



(C) Harris & Ewing

SENATOR JOSEPH I. FRANCE

He represents Maryland and has a plan to aid the Health, the Education, and the Mining interests of the country by creating a new cabinet officer to care for each interest.

SOME of the people of the United States will be greatly pleased, others will be decidedly surprised, and still others will be badly jolted when they learn that strong efforts are now under way to persuade Congress to provide the necessary legislation for increasing the number of cabinet officers from their present number of ten to thirteen.

It is being strongly urged by those interested in this heavy addition to the governmental machinery at Washington that it is time the country was provided with these additional departments:

- A Secretary of Health,
- A Secretary of Education, and
- A Secretary of Mines and Mining.

The proposal to establish a Department of Health is already well under way. A bill to that effect has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Joseph Irwin France, of Maryland. It has been referred to the Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine, and inasmuch as Senator France happens to be the chairman of that committee, it is fair to assume that it will be reported favorably and in due time come up for debate and vote.

One feature of the France Bill will prove of especial interest to the women of the country. It provides for the appointment by the President of a woman assistant secretary.

States Must Co-operate to Get Benefit

SENATOR FRANCE'S measure provides that the President shall appoint a Secretary of Public Health, holding office for the same length of time, and subject to the same conditions as the head of each of the other executive departments. The President shall also appoint, as first and second assistant secretaries of public health, respectively, two men of proper medical qualifications, and as third secretary of public health a woman trained in the science of medicine or nursing and public health.

This measure further provides that the Department of Public Health shall function only in those states which, by proper legislation and communication with the Secretary of Public Health, signify their desire of co-operation with this department. Suggestions and recommendations for suitable legislation and adequate appropriations are solicited by the Secretary.

More specifically, the bill provides that \$15,000,000 be appropriated for carrying on the work of the Department of Public Health for the fiscal year, 1920, with these provisions: (1) This sum be made available for distribution among states in proportion to their population as shown by the last census; (2) No state be entitled to receive allotment until it has fulfilled conditions for becoming co-operating state; (3) Every co-operating state must fully obey regulations of the Secretary of Public Health, and the provisions of the statutes; and (4) Every co-operating state must contribute to the public health work a sum at least equal to that contributed by the federal government.

There is also appropriated, for the construction of sanatoria and hospitals, \$48,000,000, to be allotted to the states in proportion to population as shown by the last census, provided that (1) No state shall receive its allotment for construction until it shall have provided an equal amount, and the location, plans, purposes and means of future support of proposed sanatoria or hospitals have been approved by the Secretary of Public Health; (2) In considering plans, location and purpose of sanatoria or hospitals, due consideration be given to necessity for immediate increased facilities for treatment of tuberculosis and possible availability of government hospitals already constructed for use by the Department of Public Health.

While talking with Senator France concerning his proposed Department of Public Health, he made

He Would Create Three New Cabinet Positions

these explanatory comments: "The bill which I have introduced provides for the creation of a Federal Department of Public Health, the head of which department shall be known as the Secretary of Public Health, with a seat in the President's Cabinet. This bill is somewhat similar to, and in certain portions identical with a bill already introduced by the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Owen), but my bill provides in greater detail for such an organization of the Federal Department of Public Health as would reach to every state, congressional district, county and precinct throughout the United States. It is drawn on the theory that there can be no efficient Department of Public Health without some provision for the extension of the activities of that department throughout the wide confines of the country and a close co-operation between the federal government and the states in the simplification and co-ordination of all of the varied government activities which have to do with the health of the nation.

"With a Federal Department of Public Health organized in accordance with the provisions of this bill, we would have, without any greater total expenditure of money, a governmental agency operating with such scientific precision and so comprehensively as to insure ultimately the elimination of those preventable injuries and diseases which annually take such a heavy toll not only of money but of suffering, misery and bereavement.

"Under my bill there would be in every county and precinct of the United States a public health officer who would be at once the local and the federal health officer, and there would be co-operation not only between the federal and the state governments, but between all of the various health promoting activities which are carried on in the several communities. This bill will be supplemented by two other bills which I shall introduce shortly, one of which will be for such an amendment to the census law as will make it a continuous social survey of all of the population of the United States, including a survey of the health of the population and the collection of vital mortality and morbidity statistics, and a public educational bill which will make provision for the establishment of a national system of free education, universally compulsory in its elementary branches, with provisions not only for the intellectual but for the physical development of school children, with adequate health supervision of the scholars, and which in its more advanced branches is absolutely free and open to everyone, according to his abilities, with technical high schools, colleges and universities all as a part of one system, it being the purpose to utilize and better organize all of the existing institutions as parts of a great national system.

"The universally compulsory education of school children would, of course, abolish child labor and the provisions for free college and university courses would give us democratic higher institutions of learning, whereas at present most of the technical schools, colleges and universities are not open to those of limited means, the present system tending to make the higher education exclusive and aristocratic. There need be no opposition to such a plan for universal education by those interested in private and parochial schools, as under the plan which I contemplate, attendance at these schools would be recognized as complying with the compulsory education provision.

"It would be difficult for me to explain what very radical changes for the better will be accomplished by the enactment of such measures as my Public Health Bill, my Social Survey Census Bill and my Public Education Bill. As the Public Education Bill, upon which I am working, provides free educational facilities, so does this present Public Health Bill look to the future provision of free hospital facilities to all on equal terms, on the theory that if the protection of the public health is a governmental function, no man should be deprived of the most skilled treatment because of a lack of means to pay for it. My Public Health Bill

looks to the establishment throughout the United States of regional hospitals which shall be open to all on equal terms, and which shall be so adequate in their accommodations that no man need be deprived of the opportunities for hospital treatment."

Every family in the country is deeply interested in public schools. Any suggested change in their management, or transfer or sharing of authority, always calls forth considerable debate. People, generally, are jealous of what they term "outside interference" with their schools; this is particularly true of the little country schools. It is therefore a safe prediction that before Congress gets down to brass tacks in the matter of adopting legislation creating a Federal Department of Education, they will hear some mighty loud protests from some of the folks "back home." The subjects of "state rights" and "centralization at Washington" will be discussed even more than they were during the prohibition campaigns.

From the viewpoint of the chap who occupies a comfortable position on the side lines it's going to be an interesting scrap.

The Importance of Mines and Mining

PEOPLE who know all about the mines and mining business of this country make the declaration that, next to agriculture, it is by far the biggest and most important factor in the development of America and is therefore entitled to much more governmental consideration in the future than has been the case in the past.

Congress appropriated for the year 1919 more than \$72,000,000 for the development of the agricultural industry. During that same period it appropriated for the development of the mining industry less than \$5,000,000.

Eminent business men, high up in the fields of mining enterprises, are calling attention to the fact that the total value of agricultural products for the year 1918 was \$14,331,000,000, while the total value of the mineral production was \$5,700,000,000.

The mining people are propounding this query around the National Capitol: "If agriculture, with an appropriation of twelve times as much as the mining industry, can produce less than three times as much, what could the mining industry produce with an appropriation of \$72,000,000?"

The mines of the United States furnish 58 per cent of all the tonnage originating upon American railways.

Upon the iron mining industry depend the implements of agriculture, which are the very basis of society when it is realized that civilization begins and ends with the plow. Without the development of the iron mines there would be no stoves or furnaces in the homes. The manufacture of automobiles, airplanes, skillets, war munitions, pots, battleships and railways of all kinds would cease. Without the development of the coal mines the people would freeze and industrial plants would become bat roosts.

A great many people are laboring under the misapprehension that American mining has been fully developed. That's a great mistake—the big things are yet to be tackled.

One of the biggest things that doubtless could be accomplished through a Department of Mines and Mining would be the stoppage of the shameful waste of minerals.

The agitation for an independent Department of Mines and Mining with its head a member of the President's Cabinet, seems to be gaining ground.

Prior to the year 1910 the mining industry had received little encouragement from the United States Government. In that year Congress created the Bureau of Mines. Each year appropriations have been a little larger, but it is strenuously urged that mining has not received the recognition to which it is entitled as the second industry in the United States.

LITTLE GOLDILOCKS.

--Brown in the Chicago Daily News.