

In the beginnings of society the community had common possession of the land, and only as it became more valuable did the more energetic, industrious and powerful become possessors of it; but in the earliest known codes, as that of King Hammurabi of Babylon, 2250 B.C., the common right of the people to the land is recognized, since the duty of the holder, whether as owner or occupant, of any of the irrigated and intensely cultivated land in the delta of Babylon is set forth in the words of Ordinance No. 42: "If anyone takes over a field to till it and obtains no harvest therefrom, if it be proved that he did no work on the field, he must deliver grain just as much as his neighbor raised to the owner of the field." On the other hand, and beautifully illustrative of how the capitalist and money-lender even under our laws in Canada become the possessors of land, is the story in the 47th Chapter of Genesis, of how that earliest and greatest of all the fathers of trusts, Joseph, operated in the land of Egypt. We are told that after he had taken all the people's money for food and then their cattle they again came to him offering their lands and their bodies for corn. In verse 19: "So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field because the famine was sore upon them; and the land became Pharaoh's. And as for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of the border even to the other end thereof." "Then Joseph said unto the people, 'Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh.'"

So this benevolent agent of the Pharaoh took the land, gave the people seed to sow, and thenceforth *tied* the people to the despot by a statute concerning the land of Egypt until this day that Pharaoh should have the fifth.

In order to get some idea of the distribution of population the table may be given of births by wards during the six months from November 1st to April 30th:

Rideau Ward .....	47
Ottawa Ward .....	91
St. George .....	*75
By Ward .....	48
Central .....	94
Wellington .....	106
Dalhousie .....	†225
Capital .....	121
Victoria .....	95
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Total .....	902
Total from two institutions .....	349
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Grand total .....	1,251

\*Also 229 Maternity Hospital and Salvation Army Home.

†Also 121 Misericordia Hospital.