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LOBBYING.

Lobbying can never be stopped altogether, and it is not necessarily desirable that it should be. There is legitimate lobbying as well as illegitimate, and it is often hard to tell where to draw the line. Business interests have a right to make their views known at Washington or at state capitols, when legislative or administrative action is pending that will affect them. Of the similar right of public interests and moral interests there is no question.

Lobbying can be properly objected to on two grounds. First, if it aims at an illegitimate object, such as the "steal" of a franchise or the gaining of any other concession plainly counter to the public welfare, it has no excuse for existance. For such pernicious publicity is the best remedy. Second, lobbying for unobjectionable purpose may be objectionable in method. It may bring pressure to bear in improper ways of legislators or other public officials, or it may make itself a nuisance and waste their time. It is this matter of undesirable method which has done most to arouse the wrath of Congress lately.

Putting lobbyists on record is a good idea, particularly as regards the professional lobbyists who represent any interest willing to pay them a fee. It is also a good idea to forbid the soliciting or "buttonholing" of senators and representatives, and to confine lobbyists' activity so far as possible to appearances before legislative committees on invitation. But there will still be a great deal of lobbying, no matter what Congress may do about it. Letters can still be written and telegrams can be sent without any such limitation—and they will be.

PUBLIC OPINION PREVAILS.

The widespread protest against the enlargement of the House of Representatives, which is already too large for effective legislation, has had its effect. Without the protest voiced by the big majority of American newspapers, Congress would undoubtedly have gone ahead and raised its numbers from 435 to 483 or more, in changing the apportionment on the basis of last year's census. Most of the critics had little hope that their advice would be heeded. Congress shows itself unusually tractable. If the next session, whose control will be practically the same, continues to show similar respect for public opinion, there should be real progress in governmental efficiency and national reconstruction.

The decision to stand pat on the present membership, while it gives a few states larger representation in the House, lowers the representation of others that have not gained in population quite so rapidly. Thus Missouri will lose two congressmen, and one will be lost by Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It should be evident that this shrinkage entails practically no loss except the loss of public jobs to the few individuals who will be automatically wiped out of office by the wiping out of their congressional districts.

The states named are so widely scattered that there can be no charge of sectional or partisan discrimination. Every one of them will presumably be represented in Congress as effectively as before. In fact, there may be improvement, for with congressmen less numerous the places should become more attractive, and better men should seek them.

Of the benefit to Congress as a whole, and thus to the country it serves, there is no question. It would have been better still to cut down the number instead of merely keeping it the same, for the sake of the better work that a smaller House could do, but the public is grateful for half a loaf of business efficiency in Washington.

OPEN SCHOOLS AND EPIDEMICS.

Closing the schools in time of epidemic is a well-established custom, yet there are health authorities who oppose such action on the ground that it is both inconvenient and ineffective as a means of checking the spread of disease.

These people advocate, instead, keeping the schools open but providing for such medical inspection as shall insure that the condition of every child is known to the school and medical authorities, so that a case of illness may be promptly detected and precautions taken for its treatment and isolation.

If the medical inspection suggested is adequate there is little doubt that this is the best method of procedure. When the schools are closed it means a break in schooling which is unnecessary for the well, and it generally means also that the children get out into the streets and mingle with less restriction than when in school. The dangers of contagion may increase accordingly, in spite of the hygienic benefits of open air.

WILL IT BE SMOKELESS.

One of the proposed legislative measures resulting from the recent fire in Washington which destroyed many priceless records is a bill introduced by Senator Smoot, of Utah, which, if passed, will make it unlawful for any person to smoke in any building in the District of Columbia that is owned by the government and is used by any department of the government. It will be interesting to see what fate awaits the measure.

If the act were passed and enforced strictly, it would prohibit the President or any of his guests from smoking in the White House. It would forbid the members of Congress to smoke in the lobbies, halls or other portions of the capitol itself, and put all the other government buildings and employees under like restrictions.

Undoubtedly the bill will be greatly modified or killed altogether.

BONDS GOING UP.

Liberty Bonds are rising now in value—or rather in price, for their real value has always been above the market quotations. The whole list has moved up $2 a hundred or more since the first of the year, and with only a slight occasional check is still rising. The lowest of the issues have been selling lately at about $88, and the highest are near $98. There is a good prospect, some bankers say of the choicest bonds going to par within a few weeks.

The rise is as natural as the low prices have been. These securities, which, when everything is considered, are, and always have been, the bets in the world went down chiefly for two reasons. There was the business inflation with its resulting shortness of money which led great numbers of the bond-holders to keep dumping their bonds on the market to obtain cash. There was also the fact that many stocks, during the boom period, paid dividends which made the interest on government bonds unattractive in comparison. Both of these causes are now disappearing. Money is growing "easier" and industrial securities are paying less, so these safe and sane government securities rise accordingly.

At present prices, according to financial experts, almost any of the issues are still bargains. Some of them yield nearly 6 per cent, and that looks much bigger today than it did a few months ago.

It is said that daisy [illegible] stuff of [illegible] [illegible] have the news [illegible] overtime.

THE OFFICE CAT

—By JUNIUS—

WHOA, HANNER.

She holds her age well
Does Hannibal Squeers,
The neighbors do tell
She's been thirty for years.

A crusty old bachelor in Saginaw says that there are one hundred reasons for divorce. One is marriage; the other ninety-nine don't count.

NO CURIOSITY.

"Most women have a great deal of curiosity," said the husband.

"I haven't a bit, replied his wife.

Then why turn this paper upside down to see what it says?

The fellow who thinks that the whole world is against him never seems to realize that possibly the world doesn't even know he is around.

THE BARGAIN SEEKER.

(Bloomington, Ind. Star.)

A man from Gosport called on Squire Hartsock yesterday and asked him what he would charge to perform a marriage ceremony. The squire told him $1, and the man said that he could get the match solemnized over at Quincy for fifty cents (50c) and get a prayer thrown in.

YER RIGHT.

We heard a La Grande minister say the other day that if you put a barbed wire fence on each side of it you couldn't keep some men in the straight and narrow path.

A CONFESSION BY US, OURSELVES.

In the first place, Mrs. Colyum had orta known better than to ask me to match that puttickler shade of baby ribbon.

"It ain't enough," I told her when I arrove home a few evenings ago with the wrong kind. "It ain't enough, Mrs. Colyum, that I should toil six days a week as the Sanctum to earn a livelihood—"

"Whazzat?" Mrs. Colyum broke in. "What kind of a 'hood' did you say?"

"Livelihood," I repeater, wondering if I had used the wrong word. But the Little Colyum was sitting in the middle of the floor on the dictionary, eating her supper, we having sent her high chair to be fixed, where Mrs. Colyum had pushed the bottom out of it fixing up her window shades. So I let it go at that.

"How d'ye spell it?" Mrs. Colyum went on, and I could feel myself getting hot under the collar.

"It don't make no difference how y' spell it," I replied back, "I earn it, an' that orta be enough."

"Do you call the $3.85 you brung home last Sattidy a livelihood?", she kep on.

"Well, I'm willin' t' admit," said I, "that I don't get what I'm worth at the Sanctum, but—"

"No, Junius," Mrs. Colyum said, quiet-like, "if you work as hard at the Sanctum as you do around home, you certainly don't get what you're worth. If y' did, we'd all three be out t' the pore farm now."

The gas and coal men's laughs this winter are never more than a few hours long.

Our most important New Year's resolution was a resolution not to make any.

WHERE DO THEY GET IT?

(From the Lake County Times)

FOR SALE OR TRADE—a big paying hotel and boarding house; forty-five roomers—always full.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE.

In the District Court of the United States for the District of Oregon.

In the Matter of the La Grande Lumber and Milling Co., a Corporation, Bankrupt.

To the Creditors of the above entitled Estate:

You and each of you are hereby notified that there will be a meeting at the office of the undersigned Referee in Bankruptcy at La Grande, Oregon, on Friday, the 4th day of February, 1921, at the hour of ten o'clock a.m., for the purpose of considering the offer of compromise made to the Trustees by the United States National Bank, in reference to the claim of the Trustees against said United States National Bank and you and each of you are hereby ordered to show cause, at that time and place, if you have any, why this compromise offer should not be accepted, and you are further notified that this meeting is called for the transaction of any other business concerning said Bankruptcy that may properly come before said meeting.

Dated at La Grande, Oregon, January 24, 1921.

R. J. GREEN,
Referee in Bankruptcy.
1-26 1t

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