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LAND GRABBERS IN CANADA

The chancellor of the exchequer in England is said to be zealously working upon his land scheme, and hopes, very soon, to launch it and capture the people with its details. It has not been heard of much of late, but he has not been idle. That is certain.

He has simply disappeared from his usual haunts, has lost himself to the people, as it were, while he develops the latest and greatest of his social reforms. When he last went into retreat he was said to be ailing and it was feared that he had reached the end of his career. Then, suddenly, he reappeared and explained his Incurable Bill and the commons was electrified.

It may be that he is meditating on his land scheme, and it can be taken for granted that when he gives out his results the people will have something to think and talk about. By the way, it is remarkable that while in England the movement has been to free the land from the landlordism that has depressed the masses in Ca-

nada land is passing from the crown, by degrees, to the great monopolists.

The announcement came from London, a few days ago, that Lord Joicey, a wealthy peer, had bought 24,000 acres of land in British Columbia for \$450,000. It was added that the man who negotiated the Desborough and Sutherland deals was arranging for the transfer of 500,000 acres in Saskatchewan to a Dutch merchant. It may not be easy to refuse approval of these great transactions, but it is evident that ere long, and sooner than may be generally suspected, the Canadian people will have occasion to lament, if not to curse, them.

The peers who have been investing so heavily in Canadian lands represent that political and social element that cannot stand for the British policy of taxing and dividing the land. They represent the element which has been opposed to all of Britain's social reforms. They may in time become obstructive in Canada as they have been in England, and another Lloyd-George will have to rise up and remove their impositions.

A CURE FOR POVERTY

The World's Work contains the record of what a young man accomplished in one county of Michigan (Houghton), in the way of social reform. "Dick" O'Rourke, a college graduate, became a township supervisor, and one of the first things he learned, to his great surprise, was that \$65,000 a year went to the relief of paupers.

The wonder is that this discovery was not made by others, and that it did not startle them. The average ratepayer is keen in his criticism of public accounts, and he ought to have been shocked into saying or doing something when he saw the enormous sum that was being spent upon the paupers in a township. O'Rourke got busy. He found that nine-tenths of the poverty was the result of drunkenness. He pondered upon the fact. His thought of an experiment, and the supervisors approved it.

It was to select a man who would look up all the tipplers, advise them to reform, and if they failed to get upon the warning, to photograph them, put their pictures in the three hundred bars of Houghton county and order that no liquor be sold to the men.

The special officer was a Finn, a big man, mild but firm, one who could give orders in a kindly way, one who had the firmness and the power to see them obeyed. In seven months he had made a round of his district. He called on ninety men who needed regulating. Eighty-four he put on the sobriety list, and they stayed there. Six he photographed, but he held the "photos" while he agonized with them.

The transformation is complete. Pauperism has disappeared from the township, and the \$65,000 that formerly went into drink now goes into food and clothing and other necessities of life. What is more remarkable, "the saloon-keepers are entirely satisfied with the ordinance." Anything suggestive in this? Surely, Ontario has a license law which enables a drinker's friends to put him on the "prohibited list." But that is all. There is no one like the big Finn of Houghton township, in Michigan, to keep tabs on him, to counsel with him and put on the screws when he shows insubordination. The "thou shall not" is not to be compared with the "thou mayest" in the mouth of a civic evangelist.

THE CHOICE OF SUICIDE

G. Bernard Shaw, the author and dramatist, comes out as an advocate of suicide under certain conditions. Two suffragettes, Mrs. Mary Leigh and Miss Gladys Evans, are imprisoned in Dublin, and to prevent them from starving, they have refused to eat, the government has ordered forcible feeding.

Mr. Shaw admits that the women are guilty of a very serious crime. They set fire to a theatre in which a public meeting was being held. "To set fire to a theatre," writes Mr. Shaw, "is beyond all question a serious crime. If the suffragettes may commit arson with impunity because their motives are public motives, then they may assassinate, throw express trains off the line, blow up the houses of parliament with dynamite, in short, do anything mischievous or murderous. Women who are prepared to go to such lengths must clearly be restrained in some way."

Imprisonment is the only punishment permissible, under the circumstances, and the women seek to make it impossible by forcible feeding. In such

an extremity Mr. Shaw holds that it is the prisoner's right to commit suicide if she desires to do so. It is for the government to offer the prisoners food, to place it within their reach, and having done so let them starve if they wish.

"If," says Mr. Shaw, "Dr. Crippen had been sentenced to penal servitude for life, and he had declared that he would starve himself to death if not released, the government might have counted on a very large degree of public sympathy in replying literally and seriously, 'Starve yourself and be damned.' But if it says that to Mrs. Leigh and Miss Evans the general feeling will be that though the prisoners will be starved, it is the government who will be damned." The sex of the prisoners makes all the difference in the world. Were the offenders men, and without any sympathy on account of their misdoings, they would be nothing said about their feeding. They would be given their daily rations, and if they refused to eat they would be allowed to do the other thing.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Some one was to see that the suffragettes were turned back from Canada, or refused admission to this country, as undesirable. That individual should be delegated to deal with the suffragettes and become responsible for their good conduct.

Hon. Bob Rogers has gone to Macdonald, Man., to direct a by-election and to remain there until the last vote is polled. If repudiated or defeated this time he had better not return to Ottawa. His bulldozing methods are out of date.

A new wireless system of telegraphy has been invented by a Frenchman. Its merits are that it is comparatively inexpensive, rapidly and noiselessly operated, and capable of "more service than ten submarine cables. Marconi has not made his pile a day too soon.

The nationalists of Quebec are

found to be reactionaries. They demand a referendum on the naval question. Mr. Borden agreed to this in opposition, when looking for their votes, and he cannot do otherwise than agree to it in power, if he wants to be consistent.

So the French teachers in the Essex district say they will ignore the education department's regulations with regard to bilingual schools. If they do and the department permits it, the government will hear about it, and the opponents of these bilingual schools will know what to do.

The democrats want a million dollars more for their political campaign. They would have no trouble in raising it if the trusts and the stock-brokers could only tap the public treasury or tax the people afterwards. It is because the campaign funds men

are threatened with jail that the "pork barrels" are scarce.

The Hamilton Spectator comments on the end of education now that the students are flocking back for college classes. The end of education is not to be had in the school or academy. The graduation of a young man or woman, in the American colleges, is the "commencement" of one's career. The term is here properly applied.

F. E. Smith, of the unionist party, says it will reform the lords when in power, and give effect to every reform. Home rule for Ireland will be a bigger issue in the next election than tariff reform. If, as Mr. Smith says, the unionists will not succeed in office until they get a mandate on the subject they will be out a long time.

Sir James Whitney has intimated that he is not afraid of the suffragettes. Of course not. He will resent their intrusion with a few plain words. But he will find that nothing but a policeman's club can keep them off him. That was the experience of England's premier, and he is quite as capable as Sir James of taking care of himself.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

A Word for Teddy.

Toronto News. Mr. Roosevelt's gains from the democratic ranks will not be inconsiderable, and the November elections may easily see him chosen president for a third term.

Not For Grant.

London Advertiser. Sir Richard Cartwright was a richer man when he entered politics fifty years ago than when he died. But no one ever heard him complain that he had not had the worth of his money in serving the public, even though out of office most of the time.

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Lively School Children.

Toronto Mail. Fifteen hundred New York school children refused to go to school, broke windows, hurled abuse and heavier missiles at caretakers and trustees, and produced a fair-sized riot because they disapproved of the transfer of some teachers. It is to be feared that these imps were not receiving the right sort of education, and that something even more radical than a transfer of teachers is needed if they are to be civilized.

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