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HELPING WAR ORPHANS

Before sailing for London, where he intends to learn how the poorer classes look upon the war, Judge Henry Neil sent the following letter to ex-Senator Elihu Root in response to an appeal for aid for a home for war orphans:—

You have asked me to contribute to a fund to establish a children's home in Europe. I cannot contribute to such a cause, and desire to give you information that the institutional idea for European children is put forth as part of a plan to exploit their mothers in factories. After the war the allied nations will have a great burden of interest to pay. They must produce things to sell. Woman factory labor must take the place of man labor, and the plea is to establish institutions, take children from their mothers and compel the mothers to become factory hands, without home or children. This plan will destroy the people of the country if carried out. I have read carefully all of the letters and literature of the "Committee of Mercy," of which you are honorary president. Nowhere in your entire appeal do I see any proposal to keep children with their own mothers. The whole scheme is to separate mothers and children. You say "for the shelter and training of fatherless and destitute children." But you do not mention the mother. She is to go to the factory. New York City, where you live, has established more institutions for children than any other city in the world. They have been found to be cruel, expensive, inefficient and bad policy from every point of view.

New York City has now awakened to the crime it has been committing against mother instincts and child life and against the interests of society. Your own State and city are now taking children out of institutions and restoring them to their own mothers under the mothers' pension system for the abolishment of child-poverty. Under this pension system the mother remains at home to care for her own children. She does not have to go out to wash for children of other women, nor work in factories. She functions as nature intended and does the work for which her instincts prepare her.

I am opposed to the institutional care of children and all honest authorities agree with me in that opposition. Even children without mother or father, in Europe

or America, can be better cared for in private families. In New York City pensioned mothers are being paid by the city to care for orphans, and the little ones get the benefit of individual mother care in a regular home, under natural conditions. Institutional care does not make good, useful citizens because it prevents the development of those talents upon which home, the basis of our civilization, depends. Institutional children



FRED W. RIDDELL
The new general manager of The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company.

grow up, get married and have children of their own, but, never having lived in a home, these fathers and mothers usually fail, and more dependents are produced. The Committee of Mercy is not a merciful organization if it continues its present plan.

I propose that the plan be changed to a Mothers' Pension plan and children cared for in private homes with mother care, and that all mothers be kept out of factories and other gainful occupations outside of their own homes, even if the result is default on the war bonds. You are probably being used by professional

charity experts—who simply desire little jobs for themselves and by scheming men who see into the future and realize that women of Europe must go into factories and give up their children if the bond interest is to be paid. I ask careful consideration of this letter, as I propose to use all my power and all my time and every ounce of my strength, God willing, to prevent you or any other person, or group, or nation, from committing the supreme crime of the world—taking children from their own mothers and driving these mothers into factories.—The Public, Chicago.

PROF. MITCHELL RESIGNS

"St. John, N.B., Oct. 25—By order-in-council passed today Professor J. W. Mitchell, Manitoba, was appointed commissioner of livestock and dairying for the province of New Brunswick."

The foregoing news dispatch brings to a close an unfortunate condition of affairs in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. For nearly a year friction has existed between the Minister of Agriculture and Prof. J. W. Mitchell, and neither was satisfied with the other's stand regarding the administration of the Dairy Act.

Prof. Mitchell has had a long and distinguished career in connection with dairy work in Canada. From 1896 to 1899 he was instructor of dairying at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. From there he was selected by the Dominion Government to act as Dominion dairy superintendent in what was then the territory of Saskatchewan and Assiniboia, now the province of Saskatchewan, and he carried on that work very successfully until 1901, when he was transferred, by his department, to the Maritime Provinces, where he superintended the work for two years and did very much to put the dairy industry of the island province of Prince Edward on its present substantial foundation. He left the Maritime Provinces to accept the position of head of the eastern dairy school in Kingston, where he remained until 1908, when he again came west, this time to Manitoba, to fill the dual position of professor of dairying and superintendent of dairying for the province.

When Prof. Mitchell came to Winnipeg conditions of dairying in the province were about as bad as they could well be, and the reputation of its butter on outside markets was an unenviable one. Today Manitoba butter is being shipped to the critical market of Great Britain and Montreal dealers endorse it as being equal to the best produced in Canada. This result is the more remarkable when it is considered that all has been accomplished with little or no encouragement from the provincial department of agriculture. Prof. Mitchell's work speaks for itself. When diversified farming is receiving so much more attention year by year throughout the province, Manitoba can ill afford to lose such a valuable official.

ELECTION REFORM

The Legislative Committee on Election Laws in Manitoba, have sat and heard representatives of various public bodies of Winnipeg. Many inquiries have been made by the farmers and farmers' societies. The committee will reserve a date in November, of which due public notice will be given, when the farmers may freely air their views on election reform.

AUSTRALIA AND CONSCRIPTION

For some weeks the Australian Commonwealth has been agitated by a campaign centering on the referendum submitted to the people on October 28, on the question of compulsory military service. The enlistment situation at the end of September showed that 103,000 reinforcements have been voluntarily enrolled, additional reinforcements needed up to July 1 next are 100,000 and 125,000 men are available according to the war census "who are fit, single and without dependants." The government's plan is that voluntary recruitment is to be continued; the deficiency to be made up by conscription; men to be called up month by month as required; no compulsory calling up of men under 21 years of age; absolute exemptions otherwise of (1) only sons, (2) single men who are the sole support of dependants, (3) in families which have already furnished volunteers no calling up of the remaining members of the family up to one-half; constitution of military tribunals

to hear appeals for exemptions. The prime minister, Mr. Hughes, has encountered considerable opposition thru his action in wholeheartedly supporting this proposed measure. He has been expelled from the Political Labor League of New South Wales and the labor party, of which he was the founder, is split into two factions over this issue. To offset the cleavage in his own party, however, Mr. Hughes has the backing of his ordinarily determined political antagonists, the Liberals, both in the federal parliament and in the various states.

The prime minister's speech in opening the campaign for the referendum was an impassioned one. He said in the course of it: "Can anyone doubt if Germany wins she will lay her predatory hands on this country of ours? If the allies are defeated, a free Australia as we know it would exist no more. Think of that, all of you who hesitate and babble about your rights. Conscription as it is called, against which all this wild outcry is raised, has been the law for years. It has been and is a plank of the Labor platform. It is true that the law as it stands is confined to compulsory military service inside the Common-



JAMES ROBINSON
Newly appointed executive director of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company.

wealth, but the principle—compulsion—is there."

At date of writing, October 30, incomplete returns show for conscription 798,000 and against 887,000.

HOMESTEADS AVAILABLE

There has just been issued by the Department of the Interior a new edition of the "Land and Pre-emption" map, which gives useful and interesting information, corrected to a recent date, with regard to the land situation and the pre-emption and purchased homestead areas throughout the three Western Provinces. Figures in green show at a glance the number of quarter-sections in each township that are still available for homestead entry, also the area within which quarter-sections may be pre-empted. Boundaries of Dominion Land Agencies, and the location of Forestry and Indian Reserves are also clearly shown. All townships which have been surveyed are set out in a distinctive buff coloring. Copies of the publication may be procured free of charge upon application to the Railway Lands Branch of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa.

YOUNG FOLKS MAY DANCE

At the annual school meeting at Poplar Park, Sask., school district there was a vigorous discussion on the question of allowing the school room to be used for dancing. However, those who were opposed to allowing the young people to enjoy themselves in this manner were found to be in the minority and a resolution was passed that the school house should be open to all forms of social intercourse without discrimination. Evidently the majority of the people in that school district have the progressive viewpoint.

Every farmer should study his machine and see where he can increase its efficiency. Oil is cheaper than repairs and new tools. When properly used it will increase the life of the machine.

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