



THE NEWS-RECORD

State Librarian



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Merry Christmas to



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THE PROBLEM OF OLD AGE DEPENDENCY INCREASING IN PER CENTAGE

Social Security A Practical Beginning

Richmond, Virginia, Dec. 19—With great numbers of American workers saving insufficient funds to provide for their retirement, measures such as are contained in the Social Security Act are essential, William R. Williamson, Actual C-

sultant for the Social Security Board, said here today in an address before the Virginia Banker Association.

"The problem of old-age dependency," Mr. Williamson declared, "is becoming steadily more important because of the growing number of persons who are 65 years of age or older, and because the need of those who are older and who are economically dependent is becoming more acute under present and probable conditions than in earlier years in a predominantly agricultural society."

He said Bureau of Census figures revealed that, in 1860, persons 65 years or older constituted only 2.7 percent of the total population of the country. By 1930, the percentage was 5.4. By 1980, it is estimated the percentage of persons 65 years or older will have reached 11.3.

Citing as a basic assumption in the

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past the idea that "each citizen has a job or sufficient income opportunity to provide for all his day-by-day needs, and, in addition, to provide income during unemployment and to protect his own old age." Mr.

Williamson said that the facts do not bear out his ability to do so. He quoted figures from a study by the Brookings Institution indicating "an average monthly income to the wage earner in 1929 of about \$100. This means, he asserted, "that

AT THE TABLE

By WICKES WAMBOLDT

Benjamin Franklin said that in nature his father made for him some "worthwhile subject for discussion." The food, its merits and demerits, never came in for consideration. Thus said Franklin, he acquired the habit of eating, without thought or comment, what was set before him. Franklin said he found this practice very convenient, particularly when traveling. At times while those around him were grumbling about their food, Franklin ate his complacently.

"My father was an epicure," said a friend with whom I was discussing the foregoing philosophy; every every dish on the table came in for analysis. If he liked a viand he said so, if he did not, he said so; and why and how. So I grew up with the habit of scrutinizing my food critically. The practice has its advantages and disadvantages. If a dish measures up to requirements, it is the more enjoyable. If it does not, it is distasteful.

On the whole, the Franklin plan is probably the better. To pursue an even course of contentment is preferable to rising to the heights of ecstasy and dropping to the depths of despair.

"This lobster is all right," declared the mother. "I tasted it to be sure before I took it out of the can."

"But it tastes..." whimpered the child.

"Never you mind your father," said the mother. "You must eat what is set before you. I'm not going to let you get into the habit of being nicky about your food."

So obediently the child ate. When he had nearly finished the dish, his grandfather, who had overheard the conversation and who observed that the child's countenance was not expressing that peace which rasset all understanding, picked up a fork and tasted one of the few remaining fragments of lobster.

"Great grief!" he exploded. Then, chuckling to the mother, "You didn't put vinegar on that lobster. You put on pepper sauce—the hottest I ever tasted! No wonder it bittered."

A TWENTY-PLANKED FARM PLATFORM

North Carolina State Grange Takes Stand On A Score Of Vital Issues

Measures in North Carolina, for example, are: (1) Immediate Tax Exemptions of \$3000 for homesteads, and the classification of property for taxation. (2) Improvement in the rural telephone lines, possibly by the State Rural Electrification Authority now in operation. (3) The Continuation of sales tax, but with collection to be made with stamps used by merchants and exemption of basic commodities. (4) An amendment to the State Constitution to prohibit further diversion of the state highway funds. (5) Abolition of the absentee bal-

lets and markers at the polls. (6) The administration of Social Security Act by existing agencies, without the creation of new and expensive commissions. (7) A commission of farmers to administer the AAA program. (8) Rapid extension of the Federal Government, set up by the Federal Government. (9) Teaching the effects of alcohol as a part of the school study. (10) Creation of a home owner's commission to study the tenant problem in the state and cooperate with other agencies in encouraging home ownership. (11) That the greater University of North Carolina be given appropriations "sufficient to enable it to meet the increasing demands made against it" in view of the importance of the program. (12) Continuation of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. (13) Tobacco control legislation by the 1937 legislature, but adding, "We strongly oppose any control act that will cripple the average or family-size farm to the advantage of the large estates. (14) (Continued to Fourth Page)

A large proportion come below this figure. As a result we are led irresistably to the conclusion that there is a need for social budgeting. Mr. Williamson declared, "and this is provided for in the Social Security Act. This act, in its provisions for old-age benefits and its enabling legislation with respect to unemployment compensation, makes it possible for society, acting through government, to assist the individual to budget appropriately for these need and enables provisions to be made at less cost to the individual worker than could possibly be the

case if the individual worker were attempting to set aside all the necessary funds himself. "The old-age benefits provisions of the Social Security Act help the individual to budget. The more the individual saves during the course of his working life, the larger will be the annuity payments which he will receive. "The Social Security Act is a practical beginning of the approach declared. It attempts to recognize and provide the necessary for meeting some of the economic distress which has afflicted us."