

Advanced Legislation Has Tended to Uplift People of New Zealand

Government in the Southern Commonwealth is Directed to the Lightening of the Burden of Living and Has Succeeded in Doing This in Equitable and Satisfactory Fashion.

Many of us have had only a hazy knowledge of the progress of social reforms in the Island of New Zealand. This remote land, hemmed in by an unfriendly ocean, less than 100 years ago was the wild home of the savage Maori, whose subjection chiefly occupied the minds of the early colonists for a quarter of a century. Then began a slow, but systematic course of community action, which has brought the little commonwealth, which now has a population of 1,500,000, to the very forefront in legislation calculated to make life more worth living for the masses, and which has demonstrated with emphasis the fallacy of the theories of the orthodox believers in the doctrines of the popular school of political economy, which claimed that the utopian measures proposed were absolutely inconsistent with success and progress.

Notable Legislation

It is impossible to elaborate on the details of the cause and effect of these notable measures of progressive legislation in the brief space at our command, but let me mention some of the conditions under which the people of New Zealand live to their eminent satisfaction in spite of the calamitous cries of the old school. Effort after effort was made to induce the landed proprietors to sell unused land at its real value. As almost prohibitive taxing of land values proved unavailing, this land was taken by right of eminent domain at a price appraised by the courts. Then it was cut up into tracts not exceeding 320 acres each, and settlers who were prepared to use it for homes and actual improvement were assisted by the government to lease and eventually purchase.

The hours of labor are fixed by

law. Forty-four hours is week's work. When and how these hours shall be worked can be arranged by agreement, but not more than forty-four shall be worked in one week. If overtime is unavoidable, price and a half is given.

All labor disputes are settled by an arbitration court, in which both sides are equally represented. This court is presided over by a justice of the supreme court. Under this system wages have constantly advanced.

Industries which cannot pay a living wage are not wanted, and public policy discourages any attempt to continue their operation. Notwithstanding this fact, manufacturing and similar industries have doubled in 20 years.

No girl under 18 and no boy under 16 is allowed to work at occupations which embrace conditions like those of the mill or factory. House work for girls and agriculture for boys are permitted.

Equal Suffrage

Women enjoy the privileges of equal suffrage with men.

With all these paternal attributes, the government is amply secured, and the system thus far has resulted in no losses; in fact, its banking operations are modestly profitable.

Further than this, while the cost of living has advanced by leaps and bounds in Canada and the United States till in 1910 it was 45 per cent. over the low level of the '30's, and is now well above 50 per cent., in the little colony of New Zealand it had only increased 8 per cent. in 1910.

Hugh H. Lusk, late a member of the New Zealand parliament, in his very interesting book on the dominion's social status, says: "The idea that men, and not money, were the all-important consideration for a nation's statutes; the conviction that the interests of the many, and not merely the few, were the chief consideration of the nation's lawmakers—these constituted the groundwork of the unique legislation of New Zealand; and the attempt to give practical effect to these ideas was the basis of the policy of state socialism as practised in New Zealand."

"State Socialism"

It is very important that the term "state socialism" should not be confounded with the commonly accepted definition of socialism. The socialism that dreams of a great social convulsion by which the poor may become suddenly rich and the rich comparatively poor, has found no place in the

SHACKLETON TO MAKE NEW ANTARCTIC TRIP.

Will Endeavor To Explore The Great South-Polar Continent.—Ships To Be Driven By Oil Fuel.—Aeroplanes Used.

Sir Ernest Shackleton, the English explorer, has announced his plans for the biggest polar journey ever attempted. If he is successful his expedition will open up a vast unexplored region now a blank on the map.

The main object of the expedition will be to cross the south polar continent from Weddell Sea to Ross Sea, a distance roughly of 1,700 miles, making the south pole a "halfway house" on the great journey. "Except Dr. Bruce's discovery of Coats Land in 1904," said Sir Ernest, "and the results of the Filcher expedition of last year we know scarcely more of the Weddell quadrant than we did in Weddell's day."

Expect to Traverse New Route.

"With good fortune it is probable that the whole journey will cover new ground—that is to say after reaching the pole from Weddell sea we may strike out a route to Ross sea which will be neither that which I followed on my previous journey and which Capt. Scott took nor the other and shorter one adopted by Capt. Amundsen."

No Social Warfare

No attempt has been made to confiscate the property of the rich. The advocates of progressive legislation have preached no gospel of social warfare against those who have acquired or inherited riches. They have been simply satisfied with the enactment of laws, year after year, intended to increase the wealth of the poor by helping them to assist themselves in obtaining better conditions, and by discouraging all attempts to further increase the wealth of those who already had enough.

One of the fundamentals has been the recognition of the right of every member of the community to have the opportunity of obtaining well-being for himself and those dependent upon him, and another has been the recognition that it is the duty of the state to see that these rights are not interfered with by those who would exploit mankind in the effort to "corner" the wealth of a nation.

SUFFRAGETTES GET VERY RUDE SHOCK.

Christabel Pankhurst Weds But She is Doll Not Portia of Militants.

Suffragette circles experienced a considerable shock a few days ago when a report was circulated that Christabel Pankhurst was married. When the news reached London a deputation hastened to France to see if the news were true.

There was considerable relief when Miss Pankhurst emphatically denied that she had even the vaguest thought of matrimony. "My entire time," she declared, "is taken up with suffragette affairs, especially the deputation to King George, which will shortly be announced."

The reported marriage had a curious origin. A little girl in London had a doll which she named Christabel. At Christmas time she said she wanted a husband for Christabel. Her father gave her another doll, and a doll wedding was performed on New Year's Day.

The mother, a prominent suffragette, subsequently wrote to a lady friend saying "Christabel had been married," thinking the friend knew all about the doll. The lady, however, immediately thought the suffragette leader was meant and sent out the alarm.

aeroplane with clipped wings in order to "taxi over the ice."

Ships to Have Oil Fuel.

The expedition will have two ships both driven by oil fuel giving a radius for operations four times greater than coal. The larger vessel will leave Buenos Ayres early in October.

In addition to the six men of the transcontinental party there will be a biologist, a geologist and a physician attached to the ship. Others may be added if the funds permit. Probably thirty men will be taken altogether.

The smaller or secondary ship will leave New Zealand in November and land a party on the Ross sea coast to meet the transcontinental party who will return in her to New Zealand.

The second in command of the Shackleton expedition will be Frank Wild, who was a member of the Scott expedition of 1901 and the Shackleton expedition of 1908.

COOKING LESSONS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SCIENCE SCHOOL.

The Superintendents of Education beg to announce that if a sufficient number of young ladies apply evening classes will be organized for a course of Ten Lessons in Cooking. Enclose fee for the course, \$2.00. Applications should be made immediately to

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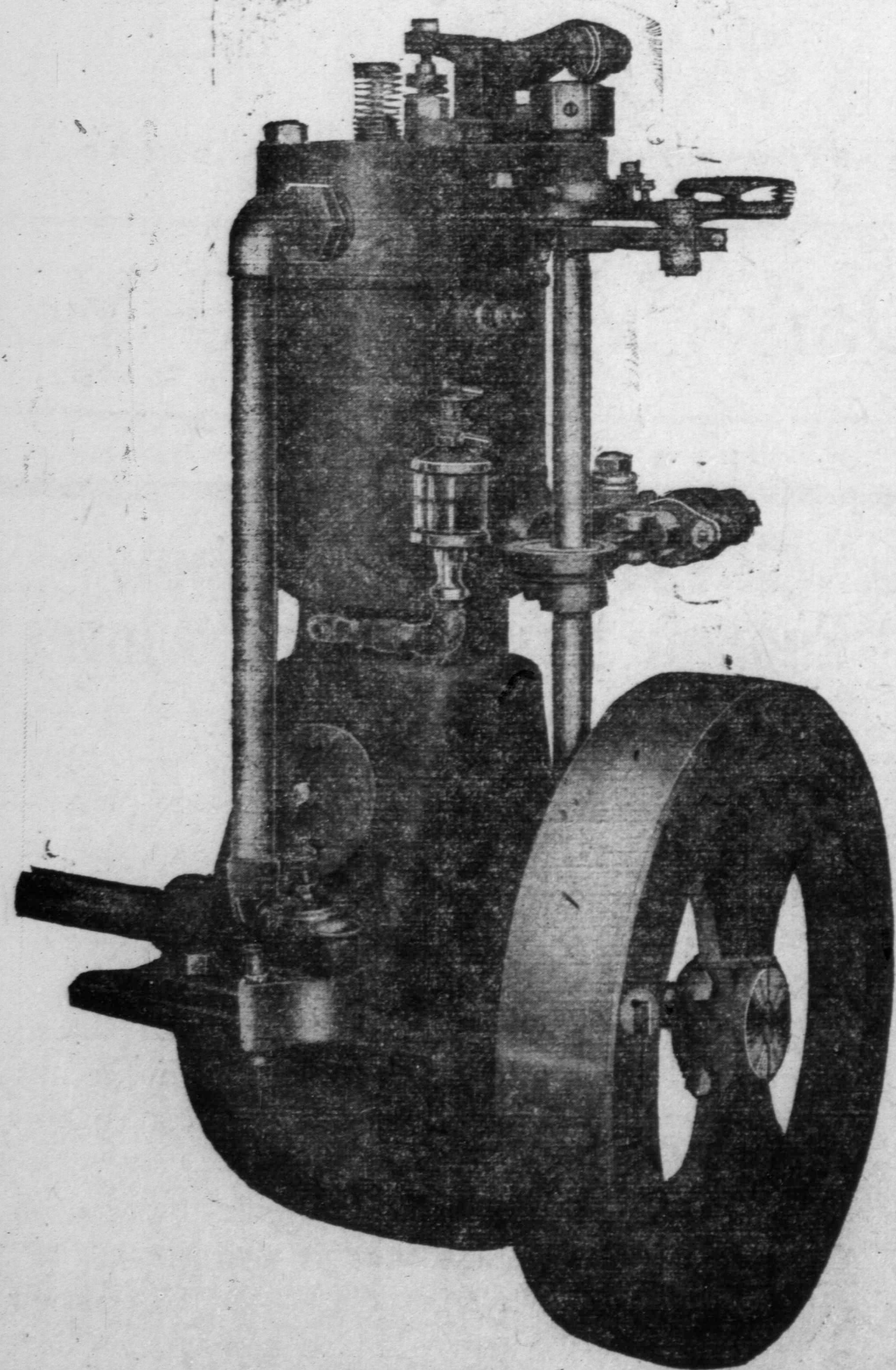
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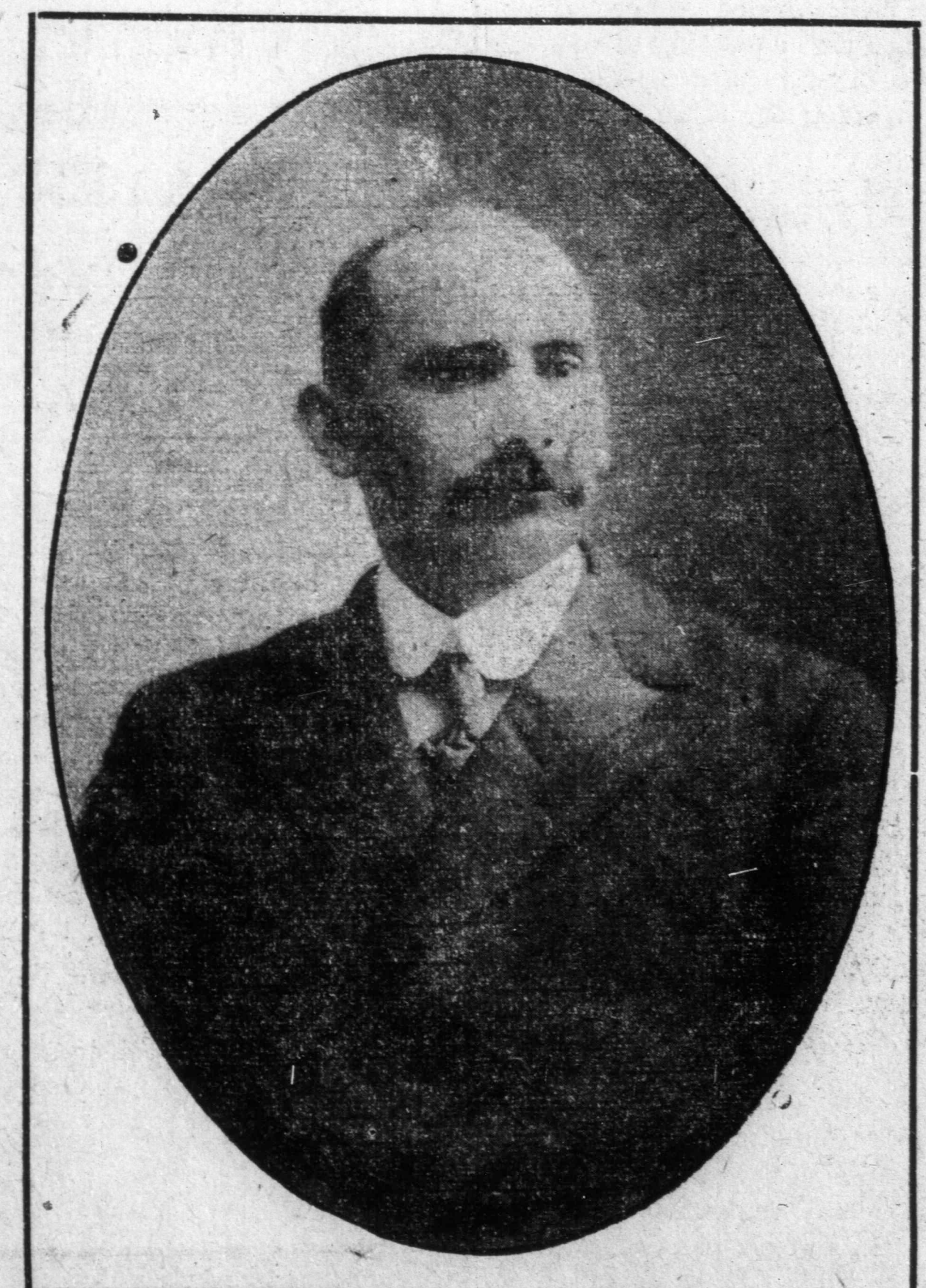
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