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FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1921.

A Matter of Judgment.

THE last word has been said in opposition to the proposed settlement with the railroads now before the Senate. It has come in the form of a letter from Mr. McAdoo, who as the first Director General, made the contracts under which the roads passed into government control. There can be no doubt as to the completeness of his information. There may be another viewpoint based upon it, or disputes as to interpretation, or a situation demanding some other conclusion than coincides with his judgment or the letter of the contract.

As a fact this statement by Mr. McAdoo has not one item of information not already known and discussed. What he gives is from public records. The conclusion as to what should be done, is his own; the expression of his business judgment. He does not, of course, hold that Congress cannot agree to the proposed settlement. He does not seriously contend that it is fair in its general terms. He does not seriously maintain that the amount fixed as due the railroads, is not a fair settlement. He questions it, but does not oppose it.

He gives the balance due from the roads as just what is agreed upon as in testimony at the hearings and merely says that "these expenditures were not forced upon the railroads." There has been no contention that they were and this has not been a factor in the agreement. He maintains that under the letter of the contract what is due the railroads should be offset against what they owe the government. No one disputes that this is so. His main objection to the settlement is that it is on a 6 per cent basis and that ultimately some of the weaker companies may not be able to pay what is granted them as a postponed debt. He does not say and would hardly care to claim, that any of it would be uncollectable, or more difficult of collection ten years from now than now, unless as an offset, especially as railroad security issues are now government controlled.

But he is distinctly mistaken when he apparently says, that the settlement will bring an "added tax burden" or that it will be "an added investment of the taxpayers' money." He is too familiar with financial methods not to know that this debt can be paid through the banks with the securities given by the roads for their debts. He also admits that such debts for equipment and betterments are customarily financed in this way in whole or in part with exactly such securities as the roads will give the government.

Indeed, Mr. McAdoo could have condensed all that is new, all that was not already in the record, all that has value or weight in his long letter, into the one sentence: "In my judgment the roads should not be paid anything, but all that is due them should be offset against what they owe to the government." In this sentence, also, he would have stated the exact issue. On this the President and all of his Cabinet, as well as the head of the War Finance Board and the present railroad control, disagree with him. So, it is quite evident, will a majority of the Senate, as does a very large majority of the House, as shown by the vote.

It is a happy omen that the disarmament conference is to start with an armistice. Here's hoping it ends with a peace that the Senate will not talk to death.

Back With the Folks.

CONGRESS has adjourned for thirty days after a session of four months. Most of the members will go to their homes and mingle with the folks. Godspeed to them, good fortune and no undue unpleasantness. They deserve this relaxation and renewed strength for the work ahead, not physical strength, but that of sheer mental integrity of which this Congress, as a whole, has more than the average portion. We trust they will be good listeners and not undertake to do all the talking.

Old Antaeus threw all comers until Hercules discovered that every time he hit his Mother Earth, he renewed his strength ten-fold. So Hercules picked him up and held him away from the source of his strength until he could break his neck. The source of every Congressman's strength is back home among the folks and to keep him here in Washington too long, breaks his political neck. But the thing to remember is that strength comes from the people. Our friends go home to get, not to take; to hear, not to tell; to listen, not to talk; to receive, not give.

This House has an unusual portion of new members. They have had a great experience. They did not have to wait thirteen months for it. It has come in this special session and they are as far ahead in their course as the old-time Congressman was when the time came for the next campaign. Among them are many very able men and a very high average of conscientious service. They have taken their work seriously, with a saving strain of humor. Among them is much of capacity for leadership and they have not been content merely to be led.

It is but fair to say, also, that no Congress ever met with so much expected and so many intricate problems. Reconstruction is always far more taxing requiring far more time and ability, than the emergency from which it comes. The work of Congress during the war, was comparatively simple. The real tasks fell to the lot of the executive division. About all Congress had to do was what it was asked to do—make appropriations in staggering amounts, and grant the Executive all the power and authority asked.

Inevitably this made a mess. It is like unscrambling the eggs. Enormous debts; enormous expenses; enormous expansion of activities; everything taken away from private control, and a centering of power which was akin to despotism. To untangle all of this, to get back to the usual, to restore the normal just in machinery; to make government fit into new world conditions; to reorganize government activities to suit new economic and social conditions, was not and is not a simple task.

On the whole Congress has done much and has done it well. It has much to do and gives good promise of equal sanity. Just now it is well that at exactly this stage of the work they should go back to the source of strength, regain touch, consult, hear, listen and get a really national viewpoint which does not exist in Washington, save as brought here.

The fortune inherited by Big Bill Haywood from the wife he deserted will bring glad tidings to his bondsmen. The rest will await his return to his apartments at Leavenworth.

The Latest and Greatest.

THE latest air disaster is the greatest of many. It is greatest in the deplorable loss of life, in the size and cost of the carrier and in mechanical and expert failure. The ZR-2 was much the largest dirigible ever built. It was along the plan and general design of the Zeppelin, but with greater carrying power and much larger. It was an amplification of the German airship, and a rather daring one-bite measure of advance.

It had several preliminary trials which developed weaknesses. It had been strengthened and according to report, the American experts had greater confidence than even the British in her staunchness. It was 700 feet long, a fragile envelope filled with inflammable gas and depended for strength upon many planes, wires and girders. She had been out thirty-four hours on this, her final test, and had a crew of forty-nine officers and men. The wreck came when about to land.

The key to what happened may be in that part of the report which says that she had just undertaken a sharp turn. In the earlier tests the full engine power had not been used. On this final test speed and engine power would be two factors given trial. It is supposable, then, that being under full speed, the sharp turn proved too much for her strength; she buckled and the inflammable gas in contact with the gas engines did the rest. She lies a tangled mass in the Humber River and all but a bare half-dozen, or less, of her splendid crew are dead.

The ZR-2 was built for the United States by the British. Why this order was given has not been explained. It probably needs no explanation. The British have had much more experience in the construction of dirigibles of this type than our own people. They had had the opportunity of studying the Zeppelins first hand. They were the better equipped in plants for the work and possibly, too, are somewhat less inclined to take chances. What were the faults may never be known. But the investigation is sure to be thorough and honest. It is not a British failing to whitewash, to shirk responsibility, or dodge their own faults.

But it would seem that before another experiment of like magnitude was undertaken, there or here, some other than an inflammable gas should be discovered as the sustaining substance. Construction and mechanics can still wait on science, as they always have had to do. Perfect what is known to be safe and wait for the superships until the lives at stake will at least have a fair chance of not being snuffed out in horror.

It may be easier for the disarmament conference to reach an agreement which the representatives of the six nations will accept than one in which our Senate will concur.

Show the Need.

THE American Relief Administration has moved into Russia. One of the first results will be to develop the extent of the need. Many reports have come out of that country. They are very conflicting. Some of them make a large part of Southern European Russia little better than a charnel house. Typhus, cholera and famine are hell's trinity. The world has been told that 20,000,000, or more, are doomed unless fed, and that even worse conditions will come next year unless that great area is provided seed grain and seeded.

The wonder is, if this is true, who is left able to plow, harrow and plant. But few disasters or calamitous conditions are as bad as is first reported. First stories are necessarily largely by word of mouth, and the spoken word under such conditions is prone to exaggeration. Other reports have a far more cheerful tone. The people are said to be ragged, underfed, but cheerful rather than despondent. The impression is of a widespread lack of food which will cause famine, but not actual famine conditions now.

When the A. R. A. gets into action, we will all know exactly the situation, just what has to be met and what is the demand. There may be a lack of complete popular confidence in even the most dependable correspondents. There is none in the A. R. A. They avoid sensations, deal only in facts and whatever they say, will be taken as 100 per cent correct not only in this country, but the world over.

The greatest value, if not the first—for of course such reports cannot be expected very soon—which may come from this American relief agency, may be this accurate and exact information. Until then the real size of the job ahead will not be known. It may be American size; it may be world size. It may be within the reach of charity; it may demand government action and appropriations by all countries. Whatever it may be, there seems a very unanimous intention to do it, wholly forgetting Bolshevism and persons. Any other spirit has no appeal to Americans as worthy.

A reduction in Federal taxes will help balance the increase in State and local taxes.

Brutalized Justice.

GEORGE BRANDON, convicted of murder, was electrocuted on Tuesday at Trenton, N. J. The verdict held him guilty of a double murder. When he entered the death chamber he tried to read a statement he had just written, declaring his innocence. He read but one sentence when he was seized by the attendants, rushed to the chair, his request: "Let me finish" unheeded, was bound and the switch turned.

A more brutal and wholly heartless spectacle, a more hopelessly degrading episode could hardly be imagined. The worst of criminals could hardly have been more ruthless. No one can complain that a reprieve had not been granted; as to that the governor's judgment must control. Whether or not there should be capital punishment is a mooted question. As for The Herald, we do not believe that taking life is a preventive of crime.

But that a man facing death, assured that death is his portion, having no hope of clemency, should be refused the right of statement, whether as to guilt or innocence, and should be roughly hurried to his death, is more than shameful. It is the mob spirit in legalized action. New Jersey has electrocuted thirty-seven convicted of murder. This was the first of the condemned to attempt a final statement. It would seem that electrocution does not improve the better and nobler part of those charged with the execution of the sentence.

New York City Day By Day Impressions

By O. O. McINTYRE

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Thoughts while strolling around New York: Marceline, the clown. The stern visage of the harlequin. The tea room at noon. Bright with chintz and wicker and rosy shaded lights. A window filled with parakeets. Eddie Ellis, who plays stage villains. A street of moving picture employment bureaus. Extras huddled about the bulletin boards.

Chorus girls hastening nowhere. Mottled butterflies. An exploding tire. Faces blanch and a woman screams. Nerves rubbed raw in the incessant whirr. Wonder what a Russian wolf hound thinks when he sees a Pom? That Chinese girl has her hair bobbed.

Idlers are now clustering along the avenue. Eyeing women and indulging in hedge and highroad talk. The only cure is a few good smacks on the coco with a cop's baton. Mrs. Leslie Carter's car. At least her name is on the door. How she used to tear passion to tatters! And I was always in the gallery whistling through my teeth.

A yard full of statues. Don't suppose anyone ever steals a statue. A Swedish poet, dripping with dactyls. Striking musicians lounging around the movie palaces. I could never blame a piccolo player for striking. He's worth whatever he gets. There goes Eddie Gantor. He isn't working either. Whenever I feel the tiniest flash of energy I want to write a play—and never have.

Late afternoon on Fourteenth street. Red cheeked girls leaving the factory lofts. Jaunty souls who find life too serious to take too seriously. Old Russian men in black skull caps and eyes that tell of hopes burned away completely. The curb hawkers make their pitch. Always a card trick or a bit of magic to lure the crowds.

Yiddish newspapers with their yellow-journal headlines. The cheap restaurants brighten. Women begin their nightly patrol along the paves. The medical museums turn on their jazz records. Rubberneck wagons roll up to the corners. Each has two or three "decoys" who patiently wait until the wagon is filled.

The first red glow of Madison Square tower, heralding the quarter hours. In the park the wanderers are selecting their bench beds. Lovers mount the spiral stairs to the Fifth avenue bus tops. Hunger assails me. And there's a sign: "Home Cooked Dinner—$2.'

They sat way down in front in a movie palace. The fair companion was evidently bored at his lack of conversation and asked him if he ever could bring himself to murder anybody.

"Well, now you've asked me a big question," he replied.

Two of the biggest song hits of the season, it has been discovered, owe their originality to McDowell's "To a Wild Rose" and an old Chopin waltz. Tin Pan Alley doesn't deny it. And there is no way to stop them.

On Forty-Third street a big bicycle store, whose annual rental is a big fortune, has been opened. The owners believe that the bicycle is gaining a new popularity. Indeed many workers are riding to work on them and in the suburban villages nearly every home has a bicycle. Patchogue, L. I. has organized a bicycle club and the members are taking week-end trips exploring Long Island.

A shimmy dancer has just decorated a large apartment in the neighborhood of the Winter Garden. There are purple couches, lavender satin draperies and pink satin bed coverings. The living room is a blaze of red and the bath of blue tile. She gave a house warming one day last week which lasted long into the night. At noon she received a telegram from one of the guests. "Party a great success" it read, "but you should have had one room done in dark brown. It would match my mood today."

Horoscope For Today

What the Stars Indicate

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1921.

Ill omens attend this day, according to astrology.

The Sun, Mars, Mercury, and Uranus are all in malefic aspect.

During this sway there is likely to be difficulty in concentrating the mind on important matters, and the nerves may be unduly sensitive.

The Sun is held to have power, during this configuration, to encourage arrogance on the part of those who have tasted success or prosperity.

By this sign it is wise to defer asking favors or seeking the support of men or women whose influence is desirable.

Those who need employment should defer any effort to obtain work until the stars are more kindly in their influence.

Mars forecasts dissatisfaction and unrest among military men. Service of some sort seems to be indicated for them.

Strikes and riots may be precipitated through an untoward incident.

Newspapers are to publish reports or rumors that inflame the public mind at this time.

There is to be a conjunction next month that, rising in Constantinople is read to foreshadow the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire.

Since the idea peace must become firmly fixed in the human consciousness, the seers declare that disarmament will be a slow process, but it will be the final attainment of a world that then will begin to be civilized.

Educational troubles will be much discussed and there will be reforms in public school management in many cities.

Persons whose birthdate it is may have a year of hard work. Changes will not be successful.

Children born on this day may be restless and fond of travel. These subjects of Virgo may be very gifted, but they must be trained to habits of order and system.

WHEN MR. LLOYD GEORGE STARTS FOR THE CONFERENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

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Open Court Letters to The Herald

The Herald has found that certain writers sign fictitious names as their own. In a few instances we find these have escaped our notice. We will hereafter require not only the name but the directory address. The Open Court must not be abused. It is for fair, impersonal, informative discussion and statement of opinion.

The Lee Family.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

There appeared in the Open Court column of The Herald on Tuesday, August 16, an article relating to the Lee family and Arlington.

The following sketch, which has been written from official data and statistics obtained at the Congressional Library, will in all probability be of interest to the readers of the Open Court column of The Herald:

In England, prior to the middle of the eleventh century, names were entirely unknown, and about the year 1050 began the custom of using surnames, but it made way so slowly that even at the close of the twelfth century it had not diffused itself beyond the ranks of the higher nobility.

The name of Lee is of common origin with Legh, Lea, Leigh, Lye, Lega, Lege, Lehe, Leyra, Leighe, Lighe, Lyghe, all derived from the Saxon "lay" or "leah," meaning "the pasture place."

In names of British origin it is spelled Lee, and the earliest of the name were called "de lee" or "at lee."

In giving references to the Lees emigrating to America, it would seem useless to make mention of the many who came between 1700 and 1800.

The family of Lee is one of the most ancient (A. D. 1066 to 1302) in the records of the English peerage and its genealogy can be traced back to the earliest history of our own and mother country. In the eleventh century we find the name of Launcelot Lee, Loudon, France, an honored associate of William the Conqueror, going over to England with the chieftain and distinguishing himself at the Battle of Hastings.

The Lee family of Virginia is the youngest branch of the oldest families of England. Launcelot Lee, the founder, came originally from Loudon, France.

(A. D. 1714 to 1756). The Hon. Thomas Lee, fourth son of Richard Lee, is given us in history as one of the most prominent men of the early times of Virginia. Of the exact date of his birth and early life there is no record. He was the first native governor of Virginia under the British government, and so popular was he in England that having suffered a severe loss by fire Queen Caroline sent him a large sum of money from her private purse, with an autographed letter. Thomas Lee married Hannah Ludwell, daughter of Col. Phillip Ludwell, of Green Springs, Va., president of the council. She was granddaughter of old Phillip Ludwell, the first of that family in Virginia.

Richard Henry Lee, the great political leader, was born at Stratford, on the banks of the Potomac, on January 10, 1732, the year of the birth of George Washington, and scarce a month before that event. He completed his academic education in England, and at an early age returned to Virginia, where he pursued his studies until the year 1755, when he raised a company of volunteers in aid of Gen. Braddock. At the early age of 25 he was appointed a justice for his county, a position which then was rarely given to one of his years. Richard Henry Lee was twice married. His first wife was Miss Aylett; his second, Miss Pinkard.

(A. D. 1756 to 1818). Gen. Henry Lee, the first son of Henry Lee, of Stafford, was born at Leesylvania, Prince William County, Va., January 29, 1756. Gen. Lee was educated in this country. At an early age he was intrusted with the management of the family estate. In 1776 he was appointed captain of a cavalry company, with which, under the command of Col. Beard, he joined the provincial army under Washington. In the fall of 1786 he was sent as a delegate to Congress from Virginia.

Robert Edward Lee was born at Stratford, Westmoreland County, Va., on the 19th of January, 1807, in the same room in which two of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were born, namely, Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee. He was the fifth child of Henry Lee, the celebrated "Lighthorse Harry." Robert E. Lee was admitted to the West Point Military Academy, 1825, at the age of 18, and graduated with first honors in 1829, receiving an appointment of second lieutenant of engineers. On the 30th of June, 1831, Lieut. Lee married Mary Custis, daughter of George Washington Parke Custis, adopted son and step-grandson of George Washington.

In 1835 he was appointed assistant astronomer of the commission to determine the boundary lines between Ohio and Michigan. He was promoted to first lieutenant in 1836 and captain in 1838. In 1846 Capt. Lee was appointed chief engineer on the staff of Gen. Wool, in Mexico.

Col. Richard Lee, second son of Col. Richard and Ann Lee, was born (it is supposed at the Paradise plantation) in 1647. Like his elder brother, whom he succeeded in the estate, he was educated at Oxford.

He lived on a plantation known as "Mount Pleasant," in Westmoreland County, Va. At an early period he became a member of the house of burgesses, was subsequently for many years one of the governor's council. In 1680 he was appointed colonel of horse in the counties of Westmoreland, Northumberland and Stafford, and served (by appointment of Gov. Andros) as naval officer and receiver of Virginia duties for the River Potomac. During the famous "Bacon's Rebellion" he was one of the most active in the support of the government.

Phillip Lee, third son of Col. Richard and Letitia (Corbin) Lee, was born in Westmoreland County about 1691. He moved to Maryland in 1700 and was a member of the council of that province.

President Thomas Lee, fifth son of Col. Richard and Letitia (Corbin) Lee, was born at Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Va., in 1690.

Hon. Francis Lightfoot Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born about October 14, 1734.

Gen. Fitzhugh Lee was born at "Clermont," Fairfax County, Va., November 19, 1836. In 1856 he was graduated from the United States Military Academy.

Gen. George Washington Custis Lee, eldest son of Gen. Robert E. Lee, was born at Fortress Monroe, September 16, 1832.

Gen. William Fitzhugh Lee, second son of Gen. Robert E. Lee, was born at Arlington, Va., May 21, 1837.

Capt. Robert Edward Lee, youngest son of Gen. R. E. Lee, was born at Arlington, Va., October 27, 1843.

Mrs. Mary Custis Lee, wife of Gen. R. E. Lee, was born at Arlington, Va., on the 1st of October, 1808.

JAMES KEATING.

England's Work in India.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

In a letter of Robert Conroy that recently appeared in the Open Court, he denounced English rule in India and declared that one of the shocking conditions thereunder was failure to provide the people with proper means of educating themselves.

Acknowledged authorities, such as historians state that England has endeavored to educate the natives and has established schools and colleges for both rich and poor. Moreover, England has attempted to educate the girls of India, but in view of the native prejudice against the mental development of women, it is a difficult feat.

England has endeavored to develop the manifold resources of India. She has constructed bridges, canals, reservoirs, telegraph lines and railways. She has tried to protect from disease a population opposed to sanitary laws, although living in a climate favorable to the prevalence of epidemics.

"Perfidious Albion" has introduced into India European civilization, which has undermined many of the old superstitions and customs, particularly the ancient system of caste. She has prohibited observances to which the natives attached great religious significance. In fact, much of the misery in India has been owing to certain religious superstitions, customs and observances. England has forbidden the offering of human sacrifices to the gods. She has abolished the rite of suttee—the burning alive of a woman on the funeral pyre of her husband. She has endeavored to stop the slaughter of female infants and made infanticide a crime. An act has been passed which removes legal obstacles to the marriage of Hindu widows. The marriage of girls of 8 and 9 years of age to men has been prohibited. England has also endeavored to make it possible for native women, when ill, to be attended by a physician of their own sex. Owing to a peculiar masculine belief in India, millions of women in that country have suffered and died because it was considered improper for them to be attended by male physicians. It was chiefly to the efforts of an English woman that the women of India finally received medical aid, inasmuch as Lady Dufferin, during the vice royalty of her husband, urged that women missionaries be given medical training.

In considering the matter of English rule it should be borne in mind that when England assumed the administration of the affairs of Egypt it was a wretched land under the rule of the Sultan. Among the improvements made by England was the construction of railways and of an irrigation dam across the Nile, which greatly increased the agricultural capabilities of Egypt.

MARION E. USHER.
Washington, D. C.

Hell and Electricity.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Goliath may say the soul is the soul, but I would rather have the opinion of a 10½year-old newsboy than the opinion of Goliath or any of his contemporaries. Tell us what the mind of an ant is and you have solved the problem of the soul. And tell us why a Hebrew myth is more valuable than a Hindu myth.

I once walked through a theological school and also took a few lessons from a horse, so I am as well equipped as anybody to penetrate the future and this is what I see:

The mind continues to live conscious and happy. This is heaven, beautiful, delightful, heavenly. The evidence may be scanty but no one can disprove it. It is as reasonable as any other doctrine and nothing but good can come from preaching it. So heaven is the goal of every mind.

Consequently there is no hell—no eternal punishment. The author of this doctrine, although the greatest scoundrel that ever lived, does not deserve eternal punishment himself. William Hohenzollern does not. The men who teach this infamous doctrine must be lineal descendants of its author. Let preachers quit harping on the love of God about which we know nothing and can never know.

Let them unite in a holy war on hell and oust it from civilization. We look back in horror on the religious history of the Middle Ages. Some day the "New Zealander on the ruins of London" will be astonished that hell and electricity were contemporaneous.

J. W. SNAKEHUNTER.

Washington and Music.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Why do Washingtonians not appreciate music? I attended a concert at Judiciary Park Monday evening, the night was ideal, the music and program excellent, the conductor and musicians gave their best, the attendance was not so numerous but that the park police could have subdued the raucous voices of the women discussing their family affairs and the noisy games of the children in full swing during the performance, had they made the slightest effort. As it was, the few music lovers were obliged to leave as the hubbub and noise made the enjoyment of the concert impossible. If Washington has no ear for music, why not?

A. E. HAUPT.
Washington, D. C.

The Daily Time Signal.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

I notice in your paper an article, the second concerning a daily time signal, to be made by the power companies turning down or off the lights. This turning down or off occurs so frequently by accident, I would beg or suggest that it not be done intentionally.

WILLIAM BIGGINS.

THIRTY FLEE FIRE ON IRONING BOARD

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Thirty persons, trapped on the fifth floor of a burning tenement house here, were piloted to safety over a thin ironing board, six inches wide at one end and nine inches at the other, which was held on the edge of two roofs, while the endangered people, among them a woman seventy years of age and crippled from paralysis, crawled across. The helpless woman was pushed over by firemen.

Meanwhile, from below and adjoining windows, firemen sent up two walls of water to keep the rescued and rescuers from choking with smoke and to keep the flames from destroying their precarious bridge.

After it was thought everybody had been taken over, it was found that one woman was missing. Firemen found her unconscious on the floor of her bedroom and carried her over the ironing board bridge to safety. The fire attacked the stairways and escape was thus shut off.

The Herald Scientific Notes and Comment

Calendar of Meetings; Activities of Societies in Washington

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1921.

PATENT OFFICE HAMPERED WHEN NEEDED MOST.

Just when the industries of the country need new ideas that can be capitalized and commercialized, the Patent Office, because it is undermanned and underpaid, is far behind in its work of acting on patent applications and is holding up the establishment of new industries.

This was pointed out by Commissioner Thomas E. Robertson of the Patent Office yesterday when he explained the necessity of the passage of the Patent salary bill which has been pending in Congress since the middle of 1919.

"We are eleven months behind in our work," he explained. "Just since March 4, the number of applications unacted upon has increased from 43,000 to 52,000. This is due to our inability to hold the technical men at the salaries paid."

The chemical division of the Patent Office has had three different chiefs in a year, and five of the nine examiners of that division have entered the Patent Office since November. The average length of service of those five has been four months. This condition is more or less typical of the whole Patent Office.

While the salary bill has been pending in Congress the Patent Office has lost 169 technical men by resignation.

PROGRESS IN STATE FORESTRY PROTECTION

Never in the history of this country has there been such marked interest in forest preservation by State legislators as at the present time, according to officers of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. Thirty-three States have now provided for some sort of forestry activities, and twenty-five share in the Federal co-operative forest protection fund, allotted to States maintaining an effective fire detection and suppression system. Two others have applied recently for such assistance. Public backing of the movement to preserve the remaining forests from destruction by fire, and to put idle forest lands to work growing trees, is becoming widespread, and the effects of the popular demand for action is shown clearly in the State laws passed this year.

Pennsylvania, under the direction of Gifford Pinchot, the new commissioner of forestry, leads all States in forest activities. The biennial appropriation passed by the legislature and approved by the governor carried $1,870,000, an increase of $863,300 over the appropriation of 1919.

The Minnesota legislature was more generous with the State forestry board than ever before. A total of $275,000 for general forestry work was appropriated for the next two years, of which $125,000 a year is for the fire protection. For equipment of a flying field near the Twin Cities, $45,000 was voted. The provision was to meet the offer of the Federal government to furnish the service of twelve planes if necessary hangars and flying field were provided. While the primary purpose of this agreement is to support aerial mail communication, the planes will be able also to render effective service in "spotting" forest fires.

In California the legislature voted a substantial increase in appropriation for the State board of forestry, for the biennial period beginning July 1.

Other important State forestry legislation passed this year was as follows:

Bills for the compulsory teaching of fire prevention in public schools were passed by California, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. A similar measure was passed by the New York legislature but vetoed by the governor. New Jersey already has such a law.

Maine increased the annual tax on land within the forestry district from 1¾ to 2¼ mills on the dollar, the taxes thus collected to be used exclusively for protection from fire of the forests within the district.

Ohio passed a forest-fire law and appropriated $5,000 a year for two years for the prevention and suppression of fires.

Tennessee passed a general forestry bill and appropriated $10,000 for fire protection and $7,500 for general forestry purposes.

North Carolina increased the State appropriation for forest protection from $2,500 to $9,000.

In Louisiana provision for State control of all natural resources, including forests, was provided for by constitutional convention held early this year.

In New Hampshire provisions were made for leaving seed trees on cut-over pine lands, for restricting of the State for forest-fire purposes, and for compulsory forest fire-patrol on large timberland holdings.

Connecticut provided for reorganizing the State forestry administration and protection work, and for more liberal appropriations.

Several of the other State legislatures have also had forestry questions under consideration, which have made for progress, even whereas in Florida, no definite legislative enactment took place.

The Georgia legislature, now in session, has before it a bill providing for the appointment of a board to investigate the forest conditions of the State and to report legislation necessary to solve the forest problem. In order to arouse public interest in this important movement, a meeting of the Southern Forest Congress was recently held in Atlanta. It was shown that the lumber cut of Georgia has decreased 33 1-3 per cent in the past ten years, while the production of turpentine and rosin has fallen off 75 per cent. In the opinion of foresters, it will be only a few years before Georgia will take a place with the Carolinas as an insignificant producer of naval stores.

In only one State, West Virginia, was the forestry situation given anything like a setback. In that State, in reorganizing the forest, game and fish department, forestry was at first entirely eliminated and then, just before passage, an optional provision was included in the fish and game bill, by which the new commission can, if it wishes, expend not to exceed a fourth of its appropriations for forest protection.

W. D.