

President himself, constrained him to resign.

Weary as he was of the task of governing, he was, it is believed, not ill pleased to see the responsibility of power placed on the shoulders of the Poincarists long enough to prove the futility of their extreme policies as opposed to his more moderate course.

### POINCARÉ RISES

**T**HOUGH Poincaré's Cabinet was ready for office in three days, it did not prove to be the wide national union first attempted by the new Premier. But, in any event, it would probably have been what it is, a Ministry like our Wilson Cabinet, one composed mostly of lieutenants, not of its leader's peers. Doubtless that is what Poincaré wants, for he has this trait in common with ex-President Wilson, of wishing to make it evident that he is the source of authority and power. Poincaré has also revealed two other qualities in common with his contemporary, ex-President Wilson; first, a felicity of speech, but also a detachment which sometimes repels those who would be his friends.

True, the Cabinet includes, under the title of Vice-Premier, Louis Barthou, ex-Prime Minister and ex-member of the Briand Cabinet; it includes from that Cabinet Albert Sarraut, Colonial Minister and present head of the French delegation at Washington; it also includes Count Charles de Lastyrie, one of the leading French economists. But the other ten Ministers do not belong to the first rank; indeed, all together would hardly form a counterweight to the weight of the new Premier.

The effect of this overturn upon the future of France is regarded by friends of France from various angles. Some regard it as a move away from sympathetic understanding with America and England. Others regard it as a needed warning to those both in America and in England who in the pursuit of commercial advantage have ignored the rightful claims of France to consideration as a Power and to safety as a nation.

### FROM THE MAILS TO THE MOVIES

**F**ROM the point of view of post-office efficiency it is impossible not to regret Postmaster-General Hays's resignation. His wise and advanced ideas as to the relation of the postal service to the public have already done much to improve the relations of the United States Post Office organization in its dealings with the people at large. His attitude toward the employees of the



WILL HAYS. HIS RESIGNATION OF THE POSTMASTER-GENEALSHIP HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT HARDING.

service also has been notably human and sympathetic. We are all sorry to lose Will Hays as an administrator, but we may hope that what he has accomplished may be a model and inspiration to his successor. The President, in tentatively accepting Mr. Hays's resignation, declares that it is "too great an opportunity for a helpful public service for him to refuse."

If the details of Mr. Hays's agreement with the nine large moving-picture producing companies which have asked him to act as an arbitrator and consolidator of their combined interests are satisfactorily concluded, he will find that the distribution of pictures as well as the distribution of mails has opportunities for public service.

The purpose of the film magnates is expressed in one newspaper statement as follows:

Unity of action will be established in developing the possibilities and the appreciation of moving pictures as instruments for education, moral uplift, and Americanization. The desire of the moving-picture men is to raise the standard of the industry, eliminate the evils and objections, and create a self-imposed censorship which will attract the confidence of the people.

Some fear has been expressed lest the new consolidation may prove to be in the nature of a "movie trust." We feel sure that Mr. Hays will recognize the fact that the improvement of the industry in the direction of better taste and better art requires that the exhibitors of pictures should have such freedom of choice as should enable them to respond to the demands of better-class audiences for sound art as well as good morals. It is equally true that individual screen dramatists and producers should have a chance to show originality. Consolidation should not mean factory methods or the exclusion of genius and variety in the "canned product."

### THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

**A**T the call of the President there assembled in Washington on January 23 a National Agricultural Conference. Delegates to this Conference will include representatives of direct agricultural interests and also representatives of labor, agencies of transportation, and general industry.

Some of the matters which may be discussed at the Conference include crop insurance, methods of adjusting production to the expected demands of consumption, a more accurate system of crop surveys, the problem of price-fixing, and the extension of the co-operative movement.

Whether or not this Conference will result in a direct benefit to American agriculture will depend largely upon the vision and sense of reality of its leaders. The danger to all conferences lies in the fact that human beings all too frequently mistake discussion and resolution for accomplishment. The outstanding feature of the recent Conference on Unemployment was the fact that Secretary Hoover did not lose sight of the need for immediate achievement in his search for a constructive programme for future action. Perhaps the Agricultural Conference can do little more than search for a rational programme for a National farm policy, but its leaders will do well if they keep the example of the former Conference in mind.

### THE WEEKS LAW

**T**HE principle of the budget should be maintained. There is therefore a disposition in Congress not to restore the appropriation for the continuance of the activities of forest acquisition under the Weeks Law which was omitted from the budget as submitted by the Budget Director. It is felt that, especially at this time when every economy should be exercised, the usual appropriation should go over until another year.

At the same time, the matter serves to draw public attention to what has already been accomplished under the Weeks Law. It has proved to be one of the great measures in our country's history. Enacted for the purchase of forest lands at the head-waters of navigable streams, it has not only materially helped to safeguard those streams from disastrous erosion; it has also provided a timber supply in the regions where it was most rapidly vanishing, and, last, not least, has also provided desirable recreation grounds.

As the West is well supplied with National Forests, the first appropriations under the act have been applied exclusively to the mountain regions of the East. The result has been that vital

# WHAT, HOUSEHOLD STUFF?

(Taming of the Shrew, Induction, Scene 2)

From News of the World, London



THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN

John Bull: "The fatted calf won't have a dog's chance, my boy"

Darling in the Buffalo Evening News



THE BRIDE'S FATHER SHOULD TRY NOT TO LOOK TOO RELIEVED

From Julius J. H. Hayn, Buffalo, N. Y.

Perry in the Portland Oregonian

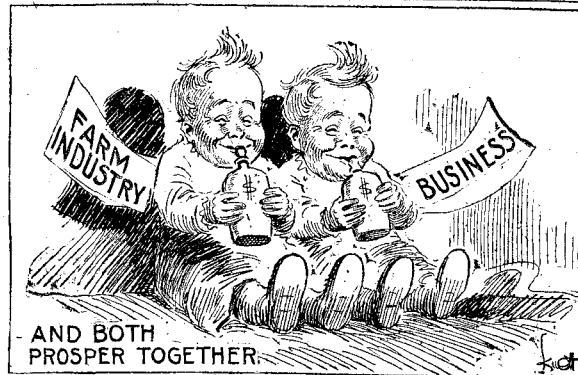


THE FELLOW WHO USED TO WAIT FOR SECOND TABLE IS BEING SERVED FIRST NOWADAYS

Knott in the Dallas (Texas) News



WHEN ONE IS SICK THEY BOTH SUFFER



AND BOTH PROSPER TOGETHER

THE WELL-KNOWN SIAMESE TWINS

From G. R. Farmer, Henderson, Texas