

CODE BILL IN OPERATION.

California Expert Investigates And Commends.

He Tells the People What It Is Doing and Predicts Their Approval.

Nebraska State Journal: Flattering results of the Nebraska code bill are predicted by Will H. Fischer, director of the tax payers' association of California. He has been in Lincoln investigating the workings of Governor McKelvie's code bill which has been in operation since last August. He has made similar investigations in Illinois and Idaho. His report to Governor McKelvie, in the following form, interests all the people, including politicians, who take an interest in the form of the state government:

Lincoln, Neb., June 25, 1920.—Governor Samuel R. McKelvie, State Capitol.—Dear Governor McKelvie: As you are aware, I am just completing an investigation of the governmental organization of your state. I have been making similar investigations in other states, the object of such investigations being to study the results which are being accomplished in commonwealths which have undertaken to eliminate their boards and commissions, so far as possible, by consolidating the functions of such agencies into clearly defined departments responsible to the governor. We are all acquainted with the disproportionately high cost, the overlapping and conflicting duties and the general lack of efficiency inherent in the old system of multiplied boards and commissions. We are now being afforded the opportunity to get acquainted with the economy, efficiency and real responsiveness, as well as responsibility, of state governments reorganized on the new departmental basis; and for that opportunity we are particularly indebted to the states of Illinois, Nebraska and Idaho, which have successfully pioneered in new governmental territory and blazed the path for other states to follow.

I am positive that if the people of the state of Nebraska have given any sort of close attention to their government since its reorganization they will lose no opportunity to signalize and emphasize their approval of the advancement that has been made.

Systems of administrative government such as have been set up in Nebraska, Illinois and Idaho—systems which a score of states, including, for instance, New York, California, Iowa, Delaware, Oregon, Washington are preparing to adopt—are never popular with professional politicians of either or any party. Politicians for revenue only, and politicians who conceive of party welfare as necessitating the building up of great payroll machines at the expense of the taxpayers, obviously and inevitably are hostile in spirit—and in action, if bold enough—towards any system which attempts to apply to the management of the public business those principles which, of necessity, any successful man must apply to the management of private business.

From political quarters, should an attack ever come as against the new governmental plan in Nebraska, I anticipate that it will not be on the merits of the system; for attack cannot successfully be made on that ground. From a careful and impartial investigation I am convinced of that. But it will be whispered, and probably shouted, that departmentalized consolidated government is "autocratic"; that it centralizes great power in the governor; that it is not in the line of democratic ideals. That is the sort of both the politicians have coined in other states; it is the sort that may possibly, at one time or another, be heard in Nebraska. It is intended solely for the purpose of bamboozling the people.

The place for democracy, as every sensible citizen understands, is in the halls of legislation and at the polls where measures of public policy or legislation may be directly submitted. Democracy is expressed in law only. The voice of the people is heard in the constitution and statutes.

On the other hand, the responsibility placed by the people upon the governor and subordinate officers of state is that of executive and administering the law. The responsibility can be met satisfactorily only through a correct organization of the governmental machinery. Experience has proven that the diffusion of power and responsibility throughout a great number of independent governing agencies is not conducive either to economy, activity or democracy. On the contrary, that system results in nothing done, at high cost—and the tyranny of a vast coterie of officials sacrificing the public interest constantly for political considerations.

In Nebraska the legislature has rearranged, in large part, the governmental machinery. No more executive power exists than formerly; but it can be more efficiently balanced by a responsibility that is absolutely fixed, in all cases, and that cannot be evaded. In consequence, your state government is in the open. Its activities is stimulated, economical management must be realized.

At a future date I shall be glad to submit to you some detailed analytical treatments which, on my return to California, I intend to prepare with reference to Nebraska and other states. I shall not go into details now.

I feel sure, however, that you and all those who have had a part in establishing the new system, your legislators, the secretaries of the several departments, the bureau and divisional chiefs, and those citizens who have given their co-operation, will feel a pardonable pride in the record made from the outset.

You will have a far more comprehensive set of reports than were ever obtainable before, showing the people just what service has been rendered.

You will be able to give as thorough an accounting, financially, as can be rendered by any state in the union. In fact, your department of finances is one of the best in the United States.

You will be able to show considerable savings on your purchases, even in the face of a market which is most trying.

You will be able to show an expansion of your humanitarian work, and an intelligent plan for the future.

You will be in a position to show a far more thorough and effective execution of the laws framed to support and encourage the vast agricultural and allied interests of Nebraska.

Under your department of justice act all legal work has been concentrated under the attorney-general. A most desirable reform.

The interests of labor have been promoted and conserved more efficiently than would have been possible under the old system.

The inspection work of the state in all departments, commands particular approval.

As your great system of highways is developed, the advantage of centralized control in your department of public works will command more and more attention and approval.

You will be able to present to the next legislature a budget which will, in truth, be what budgets ought to be, a balance sheet and a complete work program for the ensuing biennium. This budget your legislature can consider, approve or modify, with real intelligence of judgment and action. This is a tremendous advance.

And lastly, when at the end of the biennium you return to the treasury unexpended, a considerable sum of money appropriated by the 1919 legislature, and do this at a time when the average state is "running in the red" in all departments, I think every citizen will understand that the new system, from the standpoint of cost, is more than in line with this demand for economy.

In closing, kindly accept my thanks for the courtesies which have been extended to me by yourself and by the secretaries and other officers of the state government during the course of my sojourn in Lincoln.

Yours truly,
WILL H. FISCHER,
Director, Tax Payers Association of California.

A BUSINESS MAN FOR PRESIDENT.

George B. Lockwood in the National Republican: Warren G. Harding, next president of the United States, will be the first business man by occupation to become president of the United States.

There have been 27 presidents, holding the office of chief executive throughout a period of 131 years; all soldiers, lawyers, planters or publicists by profession; not a business man by occupation in the whole long line. Warren G. Harding will be the first business man and the first newspaper man to succeed to the office.

Yet the office of president deals with the biggest business concern on earth—the United States of America. The American government is a great corporation in which a hundred and ten million people are stock holders. From that corporation the people must draw dividends, or to it they must pay assessments. It deals vitally with the welfare of private trade and industry, upon which depends the material prosperity of all these millions. Yet until now, in all our century and a third of history, not one business man by occupation for the biggest business post on earth!

Under the present national administration the government has broken completely on the business side. It was a Democratic senator who declared that under the present management every department had collapsed. Through lack of competent business direction the machinery of government has been so incompetently handled that the situation calls loudly for the services of a salvage corps. Waste, extravagance, incompetency, inefficiency, have cost the people billions. They have heaped huge burdens of taxation on the backs of the people. They have undermined the faith of the people in their government. They nearly lost the war through the failure to furnish our soldiers at the front with proper equipment, and through a debauch of waste at home that brought inflation, profiteering, demoralization in public and private affairs, in its wake. These abuses, due to lack of business sense on the part, primarily, of the President of the United States, still menace the very solvency and safety of the nation.

Along with all this break-down in the management of the nation's own business affairs, has a totally wrong attitude on the part of the government toward legitimate business enterprise,

accompanied by an effort to make the government itself the universal employer and provider. The machinery of government has been utilized, under the camouflage of war necessity, to political industry. More interested in politics than in business, for which the head of the administration confesses aristocratic scorn, the aim has been to build up the public payrolls and destroy the private payrolls of the country. We have had, as someone has well put it, too much of politics in business and too little business in politics.

Out of this chaos comes loudly the call for the reconstructive hand of a real business man; one who has actually wrought in the field of practical business affairs. The answer to that call is the Republican nominee for President, Warren G. Harding, who, in a typical American community, built a large and thriving business, under adverse conditions, from the ground up, and who, through years of actual contact with men and things in the business world, knows what business means and how it should properly be conducted.

There is a world of theories and words, and a world of things and deeds. Too many professing to be statesmen well in the former, and too often, charged with great responsibility they make a mess of practical affairs. Warren G. Harding is a product of the school of practical experience; a graduate of "the university of hard knocks." The great business problems of government, now foremost because of the oppressive burdens of taxation, the vital necessity of reorganizing the government on a business basis, and the immediate need of giving to American business enterprise and American agriculture and American labor the encouragement essential to ward off widespread commercial calamity as the aftermath of war—these conditions call for a man

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in the Presidency who in the world of practical affairs has learned to deal with business problems in a business way.

And, so, in response to this immediate, pressing need, Warren G. Harding will be the nation's first business man by occupation in the Presidency of the United States.

A WAGGISH EMPLOYER.
Boston Transcript: "Mistress—Let me see. What's your name?"
Maid—Minnie, mum.
Mistress—Well, Minimum, if you'll only do the maximum of work, we'll get along nicely.

SPEED MANIA.
Boto Transcript: Mrs. Newrich (returned from tour)—We went very swiftly all the way.
Caller—But travelling in a fast auto, how could you get any idea of the country?

Mrs. Newrich—Oh, I bought a lot of picture postcards every place we stopped at.

THE DIFFERENCE.
Coal Merchant (anxiously)—Hold on! That load hasn't been weighed. It looks to me a trifle large for a ton.
Driver—"Taint intended for a ton. It's two tons.
Coal Merchant—All right. Go Ahead.

FREEZING.
Yale Record: He—What makes that fellow glare at me so?
She—You're sitting on his ice cream.

AND COME TO STAY.
Boston Transcript: "I believe," said the cheery philosopher, "that for every single thing you give way two come back to you."

"That's my experience," agreed Phamley. "Last March I gave away my daughter and she and her husband came back in May."

FISH WERE PUNISHED.
Edinburgh Scotsman: Parson—Surely you haven't caught those to-day?

Little Boy—Yes, that's what happens to fishes what goes chasing worms on Sunday.

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There May Be Delay in Moving Your Telephone

If you order your telephone moved next week you may be told to expect a delay in getting it done.

Nearly half a million other telephone users in the United States will move their telephones this month, too. And for all of them many carloads of wire and other materials will be needed.

A general shortage of materials, as well as a lack of sufficient transportation facilities, is holding back factory output and the telephone companies can't get enough supplies. The factories are months behind in their orders.

In this emergency it will be greatly appreciated if you will order the least possible changes in your telephone equipment. And when you need to have something done please let us know as far in advance as possible.

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