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VACANT FARMS

According to the census of 1931 there was a 6% decrease in farms being operated here compared with 1921. The number of farms in occupation in 1921 was 13,701, while last year the total was 12,857, a decrease of 825. Of these no fewer than 384 were vacant or abandoned, the others being operated in connection with adjoining farms.

Table with 2 columns: County, 1921, 1931. Rows: Kings, Prince, Queens.

A YEAR AT LEAST

Advices from Geneva indicate the League of Nations considers itself helpless to bring about a cessation of hostilities between China and Japan. The most the League hopes for now, it is stated, is that the foreign nationals at Shanghai will not be interfered with, otherwise, the report states, the League deems it advisable to allow China and Japan to fight it out.

INDIA

The National Council of Education has done a wise thing in inviting Sir Henry Lawrence, K. C. S. I., to visit Canada to lecture on the Indian situation. Sir Henry is a distinguished scholar and administrator, and is fully qualified to set forth the British point of view regarding the administration of Indian affairs.

ENCOURAGEMENT

The current issue of the monthly review of the bank of Nova Scotia gives a very informative and instructive review of wages and welfare in 1931, showing the effect of industrial depression on the wage earner. Its conclusion is one of encouragement. While the recession from 1929 to 1931 is discouraging in itself, it says, we may consider ourselves fortunate that it has not been greater.

been a downward revision but not yet a wrecking of standards of living among the workers in this country considered as a class. To all who are concerned with the safeguarding of our civilization in Canada this information will naturally give encouragement; but it should not lull us into complacency. We may be thankful that the wage-earners regarded as a social group are probably not more than 10% worse off than they were at the time of their highest prosperity.

READING ALOUD

Is reading aloud in families ever practiced to any extent? Small children, of course, demand that their picture books and fairy tales shall be explained—in endless repetition, as the weary adult some times knows. But there is little, if there is any, of the sitting down by the fire while a romance is read out for the family benefit. Various reasons account for that.

PROMISES

Liberal newspapers faith in the short memory of the electors has evidently survived the significant defeat of its party, federally and provincially, in the result of which broken promises played an outstanding part. It is true that Mr. Bennett made quite a few promises in 1930, as Mr. King himself did in 1921. It is therefore interesting to review the high spots in the records of these two leaders in pre-election promises, and post-election performances.

and, at the first regular session of the new Parliament, had a measure brought down and adopted increasing such payments by 50 per cent, with the assurance that the full pensions cost would be undertaken as soon as possible.

Mr. Bennett promised to renew the Federal subsidies for Technical Education, and did so. That subsequent conditions of world depression made necessary a temporary suspension of this grant is regrettable, but the Bennett Government's good faith in the matter cannot be challenged.

Mr. Bennett promised a national fuel policy and last session framed and procured the enactment of the most advanced legislation for the protection and subvention of the coal mining industry ever presented to the Canadian Parliament.

Mr. Bennett promised an investigation into the Beauharnois scandal, and that investigation was conducted by a parliamentary committee last session. A further inquiry is now being held by the Senate.

Considering the contracted revenues of the Dominion, this is a pretty generous programme of implemented pledges in a little over a single year, and is fair warrant for the expectation that all the major undertakings given to the people by the present Prime Minister will be carried out scrupulously during the lifetime of the present Parliament.

Turning now to Mr. King's own promises and performances, a colossal record of broken public faith is all that a survey of his eight years in office reveals.

Mr. King promised to increase the British preference to 50 per cent, and to remove the tariff from the necessities of life, and he did neither.

He promised to do away with the Canadian Merchant Marine, and added to the number of its ships, as well as to its operating deficits.

On his visit to Sydney in 1921, he promised protection to the coal and steel industries, and when in office reduced the coal duty from 53 to 50 cents, rebated the entire tariff on coal entering Canada for general coaling purposes, placed steel bars and billets on the free list when imported for certain manufacturing processes, and saw the Dominion Steel Industry pass into the hands of a receiver before he had been 5 years in office.

He promised to reform the Senate and never introduced a line of legislation, or presented a single proposal to Parliament, in pursuance of his pledge.

Finally, after whittling away at the tariff almost every year for 7 years, denouncing protection but not daring to carry out his pledge for its elimination, professing that his ultimate aim was to get the tariff down to the level demanded by his Progressive allies, he made a sudden right-about-face on the eve of the 1930 election, established counter-vailing duties against the United States, increased tariff items he had previously reduced, and appealed to the country on an alleged protective policy, which included the abrogation of the New Zealand trade treaty he had himself negotiated, executed, and defended.

Such is the general record of the public man who "can never forgive Mr. Bennett" because of his pre-election pledges. It is the plain truth that no party leader has ever shown such absolute disregard for his solemn public promises as Mr. Mackenzie King. No important pre-election pledge he ever made has been completely carried out. Almost all that he ever made were completely forgotten. Having been eight years Prime Minister of Canada, he stands today before the country destitute of anything resembling a statesmanlike achievement, or of a single important public measure of value to the Dominion, of credit to himself, or of reflected advantage to his party.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr. A. E. MacLean, M.P., fills two columns in the evening contemporary with his excuses for introducing politics into the potato embargo controversy. All he accomplishes, however, is to give conclusive proof that both the Liberal and Conservative governments urged the removal of the embargo without effect.

NOTES BY THE WAY

People have been shouting for economy; and now they've got it. More than that, Mr. Bennett is in a better position than most of us to judge what is necessary; and has a mandate to govern. It is his responsibility. The cut amounted in all to \$29,000,000.

Future wars promise to be simply wholesale massacres, in which bombs will rain indiscriminately upon soldiers and civilians, men, women and children, the young and the old, the strong and the sick and crippled. That ought to arouse the interest of every one who values his life, in doing what can be done to preserve peace. For as the art of warfare is now developing, the man in the trenches is far safer than the civilian in a congested city.

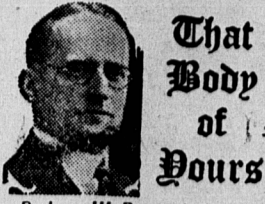
The published report of foreign relief workers in the Chapel district of Shanghai, under the leadership of Colonel Hayley Bell, a British officer, and of a French priest, Father Jacquot, indicates that Japanese guns, trained on the homes of the Chinese "have converted this part of the city into an appalling shambles." Father Jacquot with other helpers rescued 3,000 victims, and states that he saw—"Many bodies bullet-riddled and burned scattered about. In the ruins of shattered buildings, dazed Chinese were trying to find shelter. Like so many hunted animals, they refused to be led out to safety."

The world in general has high regard for honesty. Men believe in being honest; they also believe themselves to be honest, and perhaps rightly so. But, self-will, self-love, and self-justification can find excuses to cover any apparent overstepping of rightness, can even make it all appear plausible or justifiable. In such a case, man's honesty to his fellow man suffers not so much as man's honesty with himself. Strange but true!—Christian Science Monitor.

France's Premier Pierre Laval, headline rival of Mussolini, has been defeated in the Senate, resigned. A French Premier, apparently, is good for no more than a year at most, and although Monsieur Laval, who was a stop-gap in the first place, looked as though he had surmounted the worst of his troubles and might go on for some time, he has shared the common fate. There has been a lot of divided opinion about Laval. By many he is pictured as a strong man, as a much greater and clearer-headed statesman than Poincaré or Tardieu or Briand; by others he is represented as a scheming demagogue as a political chameleon who has been something new often and nothing very long. In the United States, where he visited some months ago to see Mr. Hoover, he made something of an impression. In Europe, however, where the sense of political values is a little keener, and analysis of character a little deeper, Laval is not liked. There are those who regard him as a political upstart, as a bit of an adventurer; as one who, in short, is not fit to blacken the shoes of the venerable and great Briand.—Exchange.

News comes from Germany to the effect that President Paul von Hindenburg, though well past the age when most men are willing to write "finks" to their labors, will seek re-election because he would be spared the reproach of "having deserted his post in the most difficult times." His opponent may be Adolph Hitler, leader of the German Fascists, whose success at the polls might seriously threaten the existence of the republic, many observers believe. Being President of Germany is no secure. The Reich is being governed by decree. The Government has been obliged to interfere in business in order to keep the German economic machine working and to preserve Germany's credit at a time when creditors are pressing hard from all sides. Upon what happens in Germany before the Presidential election, depends, to a large degree, the recovery of the world from the present depression, for it would now seem that the debt question is the problem of problems and that Germany is the focal point of the difficulty.

A few days ago the Opposition leader in the British House, George Lansbury, urged that a time-limit be placed upon representations to Japan, and immediately from all parts of the House came the question, "Do you want war?" Mr. Lansbury replied that he didn't want war. There is the difficulty—and Japan doubtless realizes it.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR AND APPENDICITIS

I often think that one of the hardest problems that faces the family doctor is just what to do when he is called to the home and finds that the persistent stomach ache of the patient is really appendicitis. Now what he would like to do, what is really the most scientific thing to do, what will be the safest thing, and what will bring him most credit, is to have the patient transferred to the hospital and undergo immediate operation.

The doctor knows all this, and yet he doesn't always do it. Why? Because he knows it will cost the family considerable money for surgeon, anaesthetist, hospital care, nurses, and so forth. But isn't it better to save the life even if it does cost hundreds of dollars? Yes, but the doctor knows also that most cases of appendicitis get better without an operation, and so he waits till he finds that this particular case is not doing so. In consequence he may cause the patient to remain many weeks in bed, or actually to lose his life.

While he is waiting for the case to make the favorable turn, which it does in most cases, peritonitis may be developing and then life itself is in the balance. You can thus see the terrible responsibility that is put upon the physician. Thousands of cases of appendicitis recover from the first attack and may never have another. Even if they have one attack no operation is suggested until they have another attack. It is then considered wise to operate before the third attack.

There is really only one safe rule, and that is to operate as early as possible once the diagnosis has been definitely made. Dr. H. Chitty, Bristol, England, reviewing seven hundred cases of acute appendicitis believes that if every person with acute appendicitis could be operated on during the first twenty-four hours, deaths from this disease could be almost completely abolished, as at present time most deaths are due to delay. The thought then is that while most cases of appendicitis recover, there are more cases and more deaths than ever before, and there would be practically no deaths if operation took place during the first twenty four or even thirty six hours.

A Wise Decision

(Winnipeg Free Press) A decision of the Privy Council that will meet with very general approval in Canada is that upholding the validity of the Security Frauds Prevention Act passed by Alberta. The appellate division of the Alberta courts declared that the clauses relating to Dominion company were ultra vires. The Privy Council, however, has laid down that these clauses are valid. This is good news. There have been occasions when Privy Council decisions strengthening the hands of the provinces at the expense of the federal power have been disconcerting to that large body of opinion which believes the central power should be increased rather than diminished. This case, however, does not fall within that category. Ottawa has never shown itself favorable to strict control of companies receiving Dominion charters, and the result was that many abuses, not to say frauds, have been perpetrated by promoters of fly-by-night schemes which have been operated with impunity due to lack of adequate supervision.

At last the province stepped in, and drastic legislation was introduced and passed by Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. While not exactly uniform, these Security Frauds Prevention Acts were uniform enough to make co-operation and control easy over this large and important area of the Dominion. The Manitoba act, well enforced and upheld, undoubtedly did much to check some of the worst abuses which crept into the marketing of securities during the last couple of years of the boom. This province has a particularly clean record in this regard. Other provinces did much also to set their houses in order.

Naturally there were protests, particularly from companies which by virtue of their Dominion charters, felt themselves free of all provincial control. The Privy Council decision, based sensibly upon the clause in the B. N. A. Act giving control over property and civil rights to the provinces, clears this matter up once and for all. Its effect will be to strengthen the hands of governments which want to safeguard their people from the excesses of unsafe speculation and high pressure salesmanship.



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Table with 4 columns: Age, Premium, Age, Premium. Rows for ages 25, 30, 35.

THE GREAT-WEST LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY HEAD OFFICE WINNIPEG

Needed Lights That Failed (Montreal Gazette) The expected has happened to the bill, sponsored by Mr. Amedee Caron, member of the Quebec Legislature for Magdalen Islands, which proposed to compel all vehicles to carry lights at night on the Quebec highways. By 31 votes to 19, it was defeated in the Legislative Assembly by the Committee of the Whole House. The measure was directed to protect human life—the life of the driver of the horse-drawn vehicle quite as much as the life of the motorist. But, as indicated in the speeches of their representatives, some farmers still fail to see the proposal in that light. Consequently, the risk of accidents that might be prevented will be run as heretofore on provincial highways. The contention of a section of the opposition that Mr. Caron's project of law, if adopted, would mean an invitation to motorists to more speed than ever is, of course, based on an entirely mistaken conception of the motive of the propensities of the legislation; and if, as other opponents declare, it means asking the farmers to "give up their liberty," it is, in the instance, a "liberty" that can be a menace to themselves and their neighbors; and to give it up would surely help to greater traffic safety. It is regrettable that in the diversity of opinion expressed, some of the legislators' speeches reflect a certain ill-feeling on the part of the rural class towards the urban class. In this the members probably are doing their constituents an injustice. In any event, the conclusion which the Quebec reports state had been reached that the era of education in regard to this question is over is not confirmed by the character of the opposition to the Caron bill, and we may be sure that the good, constructive work which has been done in this direction by the Royal Automobile Club, the Province of Quebec Safety League, the Montreal Motorists' League and other organizations will be continued until the cause of general traffic security which they seek to promote triumphs on the lines of the Vehicle Lights Bill.

The Poets' Corner THE SHINING SHIP All day I see the ships sail in, the sun upon their spars, And silently at night they pass between me and the stars; Oh, many, many ships there be, From Biscay Bay and China Sea! But never comes a ship for me, Across the flooding bars.

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