

## STERILIZATION SCHEME IS HELD GREATLY OVER-RATED BY A MCGILL PROFESSOR

(Montreal Star) "To wipe out feeble-mindedness," Sterilization as a means of wiping out the feeble-minded and unfit, as now being attempted in a wholesale manner in Germany is a much over-rated means of raising the level of society, according to Dr. C. Leonard Huskins, professor of genetics at McGill University who today gave his views on sterilization.

Many Objections. "The objections to eugenic laws covering a wide range of cases, such as the recent German laws, are many," Professor Huskins stated. "First and foremost we do not yet know enough about human heredity to be sure of our ground in more than a relatively limited number of cases. Second, sterilization of all obviously 'unfit' would not do as much good as most of its advocates claim, simply because many defects are produced by recessive hereditary factors and apparently normal carriers cannot be distinguished from those who are normal both as to appearance and their germ cells."

"As an illustration of this, it may be pointed out that if all feeble-minded persons were sterilized the proportion of feeble-minded to the population would be decreased by only about 11 per cent in the next generation and that many generations would be necessary to achieve a decrease of about 20 per cent. We could never hope for more than a 50 per cent decrease after an infinite number of generations of sterilization."

"A better and quicker way of raising the social level would be an increase in the number of children per family from stocks which are by any reasonable standard 'normal.'"

Aroused Opposition "Positive eugenics is in my opinion far more important for the future of civilization than negative eugenics. That eugenic laws may arouse serious and in part legitimate opposition, to eugenics as a whole is in my opinion the most serious argument against them."

"I should like to see education and research in human hereditary proceed to the point where people would take pride in maintaining full and detailed records of their ancestry and relatives, and that persons considering marriage would quite naturally think it essential to first consult an expert in human heredity, as so many now do consult a physician regarding their general health and constitution."

"Here it must be emphasized that personal appearance and fitness are only an extremely limited criterion of the character of the germ cells which an individual will produce. The physician can detect disease or abnormality but unless he is also a specialist in heredity, he cannot detect the apparently normal carrier."

"The expert in heredity, who should of course be trained in medicine also, can nowadays form a very good estimate of the chances of a person being a carrier or a complete normal, if and only if, that person has detailed family records available. Knowledge of human heredity is increasing by leaps and bounds today, and very soon it will be possible to predict very accurately, provided the general public learns enough about the facts of heredity to enable them to collect and maintain the necessary family records."

Not Opposed Professor Huskins made it clear that he was not adverse to sterilization in a limited number of cases. "Sterilization of the feeble-minded," he pointed out, "has many arguments in its favor, especially for border-line cases who are able to get along outside of an institution. If such individuals marry without sterilization their children will be feeble-minded and both they and their children will almost surely be a charge on the public."

"Far from being punitive, sterilization of such cases is a very great kindness to the individuals concerned. In very many cases the only alternative is to keep them segregated in institutions throughout the whole of their productive life."

"Against sterilization of such cases the only cogent argument I can see is that it may arouse violent opposition which is aroused the true facts of the case will become obscured. Eugenic legislation, such as the present German legislation appears to be, in a very dangerous weapon liable to be abused and apt to cause a reaction and a set-back to real progress."

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## THE AVERAGE INDUSTRIAL STANDS TO LOSE VERY LITTLE AS THE RESULT OF DEFLATION

Washington, Jan. 16—What would dollar should be reduced to half that happen to the \$10 in John Doe's pocket amount then the government has two under President Roosevelt's plans for devaluing the dollar?

The answer, most experts agree, is virtually nothing at all for the present, but any number of things in future.

As to the present. The \$10 bill in Mr. Doe's pocket has been worth a certain weight in gold, but since abandonment of the gold standard he has not been able to get that gold. The President's plan would make it worth less gold, and formally prohibit its exchange for gold.

But, although the pile of gold behind Mr. Doe's \$10 might be reduced in height and placed beyond reach, the bill in his pocket can still be handed in for 10 \$1 bills, 40 quarters or 100 dimes. That is, if he wants to carry that money.

Mr. Doe's second immediate concern is what will happen to prices. Nearly all economists agree there will be at least a temporary price rise. After that, opinion ranges from belief the rise will be only short-lived to predictions not only of a long term rise but also a new ability by the Government to make prices stable.

Mr. Doe is further interested to know that devaluation will mean a profit of several billions to his government, and thus, indirectly, to him. If the legal 22 2/3 grains of gold in a

price of the dollar in terms of pounds. If pounds are high in relation to dollars it takes fewer of them to buy American wheat, and wheat exports might be expected to increase.

Washington, Jan. 16—Senator Elmer Thomas, Oklahoma Democrat, said today the United States government's new monetary setps "promise definitely that we will have many new dollars in circulation, which means more plentiful dollars, and such a program means an automatic and positive increase in commodity prices and property values."

He added the new program "should result in the full restoration of the cut in Federal salaries and, likewise in the restoration of cuts in salaries in industry and commerce."

He said the owners of bank deposits and of fixed investments such as bonds, notes and mortgages, will suffer only slight loss through the decreased buying power of the dollar, yet such adjustment will, in my opinion, result in restoring salaries and wages to the price level in existence during 1926.

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## \$3 BANK NOTE TURNS UP ON THE NORTH SHORE

(Chatham Commercial)  
A Canadian Press despatch from  
Winnipeg, last week gave considerable  
prominence to the finding in that  
Western city of "a queer species of  
Canadian money" which came into the  
hands of a bank manager there. This  
was a three-dollar note issued by the  
St. Stephens' Bank of St. Stephen, N.  
B., in 1886.

The bank failed in 1910 and was  
taken over by the Dept. of Finance,  
and as it is stated that a section of  
the Canadian Bank Act provides that  
notes of failed banks bear interest at  
the rate of five per cent. from the  
date of suspension until relieved by  
the liquidator, the note is now said to  
be worth about \$6.60.

But why go all the way to Winnipeg  
to find this "queer species"? When  
H. M. L. Russell of Loggieville read  
the Winnipeg despatch in a week-end  
paper, he began to think and it was  
not long before he had unearthed an  
exact duplicate of the note discarded.  
This had lain for many years among  
his papers and, in fact, he had almost  
forgotten about it.

Even though the note may have  
more than doubled in value Mr. Rus-  
sell says he will not part with it, but  
will keep it as a curio.

## Administration Set Records on Radio

The Roosevelt administration is  
making greater use of radio than any  
previous administration, records of  
the National Broadcasting Company  
for 1933 indicate. In less than ten  
months, President Roosevelt has  
been heard twenty times; Mrs. Roo-  
sevelt 17 times.

In the case of Mrs. Roosevelt this  
number of broadcasts establishes a  
record for First Ladies. Mrs. Hoover  
during the entire time she was in the  
White House, spoke only ten times.

The President's Cabinet, records  
show bids fair to become the most ac-  
tive radio speaking cabinet in broad-  
cast history. One hundred and seven  
radio addresses have been made by  
cabinet members, Secretary of Agri-  
culture Wallace leading the list with  
twenty one speeches. The present cab-  
inet has established a new record for  
microphone appearances.

No one is worrying about the ground  
hog this winter. He can't make the  
weather any worse than we have been  
having it.

ous weapon liable to be abused and  
apt to cause a reaction and a set-back  
to real progress."