

Ohio Can Furnish the Country "Everything"

From Presidents Down

By HOWARD EGBERT

THE commonwealth of Ohio, with its more than five millions of people, is a miracle state among the galaxy of states of the Union, for the service it has rendered both to the nation and to its individual population.

And it is probably because of the outstanding responsibilities which Ohio has assumed that generally it is proclaimed a pivotal state whenever national elections roll around to engage the time and try the patience of a country of more than one hundred million people.

But Ohio does not owe its reputation entirely to the fact that it is the "mother of Presidents," although truth to tell few commonwealths have yielded of their possessions so generously as has this one when the call for public service sounded in the land. There is always this to say for the Buckeye State—if the country demands a safe and sane man for the presidency on either ticket, Ohio is right to the fore with caliber of man which generally fits the office.

Primarily the state is largely given over to agriculture, although census reports of recent date indicate to what colossal extent manufacturing industry has taken hold upon the interests of Ohio. Some one has remarked with a considerable amount of truth that Ohio outshines all the states of the Union as a commonwealth that would be amply able to contribute to the comfort and convenience of its vast population, if by some miraculous manner the state were isolated from its neighbors.

Enough grain is raised within the farming districts of Ohio to feed half a dozen other states as well as itself. The iron and steel industries are gigantic in their development. Ohio's fruit crop annually is considered in national terms. In fact there is scarcely a thing about this commonwealth but that can be raised in plentiful supply should occasion arise and demand it.

The state has a governor elected three times to the same office who holds a commanding position in the national political situation—the Hon. James M. Cox, a newspaper publisher as well as a statesman. Singularly, too, the opposition party, casting about for a candidate for the presidency, has set its face toward Ohio and United States Senator Warren G. Harding, also a newspaper publisher, is prominently talked of in connection with the Chief Executiveship.

One of the measures which brought Ohio into the national limelight was the Workmen's Compensation Law, which has proved ideal alike to the employer and the employe. Here for the first time both sides of the long standing dispute found a measure upon which both could agree and in which both could find safety. Through the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Law workmen who are injured in the service of concerns of the state are recompensed for the time lost. Or if a fatality marks an accident the family of the workman is given a lump sum by the Industrial Commission of the commonwealth.

There is, too, the Mothers' Pension Law, which provides adequate reward for mothers left husbandless and with good sized families. This has been proclaimed nationally as the most humanitarian measure ever written upon the statute books of any state. It has been a measure of love from heaven to parents thus bereft of the bread-winner in the family. By legislative decree a certain percentage of the taxes in each county is available to keep the Mothers' Pension Law effective through the establishment of the necessary funds.

Child labor laws of a modern and constructive nature have been passed in Ohio for the purpose of protecting the lives and futures of children. In this respect the state has kept abreast of the times, and af-

forded to little ones who might otherwise have been cast into mines and other public industries, the necessary guardianship which always is needed.

Ohio operates under the Initiative and Referendum measure, which in the light of events subsequent to its passing has proved in every way a safeguard for personal interests and measures of statewide importance.

Perhaps no one thing that Governor Cox has succeeded in accomplishing for his state has stood out more conspicuously than the great prison farm which already has been started near London, Ohio. It was a "make man" policy which prompted this interesting experiment. And the success of this venture will go far toward determining criminal life in other states of the



GOVERNOR JAMES M. COX

On whom Ohio, "the home of Presidents," looks as a likely candidate for the presidency—or if you don't like Cox's politics, "there is Warren G. Harding, Republican," says Ohio.

Union. It is proposed at the prison farm to give the unfortunates every possible chance to make good, to reform. And the principle which will be utilized will not be the old-fashioned method of making men reform whether they want to or not, but affording to each person who comes within the shadow of the law the right to pick his own destiny henceforth. The new prison farm has placed Ohio in the front ranks of the states of the nation. There is a "Blue Sky" law in operation in Ohio which has been the pattern for many other commonwealths. Through the operation of this measure investors in Ohio are protected against fraudulent promoters.

One might mention, too, in passing, such efficacious measures as codification of banking laws and stricter

regulation of state and private banks with resultant increased security to the public, and which has permitted state banks to avail themselves of the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act; laws reforming judicial procedure in the interest of speedy trial and doing away with useless and antiquated

forms; election reforms, including the direct vote for United States Senator; a budget law and the elimination of the system long in vogue of creating deficiencies; unified control of the public works of the state.

Ohio, like all other states, suffered in the past from an inadequate school system. Governor Cox used to be a school teacher in a backwoods building in Butler County, where he was born. The lessons he learned both as student and teacher never deserted him. When he gave up teaching to enter public life he resolved that if the time ever came when he could put in a good lick for a better school system, he would avail himself of the opportunity.

The time came during his incumbency in office. Now the "little red school house" which could be reached only by mud spattered roads, has given way to the centralized high schools which dot Ohio from north to south and from the Indiana line on the west to the frontiers of Pennsylvania on the east. Millions of dollars have been spent on good roads in Ohio, linking up every section with the others and affording arteries of trade unequalled in the nation.

The tax problem always is a menacing one for leadership. But in Ohio it was solved on a common sense basis. Assessors are appointed in this commonwealth now which has resulted in placing on the tax duplicate millions in intangible property that had heretofore escaped taxation and which has served to lower the tax rate in every taxing district of the state. The state now owns a number of high-class farms, conducted in a business-like manner which pays the commonwealth handsome profit, supplies all state institutions and provides outdoor and healthful work for many inmates. The good roads laws of Ohio are models of excellence. They have created a system of state and inter-county highways under which each county receives state aid in building and maintaining paved thoroughfares. Governor Cox, always interested in prison reform, has succeeded in doing away with sweatshops in Ohio. Extra provisions are made for dependents of men killed in mines; contract labor in workhouse is done away with.

There is a minimum wage for women and a limited working day. Eight-hour day work obtains in all public enterprises.

Through the Workmen's Compensation Law needless litigation has been avoided and employers in the state now pay in premiums less than they formerly paid to private liability companies. This law in Ohio has been copied by more than three-fourths of the states in this nation.

Few executives of a state have had to contend with the manifold questions which Governor Cox has had presented to him. During his first term he saw the constitution of the state re-written, and had the great flood of 1913 to engage his time. During his second term he became Ohio's greatest "war governor." During the present term problems of reconstruction have taken much of his time. He has been the busiest governor Ohio ever has had, and he has been called to every state in the Union to describe working conditions of the constitution and the humanitarian laws which he assisted in such great measure in framing.

If a state's greatest mission, or its sole responsibility, is caring for its millions, of all classes and with a variety of temperaments, Ohio, it may truthfully be said, has measured up to every obligation. It is little wonder that the nation knows the commonwealth as pivotal in its usefulness and importance.

They Grow Large Potato Crops in Edmonton

To the Editor:

THERE has just come to my notice a copy of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT of December 27th last. While the number is replete with matters of absorbing interest, I was greatly interested in the article dealing with the Seabrook farm in New Jersey, and particularly in the illustration of the potato field which appeared on page 15, showing what 604 bushels of potatoes to the acre look like on the ground.

This is certainly an excellent crop, but I doubt whether the statement appearing under the picture, that it is a world's record, is in accord with the facts. The world is rather a big place; and when it comes to production from the land, Central Alberta must be reckoned with. I enclose herewith a photograph which I took myself on a farm just outside of Edmonton. I think you will agree that the potatoes are much thicker on the ground than in the Sea-



Edmonton claims this to be the record potato crop.

brook picture, and would run considerably more to the acre. Realizing, when taking the photograph, that this crop was an extra good one, even for the most fertile portion of Alberta, I urged the farmer, the late Mr. J. H. Cadogan, who is seen beside the row of diggers, to take a careful record of the exact yield. He subsequently advised me that he carefully measured off two acres of this field, the product of which he weighed on its way to his storage. He assured me that he got off these two acres just 89,166 pounds, which works out at just over 743 bushels to the acre. Comparison of this photograph with the picture of Mr. Seabrook's 604 bushel crop leaves no reason to doubt the accuracy of Mr. Cadogan's figures.

No fertilizer had ever been applied to the land.

Yours truly,
F. T. FISHER,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.