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BOYD GURLEY, ROY W. HOWARD, FRANK G. MORRISON,
Editor President Business Manager
PHONE—Riley 5551

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

"Not Charity But Justice"

The idea that insurance must be provided for the growing army of workers made destitute by loss of jobs because of their age is gaining ground. In addition to the agitation for federal action, fourteen Governors have recommended old age security legislation to their legislatures. Now meeting, we are informed by the American Association for Old Age Security.

Nearly every legislature, it is said, will give serious thought to the problem, and at least half a dozen are expected to enact pension legislation.

The Delaware state legislature already has passed a liberal pension bill, following an inquiry into the needs of the aged of that state by a commission headed by Alfred L. Du Pont. The commission told the legislature that "opportunity presents itself to extend not charity, but justice."

Connecticut, Arizona, Delaware, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York Governors, among others, urged action. An old age pension bill has made progress in the Indiana legislature against strong opposition.

The present depression has shown beyond question that private charity is uncertain and inadequate to care for those who have been thrown out of their jobs because of advanced years.

We have an excess of workers of all ages, but it is those beyond the age of 40 who have been suffering most. The situation has been growing worse for several years.

Federal legislation is pending, among the bills being one for aid from the federal government to those states which pay pensions.

Meanwhile, it is gratifying to find that the states themselves are taking the problem in hand and that there is a growing realization that meeting it is a public duty.

Drought Control

Although the drought has hit all parts of the country, there is one section from which no complaints are coming.

The far west has had less snow than usual this winter and it will have much less water next summer, but its fields will not parch and its people will not starve.

They learned long ago not to depend on nature for their necessary water supply. Men conquered the arid west by building reservoirs and irrigation ditches. They stored the waters of flood years for the need of drought years, and they send down water to their lands as they see fit, not waiting for help from heaven or the witch doctors.

It was a long and expensive business, irrigating the west. Yet it freed that part of the country.

The rest of the country might study the possibility of likewise freeing itself from the future fear of drought—and of flood likewise, for that also is accomplished by the storage of freshet waters.

It may not be practicable for eastern, southern and middle western states to adopt the same methods as the far west has adopted.

Yet engineers surely can discover a way to free these other parts of the country from fatalism and famine.

A Little Figuring

Get out your pencil and paper for a little figuring. This is a problem in election votes and election victories.

Candidates A and B are running for the presidency.

In New York, Candidate A receives 2,000,000 votes and Candidate B receives 2,000,000 votes.

In Nevada, Candidate A receives 15,000 votes and Candidate B receives 20,000 votes.

Candidate A carried New York by 5,000 majority.

Candidate B carried Nevada by 5,000 majority.

In these two states each man received a total of 2,020,000 votes.

Yet when it came time to tally up the ballots in the electoral college, Candidate A was given 45 electoral votes for his 2,020,000 popular votes and Candidate B was given 3 electoral votes for his 2,020,000 votes.

It doesn't sound exactly right, and it isn't. The defects of our electoral college system have resulted three times in the election of minority Presidents, and many other times have reflected badly the division of popular sentiment between candidates.

No one knows when it will result in installation of a President having such a small percentage of popular support that the stability of the federal government will be shaken.

That's why Senator Norris announced a few weeks ago that the next major reform in governmental affairs which he will sponsor is abolition of the electoral college.

That is why Representative Lee of California has been at work for years on a practical election system to take the place of the electoral college, since the original plan of the Constitution writers has long since been abandoned in actual procedure.

Much will be heard of this matter before long. With an almanac full of election statistics and a pencil and paper, any one can find for himself a whole bookful of reasons why this is so.

A Touch of Sanity

Out of what Senator Borah called "the satirical of recklessness and greed" in connection with the story of America's oil exploitation has come one glimmer of sanity. It is the signing of an agreement between Secretary of Interior Wilbur, in behalf of the government, and private oil operators for unit operation of North Dome of the famed Kettleman Hill oil and gas field in the San Joaquin valley of California.

At present market value Kettleman oil is said to be worth \$4,000,000,000, not counting the gas which until now has been escaping in quantities sufficient to supply the whole of San Francisco's needs. Dr. Wilbur thinks that this field may be the richest storehouse ever discovered.

Now, instead of wasting it in competitive drilling, frantic exploitation, and wasteful methods, it is to be worked intelligently.

A New Birth Control Bill

A new birth control bill is before congress. It was introduced by Senator Gillett of Massachusetts. It would remove the Comstock laws which make it a crime for even licensed physicians to give out information on methods of birth control.

It would legalize birth control information and prescriptions when administered under direction of reputable physicians and druggists, and allow reprinting of such information which has a thoroughly sound medical origin.

Those who favor birth control can write to their senators and congressmen urging favorable and prompt action on this legislation. It need give no offense to any church, for it does not make birth control in any way compulsory. It simply makes birth control legal for those who want to employ it.

Sea Dirigibles

Postmaster-General Brown has made an amazing statement in discussing the McNary-Parker bill, which would set up a "merchant marine of the air," giving mail contracts to trans-oceanic dirigible lines.

Brown said that trans-oceanic mail flights of the near future will be by airplane rather than dirigible. He said dirigibles have not proved themselves as speedy, as manageable, or as capable of keeping to schedule as planes. He suggests that the "dirigible prove its worth as the airplane did."

Postmaster-General Brown is taking a bold responsibility when he boosts the airplane and damns the dirigible for ocean flying. For the actual records of the two point to the exact opposite of his stand.

Dirigibles, carrying real loads, have flown splendidly across all oceans.

The dirigible is fast enough to cross the ocean in three days, which is the time proposed for the post office forthcoming airplane service. The dirigible is safe enough to avoid having boats strung out beneath it every 150 miles, as they propose to do on the new ocean airplane route.

The dirigible can carry tons of mail and scores of passengers across without rafing, while 500 pounds is now about the airplane's limit on an ocean trip.

And yet the post office insists that the dirigible prove itself.

It Would Cost More

If King Canute had left a will bequeathing \$25,000 to any university which would combat the rising of tides, a taker probably would have been found somewhere.

And a taker probably will be found for Albert E. Pillsbury's bequest of \$25,000 to any university that will combat feminism.

Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia have refused the money with its strange terms. Howard university, for Negroes, is considering it now. If Howard turns it down, there are hundreds of other institutions, great and small, and to many of them \$25,000 probably will be a tempting sum.

But just how is such a college going to do the job if it does take the money?

Will it start a crusade for repealing the nineteenth amendment? Will it drop all courses for women except home economics? Or will it perhaps drop all courses for women? Will it teach its men to shun all girls who are proficient at anything more advanced than baking a pie?

Will it refuse to employ girl secretaries, girl stenographers, girl librarians? Will its professors all refuse to let their wives study or work at anything outside the home?

Pillsbury might have left his money to be used for binding and crippling the feet of all girl babies, at birth. Even then it probably wouldn't have proved a permanent handicap to the girl of today.

History Repeats

"Many of the failures, defalcations, and disasters of the business world today which discourage enterprise and leave labor unemployed come from the habits of speculation which always attend and follow a great war."

"A few years since, half the world was trying to become rich, not by industry and economy in one's own regular business, but by speculation. But the man who speculates is a gambler, and a gambler is one who wishes to make money without paying the price; to accumulate by luck, not by industry."

"To marry commerce to speculation is a misalliance which leads to no good. It has plunged the nation into untold suffering and disaster."

The above was not written today or yesterday. It was written several years after the Civil War by James Freeman Clarke, a noted Unitarian minister of that day, and is to be found in a collection of his sermons, "Every-Day Religion," copyrighted in 1886 and published by Houghton & Mifflin in 1892.

Charlie Chaplin is to act pantomime in his new sound picture. In the opinion, of course, that actions speak louder than words.

With proper connections, says the office sage, a live wire has a swell chance to shine brightly.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THE government has made a mistake in ordering the court-martial of General Smedley Butler for having repeated a story to the effect that Mussolini was once a hit and run driver, and before the trial is over it is just barely possible the government will regret it.

Mussolini has sent word to us that he already has forgotten the Butler incident, but our government seems unable to do likewise. In making a mountain of such an ordinary mole hill, it is opening the way for even greater complications, that is, if it should let young Cornelius Vanderbilt testify for Butler.

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Now, instead of wasting it in competitive drilling, frantic exploitation, and wasteful methods, it is to be worked intelligently.

The deplorable thing is that Butler put his country in a position where it is necessary to apologize to one man in Europe who is supposed to thrive on such nourishment.

It would not have been so bad to apologize to the sultan of Turkey, or to Mahatma Gandhi, but to Mussolini—that's different.

THE best thing to do with such a case is to forget it, and the government should have censored Butler and let it go at that, but now it has lugged up the elaborate paraphernalia of a court-martial and this means weeks of rag chewing about a matter we all should dismiss from our minds.

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