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PREMIUM GOODS

Premiums in merchandizing are being utilized in all directions to increase trade. Fully 10,000 manufacturers are engaged in promoting this form of merchandizing, which is causing a stir in drugs and cosmetics, manufactured goods, and even in public utilities.

Movements are afoot to check the practice but manufacturers say they are within their rights, and that no legislation interferes with this growth in business, that is running into hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

THE FOOD STAMPS

The food stamp experiment will be tried in a half dozen cities. Any relief family may take the stamps, or refuse them. A family takes $16 of orange-colored stamps and buys food, and as a bonus gets $8 in blue stamps, also good for food purchases. Supposedly, the family receives $8 in extra food which costs them nothing, and supposedly this increases consumption. This supposedly reduces the costs of Government, and justifies giving away this surplus food. The merchant gets the $8 and it is cash at the bank for him. He, at least, is safe in the food stamp experiment.

If this scheme works out in a half a dozen cities it will be made national. If it is a flop Secretary Wallace may be depended upon to revise it, or give us something new.

Tossed into the legislative hopper at Annapolis last week is a bill which, if enacted into law, will in at least one instance settle once and for all the age old practice of discriminatory legislative action as between the rural and urban area of the State as well as certain of the towns. The proposed legislation is designed to return to all of the incorporated towns a fair share of the 1½ cent Lateral Road Gasoline Tax.

In the past certain of the towns have been able to wheedle small concessions from the General Assembly for a return of a portion of this tax. Usually the allocations were arbitrarily made and paid to the towns through the county governments—a wholly unsatisfactory arrangement.

The proposed bill which is being sponsored by the Maryland League of Municipalities, while perhaps not a perfect bill, will return a fair share of the tax to all the incorporated towns and will thereby end such discriminatory practices, common to all the towns. The League again demonstrates not only the necessity of organization but the intelligent approach to commen problems through organied action rather than individual "wire pulling."

Parole of prisoners has long been a controverial question. Attorney General Murphy calls a Conference to help straighten out the matter, to meet in Washington next month. Social service experts differ widely upon this subject. Paroles are in effect merely bargains with good prisoners through which they are loose, with strings tied to them to bring them back to the pen if they don't behave.

SLUM-CLEARANCE IN BALTIMORE

Nathan Straus, Administrator of the United States Housing Authority, paved the way for the start of construction of the first slum-clearanceand low-rent housing project in Baltimore, Md., when he approved a bid submitted to the Baltimore Housing Authority for the demolition of 232 slum buildings now occupying the project site.

The bid, amounting to $7,640, was submitted by the Harris Wrecking Co., of Baltimore and Cleveland, Ohio, and approved by Mr. Straus upon recommendation by James R. Edmunds, Jr., Chairman of the Baltimore Housing Authority. It covers demolition of the slum buildings within the area bounded by Fremont Avenue, Saratoga, Amity, and Lexington Streets.

Under terms of the proposed contract, the Baltimore Housing Authority reserves the right to buy all reclaimed brick at current prices for second-hand material, which it plans to use for backing up" face brick and for use in main partition or dividing walls.

Present plans of the Baltimore Housing Authority call for the construction of buildings having approximately 298 dwelling units on the site to be vacated.

TAX REVISION vs. TAX REDUCTION

J. E. Jones

Washington, March 27—About the most ridiculous political information the American people have been asked to believe is "tax reduction." There isn't a member of either branch of the United States Congress but what knows that it is impossible to make tax revision to reduce the total amount of taxation. All the statements that the public is being fed on this subject dodge the certain fact that Congress and the Administration are trying to decide upon a readjustment of business taxes that will lighten the burden on small business, without curtailing Federal revenue. Big business, industries and the rich face almost certain increased tax bills.

Any newspaper reader can figure it out for himself that the enlarged Government spending policy of the President and Congress will do several things—it will increase the national debt, increase the deficit and increase taxation.

Right this moment plans are being urged to increase the legal debt limit of the Nation beyond 15 billion dollars, and if Congress is too stubborn about that proposal the President still has authority under existing law to use emergency authorizations that remain in effect so that the Administration may issue bonds, greenbacks, or make loans to pick up a few needed billions of dollars.

Tax reduction is only a dream. Tax revision is another matter. It simply moves the load.

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The End of a Republic

The Declaration of Independence of various groups of people in Central Europe was made in Washington during the closing days of the World War. Thomas G. Masaryk worked with a group of Woodrow Wilson's international brain-trusters in planning to establish an American style of Republic, and their efforts were so successful that the Paris Peace Conference confirmed the plan that President Wilson insisted upon.

The Czechoslovakia Republic was successful. It appeared to justify all the efforts that had been put back of the new Government by the Allies. A conglomeration of oppressed flocked to the standard of the new Government and gave it their sympathetic support. One of Secretary of State Lansing's statements declared "the position of the United States to be that all branches of the Slav race should be completely free from Germany and Austrian rule." Thus Czechoslovakia became a Republic. That Republic was destroyed from within, as parts of the country deserted to the Swastika banner.

The bitter story is of recent date, and it is a story that is shameful in the records of even Europe. The Hitler bluff was accepted at the Munich Conference to save a world war. That action is still debated, and usually approved by the best informed of our public men.

The American-made Republic couldn't live through the European storm. So, about all that is left to be done is to spread flowers over its grave and ask God to bless and protect those people who have lost, for themselves and posterity, the blessings of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

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Business Wants To Be Chummy

"Not until business again gets on its feet, fuctioning normally and confident of the future, will America be lifted out of the slough of depression," Congressman Louis Ludlow declared in fortifying his opinion that the situation is as "clear as a flag on a pikestaff," and that "business and industry are frozen with fear," and that "they need to be thawed out." Ludlow charges that business is using alibi at the present time just because it wants to be chummy again with the Administration.

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The Wagner Act

Hearings are to be held by the Senate Labor Committee on the proposed amendments to the Wagner Labor Act. The AF of L has insisted upon these hearings and CIO has been opposed. Victory No. 1 for Green over Lewis. The public stands a chance to get most of the benefits out of the amendments.

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Clam Chowder

Clam chowder would be protected under a bill in the State Legislature to make it a misdemeanor to put a tomato into a clam chowder in Maine. Mainites say Manhattan chowder is "stew" or "vegetable soup."

MANY OF GOVERNOR'S PLEDGES FULFILLED, MEASURES EMBODYING REFORMS NEARING PASSAGE

Annapolis, March 27—The Maryland Legislature literally 'up to its neck' in bills, the questions one hears frequently here and throughout the State are: "How is Governor O'Connor's program coming along? Will his proposed Reorganization of State Departments go through? What about the many pledges he made during the primary and general election campaigns? How are they being carried out?"

Well, to quote another famous Democrat, 'Let's take a look at the record'. Admittedly, the State was in drastic financial difficulties, when Governor O'Conor took over on January 11. Like every other informed person, he knew this, and he promised, if elected, to do certain definite things to correct this situation. In his inaugural address, he aptly summed up his thoughts on the matter when he declared: "The most important problem facing the administration is that of placing the State's finances on a sound and enduring foundation. We must not live on borrowed money...There is no easy remedy...We must balance our budget and maintain our credit."

He promised that relief expenditures, instead of being pushed off on future generations, would be included in his budget...that the State's finances would be put on a bona fide Pay-as-you-go plan...and that he would shave departmental costs $750,000. All these pledges have been carried out to the letter, in his tax levy plan which undoubtedly will go through substantially as presented to the Assembly. At the same time he gave assurances that there would be no additional taxes on real estate...no general sales tax or gross receipts tax... and no licensing of gambling devices. A bill, sponsored by the Governor and presented, provides that the State tax rate be kept at the present level, 23.35 cents per hundred dollars...the tax bill omits any mention of a sales tax or gross-receipts tax... and, while a measure to continue the licensing of pin-ball machines was iptroduced by a member, it has not the Governor's sanction, and is not likely to pass. The backbone of the Governor's tax-raising plans was a graduated income tax. However, as the voters turned this down, a classified income tax measure was substituted, and now promises to raise the greater share of needed extra funds.

Not content with having pledged himself to a 'complete reorganization of the State's Roads Commission on a non-political basis', the Governor, as one of the very first official acts of his regime, made a study of current State Road operations, issued an executive order stopping certain practices that were unauthorized, and ordered a complete study of the almost-completed purchase of the old W. B. and A. Railroad right-of-way, thus halting the purchase. In a measure prepared along lines recommended by the Bowman Commission, he proposed abolition of the present three-man board and substitution of a one-man control of the Roads activities. Whatever the outcome of pending State Roads measures, action of the Governor to date insures that he will watch closely the functioning of the Roads body, which in previous administrations has frequently been given most unfavorable publicity, and see that it measures up to his required standards.

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'Non-Political' Conservation

In the matter of conserving the State's natural resources, the Governor promised 'a thorough reorganization on a non-political basis.' To effect this, he had prepared a bill embodying the Bowman commission's recommendations. When it became apparent to him and to the leaders of the Assembly that this bill could not be gotten through because of objections among many of the senators and delegates to certain of its provisions, Governor O'Conor worked out a second plan which retained the essence of the Bowman recommendations while eliminating the objectional provisions, reduced the personnel of the enforcement organization by 57 persons, and raised the pay rate of the remaining 64 so as to attract a higher grade of enforcement officer. The very fact that the number of employees is cut almost in half, while at the same time the enforcement budget is cut $10,000.00 per year, would indicate that there was no thought of politics in its preparation, as politicians rarely if ever reduce the number of jobs available.

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Fee System To Go

With regard to what he considered another major 'sore spot' in State administration, Governor O'Conor had this to say about the minor courts of the State in his inaugural address: "Candor requires the statement that criticism and adverse comment concerning the minor courts have been justifiable..The fee system by which Justices of the Peace are compensated has brought about many abuses...The sooner we get rid of it the better'. He further pledged that 'For the Justices of the Peace in the Counties I should substitute one or more central courts in each county for the trial of such criminal and civil cases as now go before the magistrates. Judges of such courts should be compensated on a salary basis. At the same time he promised anew a complete reorganization of the People's Court in Baltimore City, with a view to eliminating politics and reducing court costs. All of these plans are realized in the County Magistrates' and Peoples' Court bills that will surely have his signature to enact them into law.

Thorough reorganization of the Coroners' system, pledged by the Governor, is provided by his bill which creates the new positions of Post-Mortem Examiners, placing the work on a professional basis, rather than a political basis as now. This bill, opposed by politicians generally, will likely pass now that the financial phases have been worked out satisfactorily by the Senate Judiciary Committee, under Senator Gorfine.

Creation of a Legislative Council, proposed by Governor O'Conor as an interim body that would make continuous, instead of spasmodic as now, the process of creating new legislation and checking on current laws, has been approved by both houses of the Assembly, and is an assured fact. It should improve immeasurably the legislative functioning of the State.

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Pay Raise For Teachers

In the matter of public schools and education generally, promises made are being carried out at high speed. The much-sought pay increase for school teachers is now before the Legislature, with no opposition, and undoubtedly will be enacted into law. Of particular importance to colored people, the proposal to take over Morgan College and run it as a State institution, long debated, has been brought to a head by Governor O'Conor's proposal to float a bond issue for its purchase. Educators generally long have felt that Md., was delinquent in its attitude to the higher education of our colored population, but nothing definite ever was done up to now.

Help for the blind, for the old and for dependent children are provided for in bills that are safely through or well on their way in the Assembly.

POLITICAL CHECKERS

Last Fall's elections shuffled-up the two old political parties, and the new political baby of the La-Follettes and other ambitious minorities haven't been heard from since. But, in Washington, the New Deal, the stand-pat Democrats, the old-liners and the progressive Republicans are hot competitors in the political checker-game.

Instead of plowing all his men down through the middle of the political checker-board the President divides his forces and is driving not only through the middle but on both sides of the board toward the double-corner and the king row.

The First Lady of the Land thinks that "the greatest dangers to democracy are apathy, a lack of personal responsibility and an inability to look courageously at the world." This opinion appears in the March issue of The Democratic Digest, publication of the Democratic National Committee, in answer to a question asked by Mrs. Wilbur W. Hubbard, Washington, D. C., as to whether propaganda, exaggeration, and misrepresentation are the greatest dangers to democracy. Mrs. Roosevelt says: "Propaganda, exaggeration and misrepresentation are all dangers but not the fundamental dangers. They become dangerous because people are indifferent and cowardly."

The President's wife considers the minimum duty for good citizenship "to vote intelligently in the primaries and on election day." She further comments: "To do this requires a knowledge of the candidates and thought given to the fundamental issues at stake. One cannot be an expert on many questions but one can know what qualities the candidates for any public office should have, and through personal contact or by letter, citizens can let those representatives know what they expect their attitude to be on fundamental questions."

It's a skillful, many-sided match, and those who have watched the plays for the last eight weeks are still wondering who will win this tournament that ends at election time in 1940.

in the Spring a young woman's fancy turns to carefree cooking Electrically

More time to be outdoors . . . away from the kitchen! That's the normal wish of every woman of all ages. Today electric cooking is the answer —it fulfills the wish. For, the modern electric range cooks FAST; the oven cooks automatically; and all methods of electric cooking are cheap! ● Come in and see 1939 Hotpoint Electric Range. Among many improvements are Select-a-Heat 5-speed Calrod units; Duo-Speed waist-high broiler unit with two broiling speeds (fast and slow); three utility drawers; shelf-type oven door; rounded corners and edges. Let us give you complete details of this marvelous range.

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Live Electrically and Save

U. S. EXPERT URGES WARM DAIRY BARNS

That insulated dairy barns are essential for sustained milk production is indicated by findings of M. A. R. Kelley of the United States Department of Agriculture, reported in the technical bulletin, Relation of Stable Environment to Milk Production, No. 591. Mr. Kelley says: "The decline in milk yield was faster in the stables where inside temperatures fluctuated with weather than in those where temperatures were held nearly constant."

There are now over 40 million farm buildings, exclusive of farm homes, in the United States. While structurally sound, every farmer realizes that most of these buildings are woefully deficient in regard to temperature control and regulation. The dairy barn illustrated was just such a heat-leaking and drafty structure until cane fibre insulation board was applied to the side walls and ceilings. This modern structural insulation is highly efficient in heat-stop value. In the winter it conserves the body heat of the cows and thus offsets the sharp fluctuations of weather so common in the dairy sections of the United States.

These wide boards, with joints which meet on the framing members, also eliminate cracks and thus reduce drafts . . . an important factor according to Mr. Kelley, who says: "There was a direct relationship between excessive drafts and pneumonia. Risk of sickness appears to increase with the degree of exposure to drafts."

With modern insulating materials it is both simple and economical for the farmer to "tighten-up" and insulate his dairy barn, and take advantage of the savings which Mr. Kelley points the way to.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Unreality" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Churches of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday, April 2.

The Golden Text will be from Prov. 30:8, "Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither proverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me."

Among the citations comprising the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible, Psa. 27:1: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear; the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid."

The Lesson-Sermon also will include passages from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, among which is the following, page 329: "We must prove our faith by demonstration."

LORD'S PRAYER IN PICTURES

Rare and remarkable seventeenth century illustrations, reproduced in full color, picturizing the immortal prayer of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Don't miss this front page featrue in the April 9th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

Every one of the 266 clocks in the houses of Parliament in England synchronizes with Big Ben. It is one official's job to attend to this every day.