

SOCIAL INSURANCE IN FRANCE PROVES TOO HEAVY A BURDEN, PUBLIC OPINION ASKS CHANGES

PARIS, France, March 29—At the very moment America is thinking of adopting social insurance, France is endeavouring to lighten if not lay aside the burden of its own scheme. Moved by a great wave of popular opposition to the social insurance law as it exists at present, a majority of members of the French Senate have signed a resolution inviting the Government to present a project for its complete reorganization. There are indications that this project, when finally approved, will drastically modify the existing law and may even constitute a step toward its eventual abolition.

Employees and employers alike in France are today agreed upon the necessity of simplifying the social insurance scheme and of lessening the financial charges it imposes on both. In addition, an astonishingly large proportion of the workers who are in theory the "beneficiaries" of the insurance plan, join the vast mass of employers in denouncing the scheme as unwise and unworkable.

Hurts Business

Opposition to social insurance is intensified at the moment because of the fact that French industry is finding it almost impossible to meet foreign competition on account of its very high fiscal and social charges. Unemployment has increased alarmingly in France in the past few months as a result of this production crisis and since the French social insurance scheme does not include unemployment aid, workers as well as industrialists are crying loudly for a change.

The French social insurance system, which has been described as "probably the most comprehensive yet adopted by any country", went into effect in 1930. All wage earners whose income does not exceed 18,000 francs (\$780 at 25)—or in the case of a man with a large family 25,000 francs—are insured against almost all possible risks, and are assured of a retirement pension at the age of 60 or 65.

Each Should Pay Part

For this protection, the worker pays from 3 to 5 per cent of his salary, while the employer contributes a similar sum. Since it is the employer, who is legally responsible for both his own and his employees' contributions, however, it very frequently hap-

pened that the charge on the producer is double what it was intended to be. The workers, for their part, find cause for discontent in the fact that it is in practice extremely difficult to obtain payment of claims. Frequently, in fact, workers legally entitled to compensation prefer to renounce their claims rather than brave the interminable red tape of French functionalism at its worst.

Primitive Wooden Plough Used By Maltese Farmer

In Malta ploughing of the land is complicated by the stone-wall boundaries of the fields. The total area under cultivation is only 43,000 acres distributed among 11,000 holdings, according to the Agricultural Department of the Canadian National Railways. The smaller farms are run by the farmer and his family. On the larger farms hired help is utilized and tractors are used to a limited extent. There are only six tractors in Malta. The smaller farmers use a primitive wooden plough which is light in weight and can be readily carried by the farmer to his homestead or lifted, as frequently is the case, across the stonewall boundaries. No mechanical threshers are used, they not being favored by the farmer who desires his straw thoroughly bruised so it may be the more readily appreciated by the stock when fed to them.

In the York and Sunbury Historical Society Museum in this City is a wooden plow similar to those described here. It was formerly used by the Acadians at Kingsclear, York County. Another similar plow is in the possession of Harvey Duplessis at Keswick Ridge in this county.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

The fourth weekend Gilwell Camp was held on March 23rd and 24th, under Commissioner Good and Cubmaster Manchip. Ten candidates took part, from the Bull and Eagle Patrols. The usual program was carried out, and at the investiture held on March 24th under Mr. Good and Mr. Manchip, four re-affirmed the Scout Promise and eight were invested as Scouts. All candidates showed up well and maintained the high level of the previous camps. The weather was mainly fair, though heavy snow fell on Saturday night, with a strong wind.

Those taking the Patrol Leaders' Course, wrote their examinations at the Parish Hall, on March 23rd. Twenty-one in all have written the papers and show on an average, a good grasp of the training. The examination, which included thirty-three questions, was supervised by Cubmaster Harold Doherty and Rover Scouts Charters and Quartermain.

On Saturday, Commissioner Pugh attended a provincial meeting at St. John, when arrangements were discussed for furthering the Baden-Powell Welcome Jamboree which is to take place in Saint John between May 31st and June 3rd. Good progress was made. The technical arrangements are largely in the hands of George Scott, who is acting as provincial commissioner during the illness of Mr. Eli Boyaner.

Cubmaster Harold Doherty is now back on duty with the Fourth Fredrickton Pack.

A Scout Troop is being formed by Plaster Rock has now 25 young men, all over 18 years of age, who are at present Rover Squires. These, the nucleus of what will be a strong Rover crew, all will take the Scout Leaders' Training Course to be held at Plaster Rock next month.

Following the regular meeting of the local association last Thursday the Akela Club met at the Parish Hall, with a good attendance. Preparations have been made for a District Wolf Cub Conference, to prepare for the coming Provincial Jamboree, and before that, for the annual Easter Egg Good Turn. Cubmaster Fred Blair of the 8th Fredrickton Wilmet Pack, was elected as secretary to the local association last Thursday in succession to Mr. Geoffrey Richards.

Well, here's hoping we don't have to read all the Dionne quintas say when they begin to talk.

Advocacy of what you want is salesmanship; advocacy of what the other fellow wants is propaganda.

Some Trade Secrets

(By S. Richard Cate)

A Poor British soldier was once helped by a kindly barber of Doncaster who gave him a railroad fare when he had not a cent in his pocket and needed the ticket urgently. The soldier did not forget the kindness, and gave his benefactor, afterwards, a recipe for making blacking which he picked up in his travels. The barber tried it, found it remarkably good, kept the formula a secret and formed a partnership with a man named Day to make and sell it. The result is Day and Martin's blacking, advertised on the entire continent of Europe, the formula for which is one of the most valuable trade secrets in the world.

All the world over, the paper on which the Bank of England notes are printed is well known. Its formula is the most famous in Europe, and belongs to a family of English paper-makers, the Portals of Laverstock. In two generations it has brought them in an enormous fortune, and it is guarded, naturally, with the most jealous care. The American Government has a trade secret—the making of the particular green ink used on twenty dollar bills. Only once in a long while is it counterfeited successfully; and one New York gang of counterfeiters, who actually managed to steal the formula, were tracked down and caught not long ago, by the secret-service men.

A native of India made the first chutney sauce and sold the secret to an Englishman for a few rupees. The other day the formula changed hands in London, and the buyer gave forty thousand dollars for it. Another firm in England has paid fifty thousand dollars for the secret of curing hams by the Brandenburg method.

One family of merchants, at Burtscheid, near Aix-la-Chapelle, have held for generations the order for the brilliant red cloth form which the robes of the Roman cardinals are made. The distillation of the dye is a mystery, passing from father to son, and solemly guarded in the family. The secrecy used is only paralleled by that of the company in New Jersey which owns the dyeing formulas for "mercerizing" cotton goods. This company's works are as inaccessible as a military fortress, and its dye processes for finishing various goods are absolutely proof against spies. Its chemical formulas are locked in vaults like those of a bank, and its few trusted men are held for life in their positions, and guarded carefully.

"Printer's Ink" which tells about this, goes on to say how Worcester-shire sauce came into being. The recipe was used in an English county family for hundreds of years. An old butter sold it for a trifling sum to a clever buyer, who became the head of the firm of Lea and Perrins. That was many years ago, but the formula has never been resold, and millions have been made out of the sauce. It has been more imitated than any other sauce ever known, and chemists of note have been offered large sums if they could duplicate the formula. No one, however, has ever succeeded, any more than those who have sought to solve the secret of Russian caviar. Caviar remains inimitable, though America and Europe have done their best to reproduce it. Russia holds the secret, descended through many generations; and the land of the czar makes incalculable amounts of money out of it, the caviar factories being guarded with military watchfulness.

The story is told of how the chemist of a match company, quarrelling with one of the officers, left, taking his formula with him, and how the whole corporation went to pieces forthwith. The Oxford press, for the thin, tough paper used in its famous Bibles, has a formula valued at more than a million dollars. It cost twenty five years of work to perfect it, and one hundred thousand dollars to boot, so its present valuation is not excessive.

Another sort of trade secret and asset is the inside information, and data and lists of customers which are the distinctive property of a concern as much as its trademark. Not long ago the courts decided that an employee in Buffalo who left a business taking with him lists of names, and so forth, was restrained by law from using them in the business of a new employer. This decision is especially interesting to advertisers, who use lists of names so frequently, but it seems to be sound law. Trade secrets, of any kind, are certainly about as valuable property as exists, and it is therefore fair to safeguard them with the greatest care—Forward.

Witness

May 6—Royal Procession to St. Paul's
June 3—King's Birthday Celebrations.
June 15—Empire Service, Canterbury.
July 16—Naval Review, Spithead.
Aug. 5-10—Royal Regatta, Cowes.

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