

\$1,725.00 for twenty-three lives. In Ohio, \$3,750 is paid for the loss of a life, or more than twice as much as was paid in New York by the insurance companies for the loss of twenty-three lives.

The Lima Locomotive works, of Lima, Ohio, reported recently to the industrial commission that the expense to that institution under the new plan was much less than it was under the old. This observation is typical of the industrial situation in Ohio.

About four hundred claims are being settled every day. The newspapers are filled with stories of widows receiving their compensation within two weeks. A day or two ago the commission purchased a home for a widow for \$1,500.00, and arranged that the remaining compensation should be paid at so much per week for six years.

Prison reforms are being carried out which are attracting the attention of the whole country. Under the old order in Ohio convicts were farmed out to industrial plants, and the sweat of the workman was turned into the coffers of manufacturers who procured cheap labor and enjoyed an advantage over their competitors. Industries have been established in the penitentiary and reformatories. Boys are taught useful trades in wood-working, printing and machinery lines. The products are sold to state, county and municipal institutions of government. A large farm of about 3,000 acres has been purchased where the "trusties" are worked and food products are derived for the state institutions.

A night school has been established and the unfortunates, as they progress in their studies, are given credit on their sentences. Each prisoner, during good behavior, is allowed so much for his day's work. From this is taken the per capita cost of maintaining the prison, and what remains is disbursed each month to the families of the prisoners.

A mothers' pension law was passed giving to each county the right to make a levy for the maintenance of a fund for the aid of widows with children of tender years. The operation is under the supervision of the pro-

bate and juvenile judges. Good moral character is a condition imposed. It develops that homes are preserved and money which would otherwise be spent for the maintenance of infirmaries and children's institutions is disbursed now in the humble homes of the poor.

Through the board of state charities, on which three women serve with six men, is carried on the "placing out" work, so-called. Homeless children of good mental and moral promise are given homes among those where there are no children; in short, the state believes that it can serve no more useful function than by adjusting the two conditions, the homeless child and the childless home.

In regulatory laws the liquor license measure stands out the most conspicuous. Under the old order in Ohio any one could procure a liquor license, and, regardless of his character or the unworthy way in which he conducted his place, there was no power to put him out of business. In the wet counties, where the people had voted for the retention of the saloons, two liquor license commissioners, of opposite politics, appointed by the state liquor license commission, which is selected by the governor, grant the licenses. Moral qualifications are exacted, and violation of the law means the cancellation of the license.

On the first day of its operation four thousand gambling places, road houses and barrel houses were put out of business, and for the first time in the history of the commonwealth, Ohio now has a moral, law abiding Sunday.

A registration fee of \$100.00 is exacted of each saloon, and this more than pays the cost of the entire administration. In addition to this, a license fee of \$1,000.00 is paid.

A "Blue Sky" law was passed, licensing those who deal in securities, and the sale of worthless stocks and bonds is now prohibited.

Private banks are now examined the same as state and national banks. The first month this law was in operation half a dozen institutions were compelled to close their doors because they could not meet the test of efficiency and integrity.

Four agricultural departments were combined into one. The new organization is known as the agricultural commission. It joins the activities of the college of agriculture, the experiment station, the state board of agriculture and the dairy and food commissioner. It resulted in a saving of about \$100,000 the first year, and by the co-ordination of energy a great agricultural awakening has been wrought.

A plan of rural credits is being developed now, and the slogan is heard everywhere "Back to the Farm."

A half mill levy has been made upon every dollar's worth of property for the purpose of building good roads. The benefits go into the poor as well as the rich counties, the theory being that a modern system of highways is just as advantageous to the cities as to the country.

In connection with the restoration of community life in the country, a modern country school plan has been devised. For every 40 country school teachers there is a supervisor, and the supervisors are controlled by a county superintendent of education, elected by a county board made up of the presidents of the townships boards. Consolidation and centralization are authorized. And it is the plan to establish in each township a combination high school and community house.

Nine labor departments were consolidated into one, known as the industrial commission. It has the right to regulate the hours of labor for men, women and children. If an industrial institution is not maintained

along sanitary and safety lines, the industrial commission has the right to install safety devices and to reduce the number of hours that employees can work. The result of this is that industrial plants meet the standards prescribed, and the life of the state is benefited thereby.

A new taxing system has been devised. A state tax commission, appointed by the governor, has control of the listing of property of public utilities for taxation, and in two years the valuations have increased from \$300,000,000 to over a billion dollars. A limitation on the tax rate has been prescribed by the legislature of not to exceed ten mills for current expenses, nor a total of fifteen mills, including sinking fund and interest charges. This necessitated the uncovering of hidden property. The system of electing assessors was a failure in Ohio. Its change was recommended by Governor McKinley twenty years ago, and by Governor Harmon during his administration. It was effected within the last year. The assessors are appointed by the county tax commissioner from an eligible list supplied by the civil service commission. The plan has been in operation less than three months, and the state tax commission announces that the increase in personal returns will amount to a billion dollars this year. This means a decreased tax rate, and it demonstrates clearly that the farmers and small home owners and business men whose property is in sight have been paying more than their share of taxation.

The merit system has been established in every state, county and municipal department, and the civil service commission, appointed by the governor and consisting of three members, is rendering good work.

A statewide primary law was passed, and candidates for all offices are now nominated direct by the people.

The system of the initiative and referendum was adopted, and it has been so safeguarded that wrongs can easily be redressed and right principles initiated, without any facilities being offered for monetary caprice or for the insidious designs of any special interest.

The democratic administration of Ohio is standing firmly on the record of achievement. It is challenging the opposition to point out one law of the fifty-six major measures that have been passed they would repeal. It will this year carry the fight into every community, and resist, by the practical and humane demonstration of laws as they are now in operation, the attempt of privilege to destroy them.

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