

THE HEART OF TORONTO

"THE WARD," WHERE MUCH MISERY HAS MANY HOMES.

Scenes of Woe and Starvation Which Are an Everyday Part of Life in Ontario's Greatest City—Relief Officer Walsh Backs Up an Able Correspondent in Making District's Position Public.

There is a small section in the heart of this city (Toronto) that contains as much or more poverty, filth and people than is found in any other city of its size on the American continent, writes J. A. Macdonald in Toronto Sunday World. Surrounded by the halls of Government, and skirted by the best business and residential streets in Toronto exists a condition of affairs that is well calculated to make this community surrender the title of the cleanest and best managed municipality in the Dominion. This section is that part known in the olden times as St. John's parish, and now familiarly called "The Ward." It lies between College street on the north, Queen street on the south, University street to the west, and Yonge street to the east. Some of the saddest stories that have been told of dire distress and woe have come from this spot. The stories told of families living in one room and in cellars, which, in the spring are filled with water and in winter with snow drifts, are not by any means conditions of the past, but can be repeated again, and are ever increasing in number.

Where Charity's Mantle Spreads.

Charity is here supplied in the greatest measure. In the last two years over 3,000 persons were looked after by the charitable institutions. The causes that bring these poor to this particular locality are varied. But it is said that but few ever return to the cleaner or more habitable parts of the city, after having once settled here. Widows, aged and poor; fallen women, to hide their shame and name from those whom they need to know; families whose head has driven them into destitution through drink; and the loss of means and work through sickness, are among the main reasons that drive these unfortunates together. There is also one more prominent reason why "the ward" is the most congested part of the city—scarcity of houses and the raising of rents.

Sink Lower and Lower.

From the statistics kept by those whose duties have brought them among this portion of the community it will be seen that instead of rising from their environments the majority invariably sink lower and lower till their moral status becomes so weakened that they seem to no longer care what befalls them. Living in this neglected and tumble down district there seems no incentive for them to rise above their conditions but on the contrary they drift more readily into habits that bring them to the alms house and make of them in their old age dependants on the city.

There are some, however, that do not want to sink to this condition, but by unfortunate circumstances they, too, are compelled to depend on charity for their existence in the latter period of their life. But with all neglect and poverty that is depicted here there is a certain part of the residents who are as thrifty and have as comfortable homes as any in the city. These latter mostly own property and only live there to watch their interests.

Disease Lurks Here.

That disease and pestilence has not spread itself over the ward and out among the rest of the citizens is something that has puzzled those in touch. The unsanitary conditions in many instances are something indescribable. Five and six families can be found living under one roof, where there is not a single connection with sewer nor water pipes. Refuse of all kinds is thrown carelessly in the yards and streets as though there were not the slightest obligation on anyone to maintain a degree of cleanliness. Here among filth and dirt is the only playground for the children. They tumble about all day long and many have never been known to have had a bath. These cases may be among the most careless families, but they nevertheless prevail.

Make a Personal Inspection.

As examples of just what actually existed in this district, I in company with a city relief officer, visited a number of dwellings where the worst of the conditions already related were seen. Those who live their lives in the pleasant surroundings of the better parts of the city can hardly realize what can be seen here. There are few indeed who could picture anything quite so miserable and dejected. Not a thing that goes to make life happy or even bearable can be seen about these places. Nor do their inhabitants get the opportunity but rarely to go beyond the confines of broken down houses and cheerless lanes. Little do the majority of Toronto's good citizens think that while eating their wholesome and abundant dinners there are people numbered by the thousands who are more than satisfied if they can get sufficient to keep life within their weakened and neglected frames.

It was to see some of these unfortunates and witness their pitiable

plight that I accompanied Relief Officer Walsh on his rounds of inspection. And in one hour enough was seen to clearly demonstrate that in Toronto are conditions that are not unlike the slums of the largest metropolises in this or any other country.

Where Poverty Is Supreme.

The first visit was to the rear of 10 Chestnut street. The only entrance was a muddy lane filled with refuse of many days standing. Close behind the dwellings that face on the street a two-storey building about thirty-five feet long and very narrow, which contains six families. No family has over two rooms. Each family is composed of more than two persons. The majority are over three. Three live in the top storey and three in the bottom. But owing to the collapse of the stairway a few days ago there are only two families now living in the upper top. Here Mr. Macdonald gives two columns describing in detail many places much worse than that described in the above paragraph. He then proceeds:

What Relief Officer Walsh Says.

This is the slum district of Toronto. Relief Officer Walsh, in commenting upon the situation, thought that through all his travels through the large cities of the United States he has never seen anything more wretched than some of the cases that have come to his notice in the Ward. He attributes the miserable condition in the first place to the scarcity of houses of the variety that would meet the pockets of these people, and, in the second place, to the fact that little or no attention has been paid to the matter by any particular body. The charitable organizations have been the only ones who have ever made any attempt to assist these unfortunates. And the worst feature of it is, as he views it, the fact that "the Ward" is daily growing in density. What is to be done he is not prepared to say, but that something should be done and at once, for the safety of the city's health and the good of these people he is thoroughly convinced.

The World's Water Power.

John C. Hawkshaw, president of the Institute of Civil Engineers, has calculated the total water power of the world to be equivalent to 10,340,000,000 horse-power (apparently annually). To obtain this figure he assumes a rainfall of ten inches to flow off every square inch of land and places the mean height at 2,250 feet above sea level. "Our present yearly output of 225,000,000 tons of coal would give that horse-power for only a little over half a day."

Fortune smiles on the few. To the majority she gives the laugh.

Intercolonial Railway.

TENDERS FOR COAL HOUSE.

Sealed tenders, addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside "Tender for Coal House, Sydney," will be received up to and including

SATURDAY, THE 2ND DAY OF JULY, 1904.

For the construction of a Coal House with Hoisting Machinery at SYDNEY, N. S.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the Station Master's office, Sydney, N. S., and at the office of the Chief Engineer, Moncton, N. B., where forms of tender may be obtained. All the conditions of the specification must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER,

General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N. B.,

15th June, 1904.

June 18—d111

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Tender for Building.

Sealed tenders, addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside "Tender for Brick Building, St. John," will be received up to and including

Monday, the 27th day of June, 1904

For the construction of a Brick Office and Stores Building at St. John, N. B.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the Station Master's office at St. John, N. B., and at the Chief Engineer's office, at Moncton, N. B., where the forms of tender may be obtained.

All the conditions of the specification must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER,

General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N. B.,

June 7th, 1904.



SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Campbellton Wharf" will be received at this office until Friday, July 8, 1904, inclusively, for the construction of a deep water wharf at Campbellton, Restigouche County, N. B., according to a plan and a specification to be seen at the offices of E. T. P. Sweeney, Esq., Resident Engineer, St. John, N. B., Geoffrey Stead, Esq., Resident Engineer, Chatham, N. B., on application to the Postmaster at Campbellton, N. B., and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa. Tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers. An accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, for four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00), must accompany each tender. The cheque will be forfeited if the party tendering declines the contract or fails to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

FRED. GELINAS,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, June 9, 1904.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the Department, will not be paid therefor.

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A Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of

INFANTS, CHILDREN

Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**

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Pumpkin Seed -
Aloes -
Rhubarb -
Sassafras -
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Milk -
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A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.

Fac Simile Signature of
Dr. H. H. Pitcher
NEW YORK.

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INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after Sunday, June 12th, 1904, trains will run daily (Sundays excepted), as follows:

TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 6 Mixed for Moncton	6.25
No. 2 Express for Halifax, the Sydneys and Campbellton	7.50
No. 4 Express for Point du Chene	11.00
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	11.45
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.15
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal	19.00
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.25
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	12.5
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton	15.10
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene	17.80
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton	17.15
No. 1 Express from Halifax	19.15
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Sunday only)	1.35

All trains are run by Atlantic Standard Time. Twenty-four o'clock is midnight. Moncton, June 9, 1904.

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(And Special Practitioner's Certificate from Chicago College of Dental Surgery).

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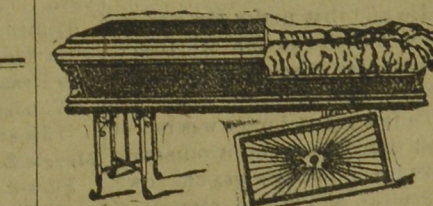
Queen st., opp. City Hall, Tel. 78.

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