

ship—with suitable provision for obtaining loanable capital, as might readily be done. Remembering that the average loan would be of the short-date variety, and that the turnover would be rapid, a great deal could be done on \$2,000 or \$3,000. A well-selected loan committee should pass upon every application, giving special, though not necessarily inquisitorial, attention to the merits of each case. Where loans are granted—

(a) Re-payment may be required, for small advances, in one sum; or, for larger advances, by monthly instalments, interest of course being reckoned only upon the amount outstanding. Loans made under this arrangement would be subject to a higher rate of interest than if made under (b), since expenses of management would be greater, and occasional losses might be incurred. As to security, it would doubtless be found that in most cases a liberal policy would be consistent with safety; or

(b) Re-payment might be by abatement from salary. In such case no security would be necessary other than the borrower's agreement to that course being adopted, and the rate of interest to be charged would be considerably less than under plan (a). Probably 6 per cent. at most would be sufficient.

Plan (b) is unquestionably superior and eminently feasible. The official mind will shudder, of course. The official mind hates to be bothered. We even fear that it might consider the whole business undignified, bless its conservative heart! One ventures to think, however, that what is truly useful cannot lack for dignity, and at all events reasonable, open-minded men shall judge.

The remedy fortunately does not hinge on this specific proposal, although its simplicity and effectiveness certainly recommend it strongly. Such an association as is here suggested could, merely by making suit-

able arrangement with one of the local banks, effect its object in part at least, though at greater trouble and cost. Let a few of our more public-spirited fellows take up the question without delay, for the Service cannot be made free of the loan vultures one day too soon.

We have every intention of persisting in our efforts to bring this matter to a head, and we shall probably again take up the burden of our song in the next issue.

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### THE LATE PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN.

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From all that can be learned of him—by the testimony of friend and foe alike,—the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman possessed not a few of the attributes of greatness. To us, under another sky, one act of his stands out pre-eminent: we refer to the granting of responsible government to the conquered Boer republics. It is by acts such as this that the magnanimous Mother of Nations holds her proud leadership, and remains perennially young. Truly, his country owes Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman much, and, had he lived, would have owed him more. But Death, the great god that pulls down the strength of the strongest kings, would take no denial: he has passed to his rest, and the British peoples mourn him as “one of the simple great ones gone for ever and ever by.” Many and touching are the tributes called forth, with tears, from the hearts of the stern people that he ruled. But for simple dignity and perfect appropriateness, it would be difficult to surpass Mr. Asquith's tribute, delivered in the House of Commons, and reported in the Times of April 28th. Space compels us to be brief; otherwise we should feel constrained to quote in full:—

“There have been men who, in the cruel phrase of the ancient historian.