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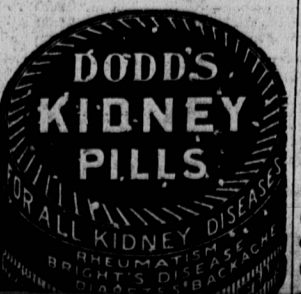
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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY DEC. 12, 1923

ABANDONED FARMS

In the current issue of the "Illustrated Canadian Forest and Outdoors," there is published an excellent written article on "The Stranded Man on the Hopeless Farm" by Robson Black, Manager Canadian Forestry Association. The article is supplemented by "The Story of the Mallow River Settlement" by a well qualified authority.

As each province unfortunately has its "stranded man on the hopeless farm" and its tragedy of a "Mallow River Settlement," the causes of the stranding and of the tragedy may be profitably enquired into.

"Why," asks the writer, "has the Mallow River Settlement (for name is, of course, disguised) felt practically its whole population until at the present time only three shacks with a few shiftless remnants of the once rugged settlers, keep a sign of human activity in a silent wilderness?"

According to the context the Mallow River settlement was formerly a well wooded district. Lumbering was a profitable occupation. The farmers supplemented their crops with good wages earned in the forest. The neighboring town had a busy population of 5,500. The forest eventually became exhausted; the town fell to a handful of people and boarded up dwellings.

The writer explains: "The vital truth is that the folks moved away, because they could not make a living. In the majority of cases, where farms must be won from the forest, no immigrant can prosper more than one generation unless the surrounding forests are maintained both as a source of supplementary income and the protection of the fertility of his land.

Settlements even on excellent soil have failed to prosper where the neighboring forests have been wiped out. In many instances settlements on no better soil than that of Mallow River have prospered because the forests remained to make up the deficiency."

It will be observed that the tragedy of Mallow River was because of the exhaustion of the forest, not because of the failure of the farms. These farms had never been depended upon. The lumbering business was the means of livelihood, the farms only a sideshow. No attention was given to the maintenance of soil fertility and when the forest was gone their occupation became exhausted nothing remained but to leave the settlement.

Very probably the fertility of the land in the Mallow River settlement could be maintained only with difficulty, if at all. Land covered by forests of spruce, fir, hemlock, pine and the other evergreens is usually of poor quality of soil as compared with that of hardwood forests with their yearly carpeting of falling leaves carried on for countless generations.

The cause of the abandonment of Mallow River farms was that the people were not farmers; they were lumbermen and when the forest was gone their occupation was gone.

That "in the majority of cases where farms must be won from the forest no immigrant can prosper more than one generation unless the surrounding forests are maintained both as a source of supplementary income and the protection of the fertility of his land," is not a safe deduction to make, as thousands of farms throughout Canada, "won from the forest" and their soil fertility maintained for

that immigrants have won farms from the forest and that these farms are still "going strong" because of proper methods of cultivation and because no side lines have been permitted to interfere with the main calling.

We do not by any means undervalue the forest both as a source of income and for its beneficial effect upon climatic conditions, but as a side line to farming we believe it to be a hindrance rather than a help. It is quite conceivable that during the winter lull in farming operations, a supplementary income could be derived from lumbering or any other side line that would not conflict with the main business, but farming to be successful must be the main business. In this province farming and fishing, farming and lumbering have been attempted. In few cases have both succeeded; one or the other must be wholly or partially neglected.

A "GREAT" DEMONSTRATION

Following the admitted failure of Premier MacKenzie King, both at home and abroad and as a sort of an emollient to the Halifax Liberal disaster, his followers planned a "great demonstration" in Montreal on the 6th instant, the second anniversary of the Liberal victory. The demonstration, according to the Montreal Gazette, was a "great" although it took place on a rainy day. The party hired 130 cars and this number actually took part in the parade but many of them were occupied by the hired chauffeur alone. The Gazette says: "There was no particular manifestation of enthusiasm as the parade started on the journey only a few spectators being on Windsor and Peel streets. On St. Catherine street there appeared to be even less than is usual but this was probably due to the fact that it was raining.

There was a large attendance in the drill hall—they can raise a crowd at any time and for any purpose in Montreal—but the only real enthusiasm shown was when a pretty little girl presented the Premier with a bouquet and he kissed her. In the midst of the most eloquent speeches the audience gradually melted away.

It will be difficult to cover up the past two years with a blanket, be it ever so highly decorated. What Mr. MacKenzie King has written he has written and it will not be covered. However those demonstrations are nice things and the people like to hear the band play.

GOOD PROGRESS

We understand that good progress is being made by the representatives of the "Soldiers' Settlement Board" in their survey of the province to ascertain the farms available for settlement under the immigration scheme under consideration by the Provincial Government. One representative is doing the work in each county and obtaining their first information from the Road Inspectors in each district. What subsequent information may be necessary will be obtained at closer range.

The movement is an important and commendable first step towards soliciting much needed immigration to the province. Heretofore had immigrants come there was no information available by which they could be directed or even induced to remain. Now they can be at least directed to available farms from which they may select for themselves and they will

Notes By the Way

There are three principal parties in the United Kingdom and three in Canada. The third party as representing Labor in England and representing the Farmers in Canada is second in numerical strength in both countries. In both the Kingdom and the Dominion the two-party system, Liberal and Conservative respectively in name, had long prevailed, and these parties had been each in its turn dominant in the country's affairs from time to time for terms long or short, and in the aggregate for comparatively equal periods. Upon occasion, as at the time of Confederation, or the last great war, Coalitions or Unionist Governments were formed of the leaders of both the two old parties.

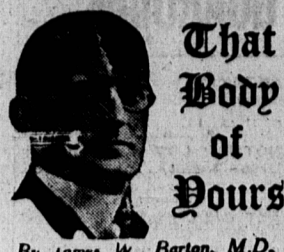
The resemblance in outline goes further. The Conservative and Liberal parties are old in both Great Britain and Canada, while it is only in comparatively recent years that organized Labor has become an important factor in British politics, or that the United Farmers have attained that position in Canada. In both countries the youngest party has now become second in parliamentary strength and numbers, and aims at and hopes to secure the ascendancy. The Conservative party is largest of the three, and holds power as yet in the Mother Country, while the Liberal party is smallest. In Canada the Liberals are the largest body in Parliament, and are in power, and the Conservatives the smallest body.

But neither Premier Baldwin nor Premier King can command a majority in their respective Parliaments if the parties elected in Opposition should combine their full strength to oppose him. Premier Baldwin comes far short of a majority with almost half the House at his back, but is now clearly in the minority and quite at the mercy of his Farmer opponents whenever they choose to exercise their power. Thus, unfortunately, in both the United Kingdom and in Canada the governments of the day are each in a minority. This tends to weakness both in domestic and foreign policy in the Mother Country at a critical period of the nation's history. In Canada, under an Administration weak in two-thirds of its personnel and weakly led, it presages a vacillating and hesitant course and an early downfall.

The King Ministry has lost touch with the people of Canada. Since its formation two years ago its leading spirits have been wandering about to the United States, Australia, England and continental Europe, to the neglect of ministerial duties at home. Time and energy has been wasted to effect fusion with the Farmer Party, which ended in weak compromises damaging to both, as was shown by the crushing defeat of Liberals and Farmers alike in the provincial election in Ontario. Nothing effective has been done to promote immigration, while the exodus has come a tidal wave. Redistribution was put off. Lake freights bungled dissatisfaction and discontent aroused east and west, with the result that when Ministers met the people of Nova Scotia the result was the Halifax defeat and froebodings for the coming contest in Kent.

The United Farmers party, unlike the Labor party in England, is giving evidence of having run its course. There was a fairly sufficient reason for British Labor to organize itself politically that did not exist for the farming interest in Canada. Labor has increased its representation in the British Parliament, while the United Farmers have lost half the strength they had in the Ontario Legislature. It would not be surprising if at the next federal election a like reduction should be made in the representation of the entire Agrarian party in Parliament. There is a growing conviction throughout the Dominion that the Farmer movement has effected no beneficial reforms; that it has been little better than a marplot, and that its advent in politics has diminished the prospect of honest and efficient government in Canada.

The failure of class rule in Ontario and Manitoba has been in both provinces conspicuous. It proved to be extravagant, wasteful and burdensome beyond all precedent. Its record was so bad that it led to a strong and increasing reaction a growing desire for a return to the two-party system. Alberta has only begun the trial of so-called Progressive rule with little prospect of doing any better under it than did Ontario or Manitoba. Everything points to further decadence of the so-called Progressive



By James W. Barton, M.D.

YOUR BEST WEAPON

I was interested in reading the other day some suggestions sent out by one of the best known hospitals in the United States regarding the best means of combating the demon—Flu.

There was an honest acknowledgement of their part that the cause of the trouble was a "mixed" infection. That is, that no definite germ at present could be said to be the actual cause of Flu. In fact they were of the opinion that the cause of Flu is always in you, but that during an epidemic something comes along that "whips" this cause into action, or else interferes with your resisting powers to that particular harmful cause.

So you are stricken down by what is called Flu. And as the actual cause is not known your physician has not the remedy with which to fight the trouble that he has no in a case of Diabetes, for instance. And so these health specialists say that in the meantime there is nothing one can do but to rely on the ordinary preventive measures that tend to build up the constitution.

But to try and build up the constitution with a mass of putrefying material in the intestines is like the man who built his house upon the sand. I often think that I talk too much about this matter but when the best known hospital in America sends out these very words to all people there must be a reason for it.

Notwithstanding all your care you may be stricken down whilst another, careless in the matter may escape it entirely.

And the explanation? Two people eat the same food—eggs—fish—tomatoes. One is attacked by severe pain and the other feels no effects whatever.

The cells of the one do not take kindly to certain foods, and those of the other do. You've seen this often.

Similarly when this trouble comes along, you may or may not be attacked. So remember the advice of our health specialists which is, that you build up your body in every way possible. And in building that, you build upon the solid rock—a clean intestine—instead of upon the sands.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

HILL WATCHES

Your watches do the great hills keep Beside their altars high Above the vales of men and things Forever passing by.

The Spring with youth and beauty comes As if all life were May, With song and cheer and festive dance Along a flowery way

The dances end as Summer nears, And with a veil of gold She hides the meaning all must learn Ere all her days are told

With quiet pace the Autumn comes The song and laughter cease, And o'er the harvest fields the winds Go chanting hymns of peace.

The Winter walks the vales alone Where comrade feet have passed; At every door of memory He sets the wide bars fast.

Your watches do the great hills keep Beside their altars high, Changing while in vales below Men and things go by!

ARTHUR WALLACE PEACH.

ry except in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario, and in the latter province its power has already been broken beyond repair.

It is further to be noted that never before was there a Liberal party in power in Canada with so weak a hold upon the country. Mackenzie and Laurier had good majorities at their backs when they were at the head of the Dominion. Mackenzie King has no majority and never had more than a shadow of a majority. No one looks for, or hopes to see, the Progressives obtain control in Dominion affairs. There is a loud call for a return to the two-party system. In response to that call the Conservative party is rising, showing revived vitality and is organizing its forces in every province. It has the policy that the country needs. It has a record in peace and war, of which the country is proud. And it has an Arthur Meighen a leader whom he people can trust, in whose leadership they have confidence and whom they hope and be-

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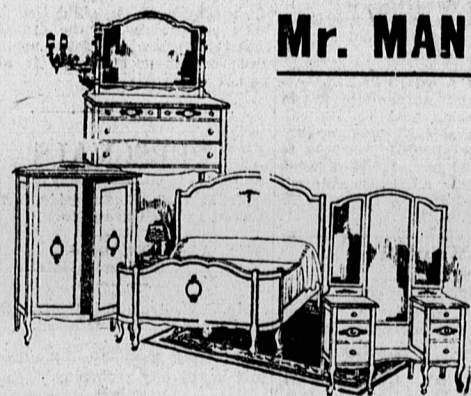
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GIRLS FLOCK TO MOVIELAND BUT FEW CAN FIND PLACES

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Dec. 7.—Scores of young girls, movie struck, arrive here every week, most of them with no recommendations beyond mastering notions in home-town papers, according to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, which has stated a campaign to warn young persons throughout the country of the "utility of finding screen jobs, unless they are qualified and have been encouraged to apply at the studios.

The Chamber of Commerce estimates the population of Hollywood at 85,000, of whom it states, less than 15,000 are engaged in the film industry.

The girls who drop in from the ends of the earth all are willing to become stars, but most of them are unable to find even minor parts. With their funds exhausted, many of them turn out to be a problem for social and civic workers.

CABLE HEAD WEST

Standing of the pupils of Cable Head West school for the month of November:—

- Grade VI.—1, Bruce McLaren.
- 2, Laura Smons, 3, Ira McLaren.
- 4, Aldus McKenzle.
- Grade IV.—1, Arthur Anderson.
- 2, Elizabeth Simons.

Grade II.—1, Hattie Simons.

Frank McKenzle, Grade I.—1, Fulton McLaren 2, Mary McLaren, 3, Catherine McLaren. Perfect attendance, Laura Simons Hattie Simons, Fulton McLaren, and Mary McLaren.

A TIMELY REMINDER

This is planning time for the farmer. The revenue from the harvest must be apportioned to meet payments due, and to finance the needs of another year.

Do not neglect to make provision for sufficient life insurance. The outlay required for a Policy is small, but the investment will give your family the protection they need, and pay you well if you live out the term of the contract. Let us mail you rates and particulars; or may one of our agents call on you?

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