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FRATERNAL

L. O. L.—Markdale L.O.L. No. 1045 meets in the Orange Hall, Markdale at 8 o'clock p.m. the first Thursday in each month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. A. E. Colgan, W.M.; Elgin McFadden, Rec.-Sec.

A. F. & A. M.—Hiram Lodge No. 490, G. R. C., Markdale, meets in the Masonic Hall, Reburn Block, at 8 o'clock p.m. the second Thursday in each month. T. Stewart Cooper, W.M.; A. E. Colgan, Secretary.

E. B. K.—Victoria Preceptory No. 282 meets in the Orange Hall, Markdale, at 8 o'clock p.m., the third Thursday in each month. Visiting brethren always cordially welcomed. A. E. Colgan, W.P.; J. E. England, Registrar.

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Miss Macphail's Letter

Most of last week was taken up with a discussion of the resolution moved by Mr. Brown of Lisgar on going into supply, which is equivalent to a vote of want of confidence. Western members had deeply resented the speech made by the Prime Minister on the conditions in the West some time previously. The official opposition apparently thought a good time to bring the government to account. The independent groups took little part in the discussion, feeling that we had stated as strongly as we could the position of agriculture and the next move was the government's. The outstanding feature of this debate was the maiden speech of the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Robert Weir. The Prime Minister had several times said that the policy as it affects agriculture would be given by the Minister of Agriculture. The whole house waited expectantly. In beginning he made it very clear that he was a novice in politics, that he ran as an independent Conservative and that he was rather spoiled later by his jibes at Motherwell, the late Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Mackenzie King, the Leader of the Opposition. He characterised the attacks made on him in the house as cowardly. The balance of his speech was devoted to a review of what the Minister of Agriculture had done since taking over the office.

Mr. Weir claimed to have made every effort to enlarge the market for Canadian cattle in Great Britain. In this he had worked in close cooperation with the ranchers. Special experiments in the feeding of cheap grain had been carried out and agreement with Australia not to sell Australian butter in Canada for less than 32c a pound had been made. He had done a good deal to improve the quality of live-stock. During the nine months he had been minister, Mr. Weir said every possible effort had been made to obtain information on processing and packing plants with a view to instituting experimental plants. The minister pointed out that Canada is losing by not having a central control over the quality of butter put upon the export market. Mr. Weir had met the prairie premiers in Winnipeg and had made arrangements with them to meet the agricultural crisis—that is, see farmers had seed grain and oil—but certain terms of the agreement were kept secret in the public interest, which possibly means that the premiers thought it best to not make known the amount of help that would be given, lest they be swamped with requests. The minister stated that he had invited cooperation from agricultural members all over the House and had been met by splendid response from the independent groups.

The Independent Farmers in the house voted against the Brown resolution and in favour of the government on the grounds that the government must be given a chance to bring down its policy before it was condemned. In 1922 Mr. Arthur Meighen, then leader of the Opposition, moved a vote of want of confidence in the government before it had been in session a week. On that occasion we voted with the government. Any government must be given an opportunity to do what it has said it will do. An attack of flu prevented me being in the house for the vote on the Brown resolution.

Mr. Speakman, U. F. A. member for Red Deer, Alberta, proposed in resolution that the government should set up a scientific body as a National Council of Social and Economic Research, whose duty would be the studying of the problem of distribution, purchasing power, the exchange values of agricultural and other commodities, together with their relations to the growing problem of unemployment. In a very excellent speech Mr. Speakman pointed out that no one quite knows what the cause of our present condition is and that it is quite time extensive study was made to unearth the cause and find the remedy. We had been pursuing a policy of drift and could do so with safety no longer. Mr. Speakman made only one reference to Russia "Perhaps the greatest experiment in centralised control we have yet seen is taking place in Russia and in some respects it follows in logical sequence the policy of centralisation to which effect is being given in all countries. We cannot ignore what is taking place in Russia. To close our eyes to the developments in other lands, whether we like the morals of other peoples or not, is to blind ourselves to facts and to paralyse ourselves in respect to future action."

Mr. Woodsworth, who followed him, did go rather exhaustively into the centralised control plan of Russia, the Five-Year Plan, quoting from well-known works on the subject. Mr. Stevens, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, under whose department such a council would come, contented himself with a tirade of abuse directed at Mr. Woodsworth. He also quoted lavishly from books on Russia. He did not meet the arguments of Mr. Speakman. It was amusing to hear Angus McInnis, (Labour, Vancouver), quote the Hon. Mr. Stevens as having said on his arrival from the Imperial Conference "that the Russian

Five-Year Plan was succeeding all along the line and that Canadians were doing their country a great disservice by pretending otherwise." Mackenzie King took the ground that there was no need of the council proposed by Mr. Speakman; that a Research Council had been established in 1924 to study production in the fields of industry and agriculture and that its activities could be extended to cover the wider field. The matter may come up again.

The great question is, was it a saving to stop the Cabinet Ministers using government cars, or was it not? Cabinet ministers have driven very beautiful cars for a long time. Mr. Bennett declared they would have them no longer, so the lovely cars, sixteen of them, are deteriorating in idleness in government garages. They will be handed over to Used Cars Agency some of these days. It sounds like a reduction in expenditure, but the estimates allow Cabinet Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition \$2,000 a year, every year as car or taxi money; these

magnificent limousines will bring very little second-hand. The cost of operating government cars for the convenience of Cabinet Ministers, including gas, oil, repairs, parts and chauffeur service, from July 31st 1930 to March 31st, 1931 was \$27,849.63, according to a return tabled in the House of Commons by Mr. Cahon, Secretary of State, so either way car service for Cabinet Ministers is expensive.

Ottawa has been entertaining royalty. The Prince of Japan and Princess Takamatsu. Even the Union Station was gay with flags to welcome their Highnesses. There was much entertaining; a State dinner by the government, which took all the Privy Counsellors away and prevented the house sitting; a great reception by the Japanese Consul; dinners at Rideau Hall and a reception by the Speakers of both Houses. The Speakers' reception took place in the Senate Chamber, from which all the desks were removed. The Prince and Princess received with the Speakers and their wives. The

princess made a particularly happy impression on everyone; she is a very beautiful girl. They shook hands with each of us, which I understand is not the usual custom. It must be most interesting to go leisurely round the world as they are doing.

Sir Ronald Lindsay, the British Ambassador to Washington visited Ottawa. The Prime Minister entertained at lunch all the members of Parliament and Senators. The lunch took place in the parliamentary restaurant, which was filled to capacity, which is a rare thing. Sir Ronald and the Prime Minister received us at the entrance to the dining room. Sir Ronald is a very large man, towering above the Prime Minister. The function was distinguished principally by the excellencies of the meal culminating in great ices on silver trays, each ice an exact replica of Windsor Castle, even to the crown on the top, and by the brevity and non-committal character of Sir Ronald's speech.

I.O.O.F.
Saugeen Lodge No. 327
Markdale, Ont.
MONDAY, MAY 18, 1931—Regular Meeting.
A. E. HUNT, Noble Grand.
J. C. MERCER, Rec.-Sec.



COURT OF REVISION
The first sitting of the Court of Revision on the Assessment Roll for the Township of Glenelg for 1931 will be held in the Township Hall on Saturday, the 20th day of May 1931 at 2 o'clock p.m. All persons having business with said Court will please take notice and act accordingly.
By order of the council,
H. H. MacDonald,
Clerk of Glenelg Township.
R. R. No. 1, Durham, Ont.
Dated, May 1st, 1931.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE
DOMINION OF CANADA
1931 CONVERSION LOAN

The Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada offers to holders of the undernoted Dominion issues the privilege of exchanging their bonds into longer dated issues, in the following terms and under the following conditions:

This offer affords to holders of bonds eligible for conversion, the same interest payment and tax-free privileges, for the life of and as contained in the present bonds, and the opportunity of extending the term of the investment at 4 1/2% per annum.

WAR LOAN 5% BONDS MATURING 1st OCTOBER, 1931—Holders of these bonds have the privilege of exchanging into bonds maturing 1st November, 1956, bearing interest from 1st April, 1931. The first coupon will be for six months' tax-free interest at the rate of 5% per annum payable 1st October, 1931; the second coupon will be for seven months' interest at the rate of 4 1/2% per annum payable 1st May, 1932; thereafter to maturity interest will be payable half-yearly at 4 1/2% per annum.

VICTORY LOAN 5 1/4% BONDS MATURING 1st NOVEMBER, 1933—Holders of these bonds have the privilege of exchanging into bonds maturing 1st November, 1958, bearing 4 1/2% interest payable half-yearly from 1st May, 1931. The first five interest coupons, being those to and including 1st November, 1933, will be tax-free. There will also be attached to these bonds five tax-free adjustment-coupons payable respectively on 1st November, 1931, and 1st May and November, 1932 and 1933, for additional interest at the rate of 1% per annum.

RENEWAL LOAN 5 1/4% BONDS MATURING 1st NOVEMBER, 1932—Holders of these bonds have the privilege of exchanging into bonds maturing 1st November, 1957, bearing 4 1/2% interest payable half-yearly from 1st May, 1931. There will also be attached to these bonds three adjustment-coupons payable respectively on 1st November, 1931; and 1st May and November, 1932, for additional interest at the rate of 1% per annum.

VICTORY LOAN 5 1/4% BONDS MATURING 1st NOVEMBER, 1934—Holders of these bonds have the privilege of exchanging into bonds maturing 1st November, 1959, bearing 4 1/2% interest payable half-yearly from 1st May, 1931. There will also be attached to these bonds seven adjustment-coupons payable respectively on 1st November, 1931, and 1st May and November, 1932, 1933 and 1934, for additional interest at the rate of 1% per annum.

Conversion applications in the terms of the foregoing are invited to a total of \$250,000,000. The Minister of Finance reserves, however, the right to increase or decrease this amount at his discretion.

Subscriptions will be received and receipts issued by any branch in Canada of any Chartered Bank and by recognized Canadian Bond Dealers and Stock Brokers, from whom may be obtained application forms and copies of the official prospectus containing complete details of the loan. Applications will not be valid on forms other than those printed by the King's Printer.

The subscription lists to the foregoing will open on 11th May, 1931, and will close on or before 23rd May, 1931, at the discretion of the Minister of Finance.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
Ottawa, 11th May, 1931.