

### House Labor Committee In 1894 Urged The Passage of A Labor Day Bill; "To Increase Feeling of Brotherhood"

On May 15, 1894, Chairman McCann, for the Committee on Labor, submitted a report to the House recommending the enactment of the Cummings bill.

On September 6, 1893, Representative Amos J. Cummings, of New York and Robert E. De Forest of Connecticut introduced bills in the Fifty-third Congress making Labor Day a legal holiday. Representative Cummings' bill was officially called "H. R. 28" and Representative De For-

est's bill "H. R. 334." Both bills were referred to the House Committee on Labor, of which Lawrence E. McCann, of Illinois, was chairman.

The committee stressed the importance of the proposed holiday as an important element in maintaining the "nobility of labor" and developing in the worker the feeling "that he holds an honorable as well as useful place in the body politic."

**Text of Committee's Report**  
Following is the text of the Committee's report:

"The Committee on Labor, to whom was referred the bills (H. R. 28 and H. R. 334) making the first Monday in September, known as 'labor day,' a legal holiday, beg leave to report as follows:

"The bills provide, in substance, that the first Monday in September in each year, being the day celebrated and known as labor day, be made a legal holiday.

**Equality and Dignity of Labor**  
"The use of national holidays is to emphasize some great even or principle in the minds of the people by giving them a day of rest and recreation a day of enjoyment, in commemoration of it. By making one day in each year a public holiday for the benefit of working men the equality and dignity of labor is emphasized. Nothing is more important to the public weal than that the nobility of labor be maintained. So long as the laboring man can feel that he holds an honorable as well as a useful place in the body politic, so long will he be a loyal and faithful citizen.

"The celebration of Labor Day as a national holiday will in time naturally lead to an honorable emulation among the different crafts beneficial to them and the whole public. It will tend to increase the feeling of common brotherhood among men of all crafts and callings and at the same time kindle an honorable desire in each craft to surpass the rest.

**Organized Workers Request Holiday**  
"There can be no substantial objection to making one day in the year a national holiday for the benefit of labor. The labor organizations of the whole country, representing the great body of our partisan population, requests it. They are the ones most interested. They desire and should have it.

"If the farmers, manufacturers, and professional men are indifferent to the measure, or even oppose it, which there is no reason to believe, that still would constitute no good objection, for their work can be continued on holidays as well as on other days if they so desire it.

Workmen should have one day in the year peculiarly their own. Nor will their employers lose anything by it. Workmen are benefited by a reasonable amount of rest and recreation. Whatever makes a workman more of a man makes him more useful as a craftsman.

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### Charter Oak to Live in Seedling

#### Original Tree Enacted an Historical Role Before The Revolution.

HARTFORD, CONN. — History books alone will not perpetuate the memory of a famous tree that changed the course of American history.

A scion of the mighty oak will endure for generations to come—a material monument recalling the early struggles of the colonists to break English domination in the New World.

This living memory is a seedling of the great Charter Oak tree—now growing at Thompsonville, and planted by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Charter Oak, a sturdy monarch which enjoyed its prime before the discovery of the North American continent, was felled during a violent storm 84 years ago. The part it played in history was more widely heralded than famous battles that gained eventual liberty during the momentous years of the colonial uprising.

The great spreading tree enacted its historical role as a protector of the Connecticut charter on October 31, 1687.

**Granted by Charles II.**  
The charter, which gave the colony self-rule, was granted by King Charles II in 1662. It later was to form the basis of the Connecticut constitution, establishing the world's first democracy. The Connecticut constitution in turn was the inspiration for the Constitution of the United States.

Envious of this document of partial independence was Sir Edmond Andros, an appointee of the duke of York as governor of New York and "regions between the Connecticut and Delaware rivers."

"We have regarded a flimsy smartness as being more virtuous than constancy and courage. Too many of us have forgotten the idea of sacrifice, have scorned the soldierly qualities of discipline and devotion to a common end."—Vivian Hill, Nobel Prize Winner.

Asked how to divide evenly, four apples among five children, Tommy retorted, "Make them into applesauce."

Several controversies with colonial authorities before the Charter Oak episode. He repeatedly had been denied recognition as governor of Connecticut. But, in 1686, he obtained an appointment from the king as governor of New England and immediately demanded the Connecticut charter. Gov. Robert Treat and the legislature refused to relinquish it.

On the eventful day on October the following year, Andros, his council and 60 soldiers appeared at the general assembly meeting place. Dusk was falling as he stormed into the room and served two writs of quo warranto on the governor and insisted the charter be produced.

**Some Trickery.**  
Governor Treat and the legislators were greatly disturbed. They stalled for time but Andros was impatient as the precious charter appeared within his grasp. Finally it was brought out and laid on a table. Andros eyed it greedily as the governor made a final plea for its preservation.

Suddenly the candles were extinguished and the room plunged into darkness. There was a commotion in the hall and Andros furiously demanded the tapers be relighted. When they were, after a cautious delay, the charter had disappeared. Andros was explosive in his denunciation of the colonists. Defeated, however, he marched away—without the charter.

What he did not know was that when the lights went out Capt. Joseph Wadsworth whisked the document from the table and fled the meeting house. Captain Wadsworth, pressed for time, recalled a hollow oak tree on the farm of former Gov. George Wyllys, near by. He stuffed the charter into the opening and hurried back to the meeting house before the candles were relighted.

The charter remained in the oak until Andros left the colony and all danger of its loss had passed. From that day on the tree became known as the Charter Oak Tree and it was carefully preserved until it was destroyed early in the morning of August 21, 1856.

The question is asked: "Can we be sure that man and his present civilization are fitted to survive, or may we look forward, not to extinction, but to a completely orderly arrangement like that of the ant hill or hive, in which freedom is impossible, spiritual things are forbidden, and unrealities like kindness, mercy and tolerance are eliminated."—Vivian Hill.

### 550,000 Acres of Land Sought for Military Use

WASHINGTON. — Secretary of War Harry Woodring has asked congress for authority to purchase 550,000 acres of land to be used for the expanded military program. He said that these added facilities would constitute a "most valuable asset to mobilization and expansion purposes."

Among the purchases, the total cost of which was estimated at \$3,500,000, were Camp Custer, Mich., 6,162 acres for added training facilities; Savannah, Ga., 525,000 acres for anti-aircraft training; Fort Sill, Okla., 13,738 acres for training facilities; Salt Lake basin, Utah, 3,000 acres for general depot.

### Cupid Plays Tag With Young Autoist

ROANOKE, VA.—A young man had two city tags for the same car and wanted a refund on one of them. He had told his girl he didn't have money to buy his auto tag. The young lady, cognizant of his approaching birthday, bought the tag as a present. In the meantime the young man had raised the money and bought one. The council voted to refund the money—to the young lady.

**Peacock's a Peacemaker.**  
LOS ANGELES.—Peacocks do not constitute a menace to neighbors, the district court of appeal ruled in reversing the conviction of Leon Cohn, a dealer in peacocks.

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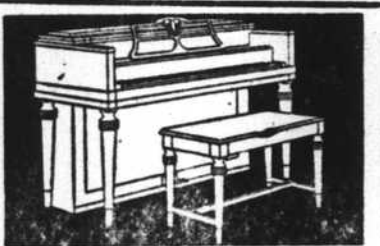
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