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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1939.

MARYLAND ROAD SYSTEM LAGS

Developments in Maryland's highway system have not kept pace with the increased use of motor vehicles, with the result that the State has "Considerable" mileage of primary and secondary roads that is "out of date and indequate" to meet modern demands, the Maryland Highway Planning Survey reports.

In its final report, forwarded to the Legislature, the survey urged that a continued study be made of the highway system "in order to revise and refine long-range plans that may be undertaken." No funds have been provided for continuance of the work.

The highway data, compiled by Clarence Taylor, survey director, was in the form of a progress report rather than a complete analysis. Maryland is the second State to complete such a highway planning survey report, it was said.

The survey, which was started in 1936, revealed that from 1916 to 1938 automobile registration increased by 788 per cent., while the State road system expanded from 1,304 miles in 1916 to 4,057 miles in 1938, an increase of 212 per cent.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

The first year of benefit payments to the unemployed under Maryland's Unemployment Act terminated at the end of business on January 24 last, the number of checks sent out in thet period aggregating 1,107,578 and calling for payment of a total of $10,630,988.

The Compensation Board began accepting benefit claims on the first business day of January, 1938, but the law requires the claimant to wait two weeks for which he receives no pay whatever. With the beginning of the third week of unemployment he is entitled to pay at the rate of half his regular wages but limit of the week's benefit is $15.

It is not until the conclusion of the third week of unemployment that the beneficiary can expect a check, so that for more than twenty-one days in the first year of compensation no checks could be sent out, none being actually due under the law. Thus it was that the first year of payments did not end until January 24 as the first check was sent out on January 25, 1938.

At the end of the calendar year the number of checks was 1,053,683 amounting to $10,133,817.

The number of checks, however, does not fully represent the number of weekly compensable claims, as in the early months of the operations of the system quite a number of checks called for several weeks' overdue benefits.

HEADS WOMAN'S CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Charles W. Whaland, of Chestertown, Maryland, has been appointed by Congressman T. Alan Goldsborough, Dean of the Maryland Delegation, Democratic Congressional Committee Woman of Maryland, upon the resignation of Mrs. Geo. Heller, of Baltimore City, who has been the Democratic Congressional Committee Woman for Maryland for seven yeears.

Mrs. Whaland was Eastern Shore Chairman of the Democratic Women's Clubs of Maryland for many years.

Now that the first shock of the Income Tax Recommedation of the Commission on Taxation and Revenue has had time to pass off, feeling throughout the State, as reflected by city and county men alike at Annapolis, is that it could have been a whole lot worse. The exemptions, $1,000 for individuals, $2,000 for married couples, and $400 for each dependent, will free the great majority of people in the lower-income bracket from payment, or assess them lightly.

Under the proposed tax, an unmarried individual earning $1,200 per year, will pay on only $200, or a total of $5.00. A married couple with three children, for instance, will have a $3,200 exemption.

With regard to the flat individual tax of 6% on incomes from dividends and interests, it is acually less than the present 4½ mills tax which is, in effect, a flat based on the value of the security and not its yield, and is equal to a flat income tax of almost 9 per cent.

MISS PERKINS AND CONGRESS

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., Feb. 6—Despite the lack of approvel accorded to the administration of Miss Perkins of the Labor Department there has always been a disposition to treat her as a lady. If for no other reason than sex she is not likely to be thrown out through an impeachment in Congress.

The Dies committee of the House has been given clubbings up to date because it made a big fuss about Labor Department favoritism for wild-eyed Harry Bridges, CIO bigshot on the Pacific Coast.

Just why should the Dies group be given the "works" because it showed up a lot of un-American activities? The LaFallette committee in the Senate has spent ten times as much money, smeared more people, and done considerable less good than the Dies committee. Why Doesn't some body raise a voice to stop it? The Civil Liberties group specialized on the defects and practices of a mere handful of industries, whose conduct in labor troubles had previously been widespread in the daily accounts of sitdown strikes and other CIO rows and eruptions.

Anyhow, the Dies committee has made a good start despite the fact that a few crack-pot witnesses muddied its proceedings. It turned out to be an improvement over the La-Follette group, which dug up a lot of dirt. The Dies House Committee has done at least some valuable investigating, providing, of course, that there is any real merit in this kind of Congressional investigations. Perhaps a few high-grade policemen, or the G. men might do better.

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Germany Dumps Steel

Although Washington officials have been greatly disturbed over Germany's trade activities in Latin-America the latest Nazi development indicates that they "ain't seen nuthin' yet."

Not content to grab American trade in Latin-America, and perhaps emboldened by the Administration dilly-dallying Mexican confiscatery program, Germany now has the effrontery to sell her cut-price goods right here in the United States.

Large quantities of German steel are landed at Good Hope, Louisiana, destined for the Louisiana oil fields. The news as it reaches Washington is to the effect that 90,000 feet of 9-⅝ inch casing and 130,000 feet of 7 inch casing was in the first shipment, and that another large shipment was on the high seas at the time from Hamburg. The shipments are being made on German steamships. The goods were consigned to an American firm in Dallas, Texas, which was a sort of "fence" for Mexico, and the intermediary by which confiscated American oil was shipped to Germany in connection with a barter-deal with an understanding that the steel would be sent to the United States. It is understood that the deal was arranged through Davis & Company.

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"Who Have The Republicans Got?"

The answer to a six-year old question appears to be nearly solved as the Republicans in Washington are accepting Senator Robert A. Taft as their 1940 standard-bearer, IF he lives up to the record he has made since he became the party choice for the Senate in Ohio. Apparently he has succeeded—not because he is the son of an ex-president, but in spite of the handicap that President Roosevelt's sons complain about.

* * *

Nothing Settled

The fight in Congress over the amount of WPA funds is mostly political bunk, for just so long as the present Federal relief plan is continued the amounts asked for by the Administration will have to be appropriated and "supplementary" sums will be necessary to meet inevitable deficits.

The real issue is strangely missing in Congress. Everybody knows that it is: Federal relief, or State and local relief.

* * *

Old Age Pensions

Dr. Townsend says that the New Deal has shown through five years that it does not have the answer. He says that its experiments have brought only an enormous debt, an overwhelming bureaucracy, and left 10 million still unemployed. The Old Boy sticks to his 200 dollar a month plan, and he declares that it is "bound to come," becauseit "is a lot more sensible than most of the things the New Deal has tried."

As a matter of fact most of the "plans" are on an extravagant scale, and neither the Administration, Congress, nor the Security Act gives the answer to this question that assumes larger proportions the longer the matter is kept up in the air. The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives will be the arena in which the battles of old-age pensions is fought, and everyone will be given a chance to be heard.

HOW THEY SAY IT IN FINLAND

A recent visitor from Finland to the State Department of Health, Dr. Severi Savonen, Secretary of the Finnish Anti-Tuberculosis Association, in acknowledgment of courtesies extended to him during his stay in Maryland, on his return to Helsingfors sent to the Department a set of the posters used in the campaign for the promotion of health and the prevention of tuberculosis in Finland. They are as applicable to Maryland as to Finland and are described by Dr. R. H. Riley, Director of the Department, as follows:

"The posters are done in color, in soft pastel shades, and each tells its own human interest story. Number one, shows a mother getting ready to serve a meal, and in an adjoining room, a boy and girl washing their hands in preparation for it. The inscription is: 'Before eating and on coming in doors I wash my hands.'

"Next comes a picture of the family group at the table and the title signifies that 'Suitable food gives health and strength.' Decorations at the bottom of the page indicate that 'suitable food' includes a generous supply of milk, green leafy vegetables, bread, butter, cheese, eggs and meat.

"Gaily colored vegetables and fruits are shown in the next picture and a spirited drawing of a tooth invaded by decay, gvies point to the warning as to what happens from too great indulgence in sweets. The title of this: 'I eat fruit, vegetables, and berries. Sweets spoil the appetite and the teeth.'

"Next come two out-of-doors pictures. One, of a school playground with a baseball 'eleven', not a 'nine', engaged in the counterpart of the American game, is labled: 'An out door life gives health and strength. The second, showing a number of boys, plunging into a stream for a cool-off swim after a turn in the steam bath glimpsed through an open door near the shore, is inscribed: 'By hardening myself, I avoid many diseases.'

"During sleep the body is recuperated. Fresh air is essential durnig hours of sleep, too,' is illustrated in the next poster which shows one of the potential athletes asleep in his bed near an open window. The next labeled: 'Cleanliness and sunshine are our best allies against tuberculosis,' shows a mother and little daughter engaged in household tasks. There is an interesting picture of a living room, with a porcelain stove at one end of the room, windows wide open to the sun and wind and a lovely view beyond.

'A 'do' and 'don't' poster and one listing the early symptoms of tuberculosis-persistent cough, fatigue, slight fever, poor appetite and loss of weight—complete the set. The 'don't' picture shows a man in a croweded thorougfare, coughing in another man's face. 'Do,' shows a young woman at a table with a family group. She is coughing, too, but is covering her mouth, carefully with her handkerchief. 'Don't' is labeled: "A dangerous way of coughing." "Do' says: 'When coughing always put your handkerchief before your mouth.' "

LACK OF CONSIDERATION

Drivers who refuse to yield the right of way to cars making left turns are sharply criticized by the Keystone Automobile Club, which lays responsibility for many accidents on this lack of consideration.

George E. Keneipp, Manager of the Club, said today the Club's investigation shows that numerous accidents are caused directly by the failure, or refusal, of drivers to show common courtesy to fellow operators at street and road intersections.

"It is not pleasant to reflect that a considerable number of motorists think only of their own convenience," he said. "Even at the risk of personal injury they will not yield a few seconds to the driver who has signaled his intention to make a left turn and is in proper position to complete the turning movement.

"This is especially noticeable when cars are stopped at traffic signals. The man with his arm extended showing clearly his intention to turn to the left, is, in many instances, completely ignored by drivers at the head of the line of oncoming traffic. Moreover, it is not uncommon to see a car swing to the left of one which is about to make a left turn, thereby endangering occupants of both.

"More courtesy and less selfishness would be a good thing for motoring."

Presenting!

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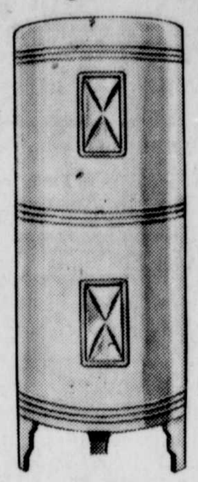

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Camphor Trees Flourish On Malaria-Ridden Land

In medicine camphor is used externally as a counter-irritant in sprains, rheumatic affections, bronchitis and other inflammatory conditions. Internally it is used for its calming influence in hysteria, general nervousness and neuralgia. And it is also used as a heart stimulant, especially during low fevers and in pneumonia, having a stimulating effect on circulation.

Camphor trees can grow in any tropical or subtropical country, but flourish best on the malaria-ridden, snake-infested slopes of Formosa, where it rains 240 days a year, and where to this day Japan has to send troops to clear out the headhunters who kill the camphor workers, reates an authority in the Philadelphia Record. In the 1850s two American merchants made a deal with the officials of Formosa to take the entire output, which is more than 75 per cent of the world's supply.

They dredged the port, put up a lighthouse. The trade became so profitable that Townsend Harris, first U. S. ambassador to Japan, urged this government to buy Formosa. But the Civil war was in the offing, and the chance passed, and the English stepped in. In 1895 China ceded Formosa to Japan, which made the camphor industry a government monopoly. Japan sells camphor to the world through one firm, in London.

Synthetic camphor has been made since 1906, but whenever it threatened inroads into the natural supply, Japan cut prices. American production of the synthetic jumped enormously right after the World war, when the influenza epidemic created an enormous demand.

Strip Coal Mining Also Called Open Air Method

Strip or open cut coal mining is a comparatively recent development. Through this method coal is mined in the open air. Sunburn replaces the underground cave-in as one of the principal dangers in this branch of the industry.

This form of mining recovers coal too shallow or too thin for mining by shaft or drift methods, observes a writer in the Chicago Tribune. Under the strip or open cut method the overburden of earth is removed with huge power shovels—some of them the largest moving pieces of machinery in the world—and the coal is then taken from the top of the seam. Width of the excavations varies with the size of the machine and the overburden, but it is not unusual for the pits to measure 200 feet or more in width from the brim of the original ground to the top of the spoil banks.

Lands worked over by the strip method are usually left with substantially parallel ridges. When new, these ridges give the appearance of a sawtooth roof.

The final excavation results in a cut varying with the depth of the coal seam. This may be from 10 to 50 feet deep, from 75 to 200 feet wide, and from one-quarter to three miles long.

Don't think the world will ask where you got the money to pay your way.

Big business isn't new. A wagon factory was relatively as big when the country was small.

ALMANAC

"It is sure to be dark if you shut your eyes."

FEBRUARY

12—Abraham Lincoln, the rail-splitter president, born, 1809.

13—First passenger train in New Mexico made short run, 1879.

14—Valentine's Day.

15—The battleship Maine was sunk at Havana, 1898.

16—King Tutankhamen's tomb was opened, 1923.

17—First ship passed through the Suez Canal, 1867.

18—Martin Luther, leader of German Reformation, died, 1546.

Route of Lincoln Highway

The Lincoln highway, which is 3,384 miles long, connecting New York and San Francisco, begins in the East at New York City, and passes through Jersey City, Newark, and Trenton, N. J.; Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, Chambersburg and Pittsburgh, Pa.; East Liverpool, Canton, Mansfield and Lima, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Elkhart, South Bend and Valparaiso, Ind.; Chicago Heights, Aurora, Geneva, Rochelle and Dixon, Ill.; Clinton, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Jefferson and Council Bluffs, Iowa; Omaha, Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney and North Platte, Neb.; Cheyenne, Laramie, Medicine Bow, Rawlins, Rock Springs and Evanston, Wyo.; Salt Lake City, Garfield, Tooele and Ibapah, Utah; Ely, Eureka, Carson City and Reno, Nev.; and Truckee, Placerville, Sacramento, Stockton and Oakland, Calif. The Lincoln highway is marked with red, white and blue markers bearing a blue letter "L" on a white field.

WAR REFERENDUM DRIVE

The Congressional drive for the war referendum amendment was opened by Representative Ludlow of Indiana in a radio broadcast llast week. Attacking the Administration's objection to the amendment that it is not in line with representative government, Congressman Ludlow declared:

"The war referendum is exactly in line with the Constitution, which is to keep the war-making power out of the hands of any one man. It is also in line with our Constitutional development. It certainly is in harmony with the spirit and the purpose of the Bill of Rights. We have substituted direct election of Senators for the Electoral College. The referendum and initiative has been adopted in 21 states. Today, if the intent of the Constitution is to be carried out, the people themselves must be given the right to vote on war."

Denying current propaganda that this nation is in danger of attack from overseas. Representative Ludlow declared our only real danger was in becoming involved in other people's wars, that is in a "policy" war, and that the people themselves should be the jury to decide "the rightness and wisdom of such a war."

He pointed out that only through a war referendum could the women of America who must bear so heavy a share of the costs and sufferings of war, have any part in deciding the question of war or peace.

No wonder families were larger in the old days. A baby didn't cost anything but a week's board for your mother-in-law.

Fascists are using American freedom to work against freedom. Our melting pot seems to admit too darned much brass.

If a man overindulges in mature deliberation it's when he has a note to meet.

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