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W. L. JACKSON

and
RALPH R. CRONISE

Editors
and
Managers

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AN UNHUMAN JOB

"The presidency has become an almost unhuman job," says William Allen White—that is, a job for a super-man. "Leading more than 100,000,000 active, intellectual people, according to the present-day demands of the presidential office, is perhaps too great a task for any man."

Any one at all familiar with the mere routine work of the chief executive knows that it alone entails a strain beyond the endurance of most men in public or private life. When to it are added such abnormal and yet to-be-expected burdens as those of conducting war, making peace and handling critical industrial situations, it is no wonder that even a man of strong constitution and natural poise breaks down.

The presidency has not only grown in scope with the growth of the nation but it has taken on tasks that formerly did not belong to it. Recent presidents have played a constantly growing role in legislation. Congress resents this development as an encroachment; yet in the main it seems to have come about naturally and perhaps inevitably.

The trouble is that the American president fulfills a double function. He is both national executive and leader of his party; and because his party is generally the dominant one, he is thus looked to as the formulator and director of legislative programs. In France there is a president and a premier for these two purposes, just as in constitutional monarchies like England and Italy there is a king and a premier. It is the premier's work that breaks the backs of our presidents.

Added to this is the work arising from the fact that the states are always unloading on the federal government burdens which they ought to bear themselves, and thus the president has a great deal to do which properly should be done by the governors. Even city executives have a way of appealing to him in emergencies.

What is to be done about it? Political evolution will take care of the problem, no doubt. Meanwhile, any man aspiring to the presidency must expect to wear himself out in a task beyond the capacity of any but a supreme genius.

ALIEN SLACKERS

Alien slackers will remain aliens, if a measure recommended by the immigration committee of the House of Representatives is enacted. It deals with foreign-born residents of the United States who had applied for citizenship before this country declared war, and who withdrew their application in order to avoid military service under the selective draft law. The bill proposes to deport them to their native lands.

This may seem pretty severe treatment. It is logical, however, and in most cases deserved. It seems self-evident that any man who changed his mind about wanting to be an American citizen because he feared he would have to fight for America, had little real knowledge of America, and little sympathy with American ideals. He will now lose little but temporal advantages. From the standpoint of such aliens, citizenship that is not worth fighting for is not worth having; and from the standpoint of real Americans, the man who will not fight for it is not worth having.

Let such slackers, therefore, go back home. Our citizenship has long been conferred too lightly. Their fate will raise the standard of citizenship in American eyes and in the eyes of the whole world.

LABOR'S BILL OF RIGHTS

The labor and public groups of the industrial conference agreed on this proposition, as embodying fundamental rights of American workmen:

"The right of wage-earners to organize without discrimination, to bargain collectively, to be represented by representatives of their own choosing in negotiations and adjustments with employers in respect to wages, hours of labor and relations and conditions of employment is recognized."

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This will probably be regarded by most citizens as a moderate statement of principles and practices which, as the New York World remarks, "are almost universal," which "lie at the foundation of organized industry," which "have been accepted everywhere by employers who value justice and security in their enterprises," and which in most cases have given "results to all concerned."

The statement as it stands represents a compromise. The union leaders wanted a stronger declaration in favor of unionization and collective bargaining, but they accepted this for the sake of coming to an agreement. The public representatives agreed. The representatives of the capital group, by a majority vote of one, refused.

The labor delegation is to be condemned for withdrawing so summarily from the conference. The capital group is to be condemned no less for giving provocation. It is possible that the latter group was really representative of American employers?

Some time the farmers may all go on strike. Then everybody will recognize, all at once, the wickedness and folly of strikes, and proceed to figure out some way to prevent them.

Mexican bandits have kidnapped a United States consul and held him for \$150,000 ransom. They'll soon have a regular ransom schedule worked out for all kinds of American officials.

Having voted for national budget system, the House of Representatives will now give earnest consideration to the problem of getting pork into the budget.

A Connecticut girl aged 11 has an income of \$60,000 a year. Now, don't go and make any ill-natured remarks about it. You know what things cost nowadays.

It's unfortunate that the peace treaty can't be made a national issue this election. That would be the most effective way to settle it.

The New York man who tried to give away a dollar, because he "couldn't buy anything with it" might have bought four Thrift Stamps.

The Chairman of the Standard Oil Company said in a recent address that he sees no rapid fall in the high living cost. Couldn't he pour a little oil on the troubled waters?

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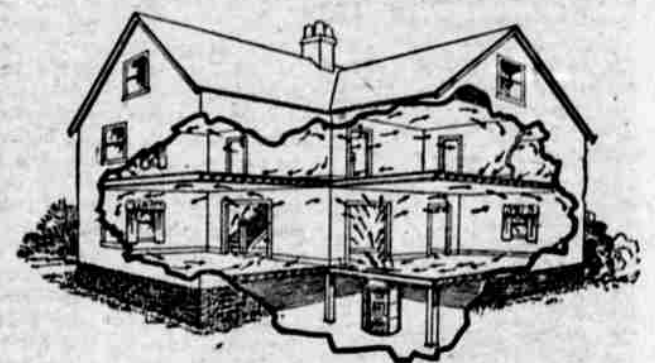
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