

KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLIS FOR HER GENEROSITY TO THE UNFORTUNATE

Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan, One of the Most Philanthropic, as She Is One of the Most Wealthy, New York Women Who Devote Their Lives to Doing Good to Others.

SPENDS A MILLION DOLLARS YEARLY ON HER VARIOUS CHARITABLE SCHEMES.

Wife of Wall Street Baron, She Lives Plainly, Builds Churches, Helps Hospitals, and Spends All Her Spare Moments Making Baby Clothes for the Poor—Gives Without Ostentation, and to All Who Are Worthy and Unfortunate.

Day in and day out she sits and knits and knits and knits, with a steadfastness of purpose that ruled the fingers of Mme. Jacobin. But the stitches she takes are not the record of evil destinies. They mean succor for the sick and heavy-laden, work for idle hands, bread for the hungry, enlightenment for the untutored. Gentle, sympathetic, intensely pious, a home-lover and a home-maker, is this woman—the mother in the old-fashioned meaning of the word, the wife of Thomas Fortune Ryan.

The characteristics of Thomas Ryan, money-making prince and Wall Street baron, in a way also rule in the life of Mrs. Ryan, builder of churches, hospitals and schools, and the little known but enthusiastic cooperer in every move making for the betterment of the human kind. It has been said of her husband that he has had a finger in every big financial pie in the last decade. She has had a hand in nearly every philanthropic work in New York, Virginia, the District of Columbia and the southwest in that time. She is now giving away more than \$1,000,000 a year.

This woman, of whom the world knows practically nothing, has built more churches, hospitals and schools and endowed more places for the worship of God than perhaps any other living person. She gave \$1,000,000 last year alone to the churches and schools of Virginia, her native state.

Publicity is Mrs. Ryan's bete noir. To give without ostentation is the only way to give, according to her belief. There is no difference between Mrs. Ryan of 30 years ago and the Mrs. Ryan of to-day. It was of no moment to the public then what she did or did not do. She cannot understand why it should be interested now. She counts herself as doing no more than the wife of a poor man who gives of a slim purse to others. She gives from a richer purse, that's all.

Old-fashioned as Mrs. Ryan is, she is a woman combining all the business qualities and foresight demanded by the time. She is a woman of affairs, yet her home life comes first.

A glimpse into the favorite residence of Mrs. Ryan—the old Minturn house, on the northwest corner of Fifth avenue and Twelfth street—is a mental bath after the glitter and glare and garishness one usually meets in the homes of the rich, declares a writer in the New York Times. You enter through a high-ceilinged hall, draped with soft garnet hangings. A painting of the master of the house has a place of honor there, and on the walls are a few good engravings. This hall is like those found in all the fine old southern mansions. On the first floor are the library, drawing-room and smoking hall.

But it is up a wide staircase to the second floor that one must go to find a room about 20 feet square, furnished with chintz-covered chairs, hung with pictures, such as have long since been consigned to the fashionable and wealthy to dusty attic corners, and strewn with sewing tables, chests, a tea table and a music box. Everything is old-fashioned, with one exception, and that is an up-to-date desk, with a telephone attachment, which stands unobtrusively in a corner. This is the room, with its windows filled with red geraniums the year round, where Mrs. Ryan plans her good works, which the wealth of her husband executes.

There is never an idle moment when Mrs. Ryan is in that sitting-room of hers. No visitor is so important, no conversation so interesting, as to absorb her entire attention. She has a sympathy for the comfort and interests of the friends who go to her there, but always begins the visit with:

"You won't mind my going on with my knitting, will you?"

Not very long ago, when Cardinal Gibbons called upon Mrs. Ryan, his eminence was shown to the sitting-room where Mrs. Ryan was busy, between telephone calls, knitting a baby's pink and white sack. After a formal salutation to the churchman, her fine white fingers began to ply the yarn in the weave again.

"Lose your position? Good thing! I'll get you a better one. Now, I am busy knitting. You tell your chief tonight you won't be there for a couple of months, and come around here tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. I am going to put some things aside and wait for you. Good-by, and God bless you!"

"And those baby are you working so hard to clothe?" asked the cardinal.

"Oh, a poor dear little girl who will appreciate it. And then the subject was changed, but not the thoughts of Mrs. Ryan.

A few friends who have been in the sitting-room many times can tell of dozens of packages of baby clothes made by the nimble fingers of the rich Mrs. Ryan. And besides, she keeps a corps of sewers making children's garments, which are delivered to her residence and by her given in person to that most unfortunate of all the classes, the proud poor, who will not ask at the doors of charitable institutions or clothing bureaus for aid. Mrs. Ryan calls that person her friend who tells her of such people in need.

There is a score of families, remnants of broken-down aristocracy, whose sole support lies in the fine needle-work which Mrs. Ryan gives to women otherwise unfitted for the burden of self-support.

Over in the south corner of the sitting-room there is a big chest with many drawers, each carrying some abbreviated label. In this chest are kept exquisite altar linens, the making of which has been the liberal support of families in need. As fast as these supplies are accumulated they are sent out to poor missions or heavily mortgaged parishes where the people are unable to contribute such things.

There is another chest full of baby things, and dearest of all to the heart of Mrs. Ryan, a well-filled medicine chest.

"I don't believe you look well," said Mrs. Ryan to a little needlewoman returning a package of fine linen one day. "How do you feel? Do you ever cough?" And in the end the woman went away with three bottles of hypophosphites, which would have cost her as many dollars.

Mrs. Ryan's life has not been without cloud and bitter grief. Death and long illness have weighed heavily on the mother-heart, and that great flood of sympathy given her by nature is ever wide to a fellow sufferer. Long and intimate acquaintance with illness has given her practical knowledge, and she knows more about medicine than many a man with a license. Two of her boys have been stricken down with lung trouble, and the great white plague holds greater terrors for her than any other physical affliction. She has given of her financial and personal aid toward the cure of those afflicted with this disease.

"I am more afraid of a sneeze than of a sprain, and a cough than a broken bone," she said one day. "Oh, I just can't talk about it. It breaks my heart to think of the flower of the manhood and young motherhood of our country being cut down by this terrible curse. When I think of other mothers who have seen their young sons lie down in their youth before their life work had begun, victims of this disease, I long to do something, anything, to help find a cure for it all."

A tear dropped on the ivory knitting needles and the usually placid features of the kindly face set in an expression of suffering.

"Oh, is that you, Mary? Now, don't assume that coldly polite manner and say nice things about appreciation and all that business. It's purely a business deal. You are not fit to work, and you know you are not. Suppose you die, who'll take care of the mother?"

"Oh, oh, that cough! Now, look here, little friend of mine, you do as I ask, or you will make me very, very unhappy. What good would any money of mine do me if I thought people I am interested in and like would die rather than let me help them? Now, look here, you go up into the mountains until you get well and strong again, and then you can come back and pay me back, if you want to, some day. Let me look out for things for awhile—"

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common, everyday, homely charities, which the average philanthropist fails to heed. Mrs. Ryan's thoughts have not been found wanting. There are two beds at St. Vincent's hospital, for instance, reserved especially for sick and worn-out telephone operators. The chief operators of every telephone exchange are notified regularly that such provision has been made for the care of the telephone girls, and when the two beds are full, Mrs. Ryan's purse is ever open to supply more if needed.

If Mrs. Ryan hears of a boy or girl who has shown any talent and has not the means of developing it, her handsome, motherly face brightens with one of her happy smiles as she says: "I am so glad I can do this little thing for some other mother's boy." It is always "a little thing" that Mrs. Ryan does, whether it be to build a church, a hospital, a school, or help the ill in body or mind. It's always "a little thing" for the hands which give a million dollars a year for good work to spend long hours making baby clothes for some little one whose mother finds life a poorly fed, overworked, back-breaking problem. It's "a little thing" to take a worn-out shop girl away from her drudgery for a month or two of rest and comfort where God's air is pure and undisturbed. It's "a little thing" to send some young boy with a hard cough and red spots on his cheek bones out into the eternal sunshine of the southwest for a new lease of life. It's "a little thing" to go out personally and hunt employment for the supporter of some family, to provide comforts and necessities for families in want, to make employment for men and women unfitted for the responsibilities which have fallen upon them. It's "a little thing" to educate ambitious boys and girls, and to do all these "little things, with just one stipulation: "You won't say anything about it, except sometimes remember me in a little prayer."

In the big public subscriptions where donors' names are advertised for what they have done, Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan's name is never seen. Avoiding always publicity, she is the same quiet, retiring, great-hearted woman who came to New York the girl wife of Tom Ryan, a clerk with nothing but a baby and a genius for making money, 34 years ago. There

was because of her son's ill-health and necessitated stay in the southwest that Mrs. Ryan interested herself in the missions to the Indians. She has built 11 churches throughout the southwest and she has done much for tuberculosis sufferers in that region. There are ten villages outside of Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa and a score of other desirable places where consumptives find Nature's cure, which has been furnished and supported by Mrs. Ryan for afflicted men and women whose means made such measures impossible.

Mrs. Ryan's faith in humanity is only surpassed by her faith in Almighty God. She is a lover of her fellow beings and a friend to all women. Although a devout Roman Catholic, her aid goes out to any good cause, irrespective of creed. But first and foremost in the interests of her life is the welfare of the mother church. She has the privilege granted to but few laymen, of having a private chapel in her residence, and she has the distinction of owning the only traveling chapel in the world, that owned by the queen of Spain.

But it is not only in the far west and to such charities as ride on a public wave of sentiment that Mrs. Ryan's heart and purse are ever open. In the

labor unions in Holland. Every department of labor is united in Holland and all other departments. So the other night the spectacle was seen at the Amsterdam opera house of a crowd of bootmakers and cobblers wrecking the performance of an opera for which nonunion choristers had been enlisted.

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NATIONAL CONGRESS ELDS TASKS BEYOND PASSING IMPORTANT MEASURES

RATE, MEAT INSPECTION AND PURE FOOD BILLS HURRIED THROUGH THROUGH BEFORE ADJOURNMENT—RESUME OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

Washington.—Congress completed Friday the execution of its legislative programme and adjourned Saturday.

On the eve of adjournment the difference between the house and senate on the important bills pending were adjusted. As a result of the action taken the following measures were laid before the president for his approval:

The railroad rate act.
The agricultural appropriation bill, including the meat inspection amendment.

The pure food act.
The president signed the railroad rate bill at 11:45 Friday night. It goes into effect in 60 days.

New Epoch in Legislation.
Had nothing else been done this congress these measures would stand out as monuments to the present national administration. In emphatic manner they mark the beginning of a new epoch in federal legislation—government regulation on corporations and the invocation of the police power, so to speak, to stay the hand of private greed and protect the pocketbook and the health and general welfare of the masses.

In the end the house has had its way mostly regarding the railroad rate bill. Oil pipe lines remain in the measure as common carriers, but the commodity provision of the bill has been fixed so as to make the prohibition of an alliance between transportation and production apply only to "railroad companies." The railroads cannot own coal mines or transport their own products, but Standard Oil and the independent oil companies can pipe their own product. The senate yielded on this point because the house refused to give in by an overwhelming vote, and otherwise the whole bill would have died.

Senator Tillman contented himself with a severe "roast" of the Standard Oil influence, and then as the one in charge of the measure voted to accept the conference report. The senate gained a victory in its contention in its readjustment of the anti-pass feature of the bill which prohibits free transportation to every one save certain exempted classes, including railroad employees and their families, and the officials, attorneys, surgeons, etc., of the companies.

House Victory in Meat Bill.
The meat legislation was a complete victory for the house. The senate agreed to the conference report and the house formally ratified it. There were two points in controversy—the payment for inspection service and the date of putting dates on the labels of cans and packages of meat products. The government will pay the cost of inspection, instead of the packers, and labels will not require the date of inspection or canning of the contents.

In announcing the failure of the senate conferees to win on these disputed points, Senator Proctor said the bill accomplished a great deal, inasmuch as it provides for thorough inspection of all meat products and the sanitary regulation of packing plants, and that the conferees felt they could not lose everything by holding out for distinctive features which the public would not accept. He paid his compliments to the packers in strong terms and charged them with having engineered the scheme that created sentiment in favor of making the government pay the cost of inspection. Other senators entered their protest against the controverted provisions of the measure, but finally the conference report was adopted.

In the house, acceptance of the report was a pure formality. One important new feature of the measure as it passed both houses is an added appropriation of \$900,000 to the \$3,000,000 for inspection provided in the house amendment. This was brought about by combining the amount originally appropriated to the bureau of animal industry for inspection under the old system with the new permanent appropriation.

Pure Food Bill Criticized.
The conference report on the pure food bill was adopted by both houses without any change. In the opinion of Dr. Wiley and other officials of the agricultural department, it is a good measure as far as it goes, but Mr. Mann, of Chicago, who had charge of the conference report, says that it was not as good as it had been hoped for. It is weak in that it does not provide a standard by which drugs, foods and drinks can be measured to determine whether they comply with the law. That important question is referred to the courts, which under the bill as it will become law must add to their

GENERAL PROVISIONS—The railroad rate bill requires all interstate carriers to make through routes and reasonable joint rates. It makes oil pipe line companies, express companies, and sleeping car companies common carriers and subject to the law. Railways are forbidden from engaging in any other business than transportation. Pipe lines are excluded from this prohibition.

PRIVATE CARS.—While permitting railways to use private freight cars, it requires that all incidental charges arising from refrigerating and other services be incorporated in the transportation charge.

PUBLIC RATES.—It requires publication of all rates, fares, or charges, and forbids changes save on 30 days' notice. Jurisdiction is conferred upon the interstate commerce commission to hear complaints of unjust and unreasonable rates, and to fix rates that are just and reasonable.

REBATES.—Rebates and other discriminatory practices are forbidden and subject to penalties.

COURT REVIEW.—A limited review of orders or requirements of the commission may be made by the courts, but no injunction, order, or decree suspending or restraining the enforcement of an order of the commission shall be granted except after not less than five days' notice.

NO PASSES.—Free transportation is limited to certain specified persons.

The interstate commerce commission is enlarged to seven members, whose compensation is fixed at \$10,000 annually.

already great burden the consideration of cases raising the issue as to whether certain articles of food or drugs contain harmful ingredients, are misbranded or because of their labels violate the pure food law.

Canal Type Is Fixed.
With the adjournment of congress it is possible to make a survey of the entire field of important legislation enacted during the session. The three most prominent measures already have been referred to, and their general provisions are well known to the country. Next in point of interest perhaps comes the Panama canal act.

The house first declared in favor of the lock canal, by providing that no portion of the money appropriated in the sundry civil bill should be expended on a sea level project. A majority of the senate committee reported in favor of a sea level canal, but after a vigorous debate the president's recommendation in favor of a lock type was approved by a vote of 36 to 31.

A joint resolution was passed by congress requiring the purchase of supplies and materials for the canal in the American market unless the president shall determine that the bids of domestic producers are extortionate or unreasonable.

Congress appropriated \$42,500,000 for continuing work on the canal, \$15,500,000 being deficiency appropriations and \$26,000,000 being for work during the fiscal year 1907. In addition to these appropriations steps are being taken to issue the canal bonds authorized by the Spooner act, which may be issued "from time to time" to the extent of \$150,000,000. During the present session congress provided that these bonds should have the rights and privileges of other two per cent. bonds of the United States and the tax of one-fourth of one per cent. imposed upon bonds deposited to secure national bank circulation was imposed upon the canal bonds when used for such security. It was also provided that the deficiency appropriation should be returned to the treasury from the proceeds of the sale of the canal bonds.

Statehood Issue Settled.
The admission of Oklahoma and Indian territory as a single state was accomplished by the act approved June 16. The act also admits Arizona and New Mexico into the union as a single state, provided that a majority in each of the territories shall vote for joint statehood, "and not otherwise." This bill was the subject of bitter contention, as it had been in former sessions. It passed the house in the form of a bill admitting the four territories as two states. The senate amended the bill by eliminating all provisions relating to Arizona and New Mexico. In conference the conditional admission of these territories as a state was agreed upon, and after vigorous debate in both houses the conference report was agreed to.

After several years of effort on the part of the state department congress at this session passed an act reorganizing the consular service. The consular general and consuls are grouped by classes, and provision is made for an inspection service consisting of five consuls general at large, with a salary of \$6,000 each. No officer in the consular service receiving more than \$1,000 is permitted to engage in business or practice law. All fees are to be turned into the treasury. Originally the bill provided that the higher offices should be filled by promotion only, but this provision was eliminated and the promotion system has been established by the state department without further enactment.

Boon in Alcohol Bill.
A most important piece of legislation is the removal of the tax upon denatured alcohol. It was strongly opposed by manufacturers of kerosene and gasoline. In the debate it was alleged that, with the tax removed, alcohol could be manufactured and sold cheaper than either kerosene or gasoline and that it would enter into universal use for illuminating, motive power and otherwise.

A national quarantine law providing for uniformity of administration and giving the federal government power to establish quarantines in port cities and supersede the local and state authorities, has been passed.

An employer's liability bill, to meet the demands of the trainmen of the United States, has been placed upon the statute books after years of effort.

Greater Aid for Militia.
Among the acts affecting the military establishment were those increasing the efficiency of the ordnance department of the army and increasing the appropriation for the militia from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 annually.

Congress took a new tack in the naval appropriation bill. Instead of authorizing the construction of the biggest battleship afloat, as first pro-

vided by the house, the bill as finally passed authorizes the preparation of plans for such a vessel, to be submitted to congress. The naval act of this year makes small provision otherwise for the increase of the navy.

A bill was passed defining hazing and providing for the punishment of midshipmen guilty of the offense.

General legislation during this session included an act prohibiting interstate commerce in spurious or falsely stamped articles made of gold or silver alloy, an act providing for the marking of the graves of Confederate soldiers and sailors and an act providing for the disposition of the five civilized tribes of Indians.

The principal legislation affecting the Philippines was an act postponing the operation of the coastwise laws until April 11, 1909; another revising the Philippines tariff, and a third authorizing the purchase of coal claims by the secretary of war.

An important measure to cattle interests is that changing the 28-hour law so that cattle may be kept in cars 36 hours without unloading.

Immigration Bill Fails.
Among the important measures that have failed the immigration bill demands first consideration. It failed because a conference committee was not appointed to settle the disagreement between the two houses. After a spirited fight in the house, in which Speaker Cannon participated, the immigration bill, originally a senate measure, was passed, with a substitute for the "educational test," which required immigrants to possess the ability to read English or some other language. The house substituted a section providing for a commission to investigate the subject of immigration. The bill will command attention when congress reconvenes in the fall.

The bill to prevent contributions by corporations to campaign funds was started in the house. It was forced through the senate by the indefatigable efforts of Senator Tillman. The house leaders refused to let it come up there, although it is understood action will be permitted at the next session. The Democrats charge that the Republicans want to lay it over until after the congressional elections, in order to get one more chance at the corporation barrel.

The Philippine tariff bill is still another notable failure. It was one of the features of the original administration programme, was whipped through the house after a celebrated fight with the insurgents, and eventually landed in the seclusion of a senate committee-room. It has been allowed to be forgotten for the present.

The immunity bill, designed to prevent the recurrence of fiascos such as attended the prosecution of the Chicago beef cases, passed the house and in amended form was reported favorably from the senate committee on judiciary. Ever since then efforts to get it up have failed owing to the objection of some senator or other.

It has been a hard session for treaties. The Santo Domingo convention, much desired by the administration, has been kept down by the hostile minority in the senate. No action has been taken either on the Isle of Pines or Algeiras treaties.

Fate of Labor Bills.
Bills, most of which were demanded by the leaders of organized labor, have met their fate as follows:

1. The anti-injunction bill—dead in the judiciary committee.

2. The eight-hour bill, reported from the committee on labor, but not acted upon.

3. The election of senators in congress by direct vote of the people—dead in committee.

4. The