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CIVIL SERVICE—A CLEAR CHOICE

Rarely has the issue between spoils and the merit system in the United States been so clearly joined as at present in the Senate. On one hand there is the McKellar bill, a thoroughgoing spoils measure to place the 14,000 higher-class postmasters permanently under Senate control and limit their terms to four years. On the other hand is the Ramspeck bill, which would bring the postmasters under civil service and guarantee their protection during satisfactory performance of duties. Passage of the Ramspeck measure would mark a historic gain for the ideal of good government and a major break in the jam that has been impeding civil service reform.

A genuine opportunity is thus offered for a showdown on spoils. That the American people have this opportunity is largely due to an active pressure for civil service reform. Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming originally intended to challenge the McKellar bill with an amendment encompassing some features of civil service. It would have been essentially an unsatisfactory compromise, however. That he has apparently abandoned this amendment in favor of the more forthright Ramspeck bill may be credited to the sentiment that has been created in favor of the merit system.

Should the present showdown result in passage of the McKellar bill, the public will, at least, have an unprecedented opportunity to learn who the enemies of the merit system are. Such information would furnish the forces of civil service reform with rich material for an intensified campaign against despoilers of government service.

For years, demands for civil service reform have been put off with platform promises, with pseudo-civil service laws, with excuses about national emergency, and with reluctance of political parties to blanket into the government service members of another party. Such devices will be less available in the present situation. The Senators are confronted with an almost inescapable choice between an excessively bad spoils measure and a civil service bill. —Christian Science Monitor.

A WELL DESERVED KICK IN THE PANTS

Public ownership advocates and socialistically inclined power politicians received a sound kick in the pants from one end of the country to the other during recent elections, when numerous proposals for municipal ownership and operation of electric utilities went to the vote of the people. Outstanding defeat was in Allegany County, Pennsylvania, where a scheme to create a special county administration to acquire and operate local utilities was rejected two to one.

At Reading, Pennsylvania, voters rejected by a preponderant majority a proposal that the city bond itself for $4,750,000 to build a municipal electric plant and distribution system—the community already is competently served by the Associated Gas & Electric System. Similar proposals in Beattyville, Kentucky, and Irvine, Kentucky—communities that are likewise served by the same system—were likewise heavily defeated.

And at Rdwood City, California, irate voters smashed a proposed bond issue of half a million dollars to purchase a unit of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, while back across the nation still another public ownership scheme was soundly beaten by the citizens of Portsmouth, Virginia.

Obviously the public definitely does not want expansion of political bureaucracy into the electric business—in spite of honey-coated promises of free-for-nothing power.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

"Automobile owners who failed to notify the office of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of change of address were again this year a source of great inconvenience and expense to this office as well as to the car owners themselves," said Walter R. Rudy, Commissioner.

"This year over 14,000 license applications as well as 721 sets of plates were returned by the post office for better address," said Mr. Rudy. "License plates are mailed fourth class matter, and mail sent out in this class will be sent to the address now on file. Even though you notify the post office of your new address, license plates will not be forwarded to you, but returned in the required ten days to this office.

"Application blanks for 1938 license plates will soon be printed, and your application will bear the address as now recorded on your registration card. Notification blanks for change of address can be secured from the office of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or from automobile dealres, justices of the peace, and notaries public throughout the state."

DO YOU MAKE LEFT AND RIGHT HAND TURNS PROPERLY

Teaching an old dog new tricks is easy, the Keystone Automobile Club of Maryland observes, compared with the task of teaching "veteran" motor vehicle operators to fall in line with modern driving practices.

The Club finds particular fault with the outmoded—and forbidden—practice of making left turns from right-hand curb and right turns from the center of street or highway. Drivers of long experience are guilty of these improper turning movements, Club traffic checkers say, adding that youthful drivers rarely are found making turns except from the proper lanes.

"In recent months," said Matthew P. Hanley, Manager of the Eastern Shore Division of the Club, "we have been keeping tabs on driving practices in our accident-prevention campaign. Our observers report that one of the most dangerous habits is improper turning, and that it is about equally prevalent in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland.

"They say the habit is confined almost entirely to 'veteran' drivers, who cause a great many mishaps and contribute greatly to traffic congestion by making left turns from the right-hand side of street or highway, instead of obeying the law by turning from the lane to the right of and nearest to the center line of the highway.

"Even more dangerous is the habit of making right turns from the center of the highway, because operators who follow this practice give no hint of their intentions and only the alertness of drivers in the rear can avert serious smashups.

"Proper turnig movement is essential if accidents are to be reduced, and we sincerely hope the 'veteran' drivers will accept the suggestions here offered for safer motoring. The rule is easy to observe: Right turns from the lane nearest the right-hand curb; left turns from the lane nearest the center of the highway."

CONGRESS CONSIDERING REPEAL OF FEDERAL GASOLINE TAXES

Motorists of Maryland are hopefully following news from the meetings of the House Ways and Means tax subcommittee in Washington, which is now studying the possibility of repealing or reducing the federal gasoline tax and other automotive excise levies, Mr. P. S. Cochran, Chairman of the Maryland Petroleum Industries Committee declared today.

According to the announcement made by Chairman Vinson of the House committee, investigation of $650,000,000 of miscellaneous an nuisance taxes, enacted in 1932 as temporary emergency tax measures, will be undertaken to ascertain the possibility of reducing or repealing some or all of these taxes, which have proved unpopular since their inception.

"Elimination of the federal excise taxes on automotive products would mean a saving of $3,945,000 to Maryland motorists, a reduction of 22.6 per cent in the average motorist's annual $45.27 automotive tax bill," Mr. Cochran said. "In view of the fact that the average motorist in this state has an income of only $25 to $30 a week and must now work from ten days to two weeks merely to pay the annual taxes on the operation of his car, there is obviously a need for automotive tax relief which abolition of the nuisance taxes would provide. Motorists would have to work two two days a year less to pay their automobile taxes.

"It should be remembered that the typical Maryland motorist has never owned a new car, and that his automobile is more than four years old and worth only about $200. Consequently, elimination of the federal excise taxes would prove a substantial measure of relief for him.

"Furthermore, elimination of these taxes would enable Congress to make good the promises made at the time these taxes were originally levied and reiterated by members of Congress many times since, namely, that the nuisance taxes would be repealed at an early date. In addition, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the Interstate Commission on Conflicting Taxation and the Interstate Assembly of the American Legislators Association have all condemned them. They are taxes without a friend, and it would make everybody happy if they were repealed.

"Motorists in Maryland have an opportunity now to work toward elimination of this tax by notifying their congressman of their desires, so that they in turn can inform the House Ways and Means Committee of the wishes of their constituents."

Planing Japanese Beetle Control

County Agent J. Z. Miller, and George S. Langford, Specialist in Insect Control, University of Maryland, College Park, conferred here with civic and agricultural leaders toward formulating an entensive program for demonstrations on Japanese Beetle control. Among those present were Mayor H. H. Mitchell of Elkton. County Commissioners, Mauldin Lum, and Lawson Tosh, members of the Farm Bureau and other civic and agricultural leaders. The program discussed calls for a large scale field demonstration on the use of traps, spraying, soil treatment and agronomic practices. The demonstrational work is to be supplemented by the colonization of parasites and research work to find better methods of control. All demonstrational work is to be done on a cooperative basis.

The cooperative work is to be done so far as state funds are concerned on 50-50 basis, that is, for each one dollar that the state spends some individual or local unit must match the state expenditure. Trapping may be used to illustrate. The state will allocate traps within limits equal in number that any organized group or individual may purchase and operate in the selected demonstration area. The state will pay for the operation of the state traps at the rate of approximately 1½c per day per trap for a period of 60 days. If the trapping party will agree to operate his own traps and the state traps under the supervision of the state this will mean that the operator can earn approximately enough from the operation of the state traps to off-set the cost of traps he buys. To obtain traps under this plan the individual must live in the area selected for the demonstration and must buy one-half enough traps to thoroughly trap his property. It has not been decided as yet in what area of the county the demonstration will be made. But it will be made in that area in which the greatest number of people will cooperate. The state has plans for thoroughly trapping between 20 to 30 square miles and plan to use approximately 12,000 traps in this area, 6,000 of which will be purchased by the state and 6,000 by the local people.

Now is the time to make definite plans for controlling the beetle. The areas where the control work will be carried on must be selected at an early date so that arrangements for having the traps manufactured can be made so that the traps will be ready in time. Those individuals or organizations interested in having their sections trapped should communicate with the County Agent's Office as soon as possible.

Owners of gardens and lawns will be asked to assist in the retardation of this insect by treating their lawns with arsenate of lead. If all lawns in infested cities and towns are treated much of the areas in which the beetles can grow will be limited. This treatment does not injure lawns, but aids incrabgrass control. The treatment is effective for a period of from five to eight years and may be made at any time of the year when the ground is not frozen. In lightly infested areas it will retard the development of the beetle and delay the time when expensive sprays will be required.

In discussing the Japanese beetle, Dr. Langford said this Japanese beetle is a menace and threat to agricultural prosperity. Also it is the most serious insect pest with which the people of the cities and towns have ever had to deal. It is capable of blighting parks, ornamental gardens and golf courses. From the standpoint of defoliation of plants, its damage may be compared with that of the Mexican bean beetle. The important difference in damage from the two insects is that the Mexican bean beetle feeds only on beans, or a few plants closely related to beans, whereas the Japanese beelt feeds on over 200 different plants. A few of the more important agricultural crops attacked are: corn, soybeans, apple, peach, cherry, plum, grape, beans, asparagus, raspberry and strawberry; such shade and ornamental trees as elm, linden, cherry, willow, poplar, pin oak and Norway maple. Garden ornamentals such as rose, dahlia, hollyhock, canna, aster, marigold and zinnia are readily fed upon. Lawns, golf greens and pastures afford ideal breeding areas for the grubs and are frequently seriously damaged.

According to Dr. Langford, control is expensive, and losses may be large. In heavily infested areas the average annual expenditure on a few items are: City blocks, $62.80 per block; sweet corn, $2.00 per acre; apples .15 per acre; peaches $8.80 per acre; estates $513.00 per estate; golf courses, $618.00 per course; cemeteries $225.00 per unit. The average annual damage in heavily infested districts has been determined for the following: Field corn, $5.00 per acre; sweet corn, $17.50 per acre; early apples $123.00 per acre; early peaches $154.00 per acre; general farms $1.76 per acre.

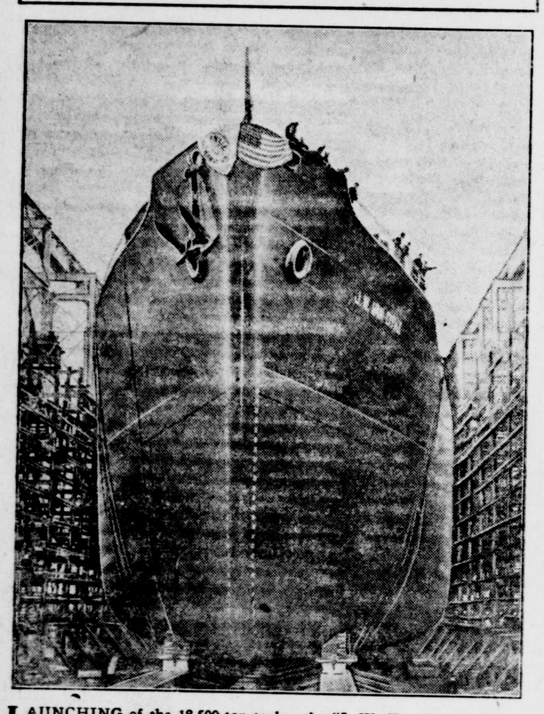
Indians Valued Life

One of the few cases of suicide by an Indian ever reported—if it was one—was that of Me-Saw-Boy, of Isabella county says a Mt Pleasant, Mich., correspondent in the Detroit Free Press. After the white man had invaded his country there more than 80 years ago, Me-Saw-Boy became despondent and made several trips to Washington to protest dispossession of the Indians. One day he was found dead with a knife plunged in his abdomen. The official verdict was suicide, but Indians, unwilling to admit that one of their race had taken his own life, always after protested that he had been murdered.

Shoes for the Ox

The ox shoe is in two pieces and differs a good deal from the horseshoe. However, some say that the ox's hoof is too thin to stand reshoeing, while others assert that although the white part of the hoof is thin and brittle, the black part is tough and will stand frequent reshoeing.

BIGGEST WELDED SHIP



LAUNCHING of the 18,500-ton tanker the "J. W. Van Dyke" adds to the American merchant marine the world's largest welded ship. Built at Chester, Pa., for The Atlantic Refining Company, the giant oil carrier has a cargo capacity of 6,552,000 gallons. Her overall length is 541 feet five inches; her sea speed 13.25 knots.

★ *Coffee Makers*—Come in and see our complete line of electric coffee brewers. These include percolators from $4.95; Silex glass coffee-makers from $4.95; four-piece urn sets from $15.95 cash. All items costing $10 cash or over can be purchased on liberal terms. Slightly higher on budget plan.

★ *Table Cooking Appliances*—We have a fine assortment of electric devices for cooking at the table. These include waffle bakers as low as $4.95. Table cookers as low as $6.95. Toasters—non-automatic from $2.95; semi-automatic from $5.95; full-automatic from $10.50 cash. Egg cookers at $3.95; with set of tray and cups at $6.95.

★ *Hospitality Tray Set*—Fully automatic 2-slice Toastmaster, tray, four lap trays, relish dishes at $23.50 cash. Slightly higher on budget plan—easy terms. Folding stand at $5.95.

★ *Electric Roaster*—Westinghouse model makes an ideal gift for the large home with fully equipped kitchen in city, town or farm . . . or the small apartment. Bakes everything from cookies to bread; roasts, stews or steams meats, fish, vegetables. Will cook an entire meal at one time. Price—$27.95 cash. Slightly higher on budget plan—easy terms!

★ *Mixmaster*—Mixes, beats, whips, mashes and creams . . . makes frostings and candies. Less juice extractor at $21 cash. With juice extractor at $23.75 cash. Slightly higher on budget plan—Easy Terms!

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

ELECTRICITY—CHEAPER IN QUANTITY

"ENTERTAINMENT" "ON THE AIR" ★

NEATEST trick of the week is credited to Bing Crosby, who can sing while smoking a pipe. Needless to say, Bing doesn't do this at broadcasts but he does puff away while running through songs at rehearsals for his Thursday night program. Bob Burns, a great pipe smoker, considerably astounded at the feat, says it just can't be done if you're a bazooka player instead of a singer.

Bing Crosby

What the general public may not be aware of is the fact that Bob Burns has his bazooka patented. The comedian of the "Music Hall" programs isn't taking any chances on anyone's appropriating the invention which had much to do with his radio success.

Julie Gibson, the hotcha singer on the Joe Penner program, very often fails to answer when called by name.

JULIE GIBSON

It is not because she is deaf or a day dreamer, but because it is not her real name. It was selected by the producer of the program who felt that it was more in character for the type of numbers she features.

Leopold Stokowski has put the symphonic conductor's okay on the electric organ for radio concerts. The approval was given after Fernando Germani, the Italian organist, played the instrument during a Stokowski radio concert.

Conrad Nagel is quite an active man in the amusement business today though he modestly stays out of the spotlight. Nagel directs and produces the "Sunday Afternoon Silver Theatre" over CBS, a program which has been extremely popular since its inception. He also has retained his standing in the film industry and directs numerous feature pictures. Nagel is known in movietown as "the spokesman of Hollywood."

Conrad Nagel

Kate Smith has already made her plans for Christmas Day. Following her broadcast on Christmas Eve Kate will leave for Virginia to spend the holiday with her grandmother mother and sister.

Carlton KaDell believes in putting as much acting into his reading of commercials that he would put into the starring role of a play. He believes that making these talks sound convincing calls for histrionic effort.

A high school teacher once reprimanded little Alice Cornett for humming during a lecture. "Maybe you'd be happier," she said, "if I stopped talking and put you on a soap box in the front of the class where everybody can hear you." That teacher didn't realize what a seer she was. Now, Alice is a radio star, rhythm songstress on CBS's "Song Shop"—and every Friday when she broadcasts she must stand on a soap box to reach the mike.

ALICE CORNETT

Mary Margaret McBride is toying with the idea of taking a job for a day in one of New York's department stores during the Christmas rush in order to give her listeners firsthand information on the subject.

CHARLIE BUTTERWORTH, featured with Lanny Ross on the Tuesday night NBC "Hollywood Mardi Gras" programs, believes that being fired from a job is not always a tragedy. Charlie's first job was as a newspaper reporter. After the city editor watched him for a few weeks, he fired Butterworth with the advice: "Go get a job as a clown!" Charlie did.

Charlie Butterworth

Boake Carter, the commentator, has a game called "Star Reporter" which promises to hit the best seller class during the holiday season.

Jack Benny can mimic members of his radio cast. His imitation of Andy Devine is so perfect that Andy has promised to use him as a double for film work should he ever lose his voice!

Myra Kingsley, distinguished astrologer, broadcasts every week day over the Mutual network. Her father is a bank president and is treasurer of New York University. Fifteen years ago she had her horoscope cast and was told to take the work up herself. She did, became one of America's greatest, and is now consulted by business leaders as well as radio listeners.

MYRA KINGSLEY

Phil Baker is more than just an employer to "Bottle" and "Beetle." Both stooges depend upon him for guidance in financial investments and general business matters.

Aunt Jenny, star of the CBS serial heard Mondays through Fridays, states that she has enough material for the dramatization of "Real Life Stories" to maintain interest for years.

Margaret Sullavan's playing the lead in Cecil B. DeMille's Radio Theatre "The Petrified Forest" production let listeners compare a radio performance with a previous stage and screen performance. On the stage Peggy Conklin had the part, on the screen Bette Davis. Letters to DeMille show that the air audience likes this chance to act as critic.

MARGARET SULLAVAN

Just before a "Husbands and Wives" broadcast Sedley Brown asked if any husbands present had wives who talked too much. One lone man raised his hand. "Is there any other man here whose wife isn't present?" asked Brown. Silence prevailed in the studio.

Musical cues are only a matter of datail on many radio programs. But on Gabriel Heatter's "We The People," Conductor Mark Warnow has to find melodies that are exactly suitable to the various situations which bring unusual people to the air. For this reason listeners hear musical numbers ranging from Civil War favorites up to popular tunes of today.

Mark Warnow

Tin Pan Alley

PEACE

When a cough due to a cold plagues you, give your throat peace with a Smith Brothers Cough Drop. Black or Menthol—5¢.

Smith Bros. Cough Drops are the only drops containing VITAMIN A. This is the vitamin that raises the resistance of the mucous membranes of the nose and throat to cold and cough infections.