

# PROGRESSIVE LAWS ENACTED IN OHIO DURING LAST FEW MONTHS

### What the Buckeye State Has Done to Try Out New Governmental Theories. Changes That Seem Revolutionary Brought About Under the Cox Regime.

THIS is the day of the progressive movement in our government, from the national capital down to the township center. Whether the great mass of new and revolutionary legislation now being enacted will be found good, as its authors and supporters assert, or unsound and detrimental, as its opponents predict, it must be admitted that the movement is making political history, not only for the United States, but for the world as well.

Among the states that have been helping make that history few can claim bigger net results than Ohio, whose general assembly has recently passed so many progressive measures that it seems at first sight to have almost revolutionized the laws of the state.

Many other commonwealths, of course, are working along the same line, but as an illustration of concrete achievement no better illustration than Ohio could be selected at present.

It is interesting, first of all, to note that the Ohio lawmakers have given legal effect to fifty-five of the fifty-six specific legislative recommendations made by Governor James M. Cox in his message to the assembly. The one recommendation which did not get through was one contained in the state Democratic platform proposing home rule in taxation. It was suspected of squinting at the single tax, and the two resolutions to give effect to it were voted down.

#### Bewildering Changes.

Changes that are bewildering in magnitude, politically revolutionary in their departure from the past, mark the three months' work of the general assembly. Twelve months ago the state, from the progressives' standpoint, was a backward one so far as its constitution and laws were concerned. A review of the laws enacted since discloses that the commonwealth has been taken from the list of conservative states and placed in the progressive column.

One of the important measures enacted by the assembly provided for a state wide primary and sounded the knell of all nominating conventions by requiring that all elective officials, state, county, municipal and township, except in political subdivisions of less than 2,000 population, shall be nominated by primary.

Separate state and national ballots were provided, and hereafter Ohioans will vote for the entire list of presidential electors on a ticket by making a single cross. Next fall the people will vote on the proposed short ballot, constitutional amendments providing for the appointment of all state officers and to authorize the shortening of county and township ballots by giving the general assembly power to designate what officials in these subdivisions shall be elected and what appointed.

The removal of public officials, judges and members of the general assembly was a weapon given the people to be used by them in their fight against dereliction of duty and misconduct in office. Half holidays were created on election days so as to give all an opportunity to participate in the selection of public officials, and the corrupt practices act was strengthened so as to prevent the purchasing of elections.

#### Mothers' Pension Law.

The Cox adherents point with pride to a mothers' pension law, under which a maximum of \$15 per month may be given to needy mothers for the first child under fourteen years of age and a maximum of \$7 for each additional child under that age. The money is to be raised by a levy, which must not exceed one-half of 1 per cent, and it must appear that it is to the interest of the child to remain with its mother. Testimony must show that without the pension the family would be broken.

Workmen and their dependents will be compensated for injuries by industrial accidents through compulsory workmen's compensation. The fund is to be raised by the employers, laborers contributing nothing, and all Ohio people employing more than five persons must pay into it. A state industrial commission was created to consolidate the activities of seven different labor departments that have been working without team work and to co-ordinate these activities.

This commission will fix the hours of employment for women and children, and it will gather data for a minimum wage law for women.

Closely allied with these measures is a series of bills reorganizing the penal system of the state. Provision was made for the transfer of the penitentiary prisoners from the dirt and grime of the old institution in the heart of the manufacturing district of the capital city to a new penitentiary to be built in the pure and wholesome atmosphere of the country.

Heretofore juvenile judges in the different counties have been committing delinquent and defective children to state institutions, and wrong establishments have been selected many times. As a remedy a state board of administration having charge of institutions is to be given custody of juveniles so committed from the counties for the

purpose of studying their needs in an observation cottage and then to send them to the institution best equipped to give the needed treatment and care. For the convenience and protection of the people who go to court there was effected a complete reorganization of the judiciary. The journey through the state courts via the common pleas, circuit and state supreme, has been a two years' trip, every step filled with expense and trouble. Now the trip can be made in about half the time in 90 per cent of all litigation, as a new law gives the circuit court final jurisdiction in all litigation except that in which the legality of laws is questioned.

To thwart agents of public utilities who have resorted to court delay to prevent the operation of rate reductions by the public utilities commission, appeals to the courts from such decisions must be commenced in the tribunal having final jurisdiction. Such procedure is provided for on court appeals from the orders of practically all state boards and commissions.

To prevent "hung" juries, laws were passed providing that verdicts may be returned, except in criminal cases, upon the agreement of three-fourths of the twelve jurors.

With Governor Cox, himself a successful farmer, on the job, Ohio farmers were cared for by a bill which creates a state agricultural commission for the purpose of consolidating and correlating the activities of seven different state agricultural departments, whose work has been triplicating and duplicating.

#### For Good Roads.

All the measures advocated by the Ohio Federation of Good Roads Societies were enacted. Provision was made for the raising of \$3,500,000 annually for ten years for the purpose of eliminating mudholes and giving the commonwealth a complete system of improved intercounty and market roads that will be impervious to snow and rain.

Bills were passed to give the state a modern budget system, under which the governor will call biennially upon heads of departments for the submission to him of estimates of money needed. He thus will be able to carefully scan all estimates, weigh the needs of all departments and make the necessary recommendations to the general assembly to secure such economy as is consistent with good service.

For years the cost of maintaining the public schools increased much faster than enrollment of pupils, while the influence of the rural schools steadily decreased. A commission was created to make a complete survey for the purpose of ascertaining defects in the system and to recommend remedies.

An amendment to the state constitution last fall required a reorganization and rehabilitation of the common school system to be made, and this commission will report to the special session of the general assembly next January a new code of school laws. The commission is expected to embody the best features of the scientific codes of other states, and it is the desire that the new laws be made representative of the best thought of educators on the subject of administering the common schools.

#### A "Blue Sky" Act.

Unscrupulous dealers in fraudulent securities, stocks and bonds were aimed at when a "blue sky" act was passed. Under it the state superintendent of banks and banking was given power to license or refuse licenses to all brokers. The same official must certify to the character of stock in all new corporations before it may be sold, and anybody who wishes to sell land situated outside the state to a resident of Ohio must certify to the banking superintendent full information about such land. Violations of the law are classed as felonies, with imprisonment and heavy fines for punishment.

The taxing machinery of the state was reorganized so as to catch the dodgers who have escaped contributing their share of tax money by either hiding property or getting inadequate valuations. Instead of electing assessors and thereby placing them under obligation to the property owners for their positions, a law was enacted under which these officials will be appointed.

In the interest of the market basket of the Ohio housewife a new act provides that whoever combines to fix the prices of certain foodstuffs shall be fined or sent to the penitentiary. Dry foodstuffs must be sold by weight instead of measure so there will be no loopholes for the unscrupulous dealers to use crooked measures.

To conserve the forests such lands are exempt from taxation not to exceed twenty acres to a farm. The state forester may take over waste land and plant it with seedlings. To promote the public health the state department dealing with such subject was given \$20,000 to use in a campaign against tuberculosis, and counties were required to send visiting nurses to tuberculars to instruct them how to care for themselves.

# MONORAIL CARS RUN IN IRELAND

### Road May Be the Germ of Great Future Improvements.

## SHORT LINE IS A SUCCESS.

Trains Make Round Trip of Three Miles Between Ballybunion and Belmore in Fast Time of Five Minutes. Locomotive Has Elliptical Boiler and Firebox—Lift Bridges For Crossings.

Many attempts have been made to devise a car that would run on one rail, but none of the so called "monorail" systems have amounted to much. Instead of having one rail they really have three—two extra ones below the main carrier to keep the cars from toppling over.

The only genuine monorail roads tested extensively are those where the cars are kept on the rail by means of a gyroscope or where the cars were suspended by a kind of trolley arrangement.

Neither system has been a success because the small saving effected in constructing the line is more than outweighed by the inconveniences of the "one rail" system.

Ireland is now offering to the world, however, a contribution in the form of a monorail road of an odd design. This road seems almost absurd, yet it may be the germ of great improvements. The first electric railway in the world was operated at the Giant's causeway in the northeast Ireland, and though every one scoffed at that attempt and said that electricity would never have the strength to pull loaded cars we now see electric cars all over the world.

#### Where the Shannon Flows.

Where the broad mouth of the river Shannon mingles its waters with the ocean, where the stern west coast of Ireland thrusts its promontories toward America, stands Ballybunion. About a mile and a half farther north stands Belmore, and between these two small towns extends that quaint little road, the Ballybunion monorail.

On its single track, raised on a trestle and in its curious cars passengers and freight are carried from Ballybunion and Belmore and back again in the remarkable time of five minutes.

The monorail on which its strange locomotive and trains run is about three feet high, while the distance between the lower rails, which serve to maintain the equilibrium of the rolling stock, is about two feet.

Most remarkable of its equipment is the locomotive, with its queer elliptical boiler and firebox. It has one cylinder on each side, the rods of which are inside connected to the drivers.

#### Car is Divided.

The interior of a passenger car is divided into two longitudinal compartments, which are entered by separate doors. Freight and stock cars are similarly divided.

To enable pedestrians and wagons to cross the tracks of the Ballybunion railroad small lift bridges are constructed at the various roads and remain in a lowered position for the accommodation of traffic. When it is necessary for a train to pass such a point the crossing flagman raises the bridge, thus permitting the train to proceed. The Ballybunion road hauls considerable freight for so short a road.

## CHICAGO BABY A SCHOLAR.

Child Two Years Old Goes Abroad to Study a Year.

Little Janet Urie of Chicago, who is two years old, has gone to Europe to study in Rome. She is to have the most modern training that it is possible for the daughter of progressive parents to have.

Miss Janet already can slip in three languages, and when next she sees her Chicago friends it is expected that she will speak Italian fluently.

Little Janet is the daughter of Dr. John Francis Urie, former assistant surgeon general in the United States navy and private physician to Theodore Roosevelt when the latter was president. Her mother is the daughter of William Dudley Foulke, author, sociologist and progressive leader. She is herself a woman of remarkable attainments and will take a course of training for educating her daughter under the direct supervision of Mme. Montessori in Rome.

The aim of the parents is to give their daughter a proper start toward becoming the most modern and scientifically brought up twentieth century woman. As the parents accompanied Miss Janet when she sailed from New York she offered no objection to the programme.

The Urie family expects to live in Rome for at least a year and probably longer. If Miss Janet has not in that time mastered all the fine points in the Montessori methods of training, her mother expects to have become sufficiently skilled to continue the work in Chicago.

#### Letters From South Pole.

Two letters which Captain R. F. Scott of the British antarctic expedition stamped at the south pole were received recently in London. They were addressed to Mr. Ward, the former premier of New Zealand, who now is in London. The letters, each bearing a two cent stamp, went by way of New Zealand.

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