

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE PRENTICE

mandate, because he will be 70 years old. CHIEF JUSTICE Samuel O. Prentice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut is retired tomorrow by constitutional Judge Prentice is in the flower of his intellect and well able to do the work of his court. But when the seventy year mark is reached the chance that a man will continue in full intellectual power decreases, and the rule, no doubt is wise. The weakness in the rule is not that it retires judges, but that it is not extended to reach the more important and difficult office of governor.

A test of the wisdom of a rule, or machine, for a rule is a species of machine, is the extent of its use; whether from the period of its introduction it increases in popularity, or decreases.

School teachers, police, firemen and other public servants are retired by compulsion at or before 70 years. The Federal government has a rule, recently made, that postal employes shall retire at 70. The rule affects some men who are still able to serve. Most of these men seek to be retained, but the government is enforcing its order inflexibly.

The judgment of the times clearly favors retirement at seventy, even though men are occasionally, or frequently retired, who have good work in them.

The discussion of such a rule is necessarily cold, although the foundation of it is in sympathy. But the affection which the people feel for Chief Justice Prentice is not cold. He had interpreted the law with reason and liberality. By his presence the Connecticut bench had a more human quality. The lawyers, whose causes he heard, were sure of alert attention, real and apparent.

Broadly speaking judges listen to pleas in three ways. Arguments are often drowsy affairs. Some judges seem not to listen, and sometimes do not. Other judges seem not to listen, but do listen carefully. Some judges listen with pleased attention, and present the appearance of doing so. Such a judge is a blessing to a pleader. He is thrice blessed to all whose business brings them into the dreary court room. Thus courteous was Judge Prentice, who was loved and will be missed.

THE RUSSIAN PERIL

WHEN THE armies of Republican France began their career in Europe, 425 years ago, they gathered strength as they marched. The peoples were miserable. They were weary of kings. The national spirit was not in existence, outside of England. France had just arrived at national spirit. Among the French it was a mighty force. When the Republican armies marched into Italy, into Prussia, into the little states of those days, they proclaimed the freedom of the people, and multitudes of the people joined the Napoleonic forces.

Woodrow Wilson used similar methods in the late war. He proclaimed the freedom of small nations. The Slovaks, the Lithuanians, the Jugo-Slavs, the Bohemians and others who were weary of Teutonic rule, did what they could to weaken the forces of the Central Powers, and the victory came earlier than it otherwise would have come.

Russia repeats the history of France. There is a burning sympathy for a new ideal. Russian armies are full of fire. There is a baton in every knapsack. One such soldier is worth two of the ordinary kind.

If Russia starts toward the North Sea there will be trouble in Europe and bitter trouble in the world. The Russian armies would march through territories where millions are in sympathy with their ideals. The Bolshevik power would grow as it moved, by the accession to its ranks of European socialism.

If the Russians are willing to go back to their own territories and stay there, let them do so.

Open the gates. Carry on trade. Let everybody forget war and become prosperous and happy. The enthusiasm for the new thing will not be so tremendous, when the last strange soldier gets out of Russian territory. The Russians will discover that the new machine also has its faults. They will be more tolerant of the defects in the old machines. It is time to end war. In failure so to do there will be awful things to face.

CLEAN MONEY

WITH KINDLY forethought the powers that have to do with the making and printing of the crisp new bills that many take a pardonable pride in using have sent out a letter advising that owing to the rush of work on the printing of the heavily embossed and couponed Liberty Bonds it will be some time before attention can be given to producing a fresh supply of paper currency.

To some who are inclined toward fastidiousness this will seem almost in the nature of a calamity but there are others of us who will still continue to welcome those rectangular pieces of green paper no matter how frayed their edges, how soiled their backs, or how obscured the portraits of the fathers of the country. It would even be possible to bear with a certain degree of fortitude almost any amount of "we have seen better days" appearance in them so long as the supply was generous and the purchasing power not altogether lost.

1620 — 1920

STRUGGLING WITH the H. C. L., pestered with political oratory and possibilities, and trying at the same time to keep the home-run record of "Babe Ruth" up to the minute, many have failed to note that a day in December next will mark an even three hundred years since the little landing episode at Plymouth, Massachusetts, which made the town and one of its rocks immortal.

What a burden the little Mayflower must have carried! Not only the band of "hardy and courageous navigators and colonists" that "on the great principle of just law and its equal application to all planted the seeds from which has sprung this mighty nation," but also that unlimited amount of crockery and furniture of which every antique dealer and collector in the country has at least a few pieces.

That the day will be fittingly observed is evidenced by the fact that a number of committees made up of prominent citizens have been appointed, one recently by President Wilson and now have the matter in charge.

THE MORTALITY FROM INFLUENZA

THE PERIOD from Oct. 1, 1918, to March 31, 1919, was the most deadly in the history of the country, not excluding the additions to mortality which grew out of the fighting of the Civil War.

The increased deaths from influenza doubled the ordinary figures. This assertion is established by the reports of life insurance and fraternal insurance companies, or societies doing

business in Connecticut.

Considering the seven months period, Oct. 1, 1918 to April 30, 1919, the total death claims resulting from pneumonia and influenza were approximately \$27,500,000. The normal claims from these causes would approximate \$3,400,000, leaving excess pneumonia and Influenza claims of \$24,100,000. This represents an excess of 96 per cent over normal death claims for a seven months period. The experience is from one of the large old line companies, and is typical of the experience of all the companies.

The death toll for the country was not less than 500,000, and was part of the price which the people of the United States paid for war. It is not necessary to rehearse here the proof that influenza was a war borne disease, nor that proof which establishes that plagues have usually followed great wars.

The Hardings and the Johnsons, the Brandegees and the Holcombs who assert that the United States is not concerned because Europeans engage in war, may ponder the influenza statistics of the Hartford insurance companies, with which Mr. Brandegee at least should be familiar.

Even though the United States did not enter the war, it would have induced the influenza plague which the war produced, and this plague caused more suffering and produced more deaths than the actual fighting caused.

Modern civilization is democratic. Its means of communication, its control of the forces of nature, are such as did not and could not arise except where men have attained to a high degree of freedom and a considerable intelligence.

Future wars, proceeding from the wills of more or less democratic peoples, will descend upon those peoples, upon civil populations as well as upon fighting men. The last line of the army is the old home town.

Plague was ever the method by which war was brought home to civil population. In the last war high explosives were added to plague, and in the next great war civil populations will be assailed with bombs and lethal gasses, not in the half hearted fashion of the late war, but in the vigorous and catastrophic style made possible by improved, and constantly improving air transport.

A world which cannot learn to settle its differences without war must continue to pay a bitter price to the school of experience.

HOW TO HANDLE RUSSIA

ARTHUR HENDERSON, labor leader in the House of Commons, is asking the Labor party of the United Kingdom to organize demonstrations against intervention in Russia and against supplying men, or ammunition to Poland. The Labor party in Britain is more conservative than the proletarian elements of any other European country. The position of Henderson may be taken as representative of British labor leadership, and this in turn of a more intense pro-Russian feeling in other European states.

The Russian movement is a working class movement, based upon socialistic economics, and opinions in which the European workers have been educated for more than forty years. The profound sympathy of the workers of other countries grows out of these common beliefs which they share with the Russians.

Since the socialistic movement designs to destroy the modern property systems, it is opposed by all who believe this system as the best for society and for progress, and these are more influential if not more numerous.

Should, then, the conservatives of Europe, adopt the advice of Mr. Henderson, or should they continue their efforts to crush the Russian government, even at the cost of another great war?

Most students believe that it would be better to let Russia work out its own destiny, even by means that are not satisfactory to other governments.

The Russians assert that they have certain social methods, inventions, machinery, so to speak which will work better than the methods in common use.

There are many inventions, numerous machines, some of which are improvements over old machines, many are not. The better machines survive, and the useless ones are abandoned.

When the Russian condition is viewed as a proposal to install a new machine, the way to deal with it becomes plain. Let them try it. See how it works. If it works well others will try it. So far it hasn't worked well.

It is true that if the Russian experiment in socialism succeeds, the example will extend, but Russian socialism will not extend to other countries one half so fast by peaceful propagation as it will by war.

Of the victorious countries not a single one has gone over to socialism. Of the defeated countries, every one is in the control of socialistic governments, or in active motion toward such control.

But war, by its nature and essence, was rapidly socializing property in the allied countries. Every sort of property was rapidly falling into public control and management. Had the war lasted another four years little would have been in private control. Should there be another war of magnitude and duration private property might disappear, and civilization, with it, perhaps.

Treat the Russian invention, like any other invention. Let them try it. To fight over it is to hasten the very catastrophe which it is desired to avoid.

REFORMING THE SPECTRUM

REV. WILLIAM GERRISH, head master of Magdalen college, Lincolnshire, England, who manages a school for girls, orders them to cover their necks. Neither must they bob their hair, or he will expel them. The male mind is often a queer thing. It varies with the section of the world in which the owner lives. In China it used to be quite indecent for women to have normal feet. In the Orient it is not modest for a woman to show her face. Women in the Turkish fields at work, seeing a man coming, will cover their faces with their skirts. In some parts of America it is supposed that a woman must not have legs, and if she has them and takes them into the water with her she must swathe them in suitable fabrics. Head Master Gerrish has the distinction of adding bobbed hair and necks to the things which women must not have, or show.

Most of the immodesty is in the minds of the men, who by failing to discipline their own thoughts, paint neighboring objects with their color of their own mentalities.

A person who is color blind does not demand changes in the solar spectrum to accommodate his idiosyncrasy. Neither should the head master of a girls' school demand impossible changes in the dress of women, because he is modestly blind.

BOOM IN LIFE INSURANCE

GOOD TIMES, the lesson of influenza mortality, and the stimulus given by government insurance, with some minor reasons, have produced a boom in life insurance.

Fraternal and old line companies have experienced the benefits of insurance enthusiasm in about equal proportions.

During the first six months of 1919 the old line companies increased business written, 78.9 per cent, which was more than three times the increase in 1917. The fraternal companies almost doubled the business written in 1918 which was a slow year.

Fraternal insurance in Connecticut shows a vigorous growth in all directions, and is the stronger because in recent years its methods have been brought into conformity with the best actuarial experience.

Fraternal societies doing business in Connecticut disbursed for death claims and other benefits, in 1919, \$81,998,205.48.

For commissions, fees and salaries of deputies, organizers and managers and for salaries of officers, trustees and committees these societies expended \$5,120,373.34.

The old line companies, excluding industrial companies, paid their policyholders \$502,259,803.70.

They paid for commissions, salaries and fees \$106,670,694.25.

That is to say the annual charge for fees, etc., in the experience of fraternal companies was one-sixteenth of the benefits paid, and for old line companies, somewhat more than one-fifth of the benefits paid, a very marked showing in favor of the fraternal companies.

The industrial companies, those which issue very small policies, and make weekly, or monthly collection of instalment premiums, paid \$160,378,142.37 in benefits and disbursed \$91,027,448.96 for salaries, commissions and fees.

Where as fraternal societies pay but six and two-thirds cents in fees, commissions and salaries for each dollar of benefits annually disbursed, and the old line companies about twenty cents, the industrial companies pay out 60 cents.

Here is a waste of considerable magnitude, which is charged against those least able to endure it. A remedy is to some extent in sight. Factory insurance, such as a number of progressive Bridgeport concerns are buying, pretty completely solves the problem for a portion of the people. The same, or similar methods ought to be extended to cover the entire number of those purchasing industrial insurance.

BRITAIN, FRANCE AND RUSSIA

HISTORY REPEATS itself, with modifications. When France formed a republic, some 425 years ago, Great Britain and Holland made a coalition against the tri-color, and began the fighting which lasted for thirty years.

The French armies became the best in the world. They had in Napoleon the strongest commander, since Caesar's day. The men under Napoleon were superior in genius and talent. It took all the rest of Europe three decades to crush the French power, and restore the Bourbons.

The leadership of the French army was drawn from the plain people. There had been nothing like it in Europe, since the time of Cromwell, whose victorious army, fighting a civil war against the British king, was commanded by shoemakers, tailors, fine drapers and the like, men who beat the nobles and aristocrats of England on every field.

Russia seems to be building up a similar army, similarly led, by talent drawn from the bosom of the Russian people. But events are more favorable to Russia, than they were to Napoleon.

Napoleon had to fight the whole of Europe, and had less than thirty millions of people to do it with. Russia has 178 millions of people, and the latent support of Germany and the countries that sympathize with Germany. The Russians fight with burning enthusiasm, the enthusiasm of men who have a cause in which they believe.

France in the early days fought for her life. It was afterward, under the imperial Napoleon, that she fought for conquest as well. Russia fights for self preservation. The Soviets, whatever their demerit in other things, have always desired and offered peace. By the desire of the Allies civil war was begun against them and supported. They crushed the civil war. By the desire of the Allies poor little Poland was sent against Russia, only to be crushed.

Now Lenin knocks at the gates of Warsaw, and the French and British are preparing divisions for the Polish aid.

Men perhaps are but the puppets of race instincts, which move them as bees swarm, without regard to their individual wills. But if human reason has authority over European affairs, it seems little less than madness to begin new wars, and it seems somewhat worse than error that the old war should not have been terminated, with peace for Russia, as well as for the rest of the world.

It is said by some that better conditions would exist, if America were in the League of Nations. It is difficult to know whether this would be so. That water has not run over the wheel.

At least it can be said that, the race having failed to agree upon permanent peace, is in dire danger of more and vast war, which, coming, may shake civilization to its foundations.

LAW AND ORDER IN HUNGARY

IT IS WITH difficulty the truth can be culled from the conflicting news which comes from Central Europe. Some assertions are a repetition of rumor, some are the misrepresentations of groups with policies to promote, and some are exaggerations of crimes actually committed.

Bela Kun, a Bolshevik lifted momentarily to the headship of Hungary, was displaced, and succeeded by a Democratic type of government. There was a Red terror, which was not nearly as red as it was painted. After Bela Kun's deposition, there was a white terror which seems to have swelled far beyond its true proportions, in the columns of American newspapers.

T. B. Hohler, British representative in Budapest, in his report to the British government says:

"The present Hungarian government is Christian, not anti-Semitic. The real anti-Semitic are the extreme right wing, who stand outside the government. The present government has been most careful to try its prisoners by due course of law on definite charges and with right of counsel and appeal to a higher court. The number mentioned, 20,000 arrests is quite as ridiculous as the idea that arrest is equivalent to a sentence of death. Nothing of the sort exists."

The preponderance of evidence indicates that no terror exists today in Hungary. There are crimes, and evil deeds. The editor of a socialist paper was recently murdered, and the killing was a shock to nearly everybody. "But life in Hungary," says the British Admiral Troubridge, "is as secure as in England."

More secure apparently, than in Ireland, where editors have also been murdered and many other worthy men, by political assassination.

186,000 DRINKING PLACES IN ITALY

Rome, July 22.—Italy cannot be called the "drunkenest of Europe" because for her 40,000,000 inhabitants she provides 186,000 places where wine and alcoholic beverages may be consumed, according to the Italian Statistical Annual which has just been published.

Lombardy with a population of about 5,000,000 leads the way with 22,642 drinking places, the figures show. Piedmont follows her closely with the province of Rome, which in 1911 had a population of less than 1,500,000, has no less than 8,127 drinking places. Less intoxicants are consumed in the south, in the island of Sardinia and in Umbria than in any other regions.

Many other interesting features of Italian life are revealed by the Annual. The death-rate of illegitimate children, for instance, is shown to be 40 per cent greater than that of those born legitimately. Tuberculosis is said to have shown an increase, 50,000 of the 220,000 deaths in one year being attributed to that malady.

While Italy has no regular Poor Law, some of its 28,614 charitable institutions, with a capital of about \$435,000,000, date from the Middle Ages and provide for more than 1,000 hospitals, 17 lunatic asylums, 22 orphanages, 21 night refuges, 16 food kitchens and about 100 refuges for deserted children. The statistics say that in Italy annually 200,000 children are abandoned by their parents.

Italy has more than 130,000 elementary schools, with 76,000 teachers and about 4,000,000 students, although about 46 per cent of the Italian people, especially in the south are reported illiterate. Piedmont, in the north, has only 17 per cent, the smallest number of illiterates. School enrollment shows 70,000 normal and complementary students; 62,500 in the gymnasiums; 15,000 in the lycées; 120,000 in technical schools; 39,000 in technical institutes; about 2,000 in nautical institutes; 32,000 in schools of mineralogy; 12,000 in industrial and commercial schools; about 2,000 in art schools; 4,200 in musical schools and institutes; 4,000 in boarding schools and 16,000 in the universities. For the latter there are about 1,050 professors, 2,200 teachers and 400 employes.

TO RESTORE OLD FERRY HOUSE

Philadelphia, Aug. 10.—The Old Ferry House and Tavern at Washington Crossing, Pa., is being restored and adapted as a central building for park purposes.

All the properties on the Delaware river bank east of the river and is far as the upper end of the island, behind the boats, were secured, ready for embarkation of George Washington's troops for the attack on Trenton, have been bought by the Washington Crossing Park Commission.

This covers a river frontage of over 1,500 feet and includes the point of embarkation and the Old Ferry Road leading to it. The commission also has purchased the island and about 60 acres to the west of River Road which includes the redoubt behind which the Continental troops were massed and drilled that eventful Christmas day before the battle of Trenton.

The commission has laid out a general scheme covering the territory in which Washington's troops were quartered after having been driven across New Jersey and over the Delaware river on December 8, at Morristown. This includes the base of supplies and New Hope Ferry, the uppermost ferry guarded to keep the British from crossing.

It covers the headquarters houses of Washington and 11 of his generals. At the graves of the soldiers who died it is proposed to erect monuments. Eventually the national government will be asked to build a memorial bridge over the Delaware at a point where Washington made his never-to-be-forgotten journey across the swollen Delaware amid ice flows and dangers from an unaided foe.

BULLETIN ON WHOOPING-COUGH

Whooping cough is being reported in increasing numbers from many communities throughout Connecticut. This disease during the first six months of the year was responsible for more deaths than measles or scarlet fever and nearly as many as diphtheria.

During July cases from whooping cough were reported with increasing frequency. Many families did not call a physician to attend the child who was ill. Some of these children were fortunate and survive; others died, for the doctor was called too late.

This increase in whooping cough is a serious one and health officers should warn physicians of its state-wide prevalence. Parents can do much to protect their children by calling the family physician early in the course of the disease. The early diagnosis and prompt treatment may prevent the serious after-effects that often follow, or save the life of a child.

START WORK ON PACIFIC ARCH

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 10.—Work has been started on the Pacific arch which is to stand at the crossing of the Pacific highway at the International boundary.

According to the men in charge of the work the structure will be completed in time for the official opening on Oct. 20, when the Queen of Rumania, her daughter, Princess Marie, Marshal and Madame Joffre, representatives of the Canadian and United States governments, of the Mikado and of the president of China are expected to be present.

The arch, it is estimated will cost about \$50,000. It will be of steel and concrete and will stand 100 feet high. The simple inscription, which will be raised in bold letters for all the world to see is: "Children of a Common Mother."

The politicians should not consider an objection to a candidate that he has business ability.