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HOCHSCHILD, KOHN & Co.

Baltimore, Md.

(6)

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Given just a little thoughtful attention with an eye to their possibilities for comfortable furnishing, porches can be made the most charming spot in the whole house for the summer months.

A rug, well fitted porch shades that do not whip, a great deep chair or two, a magazine table of wicker, perhaps a swing or comfortable couch hammock—what golden hours of enjoyment and ease they can bring. May they?

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Address

HACKETT'S GAPE CURE CO.
Dept. S. (3-9) HILLSBORO, MD.NEW PLANS FOR
STATE GOVERNMENTSurvey Report Cal's for Eleven
Major Departments

AUDIT INDEPENDENT

Eleven Departments Proposed—Office
Of Motor Vehicle Commissioner
Would Come Under Commerce
Department.

Annapolis.

Regrouping of the 85 State boards, commissions and departments into 11 major departments, with an independent office of audit and control, is recommended in the report submitted by the Chicago firm which Governor Ritchie retained to make a survey of the State's governmental organization.

This is the report which will come in for analysis and criticism by the committee of 11 Democrats which the Governor has just appointed.

The administrative structure recommended by the report provides for the following major divisions:

1. Executive Department.
2. Department of Finance.
3. Department of Law.
4. Department of Militia.
5. Department of Welfare.
6. Department of Health.
7. Department of Education.
8. Department of Public Works.
9. Department of Commerce.
10. Department of Labor.
11. Department of Employment and Registration.

In addition, the scheme includes the establishment of the independent "office of audit and control," to be known as "office of the State Comptroller."

At the head of each department would be a "director," appointed by the Governor and removable at pleasure. The 11 "directors" would comprise the Governor's cabinet.

"They would be fully responsible to him," says the report, "and he, in turn, because of their close supervision thus made possible, would become chief executive in the full sense of the term."

The general policy of the report is to recommend that administrative commissions be superseded by individuals who should rank as chiefs of bureaus in the departments to which the work of such commissions has been assigned. Thus, for example, the Roads Commission would be abolished, and in lieu thereof a Road Commissioner would be created, he to head the Bureau of Roads in the Department of Public Works. The report suggests, however, that for the present that the Director of Public Works might also head the Bureau of Roads.

Similarly, the office of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, one of the largest of the State Departments under the present dispensation would lose its independent identity and would become the Bureau of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Commerce. The head of this Bureau would be the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

Two commissions—the Public Service Commission and the State Board of Motion Picture Censors—it is proposed to retain "because of the quasi-judicial functions exercised by these agencies. The chairman of these two commissions, however, shall be designated as the chiefs of their respective bureaus and shall be made responsible to the director of the department for the effective operation of the administrative and office details of their respective bureaus."

If, however, the proposed reorganization would seem to impair the autonomy—to say nothing of the dignity—of certain important State officials by making them bureau chiefs, subordinate to department heads, the plan would afford them the compensating benefit of security in office for—to quote the report—"The positions of the heads of the various bureaus should be placed in the classified service of the State, and they should be removed only for cause as provided in the Merit System Law. They would be the permanent expert executive heads as distinguished from the ordinarily transient policy-making appointees of the chief executive of the State."

Further, any possible loss of prestige due to the transition from chairman of a commission to a commissioner, who is merely chief of a subordinate bureau, would be offset by a prospective increase in salary. The report recognizes that trained and competent executives (such as the bureau chiefs would be) must be well paid. On this head the dictum of the report is as follows:

"Commissioners at the head of the various bureaus should be full-time officials and adequately paid. The State must compete to some extent with private business by paying adequate salaries if it is to interest competent and experienced business executives in the public service. Their appointment must naturally be safeguarded by qualification requirements of a high order."

The primary purpose of the administrative machinery recommended by the report seems the coordination of effort and the centralization of authority and responsibility. The greater coordination is to be attained by setting up the major departments with

their subordinate bureaus. In the language of the report:

"Each major department is to be made up of one or more bureaus and an administrative office. The latter would concentrate the administrative service work for the department as a whole and would have general control and supervision over the preparation of departmental estimates and over expenditures, cost accounting and reports. For most departments this office would keep the controlling accounts of the entire department, prepare accounting statements and reports, supervise the collection of revenues if any, and make all disbursements. It would be under the supervision of the department director and in direct charge of a chief clerk."

The centralization of authority and responsibility would be achieved (a) by the "cabinet" system by which 11 department heads instead of 85 boards, commissions, etc., would be directly responsible to the Governor for the conduct of the State's business, and (b) by the abolishing of commissions in favor of the single commissioner or bureau chief. On this latter head the report says:

"In accordance with the general policy advocated in this report, it is recommended that boards and commissions be abolished wherever possible . . ."

On the other hand, the report recognizes the function of a board or a commission as a policy-forming agency if not as an administrative body. Thus, "four advisory councils are suggested in connection with the Department of Welfare—the State Lunacy Commission, the Advisory Board of Parole, the Advisory Council on Charities and the Advisory Council on Corrections."

An Advisory Council on Health is another suggestion. The policy of the report would be for members of such advisory councils to serve without compensation, though "members of the State Lunacy Commission, because of the larger demands made upon them, should be paid for the time they actually devote to their work."

The report also looks forward to changes in the State organization which would require Constitutional Amendments. Such changes are:

Appointment by the Governor of the Attorney General instead of the latter's election by the voters of the State.

Superseding of the State Treasurer by a Director of Finance. Pending the passage of a Constitutional Amendment, the State Treasurer, as at present elected, on joint ballot of the House and Senate, would serve as such Director.

Selection of the State Comptroller by the General Assembly instead of his election by the voters.

The report notes the recent tendency in Maryland to centralize administrative duties in a single commission rather than to distribute them among a plural-headed board. The creation of a Commissioner of Motor Vehicles instead of a Commission is cited as a case in point. As the Police Department of Baltimore City does not come within the purview of the report, what is perhaps an even more striking example, the substitution of one Commissioner in place of a three-man board, is not mentioned.

The report finds in the creation of a Central Purchasing Bureau (with responsibility practically vested in one individual—the State Purchasing Agent) and of a State Employment Commissioner further illustrations of the tendency towards centralization already manifest in this State.

In this connection the report pays a compliment to the Maryland Merit System law, drawn by Philip B. Perlman, Secretary of State, when it says:

"The Civil Service of most other governmental bodies is in fact administered by a commission, so that the action of Maryland in this regard (establishing a single Commissioner) is in advance of most other States and cities."

For Conservation Session.

Governor Ritchie has written to Governor Davis, of Virginia, suggesting the advisability of a conservation conference similar to that held by the Executives of the two States in 1916. Chairman Vickers of the Maryland Conservation Commission has already suggested such a conference to Governor Davis, but the latter has not as yet acknowledged the Vickers communication. Such a conference, if held, would deal principally with the propagation and conservation of crabs. The crustaceans, as the rural journals like to say, are rapidly diminishing in numbers, it is said, and both Governor Ritchie and Mr. Vickers think that joint action by the Commonwealths of Maryland and Virginia is imperative if the crabs are to be saved.

Hagerstown—One hundred and fifty delegates and visitors attended the biennial convention of the Catholic Daughters of America, formerly Daughters of Isabella, in Hagerstown. The visitors included 14 grand regents, three district deputies and five State officers. Mrs. Genevieve H. Walsh, supreme regent, of New York, who recently established five courts of the order in Porto Rico and M. F. Kelley, supreme secretary, Utica, N. Y., were present.

Frostburg—After several months' prospecting, Andrew McMannis, coal operator and miner, struck one of the largest veins of coal discovered in this section for several years, at Allegany, near the Savage Mountain Fire Brick Company. The vein contains an excellent quality of coal, is 5 feet 7 inches thick, 16 feet wide, and is said to cover an area about 4,000 acres.



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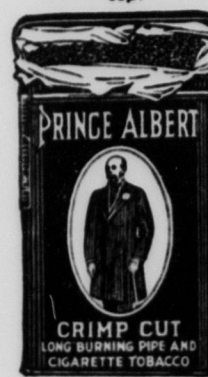
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