Old Age

getting $1,000 in 1949 both parties chip in three per cent or $45 apiece. The old age check starts in 1942, five years hence, and in Washington among lawmakers and other leaders of thought there is no discussion at all about this policy, which is a mild form of old age pension for workers. It is presumed to prevent millions of future cases of destitution, dependence, poverty—security for the mass of workers.

* * *

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Another phase entirely is the unemployment insurance policy under which the federal government urges and aids the various states to set up funds to tide jobless workers through periods of unemployment. Here the government imposes a tax on payrolls, from 1 per cent to 3 per cent, and the tax falls on practically all employers—except farmers, householders, and other scattered exceptions. States must adhere to certain federal standards and regulations to get federal aid in the way of cash for this fund; several states already have "compulsory unemployment insurance laws" and with the state legislatures that meet in 1937 there will probably be others in line. After this system gets under way when workers lose jobs they will get a check averaging $15 or $16 a week for a period of time differing in the different states. The average maximum paid-for-jobless-period would be around four months. This is industry taking care of the men which produce the goods and who have to stop work for economic reasons.

There is nothing but theory in this country to indicate how it will work. The future of this plan is a question which experience may settle quite differently from the standards now set down by the social security board. There is one serious defect in this phase, however. In many states only the employer chips in for unemployment insurance; in other states the worker chips in one half as much as the boss. The practical defect shows up in the reserve fund which experts declare will be inadequate to meet the demands in anything but continued prosperity and full employment. A real depression would knock the present contemplated fund flat; actually deplete it several times over. There is no doubt that there are limits to the tax the employers can stand; and the present attitude here is to build up these reserves by workers' contributions rather than by any further taxation and by government subsidies. Nor is there any doubt that a man's interest in such a fund is greater when he chips in all his life rather than when he leys back and has no part of it.

There is still another federal function designed to stimulate state activity in high grade assistance in the cases of permanently out-of-luck citizens. The present indigent, poverty stricken old folks, the "county poor"; the blind and crippled children, come under these provisions; there is also a federal fund for states meeting federal requirement for general health work including maternal care. In a sense this is helping the states and counties with their poor—provided the states adopt certain standards as to whom they care for and how they administer their care.

For instance, for poverty stricken old folks who are right now distressed by age and poverty, the federal government will contribute one half on an old age pension up to $30 a month; that is, the government gives $15. The state may give more. It may go as high as it wants—but Uncle Sam gives nothing unless the state gives at least $15. This is a small item in the social security policy—but the first year's appropriation for those of old age, children, maternal care, etc., is $96,650,000.

* * *

A GREAT SPEECH

News writers have a general hesitancy about picking out the religious and spiritual passages in a speech—even in so great a speech as that delivered by President Roosevelt at the opening of the Pan American peace conference. It was a speech which David Lawrence, internationally famous editor and writer, and an honest critic of the administration, put down as deserving "to be ranked with the immortal address of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg." The Roosevelt plea, if followed, will weld the western hemisphere together in one solid and friendly group of American republics—which may possibly include Canada in the far away future.

The motivating influence in President Roosevelt's peace policies is spiritual and not diplomatic. If it takes diplomatic and political form, that is because treaties must be worked out in practical language. And the item which the analysists have overlooked in the President's Buenos Aires address is his statement that in our Constitution the right to freedom of worship presupposes a belief in God. Almost as he said these words the Russian constitution, new style, was being foisted on a foundering nation of peasants with the accent in religion given to atheism. In other countries where dictatorship prevails, the idea of God is being beaten out of the people—as far as possible.

The reason for this 1936 pagan style policy in Europe is the mistaken idea that freedom is a matter of economic well-being first; political and religious liberty being of secondary importance. In fact the ideal dictator believes that the people should not rely on God at all, because, in their shallow view, such a belief deprives the people of self reliance. That is the poison in the two types of experimental systems in Europe today. Communism and Fascism are both built upon the mass-hypnotism by the dictator over his people. But, as President Roosevelt said as he talked to South American presidents whose people are being tampered with by socialist and fascist doctrinnaires: "Attempts to deny God have always come and will always come to naught."

There is much more in this religious reference than a mere gesture. The whole basis of the Roosevelt an diplomacy is the idea of the golden rule. Expressed in modern phrase it is "Good Neighborliness." In State department talk it is "reciprocal trade treaties"—a mode of dealing with the producers of other nations without robbing them before they even got started. Practical peace experts know full well that the way to peace is by as many fair trade relations as possible. The one big reason why the League of Nations idea is a complete failure is because it reverses the Good Neighbor idea and puts the international lawyer first and the international traders last—if at all.

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Birth of Panama

Panama was a part of Colombia in 1903 when the latter country rejected the treaty with the United States regarding the proposed canal fearing the expansion and absorption of their country by United States. Panama then declared its independence and made the treaty which resulted in the Panama Canal.

Where Cork Comes From

Practically the whole of the world's supply of cork comes from what is known as the Iberian Peninsula, and North Africa. Portugal produces from 45 to 50 per cent., Spain about 30 per cent., Algeria and Morocco 15 to 20 per cent., and the South of France and Italy the remaining 5 per cent.

The Heart and Ring Finger

The Greeks believed in the existence of a direct communication between the heart and the ring finger. A certain vein of blood passing directly from the finger to the heart occasioned a peculiar intimacy and sympathy between the finger and seat of affection.

Poet Browning's Education

The poet Browning's education was mostly under his father's supervision. He attended neither a preparatory school nor college. After studying for some time under tutors he began to travel and spoke of Italy as his university.

The "Almighty Dollar"

The earliest use of the Americanism "almighty dollar" is attributed to Washington Irving. It is found in "A Creole Village," published in 1837. Ben Johnson is credited with a similar phrase, almighty gold.

Eggs Age—Old Food

Eggs have been an important article of food from the earliest time. They were hunted by the cave man and eaten raw. They were also used as a means of barter and exchange.

Peaks Overtop Mount Blanc

The Caucasus Mountains, the mighty wall rising between the Black and Caspian Seas, have no less than nine peaks which overtop Mount Blanc in the Alps.

Named Staten Island

Staten Island was named Statten Eylandt by Henry Hudson in 1607 in honor of the states general of the Netherlands, by whom he was employed.

Jefferson Aided Health

Thomas Jefferson when President lent his support to establishing smallpox vaccination as a public health measure in this country.

TELLING THE WORLD

Stanford, Ky. . . . Police Judge W. J. Duncan holds what he believes to be the world's record from a legal aspect when he tried a case by telephone. As reported in the Nashville, Tenn., Banner, a defendant in a law suit, a resident of Mount Vernon, Ky., was unable to appear at Judge Duncan's court in time to answer charges. He went to County Judge Carter and explained his difficulty. Judge Carter called Judge Duncan by telephone, explaining that the man could not reach Stanford in time for his trial and suggested that Judge Duncan try the case then, asserting that he would vouch for the defendant. Judge Duncan obliged and within four minutes the trial was over.

Rome, Italy . . . Experiments are being carried on by the Italian Telephone Administration using a device to sound a general alarm over telephone circuits to warn subscribers in the event of air raids. The device is said to consist of a switching arrangement which will cause every telephone bell connected with the exchange to sound a continuous warning for a three-minute period.

Akron, Ohio . . . Two telephones ringing in a police station here were answered by a captain and a patrolman. As the captain heard a feminine voice say, "I've lost my daughter," the patrolman heard a motorcycle policeman report, "I've found a little girl." Both were speaking of the same child and within a few minutes she was delivered to her mother safe and sound.

Dublin, Irish Free State . . . Reduced telephone rates have resulted in an appreciable increase in telephone calls, particularly those served by trunk or out-of-town lines. The Ministry for Posts and Telegraphs under which the telephone system is operated has a big program in hand for the improvement of telephone service generally all over the country. Special attention will be paid to the provision of more out-of-town or trunk lines.

LAYTONSVILLE

Miss Carey Blunt of Woodburne farm, the ancestral home of the Blunts near Laytonsville, has gone to Port Huron to spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Blunt. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Blunt and Miss Jane Blunt are also in Port Huron ,where they will remain for the Winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Barber were hosts to members of their family Friday, when they had with them for dinner Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Barber and their family of Bethesda, Mr. and Mrs. William Barber and their family, Mr. Clarence Barber, Mrs. Pearl McGregor of Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Mowatt Windham and their family, Mr. and Mrs. Camden Windham and their family and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Barber, sr.

Dr. and Mrs. Jacob W. Bird have had with them for the holidays, Miss Helen Bird and her brother, Mr. J. Wheeler Bird of Perth Amboy, N. J., Miss Annabel Bird of Washington, joining the family for a part of the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Bird have as house guests for several weeks Mrs. J. I. Bird, mother of Dr. Bird, and her daughter, Miss Mary Thom Bird from near Annapolis, who are remaining until after New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wilson have returned to their home near Sandy Spring, after having spent several weeks in Puertio Rico.

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