

FEEBLE-MINDED HOME CONDITIONS MADE HOT TARGET

That the recent investigation by the state board of control of conditions at the home for feeble-minded was a superficial one and that the newspaper reports of the same did not fairly reflect what was brought out is asserted by Mrs. Esther J. McDonald, a temporary employe of the institution, who had communicated to Governor Olcott her observations of the conduct of the home during the term of her employment. She claimed that there was a lack of proper supervision by the matron, that there was discrimination in the food supply, that some of the inmates were not properly nourished and cared for and that Benson cottage is not kept in repair and is discriminated against in the way of improvement.

NO PUBLICITY COURTIED
"It is not my desire," she said, "to enter into a controversy or to assume the position of an investigator of public institutions, but simply to call attention to the situation at the home as I saw it during a temporary employment on a vacation relief for two weeks from September 5 to September 13 last."

"When the investigation was made it was my understanding that the results would be given without the consent of the parties interested. Governor Olcott led me to think this."

"Now that it has been made public in an ex parte way, I feel that my version should be given."

"I was assigned to Benson cottage to relieve Mrs. Henry, one of the day attendants. I was told by Mrs. Valis, who was at that time in charge of Benson cottage, that I was to have charge of the entire second floor."

PATIENTS ARE ADVISED
"My first impression of the floor was that it was in a very dirty condition for an institution of its kind. I said to the patients:

"Each one of you do your work just as Mrs. Henry (whom I had relieved) has been having you do it, because, I am only to be with you while she is on her vacation. I have not been here long enough to make any changes. We will try and keep it clean."

"After a few days I asked the attendants to give me their ideas on such an institution as this one clean and orderly. I found their ideas to correspond with mine. Later they said to me that they had been told to keep it as they know it. 'Yes,' I said, 'that came to my mind the first day I was there.'

"Let me say here that I found these attendants splendid women who did not feel it their duty to be making complaints all the time, in view of the fact that the institution has a superintendent and matron."

BLAME IS DISCUSSED
"They were not to blame for the filthy condition noted. I said to them: 'Now that you have spoken, I will ask, has not this institution a matron or someone that looks after such conditions?' They said yes, but she seldom comes over unless she is bringing company and then she never goes on the floor you are in charge of."

"How long has that worn-out, filthy covering on the floor on the porch existed?" I asked. They told me in substance that it had been that way for a long time and that it had been reported many times. Dr. J. N. Smith (the superintendent) has seen it repeatedly, they said, and given assurance that it would be attended to. 'It leaked all last winter,' they added, 'and gave us a lot of trouble on the downstairs porch.'

"I said to them: 'If you will kindly ask Dr. Byrd to come up when he comes over to this cottage in the morning I will show it to him and it might do some good, for sometimes a new broom sweeps clean.'

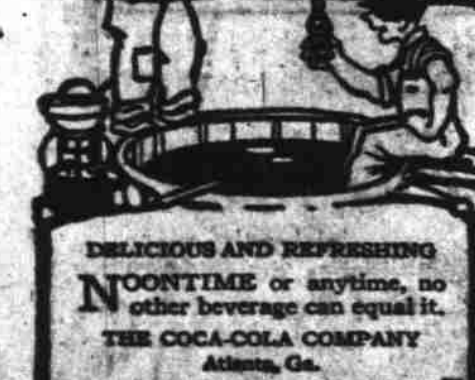
PORCH TERMED FILTHY
"When Dr. Byrd looked at the porch he said, 'It hasn't been repaired yet. It was reported to Dr. Smith long ago.' 'The porch was not only filthy, but it was dangerous because the patients had to climb over it to get at the trash can, also to gather the soiled clothes to be taken to the laundry.' I found that the patients in Benson cottage had no way of getting out in the fresh air other than on this porch with a tin floor. They could not stay there on hot sunny days on account of the heat it reflected."

"Another condition I found in Benson cottage was that old women were kept in a dark closet that was connected by

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Harding Tax Bill Is Juggled Senate Faces Complex Vote

By David Lawrence (Copyright, 1921, by The Journal) Washington, Oct. 12. — The agricultural bloc in the Republican party, which calls itself the "progressive" group, has been strengthened instead of weakened, by the overtures made to them by conservative Republican senators in the last few days. They are openly saying the new tax bill will not be a compromise, but practically as they dictate it.

The Democrats have determined to veto practically as a unit in support of the amendments proposed by the agricultural bloc. This means that the tax bill, as finally put up for a vote, will be a radically different bill from that which President Harding and Secretary Mellon originally proposed. While the Democratic strength will be sufficient to change the character of the bill, the minority will by no means vote for the measure as a whole. The bill will receive several Democratic votes and will be put through mostly by Republican votes.

BILL NOT AS WANTED
Thus the Republican leaders face the prospect of having to vote for a bill which they do not themselves like and which does not follow the original desires of the administration. It is this tax bill or none, however, and the measure has to be put through during this session or else Republican prospects for the congressional elections next year will be dimmed. It is curiously analogous to the situation which developed over the Versailles treaty. The Republicans had enough votes to include a series of reservations in the ratifying resolution.

These reservations were so objectionable to the Democrats that they declined to give their votes to make the necessary two thirds to insure ratification. In the tax controversy, the final bill and was speaking of another Mary. "At the conclusion of the meeting in the governor's office an inspection of the institution was made. The porch on the Benson cottage had been repaired but the lack of drainage on the first floor bath room had not been fixed. Dr. Smith said he did not know that the condition existed."

"In the patients' dining room at Olcott cottage supper was ready to spread. It consisted, as I had stated, of dry bread, potatoes, sloppy gravy, skimmed milk, stewed pears cooked with skins on except on one table on which were some fairly good and peeled stewed pears. There was no meat or other vegetables on the tables. Dr. Smith explained their absence by saying that meat had been served at the noon meal, a fact he had forgotten."

"We then went to the day attendants' dining room, where the meal had not yet been served. Beside the silver the tables had stewed fruit and small cakes. The officers' and teachers' table had only flowers and silver, as did the superintendent's (Dr. Smith's) table. I have no personal interest in the matter over the Versailles treaty. The Republicans have observed them, leaving the public to draw its own conclusion."

POST PLAYS CELEBRATION
Brownsville, Or., Oct. 12.—Calapoola post, American Legion, plans to celebrate Armistice Day with a luncheon and program, with members of the local G. A. R. as guests. Approximately two-thirds of the community house fund has been pledged. The building committee is planning to start work by Armistice day.

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Unlawful Killing Of Bird One Thing; Cooking It Another

Cook books don't say how long an eight year old China pheasant should be boiled so it can be eaten, and the result is that one sportsman of Wallowa county is probably still boiling one of his pheasants.

George Rogers, deputy game warden for Wallowa county, sends this information to Captain A. E. Burghdoff, state game warden. The hunter in question shot a pheasant with a Corvalis game farm tag dated 1919 on its leg. He said that this bird was too old to get away like most of them have been doing this season, as they are wild and hard to approach near enough to shoot.

The game commission received a report today that J. B. Johnson of Medford had been fined \$25 for killing pheasants out of season. In Western Oregon the season on upland birds opens Saturday.

PRESERVE SCENERY, PLEA
Salem, Oct. 12.—Letters requesting the cooperation of commercial clubs and civic organizations throughout Oregon in the movement looking toward the preservation of the state's scenic beauty are being sent out by Governor Olcott this week.

ARM BROKEN BY FALL
Corbett, Oct. 12.—Falling from a swing, Margaret Hodgens, a pupil of Mountain school, suffered a broken arm Tuesday. Miss Edith Eymon of Portland is teacher of the school.

HOOK INJURES BOY'S HAND
Kalama, Wash., Oct. 12.—Little 5-year-old Boyd Mizer was painfully injured Monday when a gaff hook caught in his hand.

THIRD CONDUIT TO COST \$2,000,000 IS PROVIDED FOR

Provision is made in the budget of the water bureau for 1922 for the beginning of the construction of a third conduit from the Bull Run source to Portland. The total cost of the pipe line is estimated at approximately \$2,000,000 and its construction will extend over a period of three years. The amount appropriated in the 1922 budget is \$750,000.

Other new construction planned includes the Sellwood standpipe at \$30,000; the Bursegrame standpipe at \$15,000 and a station at Woodmarts at \$7500. The total appropriated for new construction is \$862,500.

TO FIX VALUATION
The construction will depend on the ability to finance it through bond issues. As a first step in this direction it is proposed to have an inventory of the water system made by the state public service commission and its valuation fixed. It is shown that the real value is that of the book valuation, \$13,000,000, the sale of bonds will be made easier.

The estimated receipts of the system for 1922 are approximately \$1,000,000. This amount is not sufficient to cover operating expenses and provide for new construction.

BUDGET ITEMS GIVEN
In the budget the appropriations are operation, \$125,454; maintenance, \$150,000; repairs to reservoir, \$100,000; maintenance construction, \$560,000. The fixed charges are \$345,735 interest on bonds and \$150,800 sinking fund. The

total of these items is \$661,989, which is approximately the same as the estimated receipts. To carry out the proposed plan of improvements will require an additional \$1,422,300, which will have to be taken from capital account. The total amount called for in the budget is \$3,485,150, including the estimate of \$862,500 for new construction. To carry this it is proposed to raise \$561,989.54 from earnings and \$1,422,300.57 from capital account.

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Campus Cleanup Is Reed Order Today; Tug of War on Tap

The shovel and hoe replaced the classroom and student and prof. donned overalls and flannel shirts this morning in the annual campus cleanup at Reed college. Work commenced promptly at 8 o'clock with the assembling of student and faculty and the assignment of committees by the chairman of the day, William Scott. By noon the Reed army of 350 laborers had completed the traditional tasks of manuring lakeside path, patching Reedway, graveling roads and scouring tennis courts as well as putting the new Commons building, completed the first of the week in spic and span order.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon the day's work will end and attention will be turned to the tug of war between the freshmen and sophomores and the football game between the juniors and seniors. Freshmen who were defeated in closely-fought football contest a week ago are planning revenge and they hope to stage a comeback by pulling the sophs through the pond.

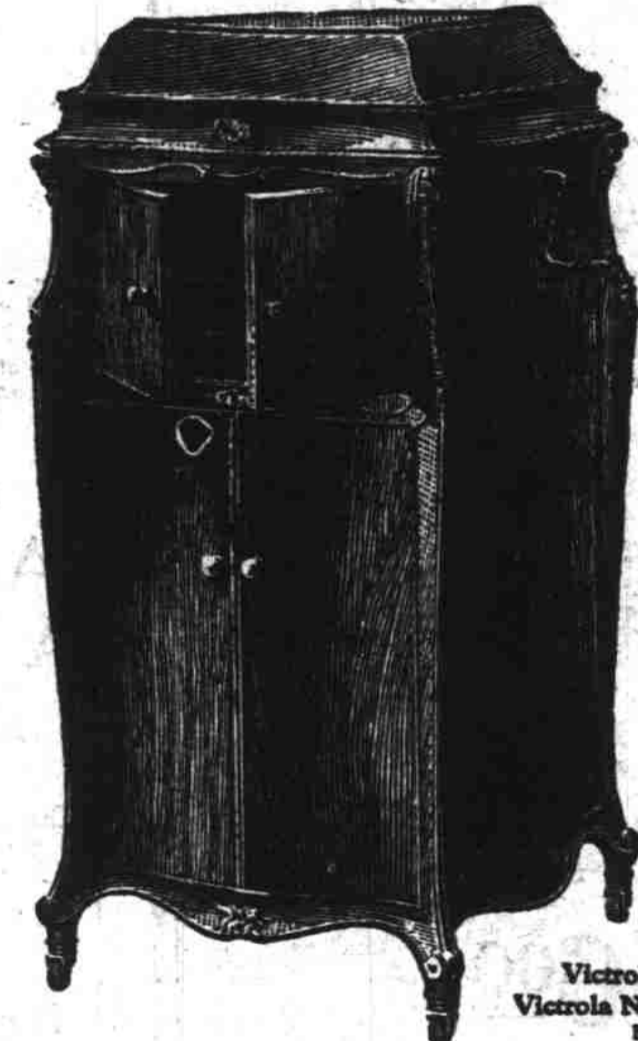
The day will be completed by stunts and dancing in the evening.

Greek interests are planning to briquet extensive deposits of lignite into a coal substitute.

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