

Agriculture

A Question to Deal With in a Practical Manner.

Is it not time for the Government to make a real effort to develop the agricultural possibilities of our country? The question as to the stability of climate and soil crops up occasionally, and we hear arguments in favour of land development, and also have to read of and listen to the man who tells us that Newfoundland is nothing but a rock, fog and sea—the man whose answer is so warped that he can see nothing but heavy fog in his surroundings. When we try to find out instances where areas are suitable for farming, to whom can we look for information? If we go to the Department of Agriculture and Mines we can get pretty nips of Timber Press and Mining claims with all sorts of unknown names labelling the various claims. But is it not time that a survey be made showing all the available land available? Go to any of the other Colonies and we can get this information, and further, we find that encouragement is given to get people to settle on and develop the land. We must have many thousands of acres of good land suitable for mixed farming, dairying and for raising pure bred and varieties of pure bred livestock. There is nothing to prevent Newfoundland from contributing a big share of agricultural products to the world's markets. But we look up trade reports what do we find? We are in the unhappy position of not raising enough even for local consumption. In 1921 we imported 108,597 barrels of potatoes, value \$101,691.00. Statistics do not import all this, but over 72,000 bushels went direct to the outports. Grand Bank and Burin imported over 10,000 bushels from Canada. We can grow plenty cabbages and ones, but still have to import 9,812 lbs. worth \$37,432.00. Thousands of acres of good hay lands lie idle and we import 10,857 tons, value \$4,781.00. Turnips, Beet and Parsnips, etc., 38,409 bushels, valued at \$214.00 are imported yearly. Poultry and eggs, for these no less than \$128,837.00 goes out of the country yearly. Over half a million pounds of butter are imported yearly, the \$281,420.00. This is not good enough. We are not doing our duty to ourselves.

unless we make a big attempt to improve matters in this direction. We are told by the "know alls" that the great drawback to farming in this country is the difficulty in disposing of the crops raised. Surely this is a matter in which the Department of Agriculture, the Board of Trade and similar bodies, should take a hand and not leave the question of distribution, etc.—a question of national importance—to the individual. No doubt the importers find it easier to deal with the foreign market; they have neither time nor inclination to search round even the suburbs collecting together sufficient vegetables, etc., to fill their orders. This is where the institution of a Central Market would give a big impetus to the production of some of the commodities we have mentioned and help to make farming pay. This country is undoubtedly able to support a great many more genuine farmers, and some effort should be put forth to get them placed on the land. What are other colonies doing? Take for instance Australia. In order to attract settlement the various States there offer to the prospective settler substantial monetary assistance to develop the unutilized areas, but before this is done the settler must have some capital of his own in order to purchase. The institutions which operate in the various Australian states follow the one general principle, i.e., they advance money in proportion to the value of capital spent and improvements effected. Money is advanced for the erection of fencing, purchase of stock and implements and for expenditure calculated to bring the land into quick production. The amount differs in various states from £750 to £2,000. The British Government is also a party to this arrangement, and is joining with the Commonwealth in defraying certain of the interest charges in order that the burden may not fall too heavily upon the states. We feel certain that opportunities exist in Newfoundland for men with farming experience and with a little capital who are prepared to take a hand in this country's development. In Queensland, before a farm can

be required, the applicant must satisfy the Land Board that he has sufficient capital and experience which when supplemented by a Government advance of £ for £, for improvements effected, will enable him to win through. No definite amount of capital is fixed, the physical fitness and capability of the applicant counting much. In Victoria a man with £250 can obtain land worth £2500 in case of farming lands, and monetary assistance to the extent of £850 is made available to him. The land is paid off in half yearly instalments including interest and sinking fund, over a period of 26 1/2 years. In Western Australia no charge is made for lands, but any advance for wages, improvements, etc., become a charge against the settler, and must be paid back in annual instalments over a period of 30 years. These farmers are many hundreds of miles farther away from the markets than farmers in this country would be but can make a success of it. When we look at the wonderful rise of Agriculture in Norway, Sweden and Denmark due to intelligent State aid and organized co-operative marketing, we wonder how long are we in this splendid country to remain content to keep our real wealth concealed. It is sickening to look back at the many thousands of dollars frittered away on Model (?) Farms, etc., and potatoes and seed given away to people who did not know how to use them, and giving absolutely no returns. A fraction of this money wasted, if intelligently used would have proved long ago to be the nucleus of an important and gratifying national asset. A definite agricultural policy is a necessity. We need more farmers and more information as to our farming lands. Then there will be real reason for new Roads and Branch Railways. If attention is paid to packing produce in standard packages, more scientific marketing introduced, and more expert advice and information available from the Agricultural department, then it will not be necessary to depend upon Canada for our rations, and we will have a chance to keep at home many of our people who are now forced to seek employment in other countries. With the money wasted on Model (?) Farms, etc., we could have had a flourishing Agricultural College functioning in this country years ago. General farming, Dairy farming, Poultry farming, and Fish-waste fertilizer plants will all prove assets later on.

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Scotch Real Estate is Selling Heavily

LONDON, March 17.—During the past six years one-third of Scotland has changed hands through the real estate market. Last year was the poorest since, the way only 300,000 acres were sold, as compared with 900,000 acres in 1923. Since the whole disposal of Scottish lands began immediately after the armistice about 6,500,444 acres have passed into new ownership.

Circle Globe on Freak Bets

THREE YOUTHS START JOURNEY ON BICYCLES IN LATEST OF LONG SERIES OF ODD VENTURES.

LONDON, Mar. 7.—Three youths have just arrived here from Bombay, India, after having completed 12,000 miles of a proposed bicycle trip around the world. This is the latest of a whole series of similar undertakings, most of them the result of wagers.

Man In Iron Mask.

A bet of £20,000 was the lure which tempted the "man in the iron mask," recently, to start to tramp around the world pushing a perambulator. Starting from Trafalgar Square, London, his face concealed behind his mask of iron, he had to fulfill the following among other conditions: Never to reveal his identity; to find a wife on the road; to travel through twenty countries and to visit every country in the United Kingdom; and to buy a postage stamp at every town through which he passed.

For a similar wager Martin Bernstarr Schroeder, a Danish journalist, undertook several years ago to travel around the world in twelve months, starting without a coin in his pocket, and wearing handcuffs for all but two hours every day.

Barrel Travel.

About the same time two Italians named Dianelli and Zenarchi were trying to circle the globe cooped in a barrel, which they were pledged not to leave for more than a specified number of minutes daily. W. H. Hayes, a Portsmouth, England, blacksmith was trundling two six-foot carriage wheels from Portsmouth to Newcastle and back at an average rate of twenty miles a day. An enthusiastic Belgian sportsman was leaving Brussels confident of winning a large wager by walking round the earth backwards.

It was, too, for a bet of "1,000 to 1 in sovereigns" that Gerald Hirsch, a member of the Isthmian Club, Piccadilly, walked from London to Brighton in less than twenty-four hours, clad in evening dress, hatless, and wearing dancing slippers. He had for companion in his walk a fellow clubman, who undertook the same journey in cricket shirt and "shorts" to win a bet of £50 to £1.

We need competent men to get all these industries on a firm basis. Why not make a start at once?

A Crime

MR. LANSBURY'S TRUE WORDS.

Abuse Of The Dole.
(By JOHN BLUNT, in The Daily Mail.)

I do not always associate Mr. Lansbury with sound common sense, but when, speaking about the dole, he said in the House of Commons, recently, that any system, whether capitalism or any other, which trained people to believe that they should live without doing work, was committing a crime against the individual and also against society, I heartily agree with him.

Young persons, whether rich or poor, are doing a great disservice to themselves and to the State if they develop habits of laziness.

It can only be said that the rich loafers are, at least, not an expense to other people, and that there are in the nature of things so relatively few of them that they do not constitute a serious national problem.

Corrupted.

But neither of these things can be said about the classes that are being corrupted by the dole. Say what you like, such people are actually being made "work shy" by law.

It is quite useless blaming a man for preferring not to work, or, at any rate, work that is not their own choosing, and if the Government announces that there is money to be had for doing nothing, many people, of course, will do nothing.

A Drug.

Nobody denies that the dole is a very proper means of temporary support in certain cases. But people are fast losing sight of its original intention and are coming to regard it as their permanent right.

If a man takes a drug to soothe a pain, that is one thing; but if through taking that drug he becomes a slave to it and ruins his life and his character, that is quite another thing.

And the dole has begun to set upon this nation as a drug sets upon a man who has become its victim. The pride and independence of the English are vanishing under its evil influence.

It is eating its way into the very heart of the nation, corroding the character, making us soft and lazy, going away with that sense of duty which tells a man that it is his business to make his own living and to stand on his own feet.

Gross Misuse.

It is no use mixing matters. Large sections of the public are developing a totally false and fatal conception of society. They have come to regard the dole as their natural right, to look upon work as a kind of slavery invented by capitalists, and to talk as though the main object of the Government was to finance people who did nothing.

The system as now organized is crippling the manhood and the womanhood of this country, and the results

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MUFFINS
1 1/2 cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 egg, 2/3 cup water, 1/2 cup Carnation Milk, 1/2 cup raisins. Mix and stir dry ingredients. Add milk and water and beat with egg and add first mixture. Bake in greased muffin tins for 20 to 25 minutes. This makes six muffins.

CINNAMON BUNS
1/2 cup water, 1/2 cup Carnation Milk, 3/4 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup compressed yeast, 4 1/2 cups flour, 1/2 cup raisins, 2 tablespoons shortening. Dissolve yeast in a little warm water. Add water, milk, sugar, salt, beaten egg and melted shortening. Add two cups flour and beat well. Allow to rise in a warm place until spongy. Now knead in the other two and one-half cups flour, making a smooth, elastic dough. Let rise in warm place until double its size, turn on lightly floured board and roll about half-inch thick. Spread with soft butter, sprinkle with the cinnamon and sugar and scatter over all the raisins. Fold or roll this and cut in little buns or rolls. Allow to rise to double its size and bake in a hot oven fifteen or twenty minutes. This makes thirty-two rather small cinnamon rolls.

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grossly misused—and the real fault lies with the Government itself. Put legal temptation in a man's path, and how do you expect him to resist it? The system as now organized is crippling the manhood and the womanhood of this country, and the results will be disastrous. For the salvation of the country depends on the will to work, and if that goes, all goes.

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ohn Milton wrote a threemove book concerning things and means: 'was when O. Cromwell's soldiers took the realm and spoiled the seas, and all arriving Stuarts took their flight over other scenes. John Milton drew this unworthy to hand out ood, to deck his nes, and still five thousand would make a ep bard till he for the sod; but wark—he fell for at still," he said, av my bulging belly took my my cow; and I come—I'll tackle drew five thousand shiners unwise, of screws, unat will I draw my tale of himself a foun- from his purse, bunds from his arm and tere; of gods and men. He peddled it here publishers forbidding roar ed; they all de- ore and chased ast they paid pounds, to his eat work whose ired the hu- s the book on ast seen it any

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