

## LONDON'S WORKMEN'S LODGINGS.

Success of the Rowton House Scheme Financially and Practically.

Lord Rowton's attempt to solve the problem of housing the workingman who is not looking for charity with some degree of comfort and decency seems to be at last financially successful, a dividend of four per cent. having been paid this year on the invested capital of £75,000, the greater part of which was employed in putting up a new building that will bring in still greater returns. As regards the success of the scheme in accomplishing what was intended for the workingman, the London Times tells the following story: "The workingman who secures by payment of sixpence one of the 677 cubicles at Rowton House, King's Cross Road, obtains primarily the use by night of a separate cubicle, with a window under his control, and an excellent bed, which is made for him, and of which the linen is changed as frequently as is the custom in a gentleman's house. He has also the use of large and comfortable dining rooms, in which he may cook his own food, buying it in the building or outside, at pleasure. Excellent cooked food may also be bought in the building at a separate rate. There is a smoking room, with comfortable chairs and two seats fixed at an excellently commodious angle, and with a floor space of 1,600 feet. Of almost equal size is the reading room, which, with its pictures and its trophies of stags' heads from the Highlands, is pleasant indeed. The arrangements for washing are of the best, and admirable footbaths, fitted with hot and cold water, and are supplied gratuitously. A hot bath in a private bathroom, with soap and towel supplied, costs one penny. The sanitary arrangements are perfect, and far superior in effect than arose in use at the County Council lodging house off Drury lane. There are dressing rooms for change of garments during the day, a barber's room, a tailor's room, lockers for the use of residents, storerooms for their heavy baggage, and a washing room for men to wash their clothes in, with a drying room attached. The house kitchen itself, like the rest of the building, is a picture of cleanliness and neatness. The whole building compares very favorably in point of cleanliness, comfort, and homelike appearance, with the County Council building off Drury lane, with its diminutive and rather dirty beds, its prison-like arrangement of corridors of cubicles round a central hall, and its iron partitions and doors, which close with a clank that echoes through the building.

"Of rules there are hardly any. The residents are warned, as visitors to hotels are warned, not to smoke in the bedrooms, but some of them do smoke notwithstanding. They must rise by 9 in the morning, and they may not have access to their bedrooms by day. These virtually are all the rules, and they are all that have turned out to be necessary. The object is to treat the residents in such a manner that they may feel themselves to be as independent as members of a club, and the result is that such a state of public opinion has arisen that misbehavior is almost unknown. The men are encouraged to treat the house as their club—which, in fact, it is—and to feel that they are paying honestly for the comforts which they receive in full measure. Thus the directors felt that it would be a blunder to permit the clerical element of the district to enter and ply their profession among the men, for it is the desire of the directors that the men should be as free in their clubhouse as the members of the Carlton in theirs. And the result is a triumphant success. On Saturday evening, the house was full, as it always is, for the most part of constant residents. A few had enjoyed their Saturday night's beer a trifle more than was necessary, but they were quite harmless and even entertaining. The overwhelming majority were decent and respectable fellows—laborers, artisans, and clerks—who sat and smoked or read their papers or played draughts or played chess as quietly and comfortably as men at a West End club. Of poverty there was no sign; of respectability, of many classes, there was abundant evidence. One resident's smart tall hat (by no means unique) and good clothes argued a position in the city; another was the living image in face and dress of a leading member of the junior bar; many were clerks in commercial houses; others were artisans of the better class and burly laborers. Lord Rowton and his associates are extending their work. Though possessing already, between Vauxhall and King's Cross Road, 1,161 cubicles, they have acquired a great site at Newington Butts, upon which they will erect a building containing new cubicles and 800 cubicles.—N. Y. Sun.

She Had Been There.

Mrs. Nouvo Reesh—She called me a barmaid, and I flew at her and pulled her hair.

Mrs. Tepley—Oh, how terrible! Still even that didn't justify you in fighting her.

Mrs. Nouvo Reesh—Yes, but if you had ever been a barmaid you would understand how mad it made me.

His War Record.

Mrs. Farmer—You say you was a soldier in the late war?

Truthful Tomkins—Yes'm; I was killed at Antietam.

Mrs. Farmer—Killed?

Truthful Tomkins—Theoretically killed, ma'am; I wuz never heard uft'ward.

"Thou shalt not kiss," is the new commandment laid down by the health convention as a means of preventing consumption. In spite of this people will kiss and will neglect a cough which a few doses of Hawker's balsam of tolu and wild cherry would speedily cure.

Public speakers and singers cannot afford to be without Hawker's balsam. It removes hoarseness and heals the irritated vocal organs.

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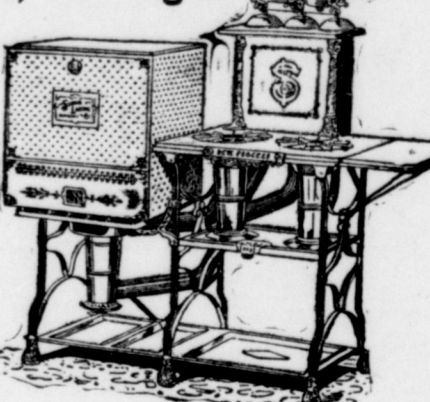
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PROPRIETOR

## TIP THE BARBER OR SUFFER.

Troubles That May Overtake a Prudent Man in New York Barber Shops.

The subject of barber's tips has bobbed up again for discussion. Every man who patronizes a barber shop instead of shaving himself knows what a heavy tax these tips are. The man who gets shaved in first-class shop and forgets to tip the barber at least ten cents is made to feel uncomfortable the next time he goes there. Men who don't tip are spotted after the first visit in many shops, and they are made to feel their delinquency in a dozen little ways of which the proprietor is apparently ignorant. There are shrugs of the shoulder and sneers and little delays that disappear as soon as one begins to tip.

One barber shop in a downtown hotel depends on strangers almost entirely for its patronage. After one visit to it the victim swears that he never will go there again. As soon as one enters the door he is the centre of bootblacks. They spring from different corners of the room and push and fight with one another for the victim's hat. The man who wants a shave no sooner emerges from this encounter than he finds that half a dozen barbers are bidding for his patronage. As soon as he is safely anchored in a chair his troubles double. The man who is shaving him tells him that his hair is falling out. Will he have a little elixir on it? If he nods he will find after he has been shaved that the bottle has been wrapped up for him and \$1 added to his check. His barber will try to sell him half a dozen different lotions, and the victim is pretty sure to find one or two of them charged on his check, whether he had ordered them or not. The barbers get a commission on each bottle sold. If he fails to offer a tip promptly, the barbers will ask for it; so will the colored bootblacks.

Not long ago a New Jersey man got shaved in this shop, and rather than talk he nodded to everything that the barber said. When he left the chair a check for \$3.60 was presented to him. He found that he had bought three bottles of hair tonic that he didn't want, but he had to pay for them, despite his protests. This is only one of half a dozen similar shops in New York where a man must at least tip if he expects to escape without troubles.

## TIPS IN ENGLAND.

Two Well-Guarded Places Into Which They Got a New Yorker.

"It is amazing," said a New Yorker, "to see what a tip will do in England. When I was younger and more adventurous than I am now, being in London I went down to Woolwich with the hope of seeing the inside of the arsenal. I went with the full knowledge that a request from the Minister of the United States for a pass to the arsenal for a distinguished officer of our own army had been denied at the War Office, upon the ground that, a war being then in progress, the arsenal was closed against visitors. I hung around one of the gates until the men came out at the noon hour, and finally falling in with a man that I took for a foreman, slipped a tip into his hand and explained what I was after. He must have found me trust-worthy, for he explained that one of his squad was not going back after the noon meal, and having procured me a workman's coat smuggled me in through the gate with the crowd. Once inside I was safe enough, and by the aid of the man I had corrupted I saw nearly everything worth seeing.

"It was during the same visit to England that a friend of my father's came to take him into the House of Commons to hear a debate. He had been unable to obtain a pass for me, but I hurried down to the House of Commons, found a policeman gave him a handsome tip, and told him I wished to get into the visitors' gallery of the Commons. I hardly expected to succeed, but the bobby disappeared and returned with a pass bearing the signature of Joseph Chamberlain, so in I went. I haven't the slightest notion how the policeman obtained it. Perhaps it was a forgery; but it helped to convince me that in Great Britain more things are wrought by tips than by prayers."

John Understood Very Well.

A member of the Foy company, who is a graduate of Vassar, went up into Chinatown to purchase some curios while the company was in San Francisco. A particularly ugly young Chinese was sitting on a little stool behind the counter in a dark and dirty little shop that the young lady entered to buy some pinks. As the Chinese was wrapping them up the young woman turned to her companion and said in Latin: "Isn't he a beauty?"

"Thanks. I'm glad you think so," replied the Chinese in English without glancing.

"Did he understand that?" she asked in French.

"Perfectly," said the Chinese.

The young lady smiled very sweetly and asked: "Were you ever back East, John?"

"Oh, yes, I was in New York four years," he replied.

"Did you live on Mott street?"

"Oh, no. I lived at the Continental while I was taking the classical course at Columbia."—San Francisco Post.

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## CANADA'S QUEER RAILROAD.

No Locomotives No Cars, and Little Road—Used Above Right of Way.

Persons who have recently returned from the north shore of Lake Superior declare that the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railroad, which runs from Port Arthur southwest to the international boundary line, is without an equal in the world. In construction, in location, in maintenance, in operation, and in management it stands incomparable.

It is probably the only railway in the world that neither owns nor leases rolling stock. Its roadbed winds its picturesque and irregular way through an uninhabited country a vast stretch of swamp and barren land covered with a dense growth of spruce tamarack and balsam—until it reaches the terminus at Gun Flint Lake where there is a flourishing city inhabited by three persons. These live by trapping and hunting in the streets of the "future metropolis" of the Pigeon River country.

This road is a result of the fostering paternalism of the Canadian Government. It occurred to some one that it was easier to take money out of the paternal Dominion's treasury than it was to dig it out of the bowels of the earth in the gold mines of the Rainy Lake country, whose resources were to be opened up by means of the railroad. So the Parliament voted a subsidy of several thousands of dollars for each constructed mile. When the building of the road began it was intended to have it connect with an American line and form a through rail route from Port Arthur to Duluth while the main line was extended to Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods. If the subsidies had held out long enough the road would undoubtedly have been finished as projected. But the subsidies were exhausted all too soon, and the contractors were not inclined to put the profits from the construction of the first half into the remainder. Seventy miles of road were built, and the boomers of the road won an enviable distinction in constructing that much. They made money in the actual building. To accomplish this it was said that the embankments were built up of logs and brush, and that all the debris of the slovenly cleared right of way was consigned by a sprinkling of earth. The cuts were roughly gouged out of rock and earth, and were never within a foot of the depth demanded by the grade. The bridges, instead of being supported on trestles, were placed on supports made of cribs of timber piled up to the required height. The rails, which were probably worn out before they were turned over to this company, are laid on ties which ought to be twice as numerous.

Considering these conditions it is no wonder that the contractors dreaded the inspection of the Government Commission, upon whose report depended the payment of the subsidy. By pursuing a dilatory policy they were able to delay the Commission's visit till the charitable snows of winter had concealed the sins which they had committed against good railroad building. Besides, by that time Jack Frost had strengthened the embankments to such an extent that it was safe to run a train over them.

But aware of the jolts that the most observant man could not escape noticing, the builders capoled the commission into making most of the trip in sledges. All of these precautions supplemented and reinforced by a liberal use of creature comforts of a stimulating nature, caused the commission to report in glowing terms of the new railroad, which they said, was favored by the whole population. They neglected to add that there were not fifty people along the whole line.

Since the road has been finished it has been in the habit of borrowing a flat car, caboose, and engine from the Canadian Pacific Railway once a week. This limited train takes a day to run from Port Arthur to Gun Flint Lake and another day to get back. When it arrives at the lake it is welcomed by the entire population. Between runs the train hands stroll down to the lake and pick out the best of the fifty gaudily painted pleasure boats, which still await the tourists who never come, and go out fishing.

On the American side of the line the road has a four-mile extension to the Gun Flint Lake Iron Mine, which is owned in Minneapolis. At one place on this spur the woodwork of a bridge over a deep ravine has been burned, leaving the rails hanging across the chasm, forming a useless suspension bridge.

Some day this road may be useful to commerce, but at present, as the nondescript train rattles over the rusty rails and flimsy roadbed. It serves only to haul salt pork and beans to the three inhabitants of the terminus and to unnecessarily disturb the sense of security of the wild animals of the wilderness.—Chicago Record.

STUNTING DOGS.

How the Diminutive Fashionable Canine is Produced.

This is an era of tiny dogs in English society. The more diminutive a parcel of canine flesh that you can possess the more you are a swell. But, alas! how many feminine readers who delight in the miniature doggies know that they are an artificial product.

There is in London an establishment devoted entirely to the stunting of the animals. The proprietor is an ex-breeder of fighting dogs, but he now finds more profit in rearing the lilliputian canines, for which he has a wide reputation. He does not claim to be the originator of the process, for he says that all dog men know of the dwarfing powers of alcohol, but he asserts that he is the only man in London to adopt the principal systematically.

His method is as follows: The pup destined to be stunted is taken from its mother when a few hours old, and when it begins to whine for sustenance it is fed with a warm decoction of gun and water. Deprived of milk, it takes to this readily. When it reaches a certain age alcohol in various forms constitute the animal's sole diet.

The pups do not die, nor do they develop. They soon cease to grow at all. After a generation or two of mating, the much-prized lilliputian canines are obtained.

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