

### ADMINISTRATIVE WILDERNESS.

There are more than 130 agencies of government in the Executive branch, many of which are empowered to make rules and regulations, hold hearings and then issue administrative orders and decisions which affect the welfare of business, labor, agriculture and all other interests in the land. The issuance of administrative orders and decisions has been going on since the Civil War. These agencies combine functions which might be called administrative, judicial and legislative. There is no uniformity in the procedure under which hearings are held, evidence taken and orders issued and there has sprung up a kind of administrative wilderness which is as baffling to the lawyer as it is to the average citizen. To correct this situation, Rep. Walter of Pa. in connection with Senator Logan of Ky, (now deceased) introduced a bill to bring <sup>order</sup> out of chaos in this wilderness. This bill provides for the serving of notice and hearing before an agency springs new rules on the public. It provides for an appeal to the courts from such rules and regulations if they are in conflict with the Constitution and the statutes. It provides for a review of an administrative decision by a Board. Finally, it provides for a review by the Courts if such a ruling is not based on fact or is not supported by substantial facts or if the ruling was issued before parties who are thereby affected had no opportunity for a proper hearing or if such a decision is contrary to law or to the Constitution. Administrative law has become a separate field unto itself.

### BIG PROBLEMS IN SMALL PACKAGES.

Big problems can so often be concealed in small packages. And having thus opined, let us look and see. Senator Barbour of New Jersey introduced a 3 page bill in February which contains this language: "The board of directors of the Home Owners Loan Corporation is authorized and directed to reduce to 3 per centum per annum the rate of interest payable from and after the date of enactment of this Act on the unpaid balance outstanding of any loan made by such corporation and secured by a home mortgage or other obligation or lien upon real estate." The Home Owners Loan Corporation has about 857,000 loans on its books totalling slightly over Two Billions Dollars. The money with which to make these loans was derived from the sale of bonds which are now in the hands of the investing public or in banks or in the portfolios of government agencies. The HOLC pays interest on these bonds. Otherwise they would go into default. The money to pay interest on these bonds and for retirement of the bonds is derived from the payments made by those who borrowed money from the HOLC. If the interest rate on loans is reduced, the HOLC will have a large annual loss and would then be compelled to ask Congress to make up this loss. Congress in turn would have to levy taxes or borrow to do so which is another way of saying that Congress would turn to the rest of the folks in this country to make up the loss. In this case the reduction in interest rate on 845,000 mortgages would cost the taxpayers of the country \$270,000,000 per year. Thus do big problems come in small packages of language.

### TRACHOMA

A man named Webster defines Trachoma as granular conjunctivitis but perhaps we better explain that it is a disease of the eye and the

optic tissues. It is a ghastly and dreaded disease. It does seem a bit singular that the hardy and noble Red Man should be especially susceptible to this disease but he is. Of the 300,000 Indians in the country today, 25,000 are afflicted with trachoma. It has therefore been the object of special study by the Government in the hope of finding a remedy. How strange therefore that sulfanilamide, that singular drug, discovered and unused for so many years should prove to be the remedy. Of the first 961 cases treated by physicians with the Indian Bureau, 40% of the trachoma cases were arrested. Thus does science conquer.

#### MILITARY TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

There has been such a revival of interest in the subject of military training in high schools and colleges that the matter has become almost embarrassing for the War Department. At the present time, 274 high schools, military academies, colleges and Universities have 365 Reserve Officer Training units totalling 186,750 men. This work is carried on under a provision of the National Defense Act under which the Secretary of War is authorized to make uniforms, equipment and instruction available to schools. At the present time, 156 applications are pending with the War Department from all sections of the country to make this training available to additional schools. This would embrace about 29,000 young men. It is estimated that this training would cost about \$9 per year per young man. Chief difficulty for the moment however, according to General Marshall, the Chief of Staff is a lack of officers to carry on the instruction work. Hence, the President and the Budget Bureau made no provision for the establishment of new units in the fiscal year which begins July 1, 1940 and runs to June 30, 1941.

#### COMPENSATION FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

A bill now on the calendar in the House of Representatives provides for compensation for the widows and orphans of World War Veterans. It contains the following requirements:

1. Veteran must have served honorably 90 days or longer.
2. If less than 90 days of service, must have been disabled.
3. Must have been in service before the armistice was signed.
4. A widow must prove dependency.
5. Pension for widow would be \$20; for widow and one child \$28; widow and 2 children \$34; \$4 for each additional child.
6. In the case of orphans without a widow, it would be \$12 for 1 child, \$18 for 2 children, \$24 for 3 children.
7. In the case of a dependent mother or father \$20; in the case of both dependent mother and father \$15 each.

The World War Veterans Committee of the House together with many other members is making an active effort to secure consideration of this measure.

PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES.  
VIII - Robert Houghwout Jackson - Democrat

Many Jacksons, both before and after Andrew (Old Hickory) Jackson have graced the pages of American history and not the least of them is Robert Houghwout Jackson, the 48 year old Attorney General of the United States who has risen in public favor in the last few years. He was born in the little town of Spring Creek, Pa. on the 13th of February 1892, the year in which Benjamin Harrison was in the White House and the same year in which Grover Cleveland was elected for a second term. In 1913, the year before the armies of the world began to march upon the battlefields of Europe, he was admitted to the bar in Jamestown, New York, and enjoyed a rather extensive and varied practice until 1934 when he came to Washington under an appointment as general counsel for the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Two years later, he was elevated to the post of Assistant Attorney General and in 1940, the President appointed him as Attorney General to succeed Frank Murphy who went to the U.S. Supreme Court. Many things are conceded about "Bob" Jackson. First, he has a fine personality fortified by determination. Second, he is an outstanding lawyer. Third, he makes an excellent speech and is quick on the trigger. Finally, he is well liked, by those who work for him, those who work with him and those who know him.