

Action Expected Shortly to Deal With Britain's Growing Slum Menace

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON (CP)—Legislative action is expected shortly to deal

with Britain's growing slum menace. As things stand, some 200,000 houses decay into slums every year.

Specifically, the government attack will be concentrated on the complicated rent restriction acts, pegging the rents of millions of homes at pre-war levels. Although conditions vary, the main difficulty is that in many cases rents are too low to justify repairs being made.

Under the present set-up, there are many oddities. Two different families living in the same house may legally pay varying rents. Similarly, a person who obtained an unfurnished apartment before the war may pay about one-fifth of the sum charged a neighbor who took a flat furnished; that is to say with a few sticks of furniture in it.

These anomalies are caused by rent control. Another complicating factor is the system of subsidies, whereby municipal authorities pay part of the rent of new houses for certain tenants

on their housing list. Where any particular person stands on this list depends on such things as length of time in the district and number of children.

LARGELY CHANCE

This system of priorities, the Economist notes, means it is "largely chance that determines whether a family lives in a dream-house or in a grimy tenement."

Of Britain's total of 13,300,000 occupied homes, it is estimated that more than 2,290,000 are more than 100 years old, and another 4,000,000 more than 75 years old. Most of these unfit homes are located in the chief industrial centres and in the mining towns and villages, causing the left-wing New Statesman and Nation to comment:

"This decay is eating out the heart of industrial Britain; for the disease is located at the centre of our economic life, where most of the industrial working class is born, works and dies."



THE LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET COMPANY will share honors with New York's Metropolitan Opera Company and the Boston Symphony orchestra at Montreal's "Musical May" festival in June. Principal dancers are ballerina Nathalie Leslie and premier danseur Anton Dolin, shown in costume for the classic "Giselle."

CHAPLIN SURRENDERS U.S. RE-ENTRY PERMIT

WASHINGTON (CP)—British movie comedian Charlie Chaplin has surrendered his United States re-entry permit indicating he does not intend to resume residence in the U.S.

The action was announced by the justice department which last year posted a stop order against Chaplin at all American ports after he had gone to Europe on a visit.

SCREEN ★ FLASHES

LONDON (CP)—Montreal's Marc Sheldon walked past a certain movie house in London's Leicester House, then stopped and stared.

The object of his attention was a huge, larger-than-life-size picture—of Marc Sheldon.

"It's just one of those flukes," says the young Canadian actor, known to Montrealers as Joseph Marcel Shako. Sheldon has only a small part in "Street Corner," the film the poster advertised, but the poster is so eye-catching it's practically a London landmark.

The dark, 22-year-old actor even rates more space on the poster than the star of the film, British actress Peggy Cummins. Sheldon plays an American soldier in "Street Corner," a story about British policemen that also features Anne Crawford. Though he has only a minor part, he's headed for better things.

STUDENT OF DRAMA

Sheldon came to London "strictly on spec" in January, 1950, after a year at the New York Academy of Dramatic Art, won scholarships at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and now has signed a seven-year contract with an Anglo-American company Music Corporation of America.

Sheldon spent 10 years of his childhood in the Protestant foster home centre, Montreal. He has won his way to a good contract through a combination of lucky breaks and talent. "Maybe next time I'm posted in the west end, folks will know who I am," he said in an interview. He now is under consideration for three different film parts.

So far, most of his entertainment career has been in radio and television. He came to London with no plans, won the first Irene Van Brugh scholarship awarded at the Royal Academy, awarded this with a Baron Parfumo grant for French acting at the academy, and ended his two years with a coveted diploma.

Next followed eight weeks in the television serial "The Broken Horseshoe," a story about doping of racehorses. This was later filmed, starring Robert Beatty, formerly of Hamilton, Ont., and is still to be released.

Prince Rupert Daily News
Thursday, April 16, 1953

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Britain Quits International Wheat Pact

LONDON (CP)—Britain confirmed today she will withdraw from the international wheat agreement.

"After mature consideration the government decided not to accede to the new agreement," Food Minister Gwynll Lloyd George told the House of Commons.

Britain refused to sign the agreement April 13 because she is unwilling to pay more than \$2 a bushel for wheat. The agreement calls for a \$2.05 price.

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