

SLATS' DIARY
(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: Last nite Ma made me take a bath & sed be sure & get good & dry before retiring & not to forget my neck & ears. I diddnt. Diddnt get them wet in the 1st place.

Monday: Well, skool is began. The 1st thing are teacher done was to tell us kids to try & no are weekness & a voide it. So I am in a quon dary. Jane is mine & I dunno if I can shake her.

Tuesday: Are ford woodent start up so went to town on a st. car. Sum other littel boy & his Ma was sitten down & there Pa standen up & his Ma sed to him it otto hurt him to see his Pa holden a strap & he replide & sed not on a st. car. I xpect I no what he ment. Or was thinken about.

Wednesday: Ma give a tramp a pece of pie recent & sed to Pa today the felloe has ben senden his frends here ever sense. Pa sed mebbly its his enemys. Ma lookt mad & sed dont try & get smart. Nature never entended it. Then Pa hushed up & sed no moar.

Thursday: Mister Gillem is a can dedate for sum offis & Unkel Hen sed he got sick at it. Pa sed he xpected Mister Gillem smoked 1 of them segars he was handen to the men voters. Or segerets he was given the dames.

Friday: I see in the paper whair it says the Ripuplikans says all the noodeelers is a goin to vote for them & the noodeelers says all the Ripuplikans is a goin to vote for they. Why doant they change the partie names then says yorse trooley.

Saturday: Mas ignorants about fords is sublime and etc whatever that is. We got ares started & was out riden & Pa sed we must stop a while becous the engine was too hot. Ma up & ad vised him to shut off the steem & it wood be ohkay. I snickered & had to dodge.

The unhappiest home is the one where a cold and righteous boss is guided only by a sense of duty.

The final proof of he-man will power is to let an insect bite itch like a house afire and not scratch.

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Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Sept. 15.—The federal government has decided to launch a drive on unemployment by means of a housing campaign. The National Employment Commission, after considering the various aspects of unemployment in Canada, was much impressed by the fact that about one-half of the unemployed in Canada were connected in some way with the building industry. Some business leaders, in fact, say that only two major obstacles now stand in the way of complete recovery for Canada. One is, the discouraging low level of building activity, and the other is the drought losses of this summer.

Whether this is true or not, it is quite evident that if building activity could be raised to its pre-depression levels, work would be found for several hundred thousand people, either in the construction industries, or one of its allied activities, or in other lines of trade to supply the new army of the employed.

It was these considerations which led the National Employment Commission to stress this possible way out of the depression for Canada. And, beginning in some centres at once, the idea is:

(A Three-fold Plan)

1. To guarantee lending institutions so that loans can be made cheaply to persons wishing to paint, enlarge or rehabilitate their homes. The co-operation of municipalities will be necessary for it to succeed so will the help of the banks, the construction companies, and the welfare and service clubs of the country. It is hoped to launch a fifty million dollar rehabilitation scheme.

2. A low-cost housing scheme is to be initiated, by co-operation between the Dominion, the provinces and the municipalities. This will call for some government subsidies, as the average worker cannot afford to pay the rent of the kind of house he should have, according to studies made in various centres.

3. An enlargement of the present Dominion Housing Act, so that it will get under way and really accomplish something.

The farmer, at last, is being remembered. Under the first two heads of this program, the rural resident is to be given the same consideration as those who dwell in the cities.

(Several Obstacles)

There are several "ifs" about the scheme. One question is whether the average home-owner can afford to borrow money, even if he can get it cheap, to improve his present dwelling. If he is already carrying all the load possible, he won't be able to take advantage of the scheme, even with low interest rates.

Another question is: will the municipalities co-operate by exempting such a man from extra taxation for a year or two at least? What holds many people back from improving their property is the knowledge that if they do, taxes, which are high enough already, will rise some more. Still another is: will the dealers in lumber and other raw materials in building, the trades unions and all the other factors entering into the cost of a house, co-operate by rendering their services at the lowest figure they can?

The high cost of housing, the high cost of money, and the high level of taxation: these are the three big bogeys which have driven residence building down to such low levels. In the first seven months of 1936 residential construction contracts awarded were valued at \$22,300,000. In 1928 and 1929 the totals at that time of the year were \$85,600,000 and \$81,000,000 respectively.

No wonder there are reported to be 80,000 houses short in Canada, and at least another quarter of a million not really fit to live in.

These obstacles are met in a small measure by the proposed legislation announced last week. Money rates, at least, will be cheaper. But the municipal and private interests will have to make some contribution toward the other difficulties, it would appear, before a big forward drive can be expected.

The goal, however, seems to be worth working for. If 200,000 persons could be re-absorbed into construction and allied industry, and as many more drawn into other industries to look after the workers' new needs, the employment problem in Canada would have practically disappeared.

Not much can be done till next spring, but a few experimental projects will, here and there, be started.

Automobile makers have great faith in their product. The tools they supply indicate a conviction that you won't need any.

HEALTH

A HEALTH SERVICE OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA



BUILDING HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

We have already said that the first duty of everybody who has any authority in schools, from superintendents down to janitors, and from trustees up to parents, is to see, first, that children are not harmed in body by the school routine, that is are not harmed much, and also that they are not neglected in their homes, but have a decent break. But that is merely negative. Health is not merely the avoidance of injury and the absence of disease. Health is a glowing beautiful positive thing. There is a two hundred page report to the British parliament on twenty-five years of building up of health in British schools. In the past quarter century, this report tells us, anaemia of girls has almost vanished. Ringworm is steadily disappearing. Blindness is being prevented. A verminous child is not to be found in school. Malnourished children are only one per cent instead of ten to twenty per cent, in the "better and more prosperous" times. Heart disease, ricketts and tuberculosis have been steadily reduced and the condition of teeth is improving. An increasing number of open-air school rooms are provided. The general physical condition of the children is beyond all comparison with the past. By all these improvements children have been rendered much more fit for education; education has been more closely adapted to individual needs; and finally a health consciousness has been developed among parents.

But these things are just a beginning. What I have mentioned are still the negative phases of health, the vanishing of dirt and disease. It is a vision of Positive Health Sir George wants the Parliament and the people to get. He tells them again and again—and I wish he could tell every teacher, every trustee, every good citizen in Canada—that the organized physical education of the body of every child has a psychological purpose, a recreational aim, a mental and moral intention, a broad and wholesome and general educational value. This is not a military drill on the Spartan plan, or the Mussolini plan, to train goose-stepping cannon fodder, but all-round physical education to make fit and fine and well-balanced people, for the world's work, the world's play and the world's salvation.

For instance, dances are very valuable—important enough to be discussed page after page in a Parliamentary report. Dancing trains in control, in balance of mind and body, in poise, in ease and lightness of movement. It trains eye and ear and develops a feeling of rhythm and order. It arouses imagination and the creative powers. English schools simply cannot get on without dancing—and swimming. Hygiene is taught in habits rather than in set lectures.

Games are of the utmost importance. Children who play well now will work well, and cooperate well, when they grow up. How many times have you heard that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton? Let me tell you that many finer victories than Waterloo, and many better products than generalship, have been won on the playing fields of Eton, of Moose Jaw, Antigonish, Medicine Hat, Smith's Corners, Lachine or Dauphin.

If it is true that playtime may be as high in educational values as work time, and that recess periods may be as important as arithmetic lessons, why is it that play time rests so little on the conscience of the teacher, and is so incidental in the day's programme? A boy would not be allowed to take reading in class and pass up arithmetic; or to take grammar and cut out geography. We demand that there should be some kind of all-roundness in his education. Then why should he be able to shirk all sports month after month, scarcely appear on the playground at all, and no questions asked? If Greece was right, and if England is right a boy might almost as well pass up reading as pass up games.

Some of these wonderful things that were old in Plato's day are new again today, and less considered by us than they ought to be. Let me urge all who have anything to do with primary, or secondary, or university education to catch this new vision, this vision of sane, well-balanced, clear-thinking minds in healthy, strong, glowing, graceful bodies.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College St., Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

PHIL OSIFER OF LAZY MEADOWS

By Harry J. Boyle
"Coming Home"

So many words have been spilled in regard to the home that it may be a waste of time for an old fellow like me even to attempt to describe my feelings on the subject. To me, home is at its very best on a Saturday evening. Just like yesterday. All day I had been ploughing in the south field. Coming on towards evening, the sorrel colt began to shake its harness and whinny softly, as if to tell me that it was time we were quitting. To tell the truth, my thoughts were in a parallel with his, because I was tired from tramping up and down the new furrows. I unhitched and went to the barn.

Of course the boys were home from school. They took the colt, and Annabelle, the grey mare, away into the stable for me, and I was at liberty to go up to the house. Spotty, the pup, came out to gambol at my feet and then he tugged away until he had undone my shoe-laces. I went into the woodshed then, to splash the cold water on my face, and then straighten the kinks out of my hair with the comb.

There is a roast of meat sizzling in the oven, and it makes my mouth water as I peer into the mysteries of the shining pots and pans. Even the tea-kettle adds its song of welcome, when I have come in from work in the field.

I sit at the door and the lazy wreaths of smoke curl out from my pipe to where the flies are reconnoitring on the screen door, in a vain attempt to find a hole where they may gain entrance. It's quiet and cool in there, with the shades drawn on the books and the parlor furniture. My hand strays out to the newspaper. No, I don't want it. Why destroy all this peacefulness by reading the newspaper and the accounts of the men and women who everywhere, it seems, are struggling? It would be a desecration to introduce the sordid side into this peaceful haven that is my home.

I look out across the Big Hill to see a world that is revelling in an orgy of color. Here and there a new green field of fall wheat shows up as a vivid contrast to the brilliantly-hued costumes of the poplars on the hill, or to the maples that are gayly festooned with flaming scarlet and bright golden-yellow.

Spotty is worrying away at an old bone, over at the edge of the garden. I can see woodchucks sitting at the

entrance-way of their burrows, as if they were devout worshippers of Allah, reciting their Koran while facing Mecca and the setting sun.

It's strange how my old weariness passes off like a cloud before the sun, and I enjoy a romp with the children. There is someone framed in the doorway, who is gently bidding me to come and eat what she has prepared. I pass in through the woodshed, and pause for ablutions, and then with a quick drying on the roller towel... (it's a fresh, clean one on Saturday) I pass on into the kitchen.

And when I go in there is a bouquet of sweet-smelling flowers in a vase on the clean table-cloth, and then I remember how hungry I am, and I slide a potato or two on my plate, when the women-folks are saying grace.

It's great to be home on a Saturday evening.

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