FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1949

EMPTY STOCKING FUND

THERE are many variables in our mod-Tern observance of the Christmas season, some of which are but passing fancies. Fortunately, the main body of religious tradition, human unselfashness, and personal joy remain unchanged from year to year. One of the invariables in our community is the annual News Empty Stocking Fund, born in the depths of the depression to depend the community of the community of the community well-being and happiness with the many humdreds of young and old, who are financially dis-tered.

ing Fund has changed somewhat through the years as a result of careful study and analysis in an effort to avoid hit-or-miss duplication and spread the available funds

as widely and fairly as possible. Today the money contributed to the Fund is administered by the co-operative Christmas Bureau representing scores of agencies, churches, clubs and other organizations, administered as wisely and justly as humanly, possible.

manly-possible.

But the underlying philosophy or motivation for our sponsorship of the Fund, and for the contributions from a host of individuals and groupe, has not changed. It is unchangeable, for it is an expression of the latent generously and unselfishness of all men which bursts through the vener of sophortication and worldliness at the season of Christs birth.

Thus the Empty Stocking Fund is open for another season. We know from past experience that it will be filled to overflowing before Christmas Eve is at hand.

SECURITY FOR OLD FOLKS

In THE SERIES of stricts on "Old Folks."

To completed today, it has been explained that medicine an high-standard of live on the older, while at the aaner time the nation's birth rate is dropping.

It is clear, then, that the proportion of old persons is increasing yearly and will confinue to increase. It is estimated that, within 25 years, there will be 21,000,000 persons over 85 living in the United States—about thirteen per cent of the population.

tion.

Their-medical, mental health and social problems have been discussed. In conclusion, a brief comment on the economic status of the nation's old folks is called

for. Most of them do not have enough money to live on. That is the blunt fact. It isn't latiness; it jan't that these old folks have been unpreductive, Indeed, a thrifty, hardworking man could have saved for working the saved for which over three decades and still be in financial

over three decades and still be in financial trouble today.

Suppose you became 85 in 1948, that you had begun to save money in 1914 and had retired in 1948. The increased cost of living dollar will have taken its toll. Three dollars accumulated in that 1914-48 period will now buy only the equivalent of what two dollars would have bought at the average price level between 1914 and 1948.

A third of the avaings of the nation's old folks has been wiped out by the increased cost of living. They need help.

Few of them/receive willicent funds through alord to was a sufficient funds through old-uge assistance and welfare departments on their children or upon unofficial charity.

In Mecklenburg County, for Instance, money issued to old folks through the

Welfare Department averages only \$28 per month per person—hardly enough to pay for food. Inevitably, such necessary items as medical treatment, housing, clothing must come from charity or children.

must come from charity or children.

In Washington this week, there has been considerable talk about an over-all 3100-a-month penison for all persons over 85 years old. Sen. Taft started it. Indicating that it would cost about \$12000000000 per year. He didn't seem at all pleased with the huge cost, but seemed convinced that there is a need for alding the oldster-fle added, furthermore, 'If a steel worker and a miner are to receive (\$100-a-month after \$51, why not a moider or a waiter?' On Thursday, Sen. Ives, a New York Republicans, supported Taft's, proposal for a Congressional study of pensions for every-body.

body.

Sen. George of Georgia, an oldster himself, will have the problem in his lap when his Finance Committee begins a Mudy of a House-approved bill broadening the base and increasing social security benefits in January. The House bill would bring 11,000,000 additional persons into the ranks of those cowered by Old Age and Survivora Insurance.

This will be of course.

Insurance.

This will be, of course, a step in the right direction. The question of whether the \$100-a-month pension plan will even be achieved is at the moment shadowed by Sen. Taft's \$12,000,000,000 cost estimate.

Sen. Tat's \$12,000,000,000 cost estimate. Regardies of what Congress does next year, the old folks will soon come into their own. As their numbers increase, their political power will increase. Unless some broader program for contributory security is devised, they may within a few years have enough power to bring one of several old-age plana, advocated by a number of vote-seekers, into being.

THE CAROLINA DRAGON

THE CAROLINA DRAGON
THOMAS L. HAMILTON, late of Augusta
and now of Lesville, S. C., quite being,
a grocer to become Grand Dragon of the
Association of Carolina Klans.
No one outside a Klan knows exactly
what a Grand Dragon is—whether he is
privileged to breathe fire from his, nose,
or, ghal-built, in material state, you in the
For instance, the morning and your pieture is to jail the paper. You get to Iravel
CT travel," said Hamilton, "about 1,500
miles a week doing this work", You can
boast of an organization behind you
('We are thousands strong,' the Grand
Dragon declared).

'And, after all, it's comparatively easy

Dragon declared). "And, after all, it's comparatively easy to brush off the thinking people who either laugh at you or curse you, easy when you know there's a long, picture-squared tradition of cross-burning and sheet wearing and midnight flogging behind

Yes, it's quite a thing to be a Grand Dragon; perhaps a Dragon has hide so thick he never thinks about whether it is quite Christian to hold that a man is to

be condemned by the pigment of his skin or whether it is quite in keeping with the church's tradition of humility to acclaim yourself judge and jury over other re-ligious groups.

In announcing that he had unified the Klana of North Carolina and South Carolina In announcing that he had unified the

From The Christian Science Monitor

WILL THE NEW LAW CONTROL?

POTATOES have come to symbolize maissinctioning of the farm stabilization idea resulting in mastage of good Tood in .a. hungry. world while the consumer passayswee—in high prices and high taxes. We welcome, therefore, Secretary Brannars decision to, keep the potato support price at the lowest level permitted under the new law.

pince at the lower, ever permitted indet the new law.

At a 30 per cent support level pota-ses cost the government \$358,000,000 in 100,000 in

the new law borrowed from the Aixen act for only a few crops, it is hoped will help to stabilize farm income by maintaining a rough price-times-volume formula. What Department of Agriculture officials fear

is that even under the lowest legal price supports and acreage allotiments, commercial potato growers will continue to be insured at a sufficiently high level so that they can pour in Iterilluse and, insecticities and still come up with some huge surpluses.

At any rate, the next potato crop should furnish the best index yet available as to the workshilly of the flexible support theory.

The President, the Cabinet, the Congress of the United States of America, the wealthiest and most prosperpus country on Earth, confessing that they cannot carry on the Government without having it so deeper in debt by more than 5,000 million colors in a year of peace, ought-to resign and give some hard-headed and hard-titled farmers and shopkeepers a chance the country of the control of the country of the co

As the war yarns grow taller and taller, privates get bigger and generals smaller— Lexington (Ky) Leader.



We Must Learn These Things

SENILITY-A Problem For All

our duty to make it so.

Summing up the medical point of view, Dr. Howard A. Rusk, New York University rehabilitation specialist, declared recently that chronic disease and old age is "America", number one medical problem

to more around do not enjoy being "house-bound", yet more often than not, there is no place for them to go were York City has taken a long step toward keeping did rolks active and interested in attying alive. Six community centers have been established there will be to be a support of the city begins and the control of the city begins of the city begins

The Cost Is Not Great

The Cost Is Not Great

"JUE total budget of the Center is low, \$20,000 per

Jyaz-or approximately one dollar a week per
member. Membership hartas at 60, but the average
age of the members is 74. Summing up the success
of the Center. Dr. Rusk sald:

The Center has demonstrated that the need for
compensation of the control of the control
produced by the control of the control

summing, desure the large number, of gard person
who are committed to mental hosquitals. In the sixthey have bed four 7200 members, not a single memter have bed four 7200 members, not a single mem-

Marquis Childs

Parts Are Missing

Robert C. Ruark

Busline For Everybody

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Admirals Can't Forget Louis Johnson

Johnson's voice was unruffied, completely friendly, but dejutive.

"You are wasting my time," he continued, "and your our tipes—until you can come in, with a reasonable property of the prope

Air Junket Spoiled

column; Congressman Wickersham announced he wasn't go-ting and Congressman Pugate agreed to take a regularly-scheduled military transport plane to Panama, then fly coofi-merical airlines the rest of the way.

NOTE—Though Pugate it rip won't be as costly as having a private Air Force plane to chauffeur him around, the taspayers must still pay for his vacation.

Doctors Vs. Health Insurance