

FEDERAL HIGHWAY LAW STEP THAT LOWERS EXPENSE

The day when the federal government will take over the main interstate highways of the nation was brought measurably closer by the recent enactment of the Townsend highway bill, in the opinion of Roy D. Chapin, chairman of the highways committee of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce.

While the new highway act is not all that students of the question would like to see, said Chapin, "the law as it now stands marks a distinct step forward in the evolution of our highway policy. Under its provisions, Federal aid can no longer be scattered broadcast. Each state highway department is now compelled to designate 7 per cent of the mileage in the state as a system and of this 7 per cent, three-sevenths must consist of primary highways of interstate importance on which 60 per cent of all federal funds may be concentrated. In those states where highway work is more advanced and where the state highway departments desire to concentrate more than 60 per cent of their funds on the primary interstate roads, they are permitted to do so, a clause which will enable some sixteen states to pursue the policy already adopted of building the most important roads first.

"The immediate effect of this act will be to stimulate the construction and maintenance of the trunk highways in those states which, because of lack of funds have not thus far made much progress towards a adequate system of connected highways. As this progress is made the states themselves undoubtedly will come to the conviction that interstate highways perform more than a state purpose, are the most useful to the people and logically should be constructed and maintained by the national government. Presumably this work would always be carried on through existing agencies of construction rather than through the organization of a federal agency, and the consequent release of state and county funds for the construction and maintenance of the state and county roads would greatly expedite completion of a network of highways everywhere.

Millions Saved.
"With recognition of interstate roads now a fundamental principle in the national highway law, there are numerous other measures of importance changes to be found in the new act. The new requirements for maintenance are so exacting as to insure the nation against loss and to set a high standard for the states. The same is true in the clause which provides that highways must be constructed with due regard for future, as well as prevailing traffic needs. The new and flexible formula for public lands states will be far-reaching in its benefits, as will the liberal appropriations for forest roads and trails which reach a total of \$15,000,000 for the next two years. The clause which directs the secretary of war to transfer to the secretary of agriculture surplus war materials available for highway use will effect a savings of millions of dollars in the purchase of equipment and will modernize highway methods of construction and maintenance everywhere.

PRACTISE HOUSE NEBRASKA 'U' IS COMPLETE TO BABE

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 2.—Assuming the role of that messenger of the air which the kiddie knows only as "flock" when a new brother or sister arrives at his home, juvenile judge W. M. Morning has made possible the completion of the family that inhabits the practice house of the home economics department of the University of Nebraska by placing such a bundle of rags, curves and dimples to their care.

Kathryn Marie is the name of this parcel of five-months infancy, although she will remain inanimate so far as her last name is concerned, enough it is to the mother of the house and those junior and senior girls who will in turn assume the role of "student mother," that Kathryn Marie is of a good, but destitute Lincoln family.

Kathryn Marie's adoption as a part of the household of the practice house was for the purpose of affording college girls an opportunity to learn first hand the fundamentals of intelligent care of the baby. Six sets of "mothers" will have been trained by the end of the school year, as six junior and senior girls in this department have a rotation six-weeks course with Kathryn Marie.

Each one of the six co-eds during the practice house course must function in one of six positions each week, rotation so that each girl has experience in all six of the positions of the course. One girl is to be "baby manager" and will be responsible for Kathryn Marie's care that week. She will prepare the baby's food, see that she is fed according to schedule, bathed, each day, clothes laundered and generally taken care of. Miss Marie Fulton, instructor of home economics and director of the house, will personally hover over Kathryn Marie to see that the "student mothers" do not go awry of the schedule.

Once or twice a week Kathryn Marie will be taken to a clinic at the office of two Lincoln infant specialists and the girls will have an opportunity of talking with the doctors.

WOMAN OFFICIAL OF NEW YORK BANS ALL DRESS REFORM

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—There'll be no regulation of skirt lengths, no ban on bare knees, no outcry against the bobbing of tresses or the parking of corsets by her employees when Miss Annie Mathews takes over on January 1 the office to which she has just been elected as register of the County of New York—the richest political plum that has ever fallen into the lap of a woman in New York, if not in the entire United States.

Not that the \$12,000-a-year registered hasn't very decided ideas on clothes and all the allied arts so precious to women. Indeed, she has spent the greater part of her 49-odd years studying the clothes problem, first as dressmaker, then a designer and finally as an importing modiste.

But she has even more decided ideas on the question of personal liberty.

"I am opposed to all prohibition," she said.

"It is impossible to make women or men moral by legislation. The human race can be improved only by education that will make them appreciate the good and the artistic.

"If any of my young women employees ask for my advice on clothes, I shall give it. And the most important thing I will tell them is to wear something appropriate for the occasion. A woman's business attire, or house attire certainly should be simple.

Busy herself at the time receiving congratulations at her campaign headquarters, Miss Mathews' attire emphasized her formula. A plain blue serge dress, softened at the throat by a bit of embroidered linen collar. Black high shoes. No jewelry. Copper colored hair simply coiffed.

"Skirt lengths, bobbed hair, the question of corsets or none," she went on, with a twinkle from behind her place-nez glasses, "are largely matters of taste—and of figure. All this talk about depravity among young women makes me a bit weary. I believe the young people are as good as young people ever were.

"Of course there are and always have been extremists. But—well, I don't think I will be troubled with these, for I can tell a great deal about character by the clothes one wears. Yes, even the standardized clothes of men.

Miss Mathews enters on her new job of keeping the country's deeds, mortgages and leases with but one preconceived idea—that there shall be no prejudice either for or against any of her 150 employees because they happen to be women.

POET LAUREATE OF STEPPE WIZARD IN PLEASING RUSSIANS

MOSCOW, Dec. 2.—Dmitri Bedni, the poet laureate of the Kremlin, is far more of a popular favorite than Robert Bridges, the British poet laureate.

Dmitri is his family name and Bedni means "The Poor." But he is far from being poor in the generally accepted sense. He has a good apartment at the Kremlin, travels on special cars and enjoys great distinction.

He was well known as a poet before the revolution but rides Pegasus so skillfully under orders and is so successful as a writer of propaganda verse and as good an orator that he has been very useful to Trotsky and other leaders. He frequently travels about with prominent Bolshevik chieftains and has found much favor with the Red army, to which he reads his political verses.

Dmitri is a robust, typical Russian of 40, who has great physical strength and personality and is not compelled to rely on eccentricities of dress or manner to attract attention.

The revolution brought out a large crop of new poets and near-poets, who cast aside all the traditions of old Russian verse-makers and announced that art would throw off its shackles. They immediately scrapped Pushkin and the other old favorites of the Russian public. They went in for vera libre. But the public failed to follow. It clung to Pushkin.

The imagist poets have their own cafe. They call it "The Stall of Pegasus." Long-haired bards with low-necked shirts and soulful eyes read their poetry there. But foreigners who don't understand Russian make up a majority of the audience. Cherenchitch and Yessenin are probably the best known of this group. There is also a group of proletarian poets headed by Alexandrefsky.

But on the whole rhymeless, rhythmless poetry hasn't been a great success and the average man insists upon having jingles. He may be a communist or a Bolshevik in politics but in literature he clings to old writers and in art to old painters.

Verechagin and Repin still hold their own in the art galleries in spite of struggling artists who have tried to convince the public that it must abandon everything old in order to live up fully to the new freedom.

Gorky and Chekhov have not been driven from the theater by the flood of propaganda plays which have been offered. The failure of the new regime to produce any especially notable novels, poems, operas or plays is attributed by the Bolshevik leaders to sabotage on the part of workers in various artistic lines.



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