

# VACANT LAND TO GROW FOOD

Municipalities Get Same Privilege as a Year Ago

## CHANGE IN FACTORY ACT

It is intended by the Ontario Government that municipalities shall be permitted again this year to cultivate vacant land owned by private individuals. Sir William Hearst introduced a bill in the Legislature yesterday entitled the "Vacant Land Cultivation Act," the purposes of which is to extend for this year a measure adopted last session for the war's duration permitting municipalities to cultivate vacant land without compensation to the owner. In explaining the bill Sir William Hearst said that much land had already been plowed and prepared for planting this year, and the Government desired that, even should peace be signed soon, that cultivation should continue during the present season.

Instead of legislating them out of business, the Government intends to control private employment agencies in Ontario in a different way. A bill which Hon. Finlay G. Macdiarmid introduced in the House yesterday permits the Government to prohibit granting licenses to employment agencies. Occasion might arise, the Minister said, when it would be desirable to have one or more private agencies. By reserving to itself the right to issue licenses the Government would always have complete control.

### Make it Dominion-Wide.

The present bill is the result of a decision reached at the conference of Provincial and Dominion Ministers held at Ottawa last fall, and it implements an announcement which the Government made a couple of months ago that the public employment agencies would take the place of the private offices. The scheme which is being worked out is a Dominion-wide one, the Federal and Provincial authorities co-operating in the distributing of labor.

Mr. Macdiarmid also introduced a bill by which the Government extends its supervision over camps where women are employed on special work, such as flax-pullers. The change in the statute is an amendment to the "Factory, Shop and Office Act."

Mr. Hartley Dewart (Southwest Toronto) asked if there was any intention on the part of the Government of appointing special inspectors under the existing statute.

Mr. Macdiarmid, in reply, stated that such a request had been made by a large deputation representing trades unionism to the Government a couple of months ago, but that no change was to be made for the present. The Minister said that if special inspectors were appointed for the foundries, which change had been particularly requested, other industries would have to be treated similarly. The Government would give every preference to returned soldiers.

An inquiry has been placed on the order paper by Mr. F. Wellington Hay (North Perth) in which he asks what amount was received during 1917-18 in fees in connection with the issue of letters patent, licenses, etc., from loan and trust corporations in Ontario; also the amount of fees received by the Province during the same period from the same companies for all purposes.

Following up the answers given to questions on Friday by Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Mr. Proudfoot is asking for a return of all documents covering the original sale to J. J. Carrick of Port Arthur of Ontario pupwood limits in the Pic River and Black Sturgeon River districts.

# APPOINT LAIDLAW RANCH SPECIALIST

Province to Aid Cattle Men in Improving Land and Stock

Believing that the ranching industry in Ontario has come to stay, and that it is one of very considerable importance, the Ontario Department of Agriculture has appointed Mr. Charles Laidlaw as Ranch Specialist, with headquarters at the Burwash Industrial Farm. A little more than a year ago the department made a survey of possible ranching lands in Ontario. Since then ranching has been extended, until now there are about 40 in Ontario. The northern sections of the Province, including parts of Haliburton, Hastings, Parry Sound and districts farther north, as well as portions of Manitoulin Island, are considered as splendid ranching territory.

In making the announcement, Mr. C. F. Bailey, Agricultural Commissioner for Ontario, said that the duty of Mr. Laidlaw would include experimental administrative work in the interest of the rancher. These experiments will comprise such things as types of buildings for housing live stock, methods of clearing land, making it ready for grazing, and methods for winter feeding of live stock. He will also consider the various problems which confront the average rancher in this Province.

In addition, Mr. Laidlaw will be required to make personal visits to all ranches in Ontario in order to become conversant with all problems and so that he can give advice and assistance. His office to Burwash Farm will be virtually a bureau of information. Mr. Laidlaw is well equipped for this position. He has had a great deal to do with farm work, is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and up until the time of his appointment was manager of a ranch near Powassan.

The Department of Agriculture is working in conjunction with the Provincial Secretary's Department in its ranch work. The latter department permits all experiments to be carried on at its farm at Burwash.

One of the problems confronting ranchers in Ontario to-day is that there is no law permitting them to register brands. As the statutes read now a rancher may brand his cattle, but there is nothing to prevent anyone else adopting a similar mark. This is a matter of real difficulty in the North, where cattle roam for miles and are perhaps not seen from early spring until fall. It is understood that the department at present has in mind legislation to correct this hardship.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL CLEARS GOVERNMENT

Suspicion in Homer Liquor Case Found Groundless

Personal inquiry has been made by the Attorney-General, Hon. I. B. Lucas, into the circumstances surrounding the Homer liquor case, which gained some prominence a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Lucas has convinced himself that there was no justification for the attempt to attach suspicion of implication to the Government by associating the "blind piggers" arrested there with the St. Catharines by-election.

"I have gone into the matter," Mr. Lucas said yesterday. "I had here Mr. White of the Employers' Detective Agency, which did the work for the License Department, and there is nothing upon which to base even a suspicion. I am satisfied that the facts are absolutely as stated, so much so that there is nothing further that can be said about it."