

Twenty-Year Fight Ends With Enactment Of U. S. Pension Law

The civil service retirement act becomes effective as a law on August 20, and there ends one of the most earnestly fought fights for legislation bettering the conditions of Government employes in the history of the Federal establishment. It was a fight actively extending over a period of twenty years, the ups and downs of which were little known to the present-day Government worker, although it will benefit more than a half-million employes.

Few are acquainted with the fact that as early as 1849 Postmaster General Jacob Collins, of President Zachary Taylor's Cabinet, formulated a bill looking toward the pensioning of civil service employes some day—and that day didn't come until 1920, seventy-one years later.

From that early time almost continuous efforts were made along the line of retirement, and since 1850 no Congress has met but many retirement measures have been presented. All, however, died in the committee room, none having the approval of the committee having them in charge, or possessing practicality enough to survive intelligent criticism.

MANY SCHEMES PROPOSED.
Bills proposing all manner of retirement schemes were offered. One of the first of these measures provided that 2 per cent of the salary of every classified employe who might so request should be held from his monthly pay to create a retirement fund.

Employes physically disabled in the service would, under this bill, have been entitled to retirement on 40 per cent of their salaries, while those who had served thirty years or more could be retired on their own application with 65 per cent of their annual pay. Employes who had reached the age of seventy, and had served ten years would have been compulsorily retired at the age of seventy, and voluntary retirement at sixty-five years after thirty-five years' service, at one-seventieth of the average salary for each year of service.

Still another measure attempted to solve the problem by compulsory purchasing by each employe of an annuity in a life insurance company approved by the Government. The preventing of super-annuation by providing that all persons over

seventy at the time of the passage of the act must be dismissed within three years, and that thereafter no person more than sixty-five should hold office, was the proposal of another measure.

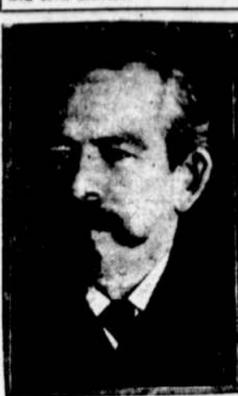
Age limits, amount of annuity, the cost to the employe and to the Government were points of repeated contention which no one seemed willing to agree upon, and disputes over them no doubt retarded retirement to this late day. Even under the Sterling-Leibach bill these points do not seem to be satisfactorily settled.

In this early period of the retirement fight employes realized most keenly the need of some feasible plan before they could hope for success, and the pioneers in the movement displayed the greatest intelligence and good judgment in their untiring efforts.

For the purpose of forwarding such a movement, and more especially for the collecting of sufficient data on which to base a safe, sound, and conservative plan of action, a number of employes, in 1900, organized the United States Civil Service Retirement Association. It was the real beginning of the battle for pensions which culminated in victory this spring.

LYMAN FIRST LEADER.
To this association much credit is due for the later success of retirement. The organization's first president was Charles H. Lyman, then appointment clerk of the Treasury Department. He succeeded in June, 1901, by Jacob W. Starr, who was the leading spirit on retirement for twenty years. If a history on retirement is written "Captain" Starr, as he

"CAPT." JACOB W. STARR, who worked nearly twenty years to secure enactment by Congress of legislation providing a form of pensions for Government employes in the classified civil service.



is more popularly known, will be given proper mention for his indefatigable efforts in behalf of pensions. Some of the early leaders in the retirement movement who are still connected with the Government service today are: Joseph Stewart, formerly second assistant to Postmaster General Burleson, and now assistant to the Attorney General on postoffice cases; Raymond Loranz, Interstate Commerce Commission; Pickens Neagle, solicitor of office, Navy Department; David D. Caldwell, Department of Justice, and Robert Armour, War Department.

The first meeting of the retirement association was comprised of a committee of seventy, each bureau chief having been asked to name five employes to represent his department. This initial gathering decided to tackle the task ahead of them at the bottom. They realized that the ground work would be the determining of the number of employes in the service, their age, aggregate pay and length of service.

HOSTILITY ARISES.
Fundamental as this was if an argument for retirement and a plan to work it out was to be presented, such data was not available when it was sought at the offices of the Civil Service Commission. So there was only one way to get this desired information and the association set out to gather it.

In this attempt their first opposition arose. Hostility toward the retirement movement was one of the big obstacles in the early campaign. The association planned to circulate cards among the employes which was objected to by officials from all sides. Undaunted, "Captain" Starr, and other officers of the association, sought the aid of Congress and were instrumental in having a resolution passed by the Senate in February, 1901, calling upon the heads of the various departments for information as to the age, salary and length of service of employes in their bureau.

Accordingly, 20,000 cards were circulated. There were about 36,000 Government employes in the District at that time, but it was difficult to determine who came under the civil service, of the cards sent out, 15,750 were filled in and returned to the association.

DISSENSION IN RANKS.
Opposition growing out of misunderstandings and a lack of familiarity with the purposes of the movement, continued to grow. This time it came from the employes' side. Many flatly refused to co-operate and attacked the leaders. Then the association had to weather a financial crisis. Although the dues were only 25 cents per month, many members refused to pay this amount and dropped out.

In the midst of many difficulties the association began getting complaints from the field where employes declared they were being discriminated against since they had gotten the impression that only employes in Washington were to be benefited by the proposed retirement legislation.

The loyal leaders kept plugging away in spite of this strong crossfire and went ahead compiling their statistics, for the submission to the actuary so that upon the sound, commercial calculation of the latter might be based a bill which would stand the test of experience.

The sheets upon which the calculations were tabulated, if connected, would make a sheet seventy feet long with figures as close together as consistent with legibility. The vast amount of work involved in this tabulation was voluntarily performed by members of the Civil Service Retirement Association in the evenings at their rooms at 1423 New York avenue northwest, "Captain" Starr having given his evenings and practically all his holidays for three years to the labor of the association.

452 DIFFERENT SALARIES.
The cards gathered by the association disclosed some interesting information. In fact, it might be termed the beginning of reclassification. It was discovered that there were 452 different salaries paid by the Government, but that there were just several scores of these.

The next step was to gather information as to pension systems then in operation by private corporations. It was found that some corporations had already been pensioning their em-

ployes for more than thirty years. Some practiced private employment were seized by the association as an argument to Congress for the Government to follow suit.

After exhaustive investigations covering every possible angle, the retirement workers set about to draft bills. They had collected what they believed was all the available information on retirement then in existence, and they went to Congress with the feeling that every possible argument could be answered.

The work of the association was progressing favorably and to the gratification of all friends of the movement, when there fell a thunderbolt which for a time stopped the work.

ROOSEVELT HANDS OUT SETBACK.
This setback came in the nature of an order from President Roosevelt forbidding all Government employes from in any way attempting to influence legislation in their own interest. Members of the association were afraid to prosecute the work, but for a time they continued to contribute the 25-cent fee as dues to defray the expenses of the actuary and keep up the organization.

At last, in February, 1902, "Captain" Starr made a strong appeal to President Roosevelt for retirement, with the result that he was given permission to continue the work of the active committee of the association, but forbade any efforts to urge the adoption of their bill when it was framed in accordance with the data collected.

Some time later President Roosevelt facilitated the compilation of the necessary data. He issued an order to the heads of the various departments calling upon them to furnish to the Secretary of the Interior the date of appointment of each officer and employe, his age and length of service, and a statement as to whether the position occupied by him was subject to appointment by the President or was competitive, unclassified, temporary or subject to contract.

At one time there were eight retirement bills before Congress, all of which were, of course, rejected to be replaced by other measures which met the same fate.

THOUSANDS BENEFIT.
Finally, victory came in the Sterling-Leibach bill after all these years of persistent effort and personal sacrifice on the part of the employes themselves. The hundreds of thousands of Government workers who will benefit by the pension system which is about to go into effect unquestionably owe a debt of gratitude to the unselfish labor of the early pioneers of retirement as well as to the National Federation of Federal Employes and other organizations which took up the latter day fight and saw the measure through to realization.

Even after this long struggle the present retirement law seems to be

just the beginning. Everyone realizes that a more perfect law will some day be enacted—but victory has been won through the fact that the Government has finally recognized the principle of retirement at least.

AUTOIST SAVES DOG, INJURES FIVE GIRLS.
NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—In an effort to prevent his dog from jumping from

his automobile Charles W. Higley, of Brooklyn, lost control of the machine and, mounting a park in the center of the street, ran down and injured five small girls at play, police say.

According to a patrolman a chow dog was seated with the driver. The dog attempted to leap from the automobile. Higley tried to stop the dog and at the same time hold the steering wheel. The car swerved toward the small park in the center of the roadway.

Mme. Nellie Melba, famous operatic singer, and her granddaughter, photographed recently in London. The child is the daughter of Mme. Melba's son, Captain George Armstrong. Mme. Melba recently passed her fifty-third birthday.



Mme. Melba and her granddaughter.

IRISH NOT ALARMED AT COERCION BILL.
Sinn Fein Leader Asserts England Attempts to Rule by Naked Sword.

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—"The republic is ruling Ireland with all its branches functioning properly, while England is only ruling by the power of the naked sword," declared Lawrence Ginnell, Sinn Fein leader, in a country already trampled upon by the military, it will not materially change conditions. I want the bill read by the people of this country because it is inconsistent with human liberty.

HERE FOR HIS HEALTH.
Ginnell is in this country for the improvement of his health which has become greatly impaired through confinement in British prisons. He has been in this country for three weeks and gradually as his health improves, he will give of his time to aid President De Valera of the Irish Republic in the campaign for American recognition.

Ginnell's stormy career in the House of Commons has been reported often in this country. He has been imprisoned many times because of his stand for Irish liberty, the last time being in March, 1916, when he was released after a few days because his health would not permit of further confinement.

HAVE TWO GOVERNMENTS.
In speaking of the new republic, Ginnell said: "The people in America don't seem to realize that the whole Irish nation is now republican by a larger majority than Washington had when he established his new government. We duty elect representatives and have a government which is functioning in all departments.

Our courts, both civil and criminal, are ruled by both Unionists and Republicans, and the verdicts are carried out. Many land cases of twenty years standing in English courts have been settled in our courts without bitterness. We have our own police and our own judiciary. It is a strange situation."

Ginnell will remain in this city over next Tuesday when a reception will be tendered both Mr. and Mrs. Ginnell by the Irish Women's Council at the Hotel McAlpin.

Chandlee
8 Jar Oval Fruit Canner
\$2.98
Regular Price, \$3.50

Washing Machines
\$10.00 Hand Power, \$7.98
\$18.00 Hand Power, \$13.98
\$30.00 Water Power, \$22.50

The PALAIS ROYAL
ESTAB. 1877
11th and G Streets
A. LISTER

Perfection Oil Cook Stoves
2 Burner Size, \$16.98
3 Burner Size, \$22.50
4 Burner Size, \$28.50

\$2.50 Wizard Combination, \$1.49
\$1.00 Dust Mop
\$1.00 Oil Mop
25c Bottle of Oil
25c Dust Cloth

DINNER SETS, CUT GLASS AND HOUSEWARES AT GREAT REDUCTIONS

Fruit Jars and Canning Needs

MASON JARS		E-Z SEAL JARS	
Pints	79c Dozen	Pints	89c Dozen
Quarts	89c Dozen	Quarts	98c Dozen

Wire Canning Racks 1 jar size.....9c
2 jar size.....69c

Jelly Glasses, 34c Dozen
Good Luck Jar Rings, 9c Dozen
Parawax, 19c Pound
Mason Jar Caps, 29c Dozen

Screens and Screen Doors

Screen Doors	
Dark Finish	Natural Finish
2 ft. 6 in. x 6 ft. 6 in. \$1.59	2 ft. 8 in. x 6 ft. 8 in. \$2.35
3 ft. x 7 ft. \$1.59	2 ft. 10 in. x 6 ft. 10 in. \$2.25

Window Screens	
Metal Frame	Wood Frame
18 x 33 65c	15 x 33 33c
24 x 33 75c	18 x 33 39c
24 x 37 79c	

1,500 Dinner Sets on Sale Tomorrow at Big Savings

32-Pc. Dinner Set Gold Band \$3.48	50-Pc. Dinner Set Gold Band Pattern \$7.50	48-Pc. Dinner Set Dainty Blue Bird \$10.98	51-Pc. Dinner Set Rich Gold Border \$12.98	100-Pc. Dinner Set Gold Band Pattern \$15.98	51-Pc. Dinner Set, Pretty Floral Border \$16.98
100-Pc. Dinner Set Green and Gold Bor. \$19.98	100-Pc. Dinner Set Rose Border \$22.98	100-Pc. Dinner Set Medallion Border \$26.98	100-Pc. Dinner Set Coin Gold Band \$34.98	100-Pc. Dinner Set Dainty Border \$37.98	100-Pc. Dinner Set Nippon China \$59.50

Porcelain Table Tops

Your Choice \$3.39 Values \$6.50 to \$8.00

Change your kitchen table into a sanitary white top table at a very small cost. Be sure to bring exact size.

Complete Kitchen Tables With Porcelain Tops \$9.98

Electric Fans

\$12.98 8-inch 3 Speed Electric Fan
Guaranteed Universal Motor \$8.98

Oscillating Electric Fans

8-inch Size, Special, \$16.98
10-inch Size, Special, \$19.98
12-inch Size, Special, \$23.98

Nursery Chair \$1.69
Kleanwell Carpet Sweeper \$1.00
Wash Bowl and Pitcher \$1.39
Galvanized Wash Tub 69c
O' Cedar Mop and Oil 89c

Ball-Bearing LAWN MOWERS
16-inch \$10.98
18-inch \$12.98

Wire-Wrapped Garden Hose 25-ft. Lengths, \$4.89
Extra Heavy Molded Rubber Garden Hose, Any length, foot..... 19c

Copper Bottom WASH BOILER
No. 7 \$2.89
No. 8 \$3.19
No. 9 \$3.48

1,000 Pieces of Sparkling CUT GLASS

\$4.00 to \$5.00 Values \$2.98
\$4.00 to \$6.00 Values

All Handsome and Large Pieces Included in the Assortment are:

Footed Rose Bowls, Footed Fruit Bowls, Tall Six-Sided Vases, Ice Cream Trays, Covered Butter Dishes, Oval Orange Bowls, Handled Fruit Baskets, etc., etc.	4-Piece Ice Tea Set \$2.98	Fish Bowls 1 gal. 69c 2 gal. \$1.19	Cut Glass Fruit Bowl \$1.39	Cut Water Glasses 6 for 59c	Cut Glass Sugar and Cream \$1.39 Pair
	Colonial Water Glasses 6 for 19c	7-Piece Water Set \$1.49	Glass Fern Dish, Fernery and Tray, \$1.98 Complete	Cut Flower Vase 39c	Cut Flower Vase \$1.00

Toilet Paper 6 for 29c
Dust Pan and Brush 29c
Extension Porch Gate \$1.25
Japanned Bread Box 98c
Waste Paper Basket 59c

Water Cooler 4 gal. \$2.85 6 gal. \$3.48
Wash Stand 1.98
Metal Umbrella 49c
Black Iron Garbage Can 3 gal. 49c 4 gal. 69c
2-qt. Acme Non-Stoop Ice Cream Freezer 19c
Corn Floor Broom 69c

A Sale of Granite Ware

Tea Pot 59c	Coffee Pot 59c	12-qt. Water Pail 59c	Double Boiler 59c	Slop Pail \$1.89
Sauce Pan Set 39c	Tea Kettle 89c	Covered Sauce Pot 59c	Double Roaster \$1.69	

Sale of High Grade Refrigerators

Thermonor Iceless Refrigerators \$2.75 to \$7.50
Uses only air and water, no upkeep expense.

WHITE ENAMEL Bathroom Fittings
Values to 89c 49c Values to 89c

Wall Soap Dishes, Stand
Scap Dishes, Tumbler Holders,
Paper Holders, Towel Bars,
Tub Seats.

Metal Ice Chest \$4.98	75-lb. Wooden Ice Chest \$8.98
60-lb. 3-door White Enamel \$29.98	70-lb. Apartment Style \$17.98
	80-lb. 3-door Porcelain Lining \$39.98

A Sale of Aluminum

WEAR-EVER

Aluminum Cooking Utensils
6-1/2 Inch Wear-Ever Cake Pan \$1.49
\$1.45 8-Quart Wear-Ever Preserving Kettle \$2.89
\$2.35 4-Quart Wear-Ever Preserving Kettle \$1.98
\$3.10 One-Quart Wear-Ever Rice Boiler \$2.55
\$4.70 8-Quart Wear-Ever Covered Sauce Pot \$3.48
\$4.80 3-Quart Wear-Ever Coffee Pot \$3.98
80c One-Quart Wear-Ever Pudding Pan 59c

Percolator \$1.49	Covered Cook Pot \$1.49	Table-Set 39c	Saucepan Set 95c
Collander \$1.19	Sink Strainer 39c	Aluminum Combination Utensils \$1.98	8 utensils in 1—rice boiler, colander, steamer, kettle, pudding pan, etc. Palais Royal—Fourth Floor.