

PROVIDES FOR UPBRINGING OF FUTURE CITIZENS

Widows' Pension Act, in Operation in New Jersey, Declared to Be Great Success.

KEEPS THE HOME TOGETHER

Under the Law Widows Are Enabled to Clothe, Feed and Educate Their Children—Will Do Away With Public Institutions, Which Cannot Take the Place of the Mother—New York is Investigating With a View to the Adoption of the System.

NEWARK, N. J.—She stands in the door of the shanty she calls home on the outskirts of the city. A child clings to each hand and another clutches tightly to the folds of her pink calico dress. Just inside the door stands two new brass cribs. Across the gloomy aspect of broken kitchen chairs and patched table beyond are hooks in the brick chimney on which hang children's garments with the bright stamp of newness on them. There is coal in the scuttle by the range, with its cracked lid, and there is food—a cooking, Dinky and gloomy is the interior of the shanty room, but it is spotlessly clean.

This is the home of the first widow in Jersey to be pensioned for being what she is—just a poverty-stricken mother. The cribs, the coal, the clothes, the food are results of that first pension check.

Homes Are Proof of Worth.

To the outside world perhaps the Widow's Pension act passed in Jersey last July is a hazy reality, the real significance of which is hardly appreciated. It is only when one can peer into a home where the pension has come—or perhaps, more aptly, has peered into it before and after the coming—that it dawns on one what this pensioning of widowed women who have children dependent upon them really means.

Briefly the widows' pension was the dream of Isaac T. Nichols, senator from Cumberland county, who plainly stated that in his opinion a woman who brought children into the world was entitled to a pension for her work when her husband, or support, was taken from her by death. That was the beginning. Senator Nichols was for pensioning every mother of a child under sixteen years old. But there were those who objected. Such a broad act, they said, would allow unmarried women with children, women with husbands still living and others to share in the reward intended really for the widowed mother. The bill was amended, and became a law on July 22.

First Pension on July 22.

By July 22 the first hearing to determine the granting of pension had been held, and the first pension was granted. It is only a matter of time when every state will have its pensioned mothers, Senator Nichols said.

There are 346 widowed mothers drawing pension in New Jersey, and the number is steadily increasing. There are pensioned mothers in every one of the state's 21 counties save one. The one exception from which no request has come is Ocean county, in the southern part of the state. Why no cry from a needy mother has been heard from there is a mystery to the state board of children's guardians which has the supervision of the pensions and pensioners in hand.

The process a widowed mother must employ to gain a pension is simple. First, she must write to the state board of children's guardians for application blanks. She will receive three blanks, all identical. She must fill in each, one for the state board, one for the overseer of the poor in her district and one for the judge of the county court, where her case eventually will be heard.

County Foots the Bills.

On receipt of her application the state board sends investigators to determine her condition. Then a date is set for her hearing and she goes into court and tells her story. The investigation of the state board is offered in evidence, and the judge passes on whether or not she is eligible to a pension. If she becomes a pensioner, the checks are sent her out of the funds of the county in which she lives.

The amount of the pension, which is really intended for the support of her children; is fixed by law. It is \$9 a month for one child, \$14 a month for two children and \$18 a month for three children, and for each child thereafter \$4 a month. The state board's investigators have supervisory charge of the dispensation of the pension and of the conduct of the mother. At the arrival of a child at the age of sixteen, or before, at the discretion of the board, the pension for that child can be discontinued. This, briefly, is what New Jersey has done for its widowed mothers. How has the plan worked out?

The woman with the three children in a shanty on the edge of Newark smiled when she was asked. It was a tired smile, but there was no trace of unhappiness in it.

"How does it work?" she answered, and her voice was full with emotion. "Fine!"

"She passed to smooth with a thin



hand the hair of a five-year-old boy who clung to her dress. The other children, a girl of eight and a boy of seven, looked up at her as children only can look at those they trust. "It pays the rent," she went on, "and it buys the coal and it gives me a chance to clothe them as they ought to be clothed. Before the first check from the county came we didn't have any clothes that you might call clothes. I didn't mind for myself, but the little ones were without warm things except what I could make for them between the days' work, and even in July the winter isn't far off, for the poor at least, and this house is cold. I hated to look ahead and think of them shivering all day, and the coal most gone, and then it was a puzzle as to whether to spend our lone dollar for food or warmth for them.

"But now," she smiled again, "it's different. It pays the rent, and it buys the coal, and—we can eat three times every day."

New York Investigating.

New York is fighting for the very law New Jersey now has. The foremost charity and philanthropic students in New York city ardently endorse it. Every club in the City Federation and all those throughout the state have given their unqualified approval. The state of New York has taken a step in the direction of widowed mothers' pensions. Last year the governor appointed a commission to investigate the workings of the law in several states, including New Jersey. This committee will report upon the advisability of enacting similar relief legislation. One of the members of the commission is Mrs. William Einstein, president of the Widowed Mothers' Fund, who for many years has been the heart and soul of the new great movement. According to her, there really is but one side to the question.

"There is not a bit of doubt," she declared, "that the state owes the duty to the children. I speak advisedly of the children, instead of the mothers. However difficult and pathetic may be the condition of a widowed mother, who is unable to support her children and who must bring them up in a state of pitiful sordidness or relinquish them to the state, the condition of the children is worse.

Eighteen States Give Relief.

"The influences of their early years are the influences of a lifetime, and they make or mar them. And certainly it is obligatory upon the administration to see that all possible be done to make those influences of the best. Mother love and home surroundings are of inestimable value, and since the state can preserve those to the children it should do so.

"Since I have been interested in this problem, 18 states have adopted a system of relief for widowed mothers, and in every one of them it is working beautifully. It can't help but be a lasting success. The argument that the state will be spending too much money is not worth consideration. The only difference is that the money will go directly into the needy homes instead of into institutions. It will do infinitely more good in those homes than in institutions.

"And, what is just as important, we wish to do away entirely with private charity. That accomplishes very little. It is only a temporary relief and doesn't get at the moment get at the big principle of the situation."

Mr. Bruer, the head of the Bureau of Municipal Research, believes, in such relief, but he declares the present scheme does not go far enough or quite grasp the underlying principle of the question.

Would Go Even Further.

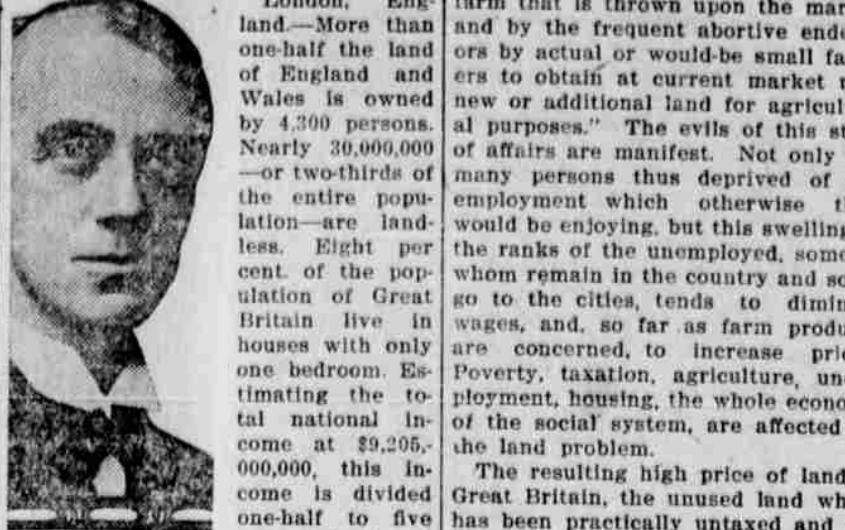
"As a step in the right direction," he said, "I am in favor of the present movement. In considering it I have gone through many phases. And while I am theoretically in thorough agreement with it, I cannot help thinking that it stops a little short.

"I prefer a general social insurance which will lay less stress on the payment as a right. For unquestionably that is an indubitable right that these mothers and children should have relief.

"The danger in the present scheme, it seems to me, is that the mother has no absolute surety she will be paid, and that there is no incentive for a husband and father to provide for his

Making Tomorrow's World. By WALTER WILLIAMS, LL.D. (Dean of the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri)

LAND MONOPOLY IN GREAT BRITAIN.



London, England.—More than one-half the land of England and Wales is owned by 4,700 persons. Nearly 30,000,000—or two-thirds of the entire population—are landless. Eight per cent of the population of Great Britain live in houses with only one bedroom. Estimating the total national income at \$9,205,000,000, this income is divided one-half to five and one-half million persons and one-half to the remaining thirty-nine millions of the population.

One-Third of Land for Pleasure.

Excluding Scotland and Ireland, at \$9,205,000,000, this income is divided one-half to five and one-half million persons and one-half to the remaining live in houses with only one bedroom. Estimating the total national income where the condition is worse, in England and Wales one-third of all the land is unused for agriculture, industry or housing. In the striking phrase of the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, it is "more of a pleasure ground for the rich than a treasure house for the nation." Four hundred peers and peeresses, to use Mr. L. G. Chiozza Money's carefully prepared figures, own 5,730,000 acres; 1,300 great landowners own 8,500,000 acres; 2,600 squires own 4,320,000; 9,600 greater yeomen own 4,780,000; 24,492 lesser yeomen own 4,140,000; 220,000 small proprietors own 4,000,000; 700,000 cottagers own 150,000; while of the remaining 3,000,000 acres half is owned by public bodies and half lies waste. If the ownership be averaged, it will be found that a peer holds an average of 14,325 acres; a great land-

owner, 6,538; a squire, 1,651; a greater yeoman, 196; a lesser yeoman, 170; a small proprietor, 18, and a cottager, less than half an acre.

300,000 Leavs Farms in Decade.

"What is the effect of this concentration of land in the hands of the few?" "Land is the mother and labor the father of wealth," a distinguished economist has written. Land concentrated in a few hands increases the problem of poverty, which Mr. Horace B. Samuel defines as "the economic discomfort occasioned to vast masses of the population by the unequal distribution of wealth." The use of the land is necessary for economic production, whether agricultural or industrial, and for housing, whether in city or country. The whole trend of civilization just now is away from agriculture and toward industrialism. In England this tendency is most marked. Less than nine per cent of the population of England are now engaged in agriculture, 300,000 having abandoned the farm in the last ten years, as many leaving the farm in a single decade as the entire number of farm owners in the state of Missouri. In the United States one person in three is engaged in agriculture in some form; in all Great Britain and Ireland only one in ten is so engaged, and the proportion is growing rapidly less. The general tendency of the situation, to quote the significant and measured words of Mr. Asquith, the British prime minister, is "a process of depletion at one end and congestion at the other, by which every year fresh additions of recruits are being made to the ranks of the casual and unemployed."

Land Hogging Spawns Great Evils.

Land concentration in Great Britain has promoted agricultural depression, low wages, unemployment and discontent. "It is notorious," said a city of London barrister, "that large areas of land which might be with advantage farmed by desirable tenants willing to pay a fair market rent are kept back by owners, who either sit on the property in the hope of being eventually able to hatch a higher price, or preserve it for the purpose of some ornament for reasons of social prestige or sheer sporting instinct. The extent of this retention of land is conclusively evidenced by the numerous applications that flow in for every

farm that is thrown upon the market and by the frequent abortive endeavors by actual or would-be small farmers to obtain at current market rate new or additional land for agricultural purposes." The evils of this state of affairs are manifest. Not only are many persons thus deprived of the ranks of the unemployed, but those who remain in the country and some go to the cities, tends to diminish wages, and, so far as farm products are concerned, to increase prices. Poverty, taxation, agriculture, unemployment, housing, the whole economy of the social system, are affected by the land problem.

The resulting high price of land in Great Britain, the unused land which has been practically untaxed and the burden upon all industry have caused serious consideration of the problem. That "something should be done" is asserted by statesmen as far separated in political beliefs as Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lloyd-George.

Very "Soft" for Noble Duke.

The unnecessary burden which falls upon industry by landlordism in the form of mining royalties is another evil result. Mr. Lloyd-George, the Liberal chancellor, estimated it at \$40,000,000 a year. The average amount of royalty on iron ore is 60 cents a ton on every ton brought to the surface and 18 cents on coal. This is paid to landlords for mining royalties in addition to ordinary leases or "dead rents," in British phrase. Of the coal mines visited one example will suffice. A coal mine operating company fourteen years ago sank the mine at an expense of \$2,500,000, and, although as yet no coal has been taken out, the company has paid in mining royalties to the duke of Newcastle more than \$500,000. Nearby is a quarry from which the landlord drew \$7,500 for the clay extracted.

As in agriculture and in mining, so in the towns for factory and business sites the land concentration makes for higher burdens. Some concrete in-

stances, vouched for by Mr. H. R. Stockman, who has made a study of the question, will show the result. "The obvious creator of land wealth," said that canny Scotchman, Andrew Carnegie, "is not the individual, but the community." Mr. Balfour, in an address in the house of commons, said: "The value of all land, anywhere, just as the value of a railway, wherever it may be and by whomsoever it was made, by the state or by private individuals, the value of this, as well as of every other kind of property, depends upon the community." But to whom does the unearned increment go?

Uncertain Fortunes for Landlords.

In fifty years the ground rent of the town of Burton-on-Trent increased from \$10,000 to \$350,000. An absentee owner, the marquis of Anglesey, as landlord receives this rent. His local taxes or rates are \$30.

Sheffield, one of the greatest manufacturing cities in England, is owned, in greater part, by the duke of Norfolk. A dry goods merchant in that city held a lease on land at \$75 a year. Seven years before the lease would have expired the duke granted a renewal on condition that the tenant surrendered the unexpired part of the lease, paid \$750 a year rent instead of \$75, spent \$5,000 in improving the building and continued to pay all the taxes.

A large part of the ground upon which London's buildings stand is owned by certain rich peers. Land is not sold by them, but leased or rented. The renter erects, at his own expense, such buildings as he needs, and pays all the taxes. When his lease expires he must pay the increased rent which his own improvements make possible to charge, or else move, abandoning his own building. Some recent sales show the almost fabulous price which the absentee landowner receives when he does sell London real estate in the more favored sections.

Fabulous Price for London Realty.

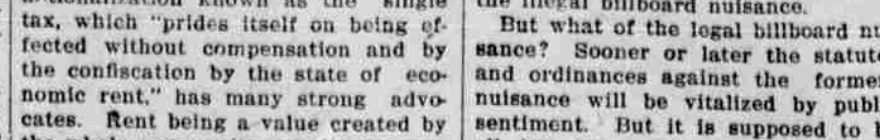
The London county council went to parliament for powers to purchase Albert Square garden, Limehouse, to preserve it for an open space or park for the poor. After arbitration, the council was compelled to pay to the "noble lord" its owner, \$50,000 for the ground, two-thirds of an acre. At the junction of Old Broad street, where stands the bank upon which many

HOME TOWN HELDS BILLBOARD AS A NUISANCE. Unnecessary and Unsightly, There is Absolutely No Reason for its Existence.

PROVIDING FOR SHADE TREES

Maine Town Has a Method That Would Seem to Be Well Worth Copying.

A novel method of providing and maintaining shade trees for the streets is in effect in Farmington, Me., where a disastrous fire twenty years ago killed practically all the trees. Following this fire some of the philanthropic citizens of the town originated the plan which is in effect today



Street in Maine Town, Where Each Tree is Maintained by a Citizen.

and under which each tree is bought, set out and cared for by some one person. Each tree bears a number, and in the courthouse there is a map showing the location of each tree and the name of the donor. Many trees are maintained by former residents of the town.—Popular Mechanics.

Model English Homes.

In speaking of the housing of the working classes by the London county council at Tottenham, a northern suburb of London, Mr. Watrous said: "There within reach of the very poorest are airy and substantial dwelling places with all facilities, recreational and otherwise, of a class seldom to be met with in the United States.

"It is a fine thing when a municipality buys land, builds the premises and rents them at a nominal sum to the working classes. We were so impressed with the wonderful success of the Tottenham scheme that we have brought back photographs of the dwellings and other useful details concerning them with the idea of utilizing them as a model in our own country."

School Wall Flower.

A word ought to be said about your duty to the students who are always "left out of things." Many a real tragedy has been silently lived by misunderstood or disliked boys and girls at schools. If you are one of them, make up your mind that you will be agreeable. Don't resent it; that only makes it worse. Don't be cheerful and patient; watch yourself to see if you have any little oddities that make you an undesirable companion; try to like everybody—and you will soon find people liking you. If you are one of the popular set be on the lookout to cheer those who are among the "left outs." You will be surprised at the pleasure you will find and at the sweetness of some of the friendships thus formed.—Christian Herald.

A Weighty Work.

"I wish you would send me a 'History of Philosophy.'" "Certainly," replied the bookseller. "The boy will deliver it on his way home tonight."

"But I want it in German." "Oh! Then I must send it in a wagon."—Puck.

A Suggestion.

"Are electric wires quick-tempered steel?" "Why do you ask that?" "Because it seems so dangerous to cross them."

Greeks Played Dominos.

The game of dominos has been variously traced to Greek, Hebrew and Chinese origin. Early in the eighteenth century it was introduced into France from Italy, and the Cafe de l'Opera was long the headquarters for expert players. From France it spread to England, Germany and America.

Figure is Out.

The following quaint excuse was received by the North London magistrate from a defendant on the other day: "Sir.—Sorry cannot appear has I to buy."