FRENCH HOMESTEAD LAW.

It Purposes to Give Permanent Titles to Family Holdings.

Paris, March 14.

A modest little bill has been brought before the Chamber of Deputies this session by M. Ruau, Minister of Agriculture, which, if passed, will make a radical change in the life of the French nation. Its object is to amend the Code Napoleon as it deals with the small peasant holdings, and its framers have drawn their inspiration from America. They feel that if an inalienable character could be attributed to the small holdings of the French peasantry, it would become a powerful factor in stemming the tide of immigration now setting in with such force to the large towns, and especially to the capital. There is no law of entail in France, and the Code gives no privileges to primogeniture, so at the death of the proprietor for an estate is divided equally among his natural heirs. The result is that the country is covered with parcels of land so small as to be insufficient to support their owners. The natural consequence is that the lands are first mortgaged and finally alienated, and the bankrupt holder makes his way to Paris in the forlorn hope of mending his ruined fortunes there. To alter this state of things the new bill proposes to make such family holdings inalienable and deprives the owners of life interests in real estate of the right to raise mortgages thereon. In this way, it is hoped, an indirect check will be placed upon the depopulation of the country.

The unsatisfactory nature of the French land tenure is not alone responsible for the exodus from the rural districts so much deplored by statesmen of to-day. Conscription is answerable for a large proportion of the evil. Young men called to join the colors at a susceptible age are weaned from their rural homes and unfitted to return to them. Life in barracks gives them a taste for the movement and bustle, the distractions and excitements inseparable from large communities. To the young soldier at the end of his term of service the quiet—comparatively solitary—labor in field or vineyard, yielding in return for the day's toil only the barest necessaries of life, offers by no means a tempting prospect. He prefers to take his chance in the cities, to swell the number of small wine sellers, or to join the army of waiters in the crowded cafés of the boulevard—anything rather than return to the plough.

Equally marked is the exodus of the women from the country to the towns. In the recent census taken by the government, out of six and one-half millions of working women it was found that two millions were engaged in the different manufactures, and half a million in commerce. Of the rest a very small percentage were earning wages on farms, while the majority were in domestic service. The difference between the rate of wages paid to women in the country and in the towns justifies and explains this fact. Agricultural laborers (female) are paid from 18 to 40 cents a day, the average being nearer the former than the latter figure. In the factories the same women can earn an average of 50 cents a day in Paris, and 40 cents outside the capital. Added to the higher rate of earnings are the amusements and the glitter of the city, which appeal as strongly to the young girl as to her brother.

In order to restore in some sort to agriculture the prestige which it has lost in the eyes of the people, agricultural colleges have been founded throughout the country. But, curiously enough, while the law and art, the medical and dentistry schools all have opened their doors to women, of the eighty-two agricultural colleges of France only two are open to girls, those of Kerliver and Coëtlogon, both dairy schools, and both founded about twenty years ago. They give a practical course of instruction in housekeeping, cooking, laundry work, poultry rearing, gardening, and, more particularly, in all that pertains to dairy work, including the care of the cows. At these two colleges special care has been taken not to unfit the scholars for roughing it later on the farms by making the present conditions of life too easy or luxurious. The fare is exactly the same as that of the peasants of Lower Brittany—black bread, made of mixed wheat, barley and buckwheat; a kind of oatmeal soup and butter being the staple articles of daily food. A third college, on slightly different lines, has recently been started at Monastier, in the Department of Haute Loire, but at present it is in the experimental stage only, and, to all practical purposes, there are only two agricultural colleges that receive girls. At both the terms are very low, each inmate other than a "boursière," or holder of a scholarship, paying 400 francs ($80) a year. If, however, agriculture showed any signs of becoming popular with the sex, these establishments would be found to be totally inadequate, for, all told, they can accommodate only thirty pupils between them!

Many applications have of late been made by women to the Minister of Agriculture for admission to the classes in the men's agricultural colleges, but always, so far, without success. Every year sees the already overcrowded professions of medicine, law, art and dentistry still further congested by women recruits, whose energies might with advantage be turned aside into other and equally useful and dignified channels if these educational facilities could be granted to them. Many would embrace the healthy, peaceful, open air life of the farms in preference to the strenuous, nerve destroying existence in cities, if the conditions of such labor could be made adequate to support the intelligent and trained worker. The presence of such women in the rural districts would tend to bring back the recalcitrant men, for it is round the women that family life centres. What an ideal for the Minister of Agriculture to contemplate! A countryside dotted over with permanent, inalienable homesteads, in which trained women workers are giving intelligent and skilled co-operation! Surely, in the near future, if this ideal can be realized, the standing grievance of the depopulation of the country districts would disappear, to the lasting benefit of the race. Such are the plans of M. Ruau, Minister of Agriculture, who has rounded out the somewhat patriarchal bill originally drawn up by Dr. Combes in his recent tenure of office, the main feature of which is the inalienable French homestead—"bien de ramille"—which, if this measure becomes law, will prevent small landowners from mortgaging their property, except for its actual cultivation or improvement. C. I. B.

F. P. MAGOUN ARRAIGNED.

Creditors Have Sought Settlement in Vain.

Francis P. Magoun, once head of the firm of Magoun Brothers & Co., bankers and brokers, which failed a few years ago, who was arrested on Friday on a warrant charging him with misappropriating 1,257 shares of railroad stock valued at $20,000, owned by Miss Clara S. Hall, of No. 64 West 40th-st., was arraigned before Magistrate Whitman yesterday and admitted to $10,000 bail. This was furnished by George F. Crane, for many years a partner in Baring, Magoun & Co., bankers, at No. 15 Wall-st.

Eliot Norton, counsel for Magoun, admitted that the plaintiff had a contract claim against Magoun Brothers & Co. for the amount of the securities. After the firm failed, the lawyer said, Mr. Magoun placed the money with J. M. Quigley. The money was tied up in legal proceedings. It was to testify in these proceedings that his client came here from Cincinnati.

Magoun Brothers & Co. failed on January 15, 1903. It had a cash capital of $5,000. George Magoun in speculations not only used all the firm's money, but the securities of the firm's customers, as well. His losses approximated $215,000. Another firm was formed to carry on the business and meet the claims of creditors under the name of Magoun & Co., the partners being J. M. Quigley and Francis Magoun. Assets amounting to $212,615 were placed in the hands of Mr. Quigley for liquidating the debts of the old firm, the creditors declare. Soon after the organization of the new firm Magoun dropped out, and in January, 1904, the firm went out of business.

The creditors of Magoun Brothers & Co. have in vain demanded a settlement for two years. A creditors' committee was recently formed, Francis E. Trowbridge being elected chairman. The committee declares that constant efforts to obtain a statement from Quigley have failed, as have efforts to get from Magoun what has been done with the securities of customers used in speculation by George Magoun. Recently Milton F. Smoot, formerly bookkeeper of Magoun Brothers & Co., reported that he had spent several evenings with Quigley in making out a statement of settlement, and that Quigley intends to pay the creditors in full. The committee sent a letter to Quigley asking about the settlement, but it was ignored.

FUNERAL OF CAPTAIN SQUIER.

The funeral of Captain Stephen Squier, one of the oldest Republicans on Staten Island, and a reader of The Tribune for more than sixty years, will be held to-day at 2:30 p. m. The Rev. J. Frederic Berg, of the Reformed Church, will officiate. Captain Squier leaves two sons, George and Stephen, and three daughters, Mrs. William Caughey, Mrs. Samuel J. Hughes and Miss Jane Squier. Captain Squier was born at Mariners Harbor, and spent his lifetime on Staten Island. Captain Squier was engaged for many years in the coasting trade, and owned a number of vessels. The home in which he died was the place to which over sixty-eight years ago he brought his bride.

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HIGH GRADE POSITIONS OPEN; Executive, Clerical, Technical, Salesmen, paying from $1,000 to $5,000 a year; call or write. HAPGOODS (Inc), Suite 508, 309 Broadway, N. Y.

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FIRST CLASS WINDOW DRESSER and salesman, for one price clothing store. GOLDS, 210 Market-st., Newark, N. J.

MEN.—Artistic work at home; particulars stamped addressed envelope. Address E. L. SMITH, 215 West 125th-st.

MEN LOOKING for profitable home work; no experience needed; work unlimited. Send stamped addressed envelope, L. REED, Madison Building, N. Y.

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WANTED.—Boys, about 15 or 16 years of age; must have good references. Apply 1,126 Broadway.

WANTED. — Protestant gardener; must thoroughly understand vegetables and sample hardy flowers; hot and cold frames; an all around competent man for private family. Address E. D., 15 East 74th-st.

WANTED.—Treasurer for big musical comedy company; $25 weekly and expenses; $500 cash security required, fully secured; bank references given; join immediately. Address S. C. GOLDBERG, care Penn Printing Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

WANTED.—On gentleman's country place, near New-York, married man as farmer; take care stock, milk, etc.; wages, $35; also cottage and perquisites; wife paid for extra work as laundress, etc. Address, with references, A. C. S., Tribune Office.

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COMPETENT FITTERS with first class experience on tailor made gowns. Apply at office of BONWIT, TELLER & CO., 54 West 23d-st.

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Female.

LADIES looking for profitable home work; no experience needed; work unlimited. Send stamped addressed envelope, L. REED, Madison Building, N. Y.

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WANTED.—Protestant chambermaid and nurse; small family, near New-York; personal references from last employer. Call Monday 12 to 2, 10 West 75th-st. Carfare paid.

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REFINED elderly American lady, experienced manager of house for physician, looking after professional interests when absent, desires responsible position. Address BEST CREDENTIALS, 2 Court-st., Brooklyn.

TEACHER.—Large experience in the best public schools; teach English branches in families. TEACHER, Box 29, Tribune Office.

STENOGRAPHER.—Young lady; thoroughly competent, accurate and quick; one year's experience; excellent reference; salary $7; also office assistant. L. R., 256 West 16th-st.

YOUNG LADY of refinement, good penman, neat, accurate, willing, with good, reliable house; excellent reference. Address S., Box 33, Tribune Office.

DOMESTIC SITUATIONS WANTED.

Situations Wanted—Male and Female— Four lines (not exceeding 24 words), three insertions, 15 cents; seven insertions, 30 cents. Exceeding 24 words and less than 40 words, three insertions, 30 cents; seven insertions, 60 cents.

Male.

ATTENDANT and companion to an invalid; experienced, educated gentlemanly; accustomed to travelling; New-York references. H., 63 Lexington-ave.

BUTLER, VALET.—French-American; wife first class cook; country preferred; city reference. W. C., 850 3d-ave.

BUTLER, VALET.—By a Swede; aged 30; neat appearance; thoroughly competent; best of city references; wages $55 to $70. Address P. O. Box 28, Madison Square.

BUTLER and COOK.—Neat, intelligent couple; Swede and German; take entire charge and do work of small family or bachelors; no washing; thoroughly competent, trustworthy; excellent cook; highest personal references; city or country; wages $70. Address FAITHFUL, Box 109, 617 6th-ave.

BUTLER, porter, wafter or useful man, by colored man; city or country; also understands care of horses; best of references. BUCKNER, Tribune Uptown Office, 1,364 Broadway.

DOMESTIC SITUATIONS WANTED.

Situations Wanted—Male and Female— Four lines (not exceeding 24 words), three insertions, 15 cents; seven insertions, 30 cents. Exceeding 24 words and less than 40 words, three insertions, 30 cents; seven insertions, 60 cents.

Male.

BUTLER—CHAMBERMAID, &c.—Colored man and wife; man as butler or coachman; first class; wife as chambermaid or plain cook; first class reference. 105 West 53d-st.

COOK—Japanese, first class; in private family; with best references. K. YOSHIDA, 164 Sand-st., Brooklyn.

CARETAKER.—By French family, with two children, 7 and 5 years, would take care of private house during summer; first class references. L. GIROD, 403 East 64th-st.

CARETAKER—Respectable married couple to take care of house for summer or longer. Inquire store, 850 6th-ave.

CARETAKER.—Swedish couple for private house; reference from last employer. JOHNSON, 1,626 1st-ave., near 84th-st.

CARETAKER.—By married couple, without incumbrance; in private family; first class personal city reference. A. P., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,364 Broadway.

COLORED man with horses; private; best of reference. Address A. W., 408 West 35th-st.

CHAUFFEUR.—By a thoroughly reliable, competent man, five years' garage and road experience; Pope, Panhard or Renault preferred; reasonable salary; references furnished. Address MECHANIC, Tribune Uptown Office, 1,364 Broadway.

CARETAKER.—Reliable man and wife like the care of gentleman's house; first class personal reference from last place. Address M., care of Mr. Hunter, 51 East 62d-st.

CARETAKER.—Care of a private house for the summer; good reference. Address T. J. D., care Hagel, 717 9th-ave.

CARETAKER.—A reliable, clean and trustworthy family of two, no children, would like to take care of house while family is abroad or in country during summer; highest references. H. C. MULLER, 1,147 Fulton-ave.

CARETAKER.—Man and wife with superlative references as regards character, trustworthiness and every essential, are ready to assume charge of residence. Address M. M'LAUGHLIN, 212 West End-ave.

CARETAKER.—A handy man to take care of a house; best city references. Call 101 East 40th-st.

CARETAKER—By respectable middle aged man; sober and steady; twenty-five years' reference; all around, useful and handy. M. A. MILEY, 4,415 3d-ave., The Bronx.

COACHMAN and USEFUL MAN.—City or country; Protestant; excellent reference. M. S., 213 East 39th-st.

COACHMAN, GARDENER—Man and wife, no children; want house; can do all work on gentleman's place; care gas engine, windmill, poultry, etc.; best references. HUGH, Carpenter's Bureau, 154 6th-ave.

COACHMAN and USEFUL MAN.—Married; seven years in last two places; honest, sober, economical; steady place in country. M., Hofmayer's Bureau, 153 West 23d-st.

COACHMAN.—Thoroughly reliable; all branches; several years' city reference; late employer can be interviewed. J. J., 430 4th-ave.

COACHMAN, USEFUL MAN.—Man and wife, no children; want house or rooms; strictly sober; best references; thoroughly understands care of horses, carriages, etc.; will cut lawns; excellent man. JOHN H., at Carpenter's Bureau, 154 6th-ave.

COACHMAN.—By Swede; excellent man in every way; experienced in care, management, etc., of good horses, carriages, harness, etc.; country preferred. RICHARD, at Carpenter's Bureau, 154 6th-ave.

COACHMAN, USEFUL MAN.—By young man; country preferred; smooth faced; very tidy; strictly honest, sober and reliable; references can be seen. EDWARD, Carpenter's Bureau, 154 6th-ave.

COACHMAN.—By single young man; has first class references, and all employers can be seen; can ride and drive; strictly temperate; city or country. COACHMAN, Tribune Uptown Office, 1,364 Broadway.

COACHMAN.—A gentleman wishes to find situation for his coachman; can recommend him as a thoroughly reliable and competent man; obliging and absolutely temperate. Address SEYMOUR, 76 Duane-st.

COACHMAN.—Married, no family; aged 30; thoroughly understands his business in all capacities; country preferred; written and personal references. S. G., 353 West 53d-st.

COACHMAN.—English; married; competent and reliable; good appearance; best city reference; country preferred. F. R., 225 West 68th-st.

COACHMAN.—By middle aged Englishman; experienced with horses; good whip; go anywhere. J. F., care Kelly, 140 East 29th-st.

COACHMAN, aged 32; thoroughly competent in every respect; ten years' city reference, written or personal; just disengaged on account of death. J. M., 509 7th-ave.

COACHMAN.—By an Englishman; good city references; thoroughly competent and trustworthy; married. Address COACHMAN, 376 Broadway, Brooklyn.

COACHMAN.—Lady wishes situation for her coachman, who has been in her employ fifteen years; willing and obliging; married. Address COACHMAN, 203 East 48th-st.

COACHMAN. — Thoroughly competent; splendid personal recommendations; careful driver; smart appearance; energetic, temperate, obliging, respectful, trustworthy. COALLER, 114 East 88th-st.

COACHMAN.—Competent, reliable man, 36; four years' city reference, written and personal; family just come abroad. A. C., care Camwell, 351 Park-ave.

COACHMAN and USEFUL MAN.—Smooth face; care lawns, milk; careful driver; also indoor work; first class references; moderate wages. IRWIN'S BUREAU, 77 West 11th-st.

COACHMAN.—With highest recommendations from present and former employers as to capability and trustworthiness; married, no children; age 37. D. M., 148 West 20th-st.

COACHMAN.—Twelve years with last employer. Address H. D., 47 East 50th-st.

COACHMAN.—Swede; first class written and personal reference; city experience; no gardener. GOLDBERG, 376 Amsterdam-ave.

COACHMAN.—Single, German; stylish, careful driver; very tidy; excellent horseman; good rider; competent to take full charge; strictly sober; economical manager; highly recommended; city or country. COACHMAN, 164 East 23d-st.

COACHMAN and GARDENER.—Married, two children; sober and trustworthy; wife as laundress; four years' reference last employer. Address COACHMAN, Poplar-ave. and Linden-st., Hackensack, N. J.

COACHMAN.—Single; thoroughly understands his work; had charge gentleman's country stable three years; good rider and driver; neat appearance; sober, reliable; weight, 160; height, 5 feet 10½ inches; city or country; personal or written references. T. D., Tribune Uptown Office, 1,364 Broadway.

COACHMAN, &c. — Competent; care of horses; or as porter in doctor's office and waiter in private family. Call or write L. G. GRAMBURY, 17 Rockwell Place, Brooklyn.

COACHMAN.—By colored man; thoroughly understands fine horses, harness and carriages; country preferred. G. F. W., 222 East 70th-st.

COACHMAN and GARDENER.—Useful Swiss; single; country; understands care of horses, cows, poultry; moderate wages; good references. FRANK, Tribune Uptown Office, 1,364 Broadway.

COACHMAN.—First class; just arrived; town or country; married; no children. W. MORRIS, 7 East 34th-st.

COACHMAN.—First class rider and driver; 15 years' city recommendations; last employer can be seen; city or country. G. M. LOCKE & CO.,