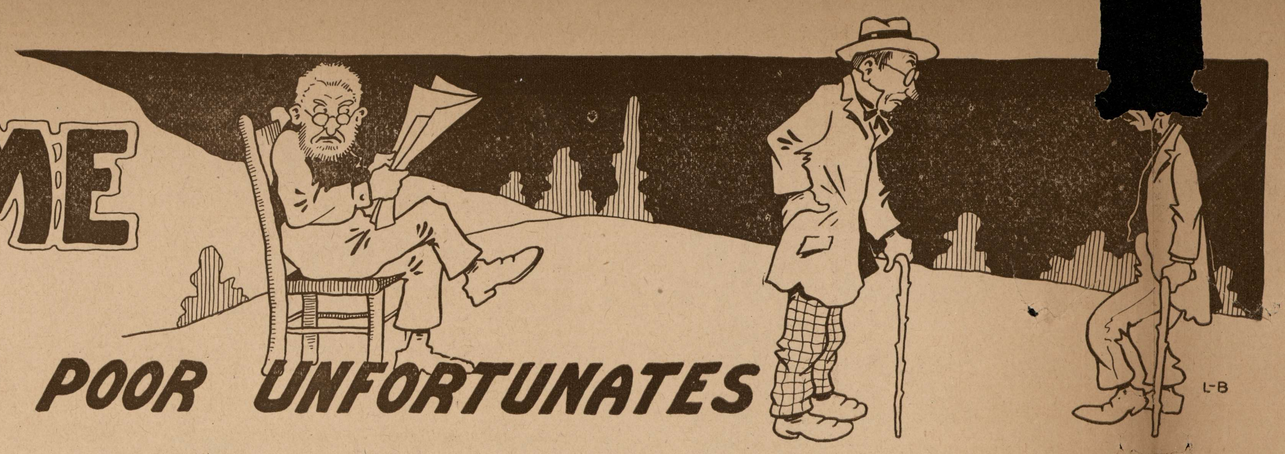
COUNTY HOME AT TEXAS IS HAVEN OF REST FOR POOR UNFORTUNATES



STONE STRUCTURE STANDS IN CLUMP OF TREES OVERLOOKING YORK ROAD—

Every community has its unfortunates—those who are friendless and alone, who are unable by reason of ill health, physical deformities or old age to earn a livelihood.

It is the duty of the State to take care of them; to provide shelter, raiment and food and give them medical attention and care.

Sometimes these unfortunates are able to do a little work, and are able to secure a home with just a little help from the county.

To meet this situation in this county there is included in the levy each year an out-door pension fund, out of which they are paid a small sum quarterly, the theory being that the small amount they receive in this way is very much less then it would cost to maintain them as regular inmates of the county home.

But if they are helpless the county has a home for them where they are sent by the County Commissioners after investigation.

Fifty years ago the home was known everywhere as the "poorhouse," and by a sort of sentimental evolution that was changed to the "Alms House," until now it is known as the "Upland Home for the Indigent and Infirm."

Baltimore County's first Alms House was located in the First Election District, near Calverton.

When the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad was built back in the 70's this property was on the right-of-way, and it was acquired by the railroad by condemnation proceedings, and the County Commissioners purchased a farm near Texas, in the Eight District, where the home is now located.

Quite a scandal grew out of the division of the fund received from the old Calverton property. When the buildings on the Texas property were contracted for it was discovered that nearly the entire fund had been used for other purposes. It was an issue between the parties for several years.

The Texas property was called "Upland," so that the home is known as "Upland Home."

While the county home has always been under the control of the Board of County Commissioners, for many years there was a visiting board provided for by statute. This board consisted of one member from each district. They kept in close touch with the institution and its management and made recommendations to the Commissioners.

This board did excellent service not only to the county but to the inmates as well. Why it was ever discontinued has never been disclosed.

In many localities similar boards still exist and function, and do excellent work. We would advocate a return of the system but for the excellent work on the same line being voluntarily done by the officers of the Children's Aid Society.

The home is presided over by a superintendent, an appointee of the County Commissioners. This position has been held for a number of years by Mr. John Chilcoat, who also farms the place, which produces excellent crops.

The net cost to the taxpayers of the institution is about $10,000 per annum.

There is a resident salaried physician and two chaplains, one Catholic and one protestant, being annually appointed at a nominal salary.

If the history of the lives of the inmates of Upland Home for the past 25 years was made public it would cause many a blush on the faces of children and grandchildren in good circumstances, whose parents and grandparents died in the county's home for the indigent and infirm.

We have a most excellent law in Maryland now, making children support their indigent parents,a nd it has brought about excellent results, and in course of time the number of inmates will gradually decrease.

Some time ago an indictment was found in our court against three daughters and a son for failing to provide for the support of their aged and infirm father. The old gentleman was nice looking and refined and had seen better days, but was somewhat senile. He was turned out to shift for himself and wound up in "Upland Home." At the time it developed that the son had done his full part and one of the daughters had done all she could, but the two other daughters whose husbands were well to do, had done least for him, but they escaped punishment because they personally had nothing, and their husbands refused him a penny.

Judge Duncan, who heard the case, endeavored to shame them into doing something for the old man, but without effect. The court finally secured the interest of a charity organization in him, and he is now living in comparaive comfort among strangers.

"Over the hill to the poor house" meant nothing to these unnatural children. They probably had not read the words of Jehovah: "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man;" nor had they considered the fifth commandment and this promise which goes with it: "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land," but they will think of all these things before they die or when they shall receive the same treatment from their children.

Upland Home has had two fires, but with no casualties. The last one was a blessing, for the building partially destroyed was a death trap, and in its place was constructed a modern building which will compare favorably with the best in the State.

The inmates are very comfortable and receive the best attention in every way.

Good roads and good schools, adequate fire and police protection are most creditable to a county, but mostly gives a county government a higher standing than its humane treatment of the poor and friendless within its borders—and Baltimore county has done and is still endeavoring to do its full duty by them.

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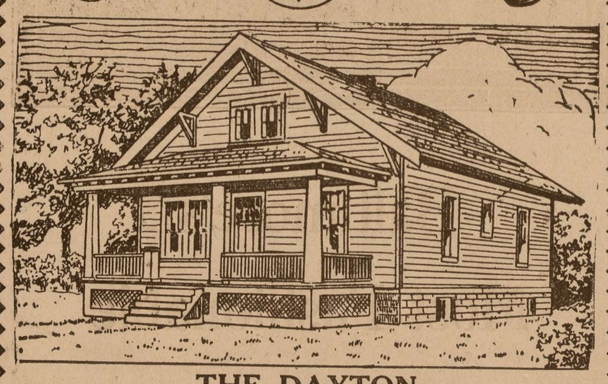

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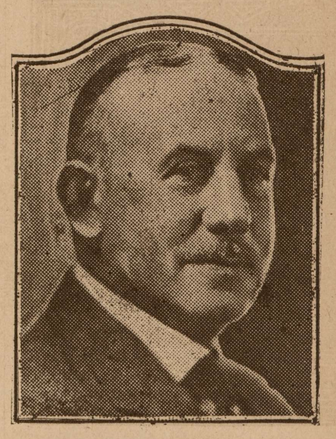

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IN his "brown study" when "Mose" gets to thinking of his "ins and outs"—his "ups and downs," his "bad" and "good" times—he doesn't forget that the toiler—the man that earns his bread in his sweat, is his best friend and customer, and thank God "Mose" is big enough to appreciate it.
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