Congressman Colden at the Capitol

By CHARLES J. COLDEN

WASHINGTON, March 13.—(Special to The Herald)—The House has passed another Guffey Coal Bill for the purpose of regulating the price of soft coal and to eliminate discriminations and unfair practices of various kinds. Some of the best lawyers in the House believe this bill to be air-tight and one that will stand all of the supreme court tests; other attorneys declare it is unconstitutional, so we have the same old merry-go-round we have had on nearly all New Deal measures. It is a favorite pastime for attorneys to prove that a bill is constitutional and others to show that it is unconstitutional. If only lawyers could agree, and read the minds of the supreme court judges, it would save a great many headaches.

At least the House is determined to do everything within its power to relieve the condition of the soft coal miners, who are in a deplorable situation. Not only are their wages very low, but many of them live in company houses and are usually on the verge of privation. One of their calamities is that they do not have steady employment. Frequently they have but one or two days' employment in a week, and again they have no employment for months at a stretch. It seems unfortunate that the adverse decision of the supreme court has deprived not only this group but other groups of their right to live decently and to enjoy the blessings of a free and fruitful country.

Satisfactory Settlement

The amended bill concerning the Continuous Discharge Book was passed by the House with a bang. Judge Bland, chairman of the committee, made such a fine explanation of the proposed procedure that not a single voice was raised in opposition. Now the seamen can accept the Discharge Book or the Discharge Certificate according to their own choice.

It is hoped that this bill will receive prompt consideration in the Senate and thus settle a very serious controversy. Members of the merchant marine and fisheries committee of the house feel highly gratified that such a controversial question has been settled satisfactorily to all the conflicting interests that appeared before the committee.

Barbed Oratory . . .

The House is ringing with constitutional debates. It is the liveliest topic of the session. There are few Daniel Websters now who indulge in the eloquent rhetoric of 100 years ago. While rhetoric is rarely heard on the floor of the House, facts and figures have a much greater part in the House debates. In the old days, bitter words were softened with eloquence and courtesy, but in these days many verbal phrases are barbed and words cut with sharp edges.

Opportunity to Learn . . .

The Senate judiciary committee is holding hearings on the President's program for judicial reorganization. The fireworks are getting good, and incidentally, those who appear are digging up bits of history that are of great interest. When this battle is over the average citizen, including members of Congress, will know more about the constitution than even while in school.

No Prison Politics . . .

According to information received from the bureau of prisons of the department of justice all jobs connected with the new federal penitentiary, now being constructed on Terminal Island, will be under civil service. There will be no political appointments made of any kind. Even the highest position, that of superintendent, will come under civil service.

Notices of civil service examinations to be held are usually posted on the bulletin boards of local postoffices, or information can be had by writing to Harry T. Kranz, district manager, 12th Civil Service District, San Francisco.

Appeal from Keystone . . .

We have an appeal from the flood-stricken citizens of Keystone to help them out of their difficulty. We have made inquiries of the departments at Washington and are unable to find any proposal on this subject submitted by the board of supervisors of Los Angeles county. Neither do we find that the Keystone situation comes within the provisions for relief for the Ohio valley flood sufferers. Before aid can be secured from Washington, the proposal must be submitted by the authorities back home. Personally, I am anxious to do anything that is possible for this flood situation.

Versatile First Lady . . .

Mrs. Roosevelt earned $72,000 in one year for her radio talks. She also enjoyed a considerable income from her syndicated articles which appear in many of the newspapers. All of her income is given to various charitable, benevolent, and educational movements. And when she drives her own automobile around Washington, she carries a pistol—a versatile, philanthropic, and courageous woman!

Easy Senatorial Money . . .

It is grand to be a Senator—14 of them have endorsed cigarettes at $1,000 per testimonial. It is such easy money that some Senators are tempted and some ladies too, including Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

Winners of Academy Awards

The recent annual dinner of the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences saw the award of gold statuettes to two Austrian actors and to the Italian, Frank Capra; for their work during the past year. At left is Paul Muni, given the award for his work in "The Story of Louis Pasteur"; center is Luise Rainer, whose performance in "The Great Ziegfeld" won her the honor; at right is Capra, director of Hollywood's best picture in 1936, "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town."

The Silverlarch Burns in Mid-Pacific

This is the British motorship Silverlarch from which passengers and crew were rescued by the U. S. S. cruiser Louisville after the motorship caught afire at sea, threatening the lives of all aboard.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Questions and . . . Answers

By arrangement with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Social Security division, The Herald will be glad to submit any questions about Social Security for authoritative replies from the Bureau. Address your inquiries to the Editor of The Herald. Answers will be published when received from the Bureau.

Q. I am 60 years old. Employed as a night watchman at $25 per month. What will my monthly pension be when I am 65?

A. You will receive a lump sum benefit in cash. In order to receive monthly benefit payments you must earn, by the time you are 65, at least $2,000. At your salary you will have earned a total of $1,500. Your lump sum payment will be 3½ percent of that amount, or $52.50.

Q. Do I make my Federal Social Security tax return to the Social Security Board or to the Post Office? And to whom do I make my check payable?

A. You make your check payable to the Collector of Internal Revenue and send it together with your tax return to the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Los Angeles. If you use a money order be sure to make it payable to the Collector of Internal Revenue **at Los Angeles.**

Q. I raise flowers on a commercial basis, growing them on my own land. I have two employees. Do I come under the Social Security Law, or am I exempt under the provisions which deals with agricultural labor?

A. Commercial flower growing and marketing are not considered "agriculture" and therefore nurserymen and floriculturists are included in the Act. Your two employees are subject to the employee's tax of one percent and will receive the benefits provided under the Old Age Benefits part of the Act. You will be subject to the employer's tax of one percent of your payroll. But neither you nor your employees will be liable under the Unemployment Insurance part of the Act (Title 9) because you do not have eight employees.

Q. I receive a pension of $90 per month for life from an industrial concern. Am I considered an employee and will I receive additional benefits from the government on the basis of this pension?

A. Employment is a matter of services performed. If you still perform services for the industrial concern you are included under the Act. If your $90 per month represents a retirement pension and you perform no services to receive it, you are not an employee and are not taxable, nor will you receive additional benefits.

Little Space Required Today for Installation of Extra Bath

The plans for the modernization of homes and apartments ordinarily include an extra bathroom. The modern bathroom is compact and does not require the extensive space formerly considered necessary for this room.

In the manufacture of modern plumbing equipment and fixtures special consideration has been given to their adjustment to a limited area.

A space as small as 5 by 5 feet in size can be effectively utilized, although 6 by 8 feet is preferred, especially in the better type of apartments.

Simple Decorations

The size and shape of the extra bathroom necessarily depends upon whether space is immediately available or whether it must be created from adjoining rooms, halls, or clothes closets.

The artistic decoration of a bathroom does not necessarily require heavy expense, but a cheerful atmosphere is requisite and bright coloring is frequently used. The floor material should be waterproof, readily cleaned, and attractive.

Tile, either as wainscoting or as total wall surface has been found satisfactory for bathrooms. The material used on the remainder of the interior surface, whether plaster with glazed paint finish or wallpaper, must carry out the note of cheerfulness and simplicity. If paper is used, it is well to bear in mind the fact that its exposure to dampness from the shower fixture must be avoided.

Practical Features

Of great convenience in a modern bathroom is a medicine chest of sufficient size to include supplies and medicines. The light fixture properly adjusted to facilitate shaving or make-up adds to the comfort of users. In addition to adjustable glass shelves in the medicine chest, an extra glass shelf below the cabinet is a practical feature also.

The tub should be built in and of material that cleans easily and wears well and have a faucet and drain sufficiently filling and emptying.

Modern bathrooms may be installed through credit advanced by private financial institutions cooperating with the Federal Housing Administration.

HANDY WINDOW

A casement window over a sink is easy to operate and gives a 100 percent opening. These advantages make casements ideal for kitchens.

Shelves built around a bay window make an ideal place for books and plants.

State's Sequoias Not Oldest Trees

California's state forester, Merritt B. Pratt, is inclined to take "big tree" stories with a grain of salt. Recently he declared this state does not possess the oldest living trees, claims of booster organizations to the contrary notwithstanding.

He said the state's vaunted sequoias, some of them 3,000 years old, are outdistanced badly by a macrozamia tree in Queensland, Australia, which boasts a ripe old age of more than 12,000 years and still is going strong.

"Accurate scientific data on the macrozamia trees of Australia have been collected and established by the University of Chicago," Pratt said.

Tree Statistics

Despite its advanced years, Pratt reported the 12,000-year-old macrozamia is only 20 feet high. Another grove of the same species in Queensland, the youngest of which is 3,000 years, has no tree above three feet in height.

Tallest known Redwood in California according to the state park commission, is in the North Dyerville Flat, Humboldt county, a sequoia towering 364 feet into the air. It has a circumference of 47 feet at the base and a timber mill cut estimated at 125,000 board feet.

From the standpoint of timber cut the largest tree is the "empire state" gigantic sequoia in the Calaveras Big Trees state park. This tree is 83 feet in circumference, 350 feet high and would produce 350,000 board feet, mill cut, it is estimated.

Dimensions of Doors Change With Years

It is interesting to note the changes in dimensions of room doors that have taken place during the past 150 years. The doors to our Colonial rooms were frequently 3 feet or more wide and less than 6 feet 6 inches high. During our Victorian era doors grew to great heights and were often even wider than 3 feet. Today few doors are over 2 feet 8 inches wide, and the most are 6 feet 8 inches high. Doors to main rooms should not be less than 2 feet 6 inches wide, and where possible they should be wider.

World's Biggest Chowder Feast

Citizens of Aberdeen, Wash., decided this year to stew up 200 gallons of clam chowder in celebration of a successful season during which they claimed to have distributed more clams than any other city in the world. Shown handing out ladleful is Mayor Herbert Horrocks. Frank Peterson, 90, the city's oldest resident, is the recipient.

Individual Dishes Always Please

INDIVIDUAL STUFFED MEAT LOAVES

1 pound fresh pork (ground)
1 pound smoked ham (ground)
2 eggs slightly beaten
½ cup dry bread crumbs
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce.
6 hard-cooked eggs
1 small onion, chopped
¼ cup chopped pepper
⅓ cup catsup
6-strips of bacon
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients, except hard-cooked eggs and bacon, and mix thoroughly. Divide the mixture into six equal portions, wrap one portion around each of the six hard-cooked eggs (shells removed). Line baking cups or muffin pans with a strip of bacon and place one individual meat loaf in each. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Serves six.

Special Class For Gypsies

BEVERLY, Mass. (U.P.)—Fourteen Gypsy children have entered a special class at the Washington school. A special teacher has been assigned to teach them their A B C's.

Two Enjoy Big Smoke

OAKLAND, Calif. (U.P.)—Two Negroes somewhere in the West are having the smoke of their lives. They grabbed a package off a passing truck containing 50,000 cigarettes.

City and County Building Bureau Merger Pending

Efforts to effect a consolidation of the Los Angeles city department of building and safety with the county building bureau, with resultant savings to the taxpayers of both city and county, were pending today at the instigation of the county supervisors.

The city's reaction to the county's proposal will not be known until next Tuesday at the earliest, however. The supervisors, by resolution of Chairman Roger W. Jessup, invited Mayor Frank L. Shaw and the Los Angeles city council to name a committee to meet with the county officials to discuss the consolidation of the city and county building departments, as recommended by the report of the Committee Simplification in 1935.

One thing that appeared to stand in the way was the fact that Los Angeles city has not yet adopted the so-called Uniform Building Code, which is in effect in all unincorporated territory and in most of the other 43 cities of the county. This is expected to be one of the main points to be discussed if and when the city's committee confers with county officials.

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