

the kind to quit under fire or to lay down because there are lions in the path. We have a magnificent heritage and, if we will but resolutely and cheerfully attack the problems confronting us, we will be surprised at the progress we will make. As a people we should "cheer up."

LLOYD GEORGE'S LAND LAWS.

Lloyd George's land scheme is one of the most courageous pieces of legislation ever attempted by a social reformer. It is only when we realize the tremendous hold the landed proprietors possess that the true significance of the 'Little Welshman's act is appreciated. It is said that an Englishman dearly loves a lord and will put up with almost anything rather than curtail his lordship's privileges.

The land question in Great Britain had come to such a pass that something had to be done. It is a big question—one requiring an immense amount of courage and conviction. There is at the present time but 1,000,000 people engaged in agriculture in Great Britain, who have to hand over each year to landlords some £34,000,000 in rentals. During the past sixty years, Great Britain has lost half and Ireland three-quarters of her agricultural laborers while at the present time, there are from 300,000 to 400,000 British farm laborers emigrating each year. Since 1873 over 3,000,000 acres of land have been abandoned by the plough. It is somewhat significant that it is only in Great Britain and Ireland that the agricultural population is decreasing. In Germany, which supports several times as many agriculturists as Great Britain, the number is on the increase and the same is true of Belgium, France, Denmark and other European countries. In Great Britain, the largest proportion of the land is in the hands of a mere handful of wealthy landowners. For example, the Duke of Sutherland—the largest landowner in Great Britain—possesses upwards of 1,300,000 acres, much of which is given over to deer preserves. From these estates the thrifty farmers of a generation or two ago were driven off in order that the land might be turned into game preserves. Fifty years ago there were 9,000 game keepers in Britain, now there are 23,000. The Duke of Sutherland declares that Lloyd George's scheme is nothing short of confiscation of property. At the same time, he expresses his willingness to sell the Government some 200,000 acres at \$10 per acre although the land is said to be only worth some \$3.75. Before Lloyd George gets through with those British landlords, many of them will doubtless be told that they obtained their land in the first place through confiscation. The history of Great Britain shows that nearly all the great landed estates and, for that matter, the titles as well, originated with some marauding warriors centuries ago. Because a man was able to oppress his fellowmen, or be-

cause he was endowed with physical prowess, or more than ordinary rascality and was willing to use these qualifications for the advancement of his king, he was rewarded with the estates of less powerful neighbors. If the State turns around and confiscates a large proportion of these landed gentry's estates, it will be only giving them a taste of what their ancestors practiced generations before.

We have the utmost sympathy with Lloyd George in his campaign against the landed proprietors in Great Britain. It is a question which should have been dealt with long ago, but now that it has been taken up, we hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will make a thorough job of it and break up these great estates.

No country can be permanently great and strong when it is confronted with a dwindling agricultural population. For the past fifty years or more, Canada and other parts of the Empire have been benefitting by the emigration from rural Britain. This, however, has been at the expense of Great Britain herself. It is sincerely to be hoped that the present courageous reforms introduced by Lloyd George will tend to retain the agriculturists in Great Britain.

OUR PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BUSINESS.

The disorganization of the local telephone system this week seriously interfered with business and caused a great deal of inconvenience. Old time business men who have grown gray in their present occupations wondered how they ever got along in the olden days without the telephone.

It is only when something interferes with the public utilities, which serve us so admirably, that we realize and appreciate their importance. To-day, the small boy on the street talks glibly about utilities which were unknown a generation ago. Our fathers were forced to get along without the telephone, the telegraph, the express train, the ocean greyhound and a score of other modern conveniences.

The result of the many inventions for eliminating distance and cutting time in two, have brought wonderful changes in our social and economic relations. To-day, the people of China and India are nearer and more real to us than those in the next country were a half century ago. This has the effect of making economic or social upheavals in one country almost world wide in their influence and effect. Another outcome of the use of myriad time saving and distance eliminating devices is to add to the feverishness and haste which characterises our age. More business is done to-day and in a shorter time than at any period in the history of the world. As a matter of fact, the old leisurely way of doing business has been relegated to the middle ages and, to-day we must talk to men across a continent, cable around the world, travel by