farm products, and other results for the farmers' benefit.

Governor Ritchie has appointed the Maryland State Drought Committee, composed of some of the most competent and representative citizens of the State, and has charged it with the duty of studying the whole situation and making such recommendations as it thinks will be helpful. This committee is now hard at work, and has set up an efficient local organization in every county. We believe that its report will embody constructive suggestions.

Many possibilities are being considered, such as ways and means for the extension of credit to farmers who are in need of it; the organization of regional or county Agricultural Credit Corporations in the counties of the State; further extension of freight reductions; the deferment of tax collections; and other important suggestions.

We pledge our party to a thorough, competent and businesslike handling of the situation, and to such remedial measures and policies as the conditions may show are called for, and as will be within the proper functions of the State Government.

**Labor**

The interest of the Democratic State Administration in the laboring man has been manifested in many ways.

The Workmen's Compensation Law has been redrafted and liberalized under the direction of Governor Ritchie and in cooperation with representatives of organized labor. The scale of compensation has been substantially increased, and the waiting period has been reduced from two weeks to three days. The scope and benefit of the law have been still further extended by sucessive Legislatures, and we pledge our party to such further readjustment in the rates of compensation as conditions may justify.

The present mining code adopted as an administration measure gave Maryland miners the benefit of the most modern and humane laws as to health and safety, and settled a bitter controversy between operators and miners which had been going on for many years.

Schools in mining have been organized in Western Maryland, and their excellence is recognized everywhere.

When President Harding, during the coal miners' strike, called upon the Governors of the coal-producing States to send troops to the mines, Governor Ritchie alone among them declined to do so, taking the position that the situation should be met by mutual agreement, and not by the bayonet.

**Maryland Coal**

In conformity with the legislation enacted with Governor Ritchie's approval by the General Assembly of 1929, it has been the policy of the various State departments and institutions of Maryland to purchase Maryland coal whenever possible, rather than coal from other States, and under the annual contracts recently closed by the Central Purchasing Bureau 45,755 tons or approximately 70 per cent. of all the coal which will be used in State institutions will be Maryland-mined coal. This is the largest amount of Maryland coal which has ever been purchased for Maryland institutions in any year.

Coal is a basic Maryland resource, and Governor Ritchie has assured the coal industry of this State, including owners, operators and miners, that if they will form their own responsible and adequate organizations for the purpose of rehabilitating the industry, then he, as Governor of the State, will cause such cooperation to be given as may be calculated to render sound and effective State-aid in the movement.

The State administration has also been manifesting its interest in the matter of reduced freight rates on bituminous coal from Western Maryland to Baltimore, and will continue to use its best efforts along this line for the benefit of the Maryland operators and miners.

**Unemployment**

We are fully alive to the seriousness of the present conditions of unemployment in this State.

The State Government is doing everything it possibly can to relieve conditions by extending the opportunities for State employment to the limit. All authorized road work is being done, and all authorized buildings are being built. Whenever possible we have anticipated appropriations and started construction even before the funds therefor have become due, and we will continue this course. The 1930 construction program for the State alone (excluding Baltimore City and the counties), amounts to more than $16,000,000. This is by far the greatest in our history, and it is giving employment to more people than ever before. We are using, and will continue to use, every effort to find additional work for those out of employment.

**University of Maryland**

The State University in all its branches and departments, both at College Park and in Baltimore City, has received the earnest cooperation of this administration.

A splendid building for dentistry and pharmacy has recently been completed, and largely because of the increased facilities thus afforded the Dental School has received a class "A" rating. A new building has also been provided for the Law School, and the Law School also received a class "A" rating.

At College Park a new chemistry building has been erected, and provision has been made for a girls' dormitory, a new library, a central heating plant, an addition to the engineering building, a horticultural building, and new roads are being built on the campus.

The General Assembly of 1929 provided for a commission to study the problem of higher education in this State, with particular regard to the development of the University Hospital. Governor Ritchie appointed a thoroughly competent commision to undertake this task, with Mr. George M Shriver as their Chairman. It is not yet known what the commission's recommendations will be, but our party can be relied on to give them the most sympathetic consideration, to the end that the State may discharge its full duty in this highly important field.

We pledge our party to the maintenance and continued development and extension of the University of Maryland in all its branches along sound and sane lines.

**Conservation**

The outstanding accomplishment in seafood conservation in this State has been the complete restoration of the hard and soft crab industry. The initiative in this task was taken by Governor Ritchie several years ago, and its entirely successful outcome has been due to protective legislation recommended by him, enacted by Democratic legislatures and concurred in by Virginia. The catch of crabs has increased 300 per cent. within the past three years, and the supply is now abundant.

Since 1927 the State has planted more than 2,000,000 bushels of oyster shells on various natural oyster rocks. The earlier plantings have been and are being successfully marketed, and the practicability of planting as an effective means of replenishing the oyster supply has been demonstrated.

The shad and other fish are being afforded protection during their spawning seasons; uniform fish, crab and terrapin laws have been enacted; new hatcheries, nurseries, rearing ponds and game refuges have been established; and effective measures have been taken for the propagation of game and various forms of wild life.

A thorough study is being made of the conditions which have caused the closing of the inlet at Sinepuxent Bay, with the purpose of ascertaining whether some practicable way can be found for the restoration of this valuable source of sea food supply.

We renew our party pledges for the continued protection of the oystermen in the free use of the natural oyster beds and bars, and we again pledge our party to the policy of shell and seed oyster planting to the end that such beds and bars may be cultivated and rehabilitated as may be necessary to maintain them for the benefit of the watermen of the State.

**State Merit System**

This service, inaugurated in Governor Ritchie's first administration, is recognized by civil service authorities as unexcelled by any other State, and Maryland stands second among the States in the percentage of positions which are classified under it. Practically every State position is in the classified service, except State Department heads, teachers at the State University and at the Normal Schools and seasonal road laborers on maintenance work.

**Central Purchasing Bureau**

This Department, inaugurated in Governor Ritchie's first administration, is operating smoothly and efficiently, and by means of its warehouse facilities and the revolving fund at its disposal it is able to effect at least a ten per cent. saving on purchases and supplies handled. This saving amounts to approximately $200,000 a year.

We pledge our party to a continuance of this agency upon a strictly business basis.

**Banking, Auditing and Regulation**

We pledge our party to provide increased facilities for the State Banking Department, made necessary by the remarkable growth of the banking business during recent years; to the support of the State Auditing Department in its efficient accounting supervision over the offices of the State; and to the support of the Public Service Commission in its policy, subject to the limitations prescribed by the Supreme Court of the United States, of lower rates and fares, and of improved service.

**Maryland National Guard**

The end of the World War left the States without any National Guard at all, so that the Maryland National Guard has been built up entirely since the beginning of Governor Ritchie's first administration. It is now in an excellent state of efficiency as to personnel, training, equipment, armories and other property. Its permanent encampment at Cascade is not surpassed anywhere in the country.

We pledge our party to the continuance of adequate financial support for the National Guard as an agency for the defense of the country in time of need, and for the healthful training and better citizenship of its members in times of peace.

**Veterans' Relief Fund**

This fund was provided primarily to care for Maryland veterans of the World War in cases where the Federal Government grants no relief or where Federal assistance must be supplemented. The fund has since been extended for the relief of vetrenas of other wars. We pledge our party to the continuance of such financial aid for this purpose as may be needed.

**Development of the Natural Resources of the State**

Believing that the agricultural, industrial, mineral and forestry resources of the State, including the vast resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, are capable of greater development for the benefit of the citizens of the State, the Maryland Development Bureau was created, and is being financially aided by the State, in order to conduct a comprehensive economic survey of the State, to ascertain what the assets of Maryland are, the extent and condition of their development and their opportunities for further development.

Upon completion of this survey the facts brought forth will be used, first, to examine and endeavor to correct, in cooperation with proper agencies, such conditions as may be retarding development; second, to discover and to point out definite opportunities for further profitable development of the State's natural resources and for the establishment of new manufacturing industries throughout the State; third, to take such positive action, either independently or in cooperation with other agencies, as will attract enterprises and capital, as well as the increased population necessary to effect such further development.

The resulting effects of the work of the Maryland Development Bureau will be to attract to the towns and villages of the State such industries as can profitably operate there; to promote greater use of the forestry products, the mineral products and the fisheries; and to enable the Maryland farmer to produce and market to better advantage farm products and food animals.

We pledge our party to the continuation of the work of this Bureau in the survey and development of the State of Maryland.

**Aviation**

The position of aeronautics, as one of the most important factors in transportation, is now assured. Maryland has played a leading part in the development of the industry, and because of its location and facilities is destined to play an even more important role. While much has been done in the establishment of airports by Batlimore City and in the counties of the State, a great deal still remains to be done, not only in the development of more airports and of private and emergency fields, but also in the proper marking of towns, railroad stations and arterial roads so that they may be quickly identified from the air. The Legislature of 1929 passed a comprehensive law for the licensing and control of aeronautics within the State, and the Maryland Aviation Commission is one of the first to be organized in the States of the country. This commission has taken the necessary steps to coordinate rules and regulations in this State with those of the Department of Commerce of the Federal Government, and is giving aviation operations careful supervision looking to the safeguarding of lives and property.

We pledge our party to such measures and policies as may be appropriate for the State to undertake in order to facilitate the progress and development of this great new field of industry and transportation.

**Chesapeake Bay Bridge**

We fully recognize the importance of closed communication between the Eastern and Western Shores of the State. The commission appointed by the Governor to consider the practicability of a bridge across the Chesapeake Bay has been at work for some time considering every phase of the question, and is acquiring the necessary engineering advice, traffic estimates and cost data, which obviously must be in hand before the State can be in a position to determine the advisable course for it to take in the matter.

**State Tax Rate**

When Gevorner Ritchie took office in 1920 the State tax rate was practically 36½ cents. With the aid of Democratic legislatures it has been steadily decereased ever since until now it is 25 cents. This represents a reduction, in the face of broadening activities, of practically 30 per cent., which is without precedent in Maryland for any year or period of years since the Civil War.

It is, of course, true that assessments have increased in different communities as values have gone up, but it is also true that before the present administration took office the State tax rate increased every year from 1910 on, whether the assessments did or not, and since the present administration began in 1920 the State tax rate has been going down every year instead of up, and the taxpayer has benefitted accordingly in his State taxes.

We pledge our party to the strictest economy in the administration of the State's finances and to the lowest possible tax rate consistent with the public interest.

**Election Laws**

Pursuant to Joint Resolution of the Legislature of 1929, Governor Ritchie has appointed a commission to recommend such changes and improvements in the election laws of the State as may seem desirable, and we pledge our party to a thorough consideration of these recommendations when they are submitted, to the end that any necessary or advisable legislation on the subject may be enacted.

The savings from the Fewer Elections Amendmeut, adopted in 1922, are estimated to be not less than $620,000 every second year.

**Baltimore City Police Department**

The people of Baltimore are justly proud of their Police Department. Since the beginning of Governor Ritchie's first administration it has been entirely reorganized and placed upon a metropolitan basis, and its faithful and efficient services are recognized everywhere. There is less reported crime in Baltimore City than ever before, and more arrests and more convictions than ever before This would not be possible without an alert Police Department, not diverted, as departments in other cities are, by the necessity of enforcing laws which do not conform to the convictions of the people, but free to devote their whole time to the detection of offenses which are everywhere recognized as crime.

In other great cities of the country there exist organized gangs of the underworld, engaged in commercialized vice, gambling, bootlegging and racketeering. No such situation exists in Baltimore. There women are safe and children are safe in a peaceful and well protected city.

The Police Department is the foundation of this situation, and it is appropriate to say that when, some years ago, a referendum was taken on the question whether the control of the Department should be transferred from the State to the City of Baltimore, the people of Baltimore voted the proposition down by a decided majority.

**The Courts and the State's Attorney of Baltimore City**

Recognizing the fact that the most certain guarantee for the protection of the public and the rights of individual citizens lies in the integrity and efficiency of the Courts of the State, is has been our aim and purpose to place that arm of the Government on the highest possible plane. In order to merit the abiding faith of our citizens in the administration of justice, the most conscientious and painstaking efforts have been employed in the selection of Judges.

Every facility and encouragement have been given to enable the Courts to function impartially and justly in the interest of our people. The results of our efforts have been so satisfactory, that the attention of the entire country has been focused on the Courts of Maryland.

In our metropolis, Baltimore City, under the administration of the State's Attorney, the safety of person and property has been secured to a high degree. This achievement has resulted from the energetic and successful handling of criminal cases, with the consequent reduction in crime and the number of its perpetrators.

Judicial Councils, Crime Commissions and other investigating bodies, upon observing the work of this office, have all, in the highest terms, commended the administration of this important department.

The recent report of the Judicial Council of California to its Governor and Legislature stated:

"In the Baltimore Courts, the trial of criminal cases follows closely upon indictment. A record for the prompt disposition of criminal cases has been achieved there which is surpassed by no other community."

After a nation-wide survey of crime conditions, Professor Raymond Moley, of Columbia University, announced that in Baltimore the per centage of cases in which criminals were punished was higher than that in any other municipality of the country. This noted authority decided that Baltimore, with one other City, was possessed of the most efficient prosecuting departments in the United States.

**State Rights and Prohibition**

The fundamental principle of the Democratic party has always been that over-centralization of power in the Federal Government and Federal invasions of the rights of the States are destructive of our form of government and of the liberties of the people.

The present system of National Prohibition constitutes a clear departure from this principle of government, and we believe that the necessary steps should be taken to turn the whole subject back to the States, so that each State may have the opportunity of settling it in accordance with the wishes of its own people. We believe that each State should recognize the principle of local option with in its borders, and that the Federal Government should protect any State against interstate shipments which would contravene its laws. In the meanwhile, we believe that the Volstead Act should be amended so as to permit the manufacture and sale of beer and light wine where permitted by local law.

As long as the Eighteenth Amendment is part of the Constitution we recognize, of course, that it should be upheld and respected. We are forced, however, to realize that the existence of the Volstead Act, supplemented by the Jones Act, has caused a disregard for law and order and a degree of actual lawlessness unparalleled in this country. Particularly is this the case in those States where the Volstead Act, lacking popular support, has, nevertheless, been enacted as a State measure. As long, therefore, as the Federal Government elects to interpret and enforce the Eighteenth Amendment in Maryland through the Volstead Act, we feel that the responsibility for such enforcement here should rest on the Federal Government alone; and we, therefore, believe that the task of enforcing the provisions of the Volstead Act should not be assumed by this State.

This does not mean that we depart in the slightest degree from the full recognition of the right of the people of the various political units of the State to secure from the Legislature and approve at the polls such prohibition laws as they deem best for the respective counties and communities in which they live. This is the Democratic principle of home rule, which has been many times exercised in Maryland. The Maryland Court of Appeals has held that the local laws thus passed and approved are still in force. While, therefore, we do not approve the Volstead Act as an enforcement measure in this State, we favor the strict enforcement of those various State local laws and such amendments thereto as may from time to time be adopted.

**Conclusion**

The sincerity with which the Democratic Party in this State has kept its pledges in the past is the best evidence that the pledges of this platform will be faithfully and fully kept, if our party is continued in control of State affairs.

Our candidate for Governor, Albert C. Ritchie, of Baltimore City, but a resident of Annapolis under the Constitution of the State is the unanimous choice of this Democratic Convention.

Our candidate for Attorney General, Thomas H. Robinson of Belair, for Comptroller, William S. Gordy, Jr., of Salisbury, and for Clerk of the Court of Appeals, James A. Young of Cumberland, are also the unanimous choice of the Convention.

All have served the people faithfully and well, and they are before the people on their records.

On this platform we recommend them, and the Congressional and local candidates of the Democratic Party who are running with them, to the people of the State.

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## Many Still Have Faith in Miraculous Wells

There are numerous wells throughout the British isles where the passer-by has but to breathe a wish or drop a pin or other offering into the water to obtain what he wants. From what was learned of St. Helen's well near Sefton in Lancashire, young ladies still continue to throw pins into it to find out whether their sweethearts are faithful to them, the dates of their marriage and other details on which their future happiness hangs, and this they learn from the turning of the pin to the north or to the south, possibly to some other point of the compass.

At Tober Kilna-Greine or the well of the Sun church, found a century ago in County Cork, when a marsh was drained, a spring was disclosed where, according to legend, a nymph of the well once lived. This woman had a gift for prophecy, and there was said to be a little wooden image of her there which would communicate with the people. Naturally, as this report spread, the people of the countryside flocked to the well. Three draughts of the water were taken by the pilgrims, three times repeated, and three times they made the rounds on their knees, thus making a circuit of the well three times. After each round the pilgrim laid a white stone, about the size of a pigeon's egg, on the ancient altar in the circle which was called the Well of the Sun. The revelry, dancing and drinking that followed led to the discontinuance of the observances, which were an example of sun worship surviving into modern times. The nymph of the well manifested herself in the form of a trout, but left when the well was desecrated.

## Points of Interest in Skeleton of Old Roman

Indications that the skeleton found a short time ago at Purley, England, was that of one of the brainiest men of his time, have been found by Sir Arthur Keith, the famous anthropologist. Sir Arthur declares that the man, at least, had much more brain capacity than he has. "The evidence of the skeleton fits in best with Roman dates," he said. "The skeleton is that of a man of about fifty-six years of age. The markings of the jaws suggest cooked food and points in favor of the skeleton being that of a Roman settler or the descendant of one. He was right-handed, but evidently not a manual laborer. I suspect the man occupied a responsible position in life." The skeleton is that of a person who, it is estimated, lived about 1,700 years ago. It was found 18 inches below the surface of a lawn, and near it was the skeleton of a boy about four years old, possibly the Roman's son.

**Century of Brilliant Women**

Whatever the masculine attitude toward her, woman (of the Sixteenth century) was playing a widening social role. She was beginning to look askance at the fireside and family wash, and at least to gaze beyond the threshold of her home. In all of which may be seen a Sixteenth century version of women's rights. It was a century of brilliant women; a mere list of their names is a bit dazzling: Marguerite d'Angouleme; Vitoria Colonna, Anne Boleyn, Catherine de Medici, Diane de Poitiers, Sir Thomas More's daughter, Jeanne of Aragon, and, a little later, Elizabeth, Mary Stuart and others.—From "Rabelais, Man of the Renaissance," by Samuel Putnam.

## Ancestry of Canaries Found Hard to Trace

Domestic canaries have been altered to such an extent by hundreds of years of selective breeding that their wild progenitors cannot be positively identified, states a writer in the Pathfinder Magazine. Their early history as cage-birds is obscure. It is generally supposed, however, that they sprang from a species of finch still found in the wild state in the Canary islands, as well as Maderia, off the northwestern coast of Africa. The wild birds in the Canary islands are grayish brown, sometimes varied with brighter hues, but they never have the beautiful plumage so common in the domestic varieties. According to the usual story, specimens of these wild birds were captured in the Sixteenth century and domesticated in Italy, whence they were taken to other parts of the world. Canaries breed freely with the European goldfinch and certain other species, a fact which leads some authorities to believe that the domestic canary is the product of interbreeding and not the descendant of any one species. In the United States the common American goldfinch or thistle bird is sometimes called a "wild canary." This species, of course, is not a canary at all.

## Oddly Worded Notices Recorded by Traveler

What is the oddest notice you have seen in London? There is one posted on a famous Holborn church intimating that "Cats must not be fed in the churchyard," says a Star writer. Obvious literal errors would probably be excluded from any collection, otherwise the sign over a creche at Clapham, "Children mended here," would claim a place. I saw in the window of a florist the announcement, "Customers' own gardens nursed," but this was not more awkwardly expressed than the offer of another florist to provide "Flowers and bouquets for weddings, funerals, and all other celebrations." On the day when I had been reading an exhortation to cultivate "the telephone mind" I went into a small post office in a southern small town to see if I could make a call. "Oh, no," said the old lady in charge; "We haven't got it here. It's in the principal post office. It 'ud be too near if we had it, too." Some cultivation needed there! Too few people in England seem to have got the habit of regarding the telephone as a necessary convenience of life.

**Stone That Floats**

There is no other instance in nature of the fusing of quartz in the absence of a flux, except by the action of lightning striking sand or a mountain top. Science has named this product fulgurite glass. At the crater there are many wonderful specimens of sandstone seemingly so fused. In some cases the quartz is fused into lumps of opalescent material, but more frequently the sandstone has been puffed up and distorted, owing to the steam produced by the water which was in the stone at the time the outer and very highly heated part of the advancing meteoric mass was in close contact with the rock. Innumerable water-tight cavities, as in pumice, were formed by the steam, so that large and small masses of this peculiar and most interesting sandstone will float like a cork.

**No Record of Wren's Work**

There is comparatively no evidence to prove that there are any spires on American churches designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Certainly he did not visit this country. Sir Christopher Wren was born in 1630 and died in 1723. Between the years 1670 and 1711 he designed 53 London churches. There are comparatively few churches in this country that were built prior to 1723. Among the early churches or meeting houses, erected in the manner of Sir Christopher Wren, are Christ church, Philadelphia (A. D. 1727); St. Philip, Charleston (A. D. 1733); St. Paul, New York (A. D. 1767), and St. Michael, Charleston (A. D. 1752), of which the probable architect was Gibbs, the designer of the Radcliffe library, Oxford.

**Famous Colonial Hall**

The trees on the front terrace of Carvel hall, at Annapolis, Md., are between 250 and 300 years old. They are ailanthus trees, the Chinese "tree of Heaven." No one seems to know how they happened to be planted on the front terrace of Carvel hall. They were brought from China in a sailing ship considerably more than 200 years ago. The house in front of which they stand is the Prince George street entrance of Carvel Hall hotel. It was built in 1764 by William Paca, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the third governor of Maryland.

**After the Unattainable**

"He's on a hunt for blue roses"—to say this of anybody is to indicate that the person referred to is on a quest for unattainable objects.

This is a rather colorful expression which comes down to us from the days when there was no such thing as a blue rose.

As a matter of fact, this was the case until quite recently. For it was only a few years ago that the climbing rose called "Veilchenblau"—violet blue—was introduced by the Germans.

Until the advent of this species of rose, the flower was cultivated only in he common varieties.—Kansas City Times.

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