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Making Law

Difficulty of Framing Good Laws Is Enormous

By HON. JAMES BRYCE,
British Ambassador to United States.



THE difficulty of framing good laws is enormous, because the work is in most countries no longer the comparatively easy task of repealing old laws which hampered and constrained the citizens—destruction is simple work—but the far harder task of creating a new set of laws which shall guide and help men to attaining the ends they are bent on. Seventy years ago people thought that the great thing was freedom. When they had got it they were dissatisfied, and instead of simply letting everything and everybody alone to work their own weal or woe, on individualist principles, they forthwith set to work to forbid some things which had been tolerated before and to throw upon government all sorts of new functions more difficult and delicate than those of which they had stripped it.

The demand for a profusion of legislation is inevitable; and the difficulty of having it good, undeniable. In what does the difficulty consist?

In three things. First, of those who demand legislation, many do not understand exactly what is the evil they desire to cure, the good they seek to attain. Secondly, when they do understand the evil they seldom know what is the proper remedy, when they seek the laudable end they seldom perceive the best means to it. Thirdly, the number of measures, remedial and constructive, called for is so large that it is very hard to select out of them those most urgently needed. No legislation can deal with all at once. Where many are being pressed at once by different persons they jostle one another, and like people crushing one another in the narrow exits of a theater, they move more slowly than if they were made to pass along in some regular order.

The task of legislation becomes more and more difficult, owing to the complexity of modern civilization, the vast scale of modern industry and commerce, the growth of new modes of production and distribution that need to be regulated, yet so regulated as not to interfere with the free play of individual enterprise.

Many of the problems which legislation now presents are too hard for the ordinary members and even for the abler members of legislative bodies, because they cannot be mastered without special knowledge. (It may be added that in the United States a further difficulty arises from the fact that legal skill is often required to avoid transgressing some provision of the federal or a state constitution.)

The above conditions make it desirable to have some organized system for the gathering and examination of materials for legislation, and especially for collecting the laws passed in other countries on subjects of current importance.

To secure the pushing forward of measures needed in the public interest, there should be in every legislature arrangements by which some definite person or body of persons become responsible for the conduct of legislation.

Bills of a local or personal nature ought to be separated from bills of general applicability and dealt with in a different and quasi-judicial way.

Arrangements ought to be made, as, for instance, by the creation of a drafting department connected with a legislature or its chief committees, for the putting into proper legal form of all bills introduced.

Similarly, a method should be provided for rectifying in bills before they become law such errors in drafting as may have crept into them during their passage.

When any bill of an experimental kind has been passed, its workings should be carefully watched and periodically reported on as respects both the extent to which it is actually enforced (or found enforceable) and the practical results of the enforcement.

In order to enable both the legislature and the people to learn what the statute law in force actually is, and thereby to facilitate good legislation, the statute law ought to be periodically revised, and as far as possible so consolidated as to be brought into a compact, consistent and intelligible shape.

Man Is a Builder

By REV. THOMAS EDWARD BARR,
Minister.

Involuntary architects, we shape and rear four houses for ourselves, establishing and beautifying them or making them unsafe and unsightly by all we are and do. What are you making your family house, your home, out of? Loyalty, honor, truth, unselfishness are the four corners of love's inclosure, the safeguards of its teaching and inspiring ministry, the anchorage of the hearts it sends forth for struggle with the world.

You build a house for yourself in society. Business and social intercourse are its life. Integrity, industry, justice and

good-will are its cornerstones. Do you square to these?

With what are we building our national house? Liberty and justice, equality and brotherhood, bound the circuit of our national hope.

What kind of a house does your religion make for you? A chamber of horrors, where morbid conscience and unjust authority hold you in terror? An unfenced plain, with the uncharted heavens to guide you over an unknown earth? What are the landmarks of this great estate? Reverence for God and for all that is, because God made it; faith, in the good in men and for men; hope, for the ultimate triumph of right in ourselves and in the world; love, for all God's world, here and beyond the veil of death, specially to help those who need. Does your religion make it easier for you to resist temptation? Does it help you to be brave, worthily ambitious, untiring? Does it make you patient, sympathetic, helpful? Does it bring the unseen and spiritual closer to your consciousness, with the appeal of its supreme, controlling, lasting worth? This is the tabernacle of God, let down out of heaven for each man, and which each may make tangible for himself. In this is the peace that passeth understanding, and joys forevermore.

Four houses? There is a fifth—the house of character. Thought and desire, purpose and experience, weave a tent, the expression of ourselves, which we can never quit and through which we look and work upon the world. What if it be the poisoned shirt of Nessus, tormenting Hercules to his death? What if it be the creative foregleam of the building of God, the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens? To attain that revelation toil and pain are well worth while.

Thomas Edward Barr

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FOR UNION MEN

AN ENTERTAINING LECTURE.

Full of Striking Information for the General Public.

Of C. J. McMorrow, who will lecture at the Auditorium on May 29, on the union labels of the various crafts, the St. Paul Union Advocate says:

"C. J. McMorrow, the accomplished gentlemen who explained the labels

as the were thrown on the large screen in brilliant stereopticon views, prefaced this part of the performance with a luminous and eloquent exposition of the purposes and achievements of trade unionism which was very instructive and entertaining. He showed that the labor movement had for its highest aim the better conditions for the toilers of the land and

their families, higher wages for the worker, improved domestic and social conditions for the household, enlarged intellectual advantages and business opportunities for the young, the abolition of child labor, the total elimination of the sweatshop and its products, and the removal of the unwholesome competition of contract prison labor with trained free labor

in all the productive crafts of industrial life. The reduction of the hours of toil for skilled workmen from thirteen hours a day to eight, by gradual triumphs over heartless and conscienceless capitalistic greed, the improvement of the homes of the toilers, the augmentation of the freedom, culture, enjoyment, power and influence of the great mass of the people under the benign inspiration of trade unionism which have made the 'American standard of living' the highest and broadest in the world, were rapidly and vividly portrayed, and forced home on the apprehension of the vast audience in 'thoughts that breathe and words that burn,' all presented in the fascinating style for which Mr. McMorrow is everywhere renowned."

BALCH AT BALTIMORE.

Popular Lincoln Pastor Standing Up for the Workers of Today.

BALTIMORE, Mr., May 12.—With the backing of Governor Hoch of Kansas, Senator Dolliver of Iowa, and prominent ministers and laymen, Rev. Dr. William Balch, of Trinity church, Lincoln, Neb., is leading a movement to put the Methodist Episcopal church closer to the laboring men, particularly those in labor unions.

"The church should make a direct bid for the laboring men's support," he said today, "and should try to meet and conquer any hostile feeling toward the church that any laboring man may feel. It is a crisis in the conflict that confronts us. On the one side predatory monopolies, on the other the misery of the oppressed multitudes. Besides there is a deadly and increasing class hatred. In such an emergency nothing can be more deplorable than the manifest fact that the masses are not only indifferent to the church, but also the suspicion that the church is indifferent to them." Dr. Balch said that his committee will recommend the creation of a department of labor. He has been working out the details with a special committee.

HUMAN LIFE CHEAPEST.

It is cheaper to kill workmen than to protect them. It is an easy matter to sell a device to save time but one to protect life cannot be given away. The whole story rests in the neglect of our government to enact liability laws that will force the employer to provide safety appliances and use them.—The Railroad Trainman.

The Man Who Works for Wages

A few years ago the wage-earner was supposed to care nothing for the fit of his clothes. If he did, he had his care for his pains. Manufacturers cut their clothing with a circular saw, and a coat that would fit a workingman 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 150 pounds, was supposed to fit just as well the worker 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighing 115 pounds. On one it looked like a skin of a banana, on the other it hung like a horse blanket over a fence post. Only the well-to-do could afford tailor-made clothes. Suddenly a great light dawned on manufacturers—The men who work for wages keep things going! Aha, we'll cater to them a while. Now the worker, the man who deserves the best, can

dress as well as the professional man.

Ill-fitting clothing is no longer the badge of toil; fine clothing no longer the mark of wealth. The man who deserves the best is no longer forced to accept the worst. We handle a line of union-made clothing that has no equal for style, fit, durability, material or workmanship—



On
the
Square



On
the
Square

garments any union man should be proud to wear, just as we are proud to recommend and sell them. We also handle union-made shoes, union-made hats, union-made collars, union-made work clothes, etc. We hunt the centers of union manufacture for the very best union-made goods, because we believe that union men deserve the best the market affords. Our present prices are the bargain prices you will find further down the street when this spring's line goes on sale there in the winter. We beat 'em to the bargain price just the length of a season. Get into one of our union-made suits and feel like a well set-up workingman. That's better than feeling like a king. Some kings are two-spots so far as any good service they perform.

SPEIER & SIMON

"On the Square"

TENTH & O

"On the Corner"