

One member enquired if the municipal authorities did not have full control of their streets and highways. He was told that the postmaster-general, in His Majesty's name, has the right to put pillar boxes wherever he likes. That power has been transferred to Miss Fawns, and she is entitled to choose the location for these boxes. Mr. Pelletier made some amendments to the contract, but he admits that the post-office department does not get much out of it. The chief advantage appears to be that the stamp vending machines will accelerate the circulation of postage stamps. In the meantime Miss Fawns has transferred her contract to the Dominion Postage Stamp Vending Company, Limited.

The pillar-box which the company will handle, will receive letters and have as part of its make-up an automatic stamp vending-machine. At the top is a revolving drum, which at night is lighted by electricity, and on which advertisements will be displayed. Mr. Nesbitt asked the postmaster-general where the pillars would be placed, and was told that under the contract Miss Fawns has the right to place one at the very door of that gentleman's home. Mr. Nesbitt, therefore, has the prospect of waking up one morning and finding a soap, pickle or mining stock advertisement staring at him from a blood-red pillar-box. Indeed, every good citizen has that prospect, unless they chance to be at church, as Mr. Pelletier has succeeded in amending the contract to the effect that the company "should not have the right to place one of these pillars at the door of a church or any place else merely at their own volition."

Mr. Pelletier said that the agreement was a baby which he found at his doorstep, and he named Mr. Lemieux as the father. The contract was signed on May 20th, 1911. Mr. Lemieux got hold of a document dated May 22nd, 1913, and triumphantly exclaimed: "So it is just signed. It is a new baby." But the postmaster-general claimed that it was the same child clothed in some much-needed amendments.

In the meantime, Miss Katrine Ellen Fawns may smile and the Dominion Postage Stamp Vending Company, Limited, proceed to sell its stock, for it has a fine contract.

**CRIMINAL STATISTICS**

The moral reformer will find food for much reflection in the criminal statistics just issued from Ottawa. During the year covered by the figures, 1911, there were 16,625 charges and 12,627 convictions for indictable offences. There were also 100,633 summary convictions for everything from food adulteration to larceny. Drunkenness accounted for 41,379 of these convictions. The indictable offences include those against the person, against property with violence, against property without violence, malicious offences against property, forgery and offences against the currency, and other offences not included in the foregoing classes.

The occupations of criminals is always an interesting study. The proportion of criminals who were engaged in commercial pursuits was 18.69 per cent. Only 1.31 per cent. were professional men, while 7.60 per cent. were domestics, 6.36 per cent. agricultural and 10.36 per cent. industrial workers. The percentage of criminals who were laborers was 56.68. This is excessively high compared with the other classes of occupations, and it may be assumed that a large number of offenders given as "laborers" in the returns, should have been credited to the more defined classes of occupations, such as agricultural, domestic, commercial or industrial, to which they properly belong.

The civil condition of the convicted shows that 67 out of every 100 were single, 31 married and 2 widowed. The educational status shows that 7 out of every 100 offenders were unable to read or write, 91 had an elementary education and 2 a superior education.

As to ages, 13.79 per cent. were under 16 years, 15.71 per cent. from 16 to 20 years, 55.53 per cent. from 21 to 39 years, and 14.97 per cent. 40 years and over. The use of liquors is represented by the following figures per 100 offenders: 63 moderate and 20 immoderate drinkers, with 17 not given, or "non-drinkers." Eighty-seven out of every hundred offenders were returned as living in cities and towns, and thirteen in rural districts.

The Canadian born criminals represented 50.5 per cent. of the total convictions in 1911, the British born outside of Canada 15.3 per cent., the United States born 5.8 per cent., and the foreign born 12.2 per cent. According to the Census of 1911, the Canadian born constituted 77.9 per cent. of the total population of Canada, the British born outside of Canada 11.6 per cent., the United States born 4.2 per cent., and the foreign born 6.2 per cent.

The statistics reveal the necessity for more stringent regulations throughout the country regarding the carrying of firearms. One of the most gratifying facts contained in the blue book is that juvenile courts have been established in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Ottawa, Halifax, Victoria and Charlottetown. Everything should be done to prevent the young delinquent from becoming a hardened criminal.

**FARMERS BANK DEPOSITORS**

The depositors of the Farmers Bank have been promised by Premier Borden "a reasonable measure of relief." This will be provided by legislation to be introduced at the next session of parliament. Mr. Borden's statement appears in detail on another page of this issue. The government apparently thinks that the Treasury Board which granted the certificate to the bank has some responsibility in the matter, and that this the government must assume. In that connection, the Premier says: "While the direct subsequent cause of the loss was the fraud and dishonesty of the bank manager in the administration of its affairs, there is nevertheless a certain connection between that loss and the power and status with which he became invested upon the granting of the certificate."

The case is of exceptional character, as Mr. Borden stated, and he plainly intimated that the depositors of two other banks which recently failed will not be granted relief as in the case of the Farmers Bank. This is as it should be, for the Dominion Government can scarcely be expected to shoulder the depositors' burdens when banks fail and argument is aimed at the Treasury Board. Perhaps one of the most important lessons to be learned from the Farmers Bank failure is that the Treasury Board cannot be too careful in granting new bank charters.

**THOSE ALARM NOTES**

The Winnipeg business men's excursion through the prairie provinces was a decided success. The captains of industry of that growing Western metropolis spent nearly three weeks in investigating at first hand conditions in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. A paper, "The Overland Observer and Business Man's Bulletin," was circulated every day on their special train. Here is an editorial from the third issue, which appeared when the business men were approaching Prince Albert and Saskatoon:—

"A community spirit is the most desirable factor of a prosperous, contented town. While factories may exist in great number, while a city may have millions going into new buildings every year, while bank clearings soar upwards, and while a city may have thousands of people living in good homes, unless there is a unified interest between the inhabitants, unless each individual