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

An Ideal About a Law

Every step in human progress is born as an ideal. It becomes an ideal. Then a crusade. Finally a law.

This is the story of the Old Age Pension bill, now before Governor Leslie, upon whom all the pressure of those who have neither ideas nor ideals, who lack the courage of the crusader and who possess no talent of statesmanship, is being exerted to obtain a veto.

Fortunately for the Governor, he does not need the daring spirit of adventurer into new paths to find a real reason for approval and every reason for refusing the timid suggestion of those with pocketbook paralysis that he veto this humane measure.

The idea in this country came from Frank E. Hering, outstanding citizen of South Bend, who turned it into an ideal of the Eagles lodge, which at once transformed it into the crusade; finally, after years, a conquering crusade.

The idea is quite simple. Nations have always recognized their debt to the soldiers in wars, who, in their declining years, are no longer able to provide for their physical wants. Now it is proposed to recognize the brave soldiers of industry, the men and women who go through life contributing to human comfort and luxury with their labor, and arriving at the sunset, find nothing but the bleak despair of the poorhouse as their reward.

Which is the greater courage, the more sturdy character—the man who finds his hour of glory upon a battle field or the man who plods away his years in the monotonous task of industry? There is no need of comparison. Both serve.

While Indiana gave the idea and the ideal to the nation, other states have been more responsive in formulating them into law.

Three Republican legislatures within the past year have made such pensions mandatory, and in those states there was no division of partisan sentiment. No really important question is ever settled on a partisan basis.

Only yesterday the Governor of Colorado, which has had the proposed Indiana experiment of optional county pensions for eight years, made it a state mandatory law.

In signing that measure, at the very hour the Indiana house was approving the principle, Governor Adams said:

"Old men and women who have lived fifteen years in Colorado and who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in destitute circumstances, deserve more humane treatment than they now receive. It gives me pleasure to sign this bill and to congratulate the Fraternal Order of Eagles on their splendid work."

It detracts nothing from the credit of that lodge to say that many other organizations, labor unions and social societies, gave their aid and support to the movement. No group can ever monopolize any step in the inevitable progress of humanity from the jungles of barbarism to the lofty goal of the brotherhood of man.

All progress has been fought by the timid and the acquisitive. These fear encroachments upon their privileges. The old barons fought the passing of feudalism. Monarchs fought against free government. Slave owners fought against the liberation of human labor from the bonds of involuntary servitude. And in the end, each of these forces found itself richer and happier by yielding to the forces of progress and humanity.

If criticism is to be offered to the law as passed, it is that much human misery may still be bound by the red tape and illiberality of the provisions of the bill. The criticism can not be directed to the principle behind the measure for it is merely a translation into practical terms of a commandment given centuries ago that men shall love their brothers as themselves, a translation of that commandment into terms of present day industrial and commercial existence.

Personal credit should be given to Senator James Nejdl, who has never been discouraged, never dismayed, in the nine years that he has fought for the passage of such a bill. His was the vision, his the courage, that held him steadfast when the illusional enemies of the measure scoffed and swept him aside.

Those who prize of dole systems and charity fool no one but themselves. Here is simple justice. Here is sanity. Here is humane treatment for those who refuse to die young.

The Muscle Shoals Veto

President Hoover has killed the Muscle Shoals compromise, passed by congress. This will delay development of the rich Tennessee Valley. And it will delay also the nation's opportunity to obtain a price yardstick with which to measure fees which the public pays to private power interests for electricity.

The chief reason given by Hoover for his veto is his opposition to government ownership and operation. His objection is beside the point. The federal government, it happens, already owns Muscle Shoals. And the federal government already is operating Muscle Shoals—for the benefit of a private power company.

That presumably was one reason Hoover during the campaign made Muscle Shoals an exception to his general opposition to government ownership and

operation. Unfortunately, Hoover the President has not acted as Hoover the candidate spoke.

Much of his veto message is devoted to figures purporting to show that government operation of Muscle Shoals would be foredoomed to failure. Indeed, by use of arbitrary figures, he estimates that the annual loss would be something like \$2,000,000. But he apparently loses sight of these alleged losses in suggesting that the states of Alabama and Tennessee take over Muscle Shoals.

On this matter of losses, it always has seemed strange to us that opponents of public operation never seem to remember the many cases of public operation which are successful and efficient in bringing down rates for the consumers.

And we can not understand why the President and power interests, as sincere believers in the inevitable failure of government operation at Muscle Shoals, are so determined to prevent the experiment.

If they are certain it would fail, why not let the failure come and stand as a devastating warning and example? Why not, indeed, since the government already owns the property and can not dispose of it readily?

The President drags in politics. "Congress," he says, "has been thwarted for ten years in finding a solution, by rivalry of private interests and by the determination of certain groups to commit the federal government to government ownership and operation of power."

Isn't he somewhat confused in his facts? Far from congress being thwarted by "certain groups," is it not true that congress has settled this matter twice, and that the thwarting has been done by the one the Coolidge veto and now by the Hoover veto?

The Hoover veto is deadly effective in killing this project for the moment. But that is not the end of it.

Without assuming the role of political prophets, we can remember only that the Coolidge veto made Muscle Shoals a national issue and wonder whether this Hoover veto will not make it even a more dominant political issue in the next election. We hope so.

A Food Trust

America has relied on competition alone to keep the price of food down to a reasonable level, and our reliance has cost us dearly.

A senate committee reports "an alarming tendency toward monopolistic control of the food of the nation by a small group of powerful corporations and combinations," and it finds the effect of "monopolistic control" most clearly evident in the prices of bread and milk.

The committee suggests no remedy to meet this situation except investigation by the federal trade commission and the department of justice to see if anti-trust laws are being violated, and, if no help is forthcoming there, a passage of "remedial laws."

Presumably the laws the committee has in mind are more stringent anti-trust laws, an attempt, in other words, to enforce artificial competition where none exists.

Yet economists are telling us more and more positively that this antiquated method of regulating prices has ceased to be effective.

In the power industry, which does not begin to fill the place in human life that is filled by bread and milk, we have abandoned the old idea and have turned to public regulation and to government control, in an effort to keep this thriving monopoly within reasonable bounds.

Neither of these methods has achieved marked success, but no one is advocating a return to enforced competition.

There is every reason why we should apply these more practical methods of control to the industries which supply food to the people. There is no essential difference between a public utility monopoly and a food-selling monopoly.

It is fundamentally important that the people of this country have enough wholesome food to eat and they can not have it unless prices are reasonable.

It is time for congress to shake itself from the ruts of ancient procedure and study the economic situation of today and methods which have some chance of dealing with it effectively.

Snappy orange berets are forecast for men's spring wear. The stylists are assuming, of course, that in the spring a young man's fancy.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

MAJOR THOMPSON of Chicago certainly plays in luck. The division of the Republican forces opposed to him, caused his nomination and now the entrance into the field of Bundesen, as an independent candidate, will divide the Democratic vote and probably elect Big Bill.

Big Bill is no shrinking violet.

We recall one night when listening to him at a Chicago banquet and his remarks consisted entirely of a review of what he, his father and grandfather had done for the city of Chicago.

The first day he was in court he wore a diamond ring with a blue suit, but changed the ring for a blue one the following day when he put on gray.

We hope the house of representatives at Washington is forced to revise its rules, so a majority may at all times do business.

As it is now, a committee chairman may kill a bill by refusing to call his committee together.

It's all right to limit debate, but it's absurd for a majority to adopt rules which deliver the whole membership into the hands of three men.

One of the farcical elements about the effort being made to redistrict Indiana is the great solicitude to avoid placing two congressmen in the same district, so they would have to fight it out to see who should survive.

The object should be to represent the people, not save any congressman's job.

BEFORE he dismissed that statehouse barber for letting his razor slip, Governor Murray should have paused to reflect that in the last few years a price yardstick with which to measure fees which the public pays to private power interests for electricity.

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M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Four Democratic Governors Are in Limelight in Race for the 1932 Presidential Nomination.

OKLahoma City, Okla., March 4.—In this normally Democratic stronghold people either are indifferent or antagonistic to the Raskob pow-wow. As a general proposition, they don't think it can get anywhere, or amount to anything if it does.

What they want to know is who will be nominated. Incidentally, that is what every one wants to know, and what will do more than any other single factor to determine the result.

The nominee always has counted more than the platform, not to mention pre-platform commitments, such as Mr. Raskob has in mind. If he is any good, he becomes the platform. If he isn't, no platform can save him.

Where you find one Democrat discussing what the party should stand for in 1932, you find 100 discussing the available timber for candidates.

To begin with, they dismiss members of congress. The Democratic party hasn't nominated a member of congress for sixteen years, and there is nothing in the present situation to suggest a future from this long-standing habit.

On the other hand, the Democratic party has shown great fondness for Governors Smith, Cox, Wilson, Cleveland and Tilden.

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Four in Limelight

THERE are four Democratic Governors in the Limelight—Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York, Albert T. Ritchie of Maryland, Huey P. Long of Louisiana and William H. Murray of Oklahoma.

There are three times as many trying to get there, some of whom may succeed before June 1932.

Governor Roosevelt has the inside track and can keep it if he doesn't go too far trying to sidestep the issue of corrupt politics in New York City.

Governor Ritchie sings a good tune with regard to the eighteenth amendment, but it lacks variation. It's getting as monotonous as the one old cow died on.

Governor Long is locally known as "Hoey," which gives him something to live down.

Governor Murray thinks he's a second Abraham Lincoln, which gives him even more to live down, if he isn't impeached before he has time.

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Another Impeachment?

GOVERNOR MURRAY'S chances of being impeached are not at all bad, as he himself admits.

Of the six Governors previously elected since Oklahoma became a state, two were impeached and ousted, while impeachment proceedings were instituted against three more, one of whom was saved by a single vote, from being ousted.

Impeachment has grown so common in Oklahoma that no one pays much attention to it, while some people regard it as a real, if not an essential, feather in the gubernatorial cap.

Jack Walton, one of the impeached Governors, is running for mayor of Oklahoma City, while Henry Johnston, another, ran for United States senator in the Democratic primary last fall and is expected to do so again two years hence.

Sophisticated easterners may laugh at Oklahoma, but before going into actual hysterics, they should look up some of their own court and penitentiary records.

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A National Scandal

DIFFERENT sections of the country may have different methods of handling political corruption, but none is free from it. It has become not only a nationwide scandal, but a nation-wide problem. No doubt, we always have suffered from more or less of it, but today we are suffering from more.

Something has happened to blind an amazingly large number of men and women to the desirability of remaining honest in public office. One would like to believe that this is due to inherent defects in their character and that the public merely made a mistake in selecting them, but too many have gone sour in office after leading long and spotless careers in private life for such conclusion.

Something has gone wrong with the general attitude toward politics. One can sense it not only in the actual corruption exposed, but in the vastly greater amount that is known and tolerated, and above all else, in the loose way people excuse, or even defend it.

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A Vast Difference

THERE has developed a sharp difference between the standards of conduct which we tolerate in politics and those which we demand in every other phase of life. This is particularly true of our newer states and cities.

One finds it hard to reconcile such institutions as the University of Oklahoma with such antics as have taken place in the Oklahoma statehouse.

Oklahoma City has a library containing 690,000 volumes, which puts it in the class of such cities as Cleveland, yet Jack Walton may be the next mayor.

Throughout the country, people are developing a splendid amount of civic consciousness, until it comes to politics. Maybe, that's the trouble. Maybe an appetite for improvement has caused them to think more about what they can get out of an administration than the way they get it.

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Questions and Answers

What was the maiden name of Mme. Gall-Carel? Amelita Galli.

In what order should silver, aluminum, nickel, copper and platinum be listed in order of their electrical conductivity?

Silver, copper, aluminum, platinum and nickel.

Who were "The Seven Wise Men of Greece"? Bias, Cleobulus, Periander, Pittacus, Solon and Thales.

We hear a lot about reducing taxes in the different legislatures of the country, but none of them will do it.

They never have and they never will.

We've heard about tax reduction all our life, but we've never seen any of it; it's been just conversation.

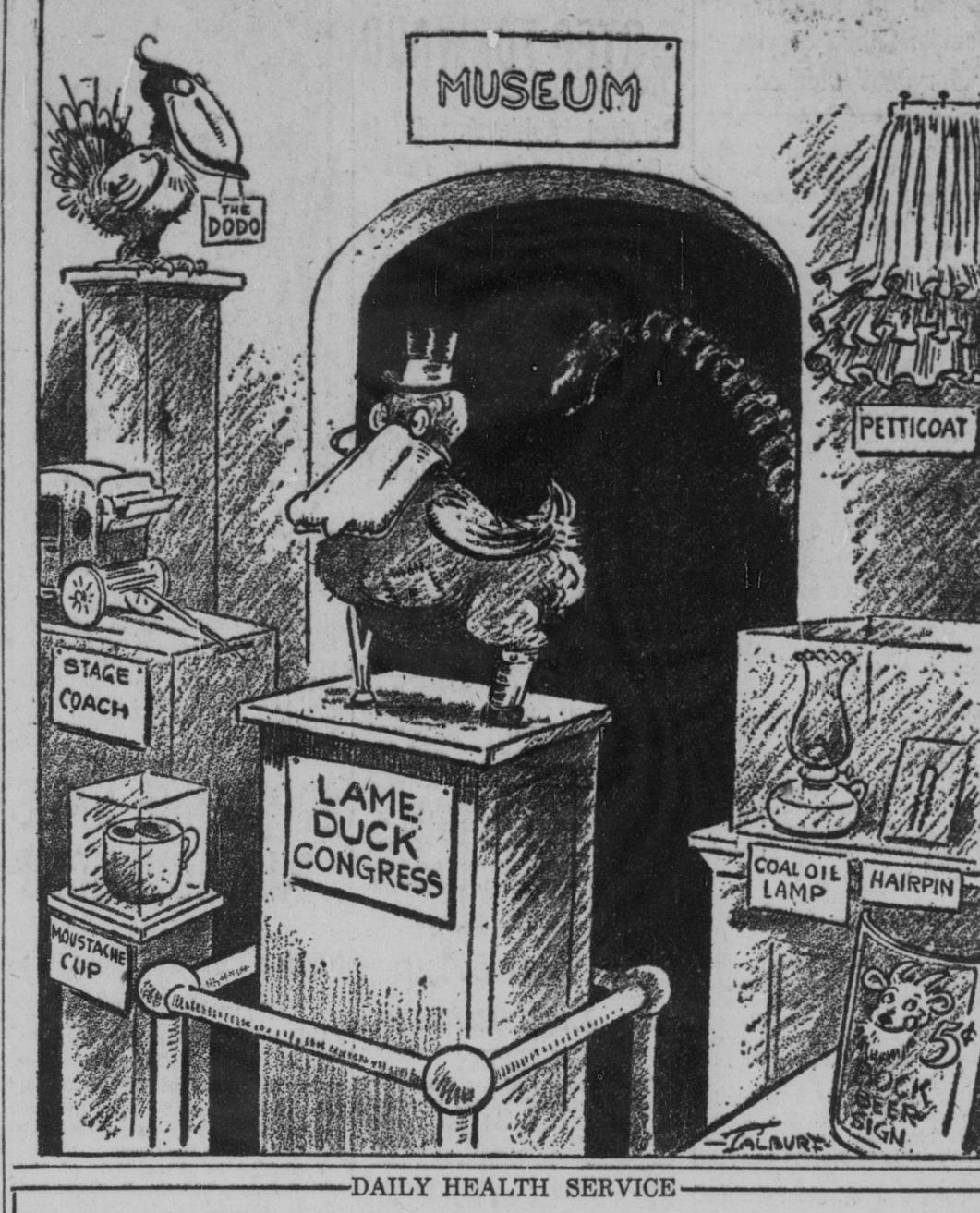
" * * *

We could cut out one-third of our office holders and never miss them, except on pay day.

There are thousands of them that just sit around; the only time when they're not sitting is when they're lying down.

But the legislature will not reduce the number of officers; that's not "politics."

Where He Belongs!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Blood Expectoration Serious Matter

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN,
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygine, the Medical Magazine.

IT is a common belief that the sudden expectoration of blood invariable is a sign of onset of severe tuberculosis.

The actual fact of the matter is that there are many conditions which can bring about expectoration of the blood from the chest by a competent physician, an examination with the stethoscope, the use of percussion and also the use of the X-ray, for such evidence as it may afford.

There are cases of heart disease in which difficulty of circulation of the blood through the lungs may result in coughing up blood