win the game—to win at any price. This desire is doubtless increased where the money element dominates, but it is too often evident in amateur sport as well.

Indoor amusement and entertainment, other than what is being done by the churches, is provided by the theatres, pool and billiard parlors, dance hall, bowling alley and shooting gallery, all of which are under commercial control. Besides these there are the various fraternal organizations, clubs and the Young Men's Christian Association.

### ATHLETICS

Athletic games are well organized. Baseball, lacrosse and football (soccer) each have four organized adult teams. There are also two rugby teams in season, and during the winter months basket-ball and hockey are organized. Accommodation for winter sports, however, is surprisingly lacking. Last winter (1914-15) there was only one open rink for the whole city of St. Catharines.

There is a great desire among the young people particularly to take an active part in these games, but the accommodation provided for such recreation is quite inadequate. There is but one public field in the city suitable for athletic games. This means that some evenings there are as many as six adult teams practising on this field at

once, the playing space of which is 90 x 150 yards. Ten organized adult teams use this field as a practise ground. The danger under such conditions is that one or two teams, perhaps, with more money, monopolize the grounds to the partial exclusion of the other teams. Some practising is done at the Armories and the Park, but these are not suitable for games. Where the school grounds are large enough they are used by the boys' teams.

One of the most interesting and pleasing features this season was the introduction into the baseball arena of the Boys' Church League. Eight of the city churches joined this league, each being represented by its team of boys. Ninety boys took an active interest in this branch of athletics and about fifty-six games in all were played. The spirit in which the boys entered into their play and the enthusiasm with which they completed their series of games was, indeed, encouraging to those interested in the boys. The schedule was completed even by the teams which had no chance of winning out, and the true sportsman's spirit was exhibited. This spirit of playing the game for the fun and recreation that is in it should be fostered among the young boys. Some of the young pastors of the city and a few young men from some of the churches encouraged and helped the boys. Under such conditions the associations and influences of such a league are of untold value in the moulding of a boy's character at this formative period in his life.

The Golf Club has a links of which it may well be proud, and considerable interest is shown by both ladies and gentlemen in this form of recreation.

The popularity of lawn bowling is evidenced by the large number of men who frequent the beautiful green at "The Welland" and there enter into friendly, but none the less extremely keen, contests.

Lawn tennis falls somewhat in the background in St. Catharines, no doubt largely because no good public courts are provided in the city for the use of tennis lovers at a nominal fee. There is the High Field Tennis Club, but the fee is really prohibitive for the average young person. The three clay courts at Port Dalhousie are used by quite a number from St. Catharines, but it is very inconvenient to have to travel this distance of three miles each time one wants to play tennis. From an athletic standpoint, St. Catharines is a rich man's town. Instead of a few people being in exclusive control of the beautiful golf links and splendid tennis courts, these now little-used opportunities for recreation should be owned by the city and open to all the people.

Canoeing is a favorite pastime, and many take advantage during the summer months of the splendid waterways and resorts in the vicinity of the city.

## INDOOR AMUSEMENTS AND RECREATIONS

Owing to the lack of sufficient opportunity for wholesome outdoor sport, indoor amusements and recreations have had an abnormal hold upon the young people.

There are sixty-four pool and billiard tables and three bowling alleys, representing eleven different parlors. (These figures do not include the various clubs and Y.M.C.A.) This number is surprisingly large when compared with the city of London, Ont., with a population more than three times as large and having only seventy-six pool and billiard tables distributed through five different parlors.

In most of these places the usual pool-room atmosphere prevails, with its profusion of tobacco smoke and rough language. Boys, apparently under age, are allowed to frequent some of these places.

## THEATRES

There are four theatres and another in process of construction. The programme at the Grand varies, presenting drama, musical comedy, or motion-pictures and vaudeville. The other three are motion-picture shows, giving two performances in the evening and often matinees in the afternoon. The capacity of the four theatres is about 4,230 (with an average daily attendance of over 4,000). The theatres do not appear to have suffered during any recent financial depression; on the contrary, a fine new theatre has just recently been opened, which is enjoying an attendance above its capacity, and another theatre is being erected. This means two additional theatres within a year.

## YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The Y. M. C. A. is doing a splendid work with the means and equipment at its disposal, but it finds itself greatly handicapped through lack of sufficient accommodation and financial support. The organization, while seeking to develop its members, physically and morally, takes also an active interest in the education of foreigners and in various other forms of benevolent work. In all its activities it endeavors to foster that spirit of clean sportsmanship and true manliness, showing that amusements may be carried on without objectionable features being introduced.

The Association has about two hundred and ten members, ninety of whom are adults belonging to the senior and intermediate classes. The work among boys has not been a success, largely because there has not been sufficient room in the building to attempt extensive boys'

work. This is an important branch of Y. M. C. A. work, and perhaps the present difficulty could be overcome to some extent by having the different churches work in conjunction with the Y. M. C. A. under the direction of a boys' secretary. In this way the Y. M. C. A. would become the recreational centre for all the boys' clubs connected with the churches, as has been so successful in many cities. There is no need of church gymnasiums. One well-equipped gymnasium can take care of all the work in St. Catharines, providing there is sufficient co-operation among those who require to use it.

The young people must have amusements of some sort, and it is for Christian people to decide whether they will provide these under wholesome and uplifting conditions or leave them to be provided under commercial control, where various forms of evil are often present.

It is surprising that a city with a population of over 17,000 should be attempting to serve its young men with a Y. M. C. A. building, which is without a swimming pool, running track, boxing or wrestling rooms or lecture hall, and with very limited room in every other particular. This proves a serious handicap to the work which the organization would like to do. A site has been purchased for a new and up-to-date building, the erection of which, it is hoped, will soon be undertaken.

### SUPERVISED PLAY

"Happy children at play saves a city from falling into a state of selfishness and pessimism."

With all the interest which St. Catharines has shown in amusements of various kinds, it is amazing that as yet it has taken no steps to provide supervised play or playgrounds for its children. The City Council has erected five swings in one corner of the Park, and one school ground is provided with three swings and one tilt; but what is this for children, and with no supervision, where there is great danger of evil tendencies creeping into the children's play. Certain of these evils have already made their appearance in the unregulated amusements among some of the very young boys and girls. This is a fact which is most deplorable, and in the light of which is magnified the extreme necessity of supervised and regulated play.

With a good play leader a very small plot of ground, with a little apparatus, can be made into a regular paradise for the children, will offer relief for many a tired mother and will give the boys and girls an opportunity to develop the best that is in them. St. Catharines pays a large bonus to encourage and develop its industries, and that is good, but the children are the city's greatest asset. Why not, then, put some money into a movement that will bring sunshine, health

and happiness into the lives of the boys and girls? They are the citizens of to-morrow, and any expenditure made by the city now will be more than repaid in the quality of its citizenship.

### THE HALL

The Hall, a local organization working in the interests of young women, is aiming more and more to do for the girls and young women of St. Catharines, work similar to that being done for the boys and young men through the Y. M. C. A. Residence accommodation is provided for about thirty girls. Meals are also served in the building. Recently a secretary was appointed, whose special field is to be among wage-earning girls. Classes in sewing, cooking, physical culture and first aid, etc., have been carried on with much success among the girls.

The Hall, although lacking both in equipment and financial support, is doing a commendable work among the wage-earning girls, especially the large number who are away from home. Much better facilities for carrying on the work should be provided by public-spirited citizens.

It is hoped, too, that the Hall may become affiliated with, or become attached to some larger organization, such as the Y. W. C. A., and in this way profit by the experience and leadership of a large organization.

# Moral Conditions.

## PUBLIC DRINKING

THE report on the liquor traffic in the St. Catharines district, of which a brief outline is given here, was prepared for the St. Catharines Survey Committee, and presented before the Ontario Board of License Inspectors at St. Catharines in the fall of 1915.

At the time the survey was made the district under consideration had nineteen bar-rooms and three liquor stores. St. Catharines had ten bar-rooms and two liquor stores; Thorold had three bar-rooms and one liquor store, and Merritton and Port Dalhousie each had three bar-rooms. This number, even for a license system, was large when the population of the various places was considered. Port Dalhousie had a bar-room for every 439 persons; Merritton had a bar-room for every 764 persons; Thorold had a bar-room or liquor store for every 1,177 persons, and St. Catharines had a bar-room or liquor store for every 1,441 persons, and in addition had a licensed club. Even in the case of St. Catharines many supporters of the license system would agree that a bar-room or liquor store for every 1,441 men, women and children was by no means necessary in the interests of the public welfare.

Inspections of all the nineteen bar-rooms were made during five different periods of the day. These periods were as follows: 7-10 a.m., 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 1-4 p.m., 4-7 p.m. and 7-11 p.m. On Saturday two further inspections were made during the period from 1-4 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. The following shows the relative amount of drinking during these periods, exclusive of Saturday.

The total number of persons in the bar-room at one point of time during the 7-10 a.m. period was 78, during the 10 a.m.-1 p.m. period 111, during the 1-4 p.m. period 74, during the 4-7 p.m. period 122, and during the 7-11 p.m. period 304. This shows, with the exception of a brief lull in the afternoon, the business of the bar-room steadily increases up to eleven o'clock at night.

The wisdom of the action taken by the Ontario License Board in reducing the hours of sale by cutting off the hours from 7-11 p.m. can be readily seen. The reduction of one hour in the evening was more than equivalent to three hours in the morning.

A further inspection of the bar-rooms at St. Catharines and Thorold was made on Saturday, each bar being visited during the periods from 1-4 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. Two hundred and fifteen persons were seen



in the bar-rooms during the period from 1-4 p.m. and 311 during the period from 4-7 p.m., which shows an increase of 45% in the number drinking the later period. There was also a very marked increase in the amount of drunkenness. The 1-4 p.m. inspection reported 16 apparently intoxicated, while the 4-7 p.m. reported 44 apparently intoxicated, or an increase of 94% over the earlier period, which further emphasized the need and value of legislation reducing the late afternoon and evening hours of sale. This was further borne out by the number of arrests for drunkenness. During the three weeks beginning August 2nd of the present year, Thorold had 21 arrests on week days, exclusive of Saturday, or an average of 1 1-6 per day; while there were ten on Saturdays, or an average of 3.3.

The proportion of soldiers seen drinking in the hotels was not large. On one inspection at the Summit Hotel, Thorold, five soldiers were observed drinking in one of the side rooms. There was, however, a lot of drinking among the soldiers along the canal. At Thorold, from November 14th, 1914, to September 2nd, 1915, 64 soldiers were arrested by the town police for being drunk and disorderly, and returned to the barracks for trial.

Ten women were seen drinking in the side rooms of hotels. Eight of the ten were in the Maple Leaf Hotel, St. Catharines, and two in the Wellington Hotel, at Port Dalhousie. In one instance one of the women seen drinking had two of her children with her.

The construction of the new ship canal was responsible for the increased number of convictions for drunkenness. Especially at Thorold was this very noticeable. During the year ending May 15th, 1915, there were 428 arrests. This disgraceful record showed an average of 107 men arrested for being drunk, or drunk and disorderly, etc., for each of the four licensed places.

The returns of convictions for the year 1914-1915 showed that during this period there were 497 convictions chargeable to drink. Of this number Thorold furnished 207 and St. Catharines 286. In St. Catharines 372 of the cases coming before the Court on the above charge were dismissed, most of which on the ground that they were first offences; 199 convictions were for drunkenness, 43 for being drunk and disorderly, and 44 for breach of the Liquor License Act.

## GAOL SYSTEM

Practically no provision was being made for using more intelligent methods in dealing with the human wreckage constantly drifting from the bar-room to the gaol. One elderly citizen of St. Catharines who claimed to have spent seventy-three days of the present year in gaol for drunkenness, when asked what he thought of the present system of gaol

terms for drunks, very energetically replied: "It is no good; they don't give you anything to do and you don't feel like eating the grub, and just when you get about all in, they let you out and expect you to be in fit shape to take a job." The old system of dealing with prisoners has no remedial value for the average habitual "drunk and disorderly." As the Governor of the gaol remarked, "this constant locking up takes the man out of him." After a period of enforced idleness, they come out less able physically and less inclined mentally to work, only to find their way back again for another gaol term. One prisoner has already served 52 terms in the county gaol. The present system disregards the experience of every gaol in Canada and is a product of a different age; which, instead of looking upon punishment as a means of reforming the wrong-doer, was only concerned with meting out punishment in exact proportion to crime.

Industrial farms should gradually be substituted for our county gaols, where habitual drunkards and other short-term prisoners could be sent on indeterminate sentences. Here they could be set to work in the open air and taught habits of thrift and responsibility. The prisoner would then have an opportunity to earn something to support his wife and children, who so often are the chief sufferers under the present system.

The county gaol, while a fine property, was not planned to meet the need for a prison farm. One man could do all the work required on the small plot of land. At the time of our visit there were ten men and one woman incarcerated, 90% of whom the warden stated were there through drunkenness.

### A POLICE MATRON NEEDED

Provision for dealing with women and juvenile offenders in St. Catharines is quite inadequate to serve the needs of a rapidly growing city. The fact that there was no place in the police station to put women or juvenile offenders, except in the same room with male prisoners, is not only contrary to law but a disgrace to St. Catharines. It is also to be deplored that the city is not doing what it should either to look after juvenile offenders or to prevent juvenile offences.

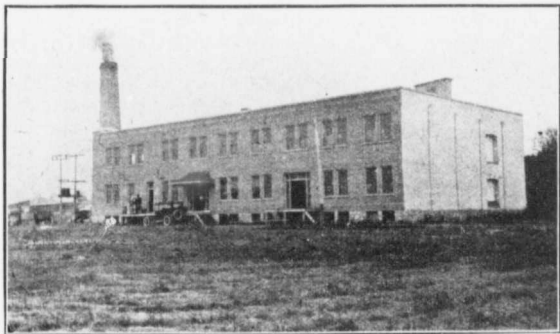
The moral conditions prevailing among certain groups of juveniles make it imperative that something more be done. A male police force is unable adequately to deal with the situation. Much might be done through the appointment, with police powers, of a suitable woman social worker whose duty it would be to look after women and juvenile delinquents. A police matron should be invaluable to St. Catharines in doing this.

# Some Phases of Industrial Life

## WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE CANNING INDUSTRY

The brief time which could be given to the whole survey made impossible anything more than a very limited study of two or three phases of the labor situation. The investigation, therefore, was confined to a study of working and living conditions of wage-earning women and the problem of the unemployment of labor.

The study of working and living conditions of wage-earning women and girls was limited largely to the canning industry. The importance of this industry in the district, and the large proportion of women employed, marked it out as of special interest for such a study. The 1911 census showed that the industry was not only the largest employing industry in the district, but also that it ranked first in the number of factories, second in the amount of wages paid, and the value of the products; and third in the cost of raw materials and the amount of capital invested.



A FINE NEW CANNING FACTORY.

The total number employed in the canning industry was 661, 38 of whom were on salary and 623 wage earners. Eighty per cent. at least of the wage earners are women and girls.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Census of Canada, 1911.

The average salary was \$780.00, and the average yearly earnings of those on wages was \$215.25. The number of women employed in a factory during the busy season runs from 30 to 70. In many of the factories the larger part of these are foreign-born Americans, usually Poles or Italians from Buffalo. These women are brought over by the various firms for the season, which usually lasts from eight to nine weeks in the vegetable canneries, and from five to six months in the fruit canneries. The reasons alleged for employing foreign-born alien women is that sufficient local help is not obtainable; and that the foreign women, because of their freedom from household duties, will work longer hours.

The hours of work vary somewhat during the season, according to quantity of the fruit and vegetables offering. Sixty hours per week, however, may be considered nearer the minimum than the maximum, for eleven and twelve hours per day is quite common in many of the factories.

Among the local workers were to be found a few girls under fourteen years. A child of twelve was seen working in one factory. The manager justified this on the ground that her mother also worked in the factory.

Most of the workers are on piece-work. The rates differ widely in the different processes. The daily earnings vary from \$1.35 to \$2.80, the latter being quite exceptional except for swift workers. Probably \$1.75 per day represents the average earnings of piece-workers. For women day workers 15c. per hour is the usual rate. The rate for girls is considerably lower, running from 5c. to 10c. per hour, according to the efficiency of the worker. In the jam and mince-meat factories, where employment is more permanent, wages were lower than where the employment is more seasonal, running from 10c. to 12c. per hour for the day workers, and \$4.00 to \$4.50 for those employed by the week.

As already pointed out, the larger part of the local women and girls employed in the canneries live at home. In case of the workers brought in from the United States, a number of the firms provide living quarters, which are little better than bunk-houses. In these crowded quarters the women do all their cooking, washing, etc. At one factory these living quarters are situated on the small factory property, and closely adjacent to the factory itself, the only yard accommodation being the small space used by the teamsters for turning after unloading their fruit or vegetables. This is all the more objectionable since none of the women are permitted out of this yard after eight o'clock in the evening. This means that for a large part of the summer these women are practically confined within this stockade. The women quite naturally resent this treatment.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

During the first half of 1915, unemployment was very prevalent, especially among the unskilled workers of St. Catharines. Many of the Armenians and Russians had been without work from three to six months. The four commercial employment agencies, with their limited connection, were powerless to relieve the situation to any appreciable extent. The result was that at the time of this investigation, had it not been for the help a considerable number of these received from their more fortunate fellow countrymen they would have been a charge on the community. As it was, many of these hard-working and industrious men were compelled to reduce their standard of living to the minimum. Overcrowding was all too common, and in many instances the food standard had been reduced to a bare subsistence. With the opening of the fruit season and the large demand for men owing to the large number of enlistments and the increased call for men in the munition plants, unemployment toward the end of the summer ceased to be an immediate problem.

Periods of considerable unemployment of labor, however, are likely to recur with more or less frequency. Especially is this true in a new country like Canada, which is largely dependent for development upon outside capital; for not only is it subject to periods of depression due to its own peculiar economic conditions, but also to similar periods of depression in those countries from which its outside capital is obtained. Too frequently community and governmental responsibility for unemployment has been shifted on the ground of the personal inefficiency of the unemployed. That this attitude is no longer satisfactory to enlightened public opinion is shown by the action of the Government of Ontario, in appointing in December, 1914, a Commission "to cause inquiry to be made into all matters relating to the unemployment of labor."

In any attempt to meet its unemployment problem Canada has the splendid example of the Mother Land, as the first country in the world which has had the courage to attack unemployment as a great national problem. The earlier remedies were merely palliative. The Unemployed Workmen Act of 1905, which provided the Distress Committee of the different districts with considerable funds from the Government Treasury, proved to be quite inadequate. It was not until the establishment of free public employment labor exchanges by the Act of 1909, that any real measure of success in dealing with unemployment was achieved. These exchanges, which now number between four and five hundred, have succeeded admirably in bringing the jobless man and the manless job together. The exchanges, however, could not create jobs for jobless men, but they did show that at

certain seasons of the year there were three applicants for every vacant position. This showed the need of dovetailing seasonal industries together, so that one industry could release its workers in the dull season to be employed in the busy season in a related industry. Where this was impossible a device was sought by which a workman's income might continue through the dull season and in this way relieve him and his family of the anxiety, destitution and demoralization that so often go with unemployment in the absence of any such system.

The contingency, as is well known, was met by the introduction of national insurance against unemployment, by which the risk of



AN EXCELLENT MARKET THAT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND FOSTERED BY THE ERECTION OF A MODERN MARKET BUILDING.

unemployment was carried by a fund created by joint contributions of the employees, the employers and the Government. The difficulty arising from the fact that not all workmen are equally exposed to the risk of unemployment and that not all employers are equally responsible for unemployment was largely overcome, on the one hand, by the provision which guaranteed to all workmen over sixty years of age who had paid 500 weekly contributions, and who had been insured ten years, a refund equal to all their contributions, less their withdrawals, with compound interest, and to all employers who had kept their workmen continuously employed for a year, a refund equal to one-third their contribution.

What action the Ontario Government will pursue following the report of the Commission on Unemployment, is doubtful. That something definite will be done seems to be certain. While the time may not appear ripe for creating a system of unemployment insurance, there can be little doubt that a system of Provincial or Federal Employment Bureaux are of first importance in dealing with unemployment. These bureaux would not only be of great value in bringing workmen and the opportunities for work together, but also their records would afford invaluable statistical material upon which to base further policies dealing with the unemployment of labor.

## Housing

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Proper housing for industrial workers has been receiving more and more attention in Canada during the last few years. Such agencies as the Board of Social Service of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches through their surveys, The Commission of Conservation, through their experts, the Toronto Housing Association, through their practical endeavor in building workmen's houses, have all rendered valuable service in creating a more intelligent public opinion with regard to town planning and housing.



A DILAPIDATED DWELLING BADLY OVERCROWDED.

In the present survey an attempt was made to ascertain housing conditions among the immigrant population of the towns of Thorold and St. Catharines. It is therefore by no means a complete picture of housing conditions in these beautiful residential towns. Many of the immigrants in both towns, however, are poorly housed. Rents are high and sanitary conditions in many instances intolerable.

Some fifty-one different houses and apartments were visited in all; thirty-one of which were in St. Catharines and twenty in Thorold. In St. Catharines 40% of the houses or apartments visited were occupied by Armenians, 25% by Italians, 20% by English and 15% by Polish. In Thorold 33% of the occupants were Austrians, 17% Italians, 11% Bulgarians and 39% Canadians.



Table I gives the approximate cubic contents of 231 rooms, showing 74, or 32%, to contain less than 500 cubic feet; 50, or 21%, 500 and less than 900, and 107, or 47%, over 900 cubic feet.

TABLE I.  
SIZE OF ROOMS.

Contents of rooms in cubic feet.	Number.	Percentage.
Less than 500 .....	74	32
500 and less than 900.....	50	21
More than 900.....	107	47
	231	100

From table II it will be seen that there is considerable overcrowding in some of the houses. One family of nine was found occupying two rooms, other families of five occupying three rooms, families of eight and eleven occupying four rooms, families and lodgers of twelve, fourteen and sixteen occupying six rooms. Other cases almost as bad may be seen from the table. Such overcrowding, especially when a considerable proportion of the occupants are lodgers, cannot but be detrimental alike to health and morals.

TABLE II.  
NUMBER OF PERSONS (INCLUDING LODGERS) IN HOUSEHOLDS IN HOUSES AND APARTMENTS HAVING A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF ROOMS.

Number of Rooms.	Number of Persons.																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.....																				
2.....		5	2	1					1											
3.....				1	1															
4.....				1	2		4	2		1										
5.....			2	1				1		3										
6.....		1									1		1			1				
7.....		1														1				
8.....					1	1														
9.....																				
10.....																				1
11.....																				
12.....											1							1	1	

TABLE III.

NUMBER OF HOUSES AND APARTMENTS FOR WHICH SPECIFIED RENTALS ARE PAID AND THE NUMBER OF ROOMS.

Rent per Month.	Number of Rooms.										Total.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9-10	10-11	
Less than \$8.00 .....	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
\$8.00 and less than \$10.00 .....	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
\$10.00 and less than \$12.00 .....	1	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	5
\$12.00 and less than \$14.00 .....	..	..	..	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	7
\$14.00 and less than \$17.00 .....	1	2	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	..	8
\$17.00 and less than \$20.00 .....	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
\$20.00 and less than \$30.00 .....	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	..	1	3	9
No report on rent .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
No. of apartments and houses rented	3	7	3	8	8	4	3	..	1	3	40
No. of apartments and houses owned	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3
Total.....	3	8	3	8	9	5	3	..	1	3	43

Table III shows the specified rentals paid and the number of rooms in each house or apartment. From this it will be seen that for unskilled workmen's homes the rentals are high and necessarily invite overcrowding.

These rents are all the more excessive when it is remembered that many of these are old and dilapidated, or cheap frame houses. A large proportion are without modern conveniences. In Thorold only 11% of the houses had bathrooms and only 22% inside toilets, while in St. Catharines 48% had bathrooms and 91% inside toilets. In St. Catharines 92% of the kitchens had running water and in Thorold 50%. One St. Catharines house had only one toilet for 18 persons, and it was out of repair and was reported to have been in that condition for more than two months. In another house one bath and toilet were used by the occupants of nine separate apartments. Both bath and toilet were in a very unsanitary condition. In Thorold a number of the houses have only an outside water supply. Some of the outside water taps have not even open drains to carry off the waste water and so soon become surrounded by a mud hole. In one case this waste water had drained into the cellar and at the time of inspection the water and filth was three or four inches deep.

Yard space varied to a considerable extent. In St. Catharines 14% were small and 27% had no yard space at all, in Thorold 84% were small. In St. Catharines the condition of the yards was better than in Thorold; 85% of those in Thorold being in bad condition as against 25% in St. Catharines.

The lack of a proper system of garbage removal is responsible to a considerable extent for the filthy condition of some yards. Both St.



PORT SUNLIGHT.

This is a row of houses in an English Garden Suburb. These are workmen's dwellings let at a rent of from \$5 to \$8 monthly. Well constructed and sanitary houses in a row are better looking and more healthful than badly constructed detached houses. Rows also cost much less and permit of combined heating.

Catharines and Thorold are very backward as regards garbage removal. In the former town in only 29% of the cases considered did the city remove the garbage, and in the latter town in none. Where this work is left to residents, as is inevitable, the removal of garbage is attended to more or less indifferently. Twenty-one per cent. had the garbage removed three times a week, 35% once a week, 17% once a month, and 27% not at all. One resident disposed of the garbage by throwing it over the fence.

Both St. Catharines and Thorold have the advantage of splendid building sites, still possessing much natural beauty. In St. Catharines, especially, every effort should be put forward to conserve the beauty of the surroundings. A comprehensive scheme of town planning could be readily worked out by the aid of an expert. Residence areas could



AN UNSIGHTLY OPEN DRAIN.

then be protected from the encroachment of factories, which are rapidly marring the beauty of some residential sections.

Considering the towns as a whole, undoubtedly the above study over-emphasizes the unfavorable housing conditions. The aim, how-

ever, has been not only to show that unfavorable conditions do exist, but also to call attention to the fact that there should be a more thorough inspection and supervision of housing conditions. "There is nothing more costly than bad housing conditions, and to improve these conditions is to effect an enormous saving to the public purse."—*Adams.*



AN OVERCROWDED BACK YARD.