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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS
EDITOR AND OWNER.

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A COMMISSION'S BIG TASK.

Among the constructive achievements of the recent session of congress was the Hughes-Borah bill for the creation of an industrial commission to inquire into the relations of labor and capital in this country. In the haste attending the need of the session the fact that this far-sighted measure was passed missed general recognition.

The action taken brings a step nearer a permanent industrial commission. Such a commission, when it comes, will have no small influence in preventing strikes. Perhaps it would be a body for the direct conciliation in case of trouble. Perhaps it only would gather information on the issues at stake, and, as they do in Canada, leaving the whole question up to

the public sentiment for a settlement. In any event it would prove a strong force for good.

In the beginning the commission as formed will confine its energies to a broad investigation of the whole field of capital and labor. It is armed with a \$100,000 appropriation for its first year's work. Its task must be completed in two years. Many prominent economists and social workers were of the opinion that such a big job would take at least three years to accomplish, but the senate decided on two. In the house the bill had been handicapped by a provision limiting the compensation that could be paid any one man to \$900 a year. Everyone knows that such a sum will not buy the services of a really well-equipped student and investigator so the friends of the measure united to eliminate this feature from the final bill. They were successful and now the commission is at liberty to pay an able employe what he is worth. That will probably save it from being such a force as was the former "industrial commission" which was dominated by Penrose and, it is charged, submitted its report to John D. Archbold of the Standard Oil before it was submitted to the senate.

The new commission in a general way will study the causes of industrial unrest. Necessarily it must enter very closely into the question of

wages, profits, hours of labor, shop and factory conditions, and even go so far afield as to investigate immigration and the question of the influx of Asiatics on the Pacific coast. It is planned to make the inquiry both deep and far-reaching, so that in the end some definite answer may be given to one of the most pressing problems of the day. The task is big, but ultimately all the labor should be well worth while.

DIXON IS CHEERFUL.

That Chairman Dixon is convinced Roosevelt's chances to win are of the best, is indicated by a recent communication sent out to many of the Progressives. The communication follows:

The New York Herald prints its own poll regarding results throughout the nation in the November election. As the Herald is bitterly opposed to Roosevelt's election, it certainly cannot be suspected of partiality for the Progressive cause. Based on the Herald's poll, Roosevelt will lead Taft in New York state by 239,000 plurality. The poll gives Roosevelt 16,000 plurality over Wilson and 22,000 plurality over Taft in Connecticut. It gives Roosevelt plurality over Taft in Indiana. It shows Taft running a bad third in every single state, except Wyoming and Ohio, where he takes second place by narrow margin. Our own polls invariably show much larger percentages than does the Herald. It really looks like landslides in some states, especially in great industrial centers.

One man announces that he will spend the remainder of his life in solving the perpetual motion problem. He is due for a chronic case of severe headache.

By a court decision, New Rochelle must have a Carnegie library whether she wants it or not. Even the courts are bound to help Uncle Andy die poor.

King Alfonso is said to be quarrelling with his mother-in-law. He ought to have thought of a more original method of proving that he is human.

Boston doctor says the American race is becoming flat footed. That probably comes from standing up in street cars.

Probably a Penrose by any other name would smell of Standard Oil.

Frank Pollock has been engaged as the principal tenor for the performance of Walter Damrosch's comic opera, "The Dove of Peace."

It is announced that Minnie Dupree will appear in a new play in January

next. Until then she will remain in vaudeville with a sketch.

Taylor Holmes is to have the leading part in the new comedy "Somewhere Else," and Harry Davenport has been engaged to take his place in "The Million."

Frank Danields will be a member of the Weber and Fields company and will have a role written into their burlesque especially for him. Nora Bayes will also be in the company.

W. A. Brady is to produce a morality play which has been successful in London. It is called "Hindle Wakes."

It is by Stanley Houghton, a young dramatist, and will be produced with the original London cast. Queen Mary of England was much impressed by the London production

of "Every Woman," and as a result, it is said, Arthur Collins, managing director of Drury Lane theatre, will be knighted on the King's next birthday.

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