

Miss Macphail's Letter

Too many interesting subjects are possibly as great an embarrassment as too few. This week one wants to comment at some length on a very interesting visit to Huey Long's State, the Premier's broadcasts, the speech from the Throne, the reactions hereto, the Liberal dilemma and the surprised gratification of reformers at their newly acquired respectability.

For two years now I have endeavored to time my visits to the Southern States so as not to miss the opening of Parliament. But each year the date of the re-assembling of the Parliament of Canada was moved forward just enough to make it impossible for me to be here for the formalities.

The Prime Minister's broadcasts had well begun before I left. I almost missed my train trying to hear the third one completed. They sounded so promising and inspiring that I feared to be gone long lest society be reconstructed in my absence which, after much thinking and talking on the subject, would have been just too disappointing.

Several colleges in and around Dallas, Texas and the Dallas Open Forum committee were good enough to ask me for a return visit, so Dallas was my first stop. The people of the South are so very friendly that one felt at once at home and eager to assist as much as was possible, the various educational and cultural projects in hand. The weather was very warm, like our mid-summer, which would have been enjoyable had the people not thought it the winter and kept either gas burners going or the steam-heat on, which in some of the auditoriums made it almost unbearable. I particularly enjoyed addressing the audience of the Dallas Open Forum, partly because the subject "Money—the Key to the Situation" is my favourite but largely because of the unusual quality of the audience. For fifteen years now the Dallas Open Forum has had a membership of at least 2,000, who, with their friends, attend twelve lectures a year, the lecturers being brought from various states in the union and other nations. British and Canadian speakers having a place on each year's program. The lecture is preceded by a half hour of music by one of the other of the various musical organizations in Dallas. At least forty-five minutes is devoted to questions after the address. The Civic Federation of Dallas, under which the Forum operates, directs also a training school for social service workers for the whole state and conducts an experiment in education called the New Era School, which is an adaptation of the Danish Folk School idea, started particularly for students finished with high school, who are wholly or partially unemployed. Credits and examinations play no part, but knowledge is pursued with joy for its own sake.

Dr. Pipkin, the dean of the graduate school of Louisiana State University, locally called L.S.U., or Huey's University, had asked me to talk on "Can Democratic Government Continue?" which did not exactly seem like carrying coals to Newcastle. Never having been in Louisiana before, I eagerly anticipated my visit to that historic and

romantic state. This territory, named for Louis XIV of France, formed the battle-ground where France, Spain, England and finally United States fought and bartered for its possession and for which eventually Thomas Jefferson paid Napoleon the paltry sum of fifteen million dollars.

As a northerner, the "deep South" has for me a peculiar fascination. The result in part of the songs and stories of our youth, which perhaps the natural longing for the luxuriant beauty of the hot, moist climate. I had the opportunity of visiting one of the famous old plantations on the banks of the Mississippi. It was approached through an avenue of ancient and spreading live-oaks, whose interlacing branches were festooned with hanging moss. Interspersed at regular intervals up the whole length of the avenue were the replicas of famous statues. This elaborate approach was in keeping with the size and beauty of the plantation mansion of Colonial design, with its characteristic white pillars. Spreading out either side of the house were plantings of exquisite camellias, azaleas and sweet olives. The camellia trees stand about ten feet high and are covered with blooms in rose shades, from pale to very deep, but the texture of the plant is more like a zinnia. Its dark green waxy leaves form an effective background for the brilliant flowers. The azalea you all know but it is startling to see it growing out of doors on spreading bushes, shoulder height, and in very many colours. The sweet olive has an insistent white flower but a very sweet fragrance which goes to make up for the lack of perfume of the camellia and azalea. I was sorry not to see the magnolia, oleander and jessamine.

Inside the house all was as it had been in that faraway day of plantation glory. The stiff silk curtains still hung at the windows, the old-fashioned wall-paper on the walls and still suspended over the dining-room table was the punkah. One could imagine the silken cord attached to it in the hands of a small coloured boy whose energetic work swayed it back and forth kept the erinolded ladies and bewhiskered gentlemen free of the annoyance of flies in the days before screens. The furniture, paintings and books were just as they had been. Before the fireplace was a screen worked by Martha Washington's own hand, worth much in the currency of today and yet the three impoverished old women who live in the house and are the granddaughters of the founder of the plantation, will sell nothing. They were pitiable figures and represent, possibly truly, the decadence of the old culture.

But Louisiana is a country of extremes; there is wealth, but there is much poverty. While the poets speak of "the white-washed picturesqueness of the cabins in the lane" in reality they are miserable looking shacks built on muddy roads which seem not to follow any regular pattern. Never have I seen such poor houses and the people round the doors and gardens were poorly dressed. The cattle and horses were very poor quality; I saw only a couple of really good-looking horses as I travelled the whole length of the state. I am no judge of mules; but they did seem to be better in

quality and condition than the other stock. The cattle were shaggy, poor-looking stuff. In the cities, of course, there were some very beautiful residences. I was so intrigued with Huey Long's position in Louisiana, his powerful friends and almost as powerful enemies, his methods and the very visible results of his dynamic personality, that I feel I must give him an article to himself.

But to get back to Ottawa and Mr. Bennett and Mr. King and the rest of us: an economic lecturer in one of our universities writes me "R. B. has put the cat among the pigeons, hasn't he? What he suggests is old stuff in Europe but does represent a very considerable leap for an old line politician." Possibly his greatest contribution is having made reform respectable. Things which almost had to be whispered a few years ago are now sanctified and seemly. It has been said that consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds and by that measure the Prime Minister is a man of great mental stature. He certainly knows how to make a right-about face, it is going to be interesting to watch with what degree of conviction the whole Conservative party advocate the new reforms. They mouth the phrases a bit awkwardly, I notice, but practise will remedy that.

The most amusing part of the "Light from Damascus" is the bewilderment of the newly-smoked-out Liberals. They were sitting so patiently, waiting for time to place the ballot in the electors' hands. The many Liberal Convention speeches made over the province last summer were distinguished by the absence of any solutions offered for the difficulties of our time. They rhapsodised over Liberalism—the principles of Liberalism—the length of their Liberal ancestry—"My father was a Liberal, my grandfather was a Liberal, and I am a Liberal!"—they damned Mr. Bennett, passed resolutions of confidence in Mr. King and Mr. Hepburn, and dispersed with beatific smiles wreathing their faces. And now they are going to have to do something, so that is interesting.

It is an encouraging picture to see the major parties contending for public favour. Mr. Public Opinion is a master, if he would only realize it and always wield his power and we in the corner are feeling very happy in our own quiet way because we know we have been talking to Mr. Public Opinion and have quite obviously affected his point of view.

The speech from the Throne contains a frank admission of conditions. "In the anxious years through which you have passed, you have been the witnesses of grave defects and abuses in the capitalist system; unemployment and want are the proof of these. Great changes have taken place about us, new conditions prevail. These require modifications in the capitalist system to enable that system more effectively to serve the people." It then goes on to say that a comprehensive plan will be submitted which designs to distribute the benefits of the system to all classes. Three measures of last year are tied up in this plan, namely, the Natural Products Marketing Act, the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act and the Bank of Canada.

act measures designed to safeguard the consumer and primary producer against unfair trading practices and to regulate in the public interest concentrations in production and distribution. You will also be invited to enact measures to provide for the security of workers during unemployment, sickness and old age and also that action will be taken to secure minimum wages and a maximum working week, and to alter the incidence of taxation so that it will more directly conform to capacity to pay.

The penitentiaries are promised some changes along the lines of the Borstal system of Great Britain and a peaceful international policy is enunciated.

The speeches thus far made have thrown no additional light on the legislation foreshadowed in the speech from the throne, so we must be patient and wait the coming down of the legislation. The Liberals have made way for it but quite apparently the Government has not got its legislation ready, so on tactics the Liberals have scored a point.

This session so far is distinguished by the cordial reception given private members' resolutions by the government. The practice has been to oppose or endure, but rarely to accept, resolutions offered by private member. It is a pleasant change to have the government accepting or referring to special committees for study, consideration of pensions for the blind, beginning at forty years, a national health policy, the housing program proposed by Mr. Chubb, the proposal made by Mr. Dickie that a national flag should be adopted and Mr. Woodsworth's proposal that the British North America Act be amended while safeguarding the rights of minorities.

The first piece of the much-heralded social legislation presented to the House was the Unemployment Insurance Bill. It is a contributory scheme applying to men and women in certain industries, 21 years of age and over who earn less than \$2000 per year. The individual contributes 25 cents a week, the employer 25 cents and the Dominion 10 cents. The contributions must be made for forty weeks before any benefits can be drawn for unemployment. The longest time for which benefits would be paid would be thirteen weeks, plus some additional days, depending on the amount of the contribution. During this time the unemployed man or woman would draw \$6 a week, with \$2.70 for each dependent adult and 90 cents for each child. It is a compulsory measure but does not apply to people employed in agriculture, teaching, fishing, lumbering, banking and finance, government service, policemen, army and navy, sailors, fiscal nurses, agents, domestics and casual labour.

Unemployment insurance does not apply to those now unemployed. A clear line is drawn between unemployed relief and unemployment insurance. The Dominion will carry all administrative costs; in no respect will the provinces have anything to do with it. It may be insurance against the next depression but certainly not before. The labour men truly said it does not touch the fringe of the problem and yet it is excellent as far as it goes. Had it been brought down in the early 1920's it would have been a very real assistance during these trying years. Similar legislation was passed in Great Britain in 1911, in Italy in 1919, in Austria in 1920, in Irish Free State in 1920 and in France as early as 1905 though in the last case it was voluntary.

Tommy Church was very much in his old-time form in his speech of support of the housing resolution. He told of having gone through Bracebridge to take a meeting for Dr. MacGibbon who was seriously ill, and being shocked by the very poor rural housing. "Any plan which might be adopted should include rural housing. In many rural communities this matter is one of vital importance. Particularly is this true of Northern Ontario. I had an opportunity to see some of the shacks in which rural people live during winter months. I can only say this, that if we had not spent so much money on railways and state aid for privately owned railways and had spent a million dollars of that money in a housing scheme for such people we would have done something much more to our credit. The first duty of a government is to look after the health, comfort and welfare of its people."

Mr. E. G. Coote of MacLeod, Alberta, supported Mr. Church, saying that poor housing was called 'slums' in the city and 'shacks' in the country. He thought that all Canadians should live in a "home"; "If I say homes advisedly," he said "because so many of the places in which our people live are so inadequate. Only five per cent. of the farm people in Canada are equipped with bathrooms with running water. Six hundred and fifty thousand homes in Canada should be equipped with modern facilities and any housing project we have should take cognizance of that situation."

I urged that the scheme should take care of repairs as well as building, stating: "In Ontario, anyone who has been watching the countryside with an observant eye, will have noticed that in the last ten years or more the buildings, including dwellings, have been deteriorating." I pointed out that the buildings needed roofing and painting, additions and repairs. Continuing, I stated: "That much as I find myself in agreement with the social legislation now proposed, I have become more and more alarmed with regard to the position of the farmer. Many of these proposals, good as they are, are for those other than agriculturists and unless something is to be

Cream

The year 1935 is here—a new year with renewed hopes, wishes and resolutions. May we suggest one resolution that would be of good judgment and sound business: that is, that you fully patronize Markdale Creamery throughout the coming year. We are glad to report that in the last season we made another substantial increase over previous years.

Our object in the coming year is to still make a further increase, and in order to accomplish this we must make a mutual effort. We will, on our part, try to pay the HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRICES plus best of year-round service, and you, on the producers part, to give us your full patronage the year around, enabling us to keep up the above practice.

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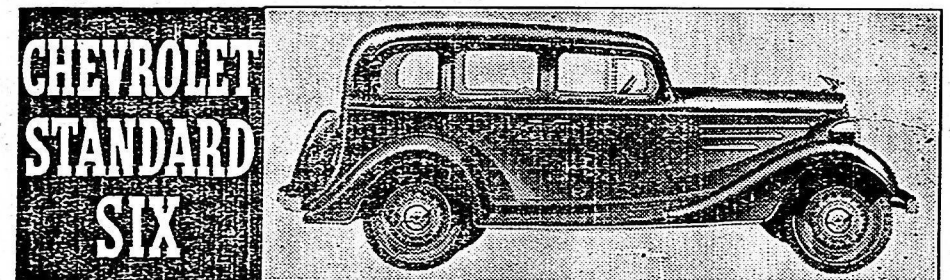
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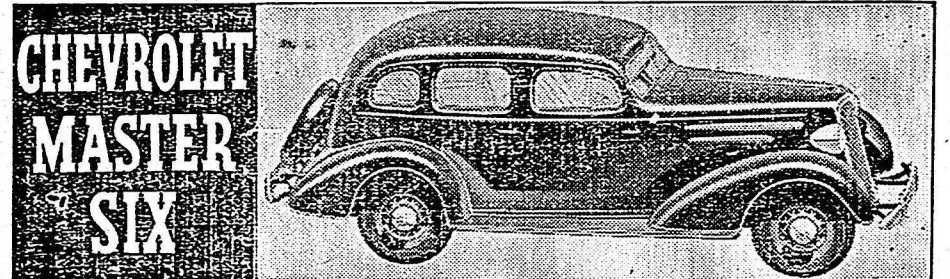
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Farm Notes from the Department of Agriculture

Convention Dates

Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions—Annual Convention, Thursday and Friday, February 7 and 8, commencing at 9.30 a.m. King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association—Annual meeting on Tuesday, February 12th, commencing at 9.30 a.m. Convention, Wednesday, February 13th, commencing at 9 a.m. King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

The annual convention of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario will be held at the Royal Connaught Hotel, Hamilton, February 13th, 14th, and 15th.

Ontario Horticultural Association, Annual Convention—Thursday and Friday, February 21 and 22, commencing at 9 a.m. King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

Processing Canadian Fruits

Improved quality has been an important factor in increasing the total domestic consumption of canned fruits and vegetables in Canada, as well as opening the door to expanding foreign markets. Provided quality and continuity of supply are maintained, a larger market seems assured. These factors are progressively operative and, if adhered to, justify the expectation that the volume of fruits and vegetables processed in Canada will continue to grow. Already a considerable part of the Canadian production of fresh fruit and vegetables goes to the processors, and the proportion so used is likely to increase. This trend should be impressed upon growers in order that the best varieties and the best quality for processing may be produced in sufficient quantities.

Feed Sunshine

Cod liver oil, the sunshine substitute, is one of the most important items in the properly balanced poultry ration. Where birds are closely confined during the winter months, as is the case in most parts of Canada, they receive very little direct sunlight, and with the rations usually fed they do not receive all the vitamins they require. Calcium and phosphorus are two minerals specially required for laying pullets and hens in the manufacture of eggs. The digestion and assimilation of materials, especially calcium, require one of two things; an abundance of direct sunshine or an abundance of vitamin D. Cod liver oil is rich in vitamin D, and is one of the

reliable sources of this type of food.

Market For Barley in

Bacon and Beef

There is practically no limit to the production of barley in Canada and recent tests show that it produces better bacon and beef than other grains. It is proving fully the equal of corn when fed with suitable supplements in the form of home-grown leguminous roughages. Barley can be used in almost any proportion of the grain ration up to one hundred per cent. As a hog feed it develops an entirely satisfactory class of bacon, which is more than can be said for corn fed in equal proportions, and as a feed for beef cattle barley is undoubtedly one of the best of our Canadian grown coarse grains. The increased use of barley and other coarse grains at their present low levels will make for much better quality in the beef being marketed, and this in turn will help create a demand for more beef.

Your Seed Supply

It is not too early in the season for a farmer to be thinking about his seed supply for the coming spring. In far too many cases no thought is given to the matter until a few days before the seed is required and by that time it may be difficult to obtain, and he will be compelled to take seed of inferior quality. It is good policy to be sure of your seed supply early in the season. The farmer who is growing a standard variety of grain that is yielding well and is adapted to his farm would be well advised to use it for his own seeding requirements. It has been proven that if such grains are well cleaned, free from weed seeds, mixtures and other impurities and the very best sown it would improve rather than deteriorate.

On a lot of farms there are bins of the very best grains that are being fed to our livestock or being sold for feeding purposes. Would it not be good business to set up the fanning mill at this time of the year when farm work is not so pressing and clean this grain or haul it to your nearest cleaning centre? Smaller grains may be chopped or taken home and fed whole. They make good feed, but poor seed, the best is none too good to sow, for whatever a man sows that shall he also reap. Start early, clean and reclean your best grain before feeding and keep the best for seeding purposes. It will also pay you from a financial standpoint. The tendency is for prices to go up as the season ad-

vances and the supply gets less plentiful. It is good farm practice and you will save time and money by being sure of your seed supply early.

Eastern Canada Potatoes

Now Under Regulation

The Eastern Canada Potato Marketing Scheme submitted by representatives of the potato industry, has been approved by Hon. Robert Weir, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, and the Governor in Council, upon the recommendation of the Dominion Marketing Board.

The scheme embraces the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario. The potato growers in these provinces have been receiving inadequate returns for their potatoes and the position of the growers has been particularly difficult this year. A very large crop and lack of organization has resulted in demoralized marketing conditions. The 1934 potato crop for the four provinces is placed at 43,308,000 bushels, an increase of 8,183,000 bushels compared with the production in 1931.

Under the scheme, it is expected orderly marketing will result primarily through control of the grades of potatoes entering the commercial channels of trade and potatoes of inferior grades will not be allowed to flut the market. Consignment selling, which has been contributing largely to price demoralization will be prohibited and sales will be made under firm contracts. The scheme also provides for the development of export markets and for increasing domestic consumption of potatoes.

Moreover, it is believed the utilization of potatoes in various forms which might be marketed in this country or find an outlet to other countries, has not been fully explored and that organization of those concerned with potatoes will greatly facilitate the type of work necessary to develop such possibilities.

The proposed scheme was submitted by representative potato growers and dealers. Originating with a meeting of representatives of the potato industry held at Ottawa under the auspices of the Canadian Horticultural Council, the scheme has since been endorsed by meetings of producers and dealers held at central points through all the important potato producing areas in the four provinces.

The scheme will be administered by a Local Board.

VANDELEUR W. I.

The January meeting was held at the home of Mrs. P. J. Thompson and was opened by the president in the usual way. The motto "If you want to be happy begin where you are" was discussed by Mrs. P. J. Thompson and Mrs. Hare. The roll call was answered by "A law I am thankful for". After the business was transacted suggestions were made for raising money. A piano solo was rendered by Miss Eileen Thompson in her usual pleasing manner. Miss Dora Boland put on a contest "Do you know your advertising?" and Miss Hazel Wylie won the prize. Rev. Father Grace was the guest speaker and gave a worthwhile address on "The moral laws and religion's place in the every day home and business life."

The February meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Hare, instead of Mrs. Shannon, as on the program. Lunch was served by Mrs. G. Shaw and Mrs. A. Hill, assisted by the town members.

Slats' Diary

Tuesday—Ant Emmy went down to the Flowerists shop to day and tried to get them to telegraph a Quilt to her niece over in Adams County but they said they couldn't do it. Ant Emmy says she thinks it is all the bunk about them telegraphing Quilts and Money.

Wednesday—Effy Blunt has started reading Biographies and history and stuff like that. Ma was asking her why she didn't read Fiction any more and Effy replied and said she was sort of fed up on Fiction since she went and got married a few wks. ago.

Thursday—Unkel Hen got the prize at the Grange meeting for being the old-fashionedest man last Saturday night. He chews tobacco and shaves with a real razor and waxes his salutes and don't use a tooth brush. He is all so living with the same woman he got married to forty 1 years ago.

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