



1929

## Social Service - Its Cost/The Law's Limitations

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mendations were published. They were also discussed at district meetings. The retiring President, Mr. Kvello, urged approval. The members of the Bar Board supported the recommendation. Yet, when the matter came before the annual meeting, the mere suggestion on the part of one or two that the subject should have further consideration brought about delay until 1933.

Why do we do it?

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### SOCIAL SERVICE—ITS COST

In view of the statements of such men as John B. Andrews, secretary of the American Association for Labor Legislation, and of William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, it may be well to direct attention to the probable cost involved in their programs.

Mr. Andrews says: "We are in favor of the whole social insurance program." Mr. Green says: "The problem will be solved eventually only with the enactment of a comprehensive system of social insurance which will cover the hazards of invalidism, sickness, old age and unemployment."

The expenditures of Germany, on public social service, have grown as follows: 1913—\$191,750,000; 1924—\$458,625,000; 1928—\$1,127,250,000. The 15-year increase is 588%.

Great Britain's costs, exclusive of workmen's compensation, war pensions and land settlements, have been: 1891—\$113,220,000; 1901—\$180,050,000; 1911—\$315,785,000; 1921—\$1,028,962,000; 1928—\$1,545,077,000. The 37-year increase is 1,365%.

A new widow's pension law in Great Britain will increase the 1928 total by \$40,000,000, and the present government desires to add further items of \$1,470,000,000, which would give a grand total of \$3,126,000,000.

It has been estimated that a "complete system" of social insurance would cost the United States (on the basis of British experience) \$3,920,000,000, which is approximately 40% of the total tax burden for 1928 (federal, state and local), which, for that year, was \$9,289,000,000.

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### THE LAW'S LIMITATIONS

Ex-President Coolidge has not impressed us very strongly since he started writing professionally; in fact, most of his phrasings appeared so common-place and trite as to seem almost hackneyed. Others, however, may have caught something more than we did in them, just as those same others may not find what we think we see in the following from the Coolidge pen:

"While there ought to be no limit to the duty of obedience to law, there is a very distinct limit to what can be accomplished by law, and the agency of the government. The finer things of life are given voluntarily by the individual or they are not given at all. The law can impress the body, but the mind is beyond control. Discipline, faithfulness, courage, charity, industry, character and the moral power of the nation are not created by government. These virtues the people must provide for themselves. Neither public ownership, nor any other socialistic device can be a substitute for them."

Even this statement, which we consider with much favor, would be strengthened by the elimination of the word "socialistic". There is no device, whether it be socialistic or individualistic, that "can be a substitute" for the enumerated virtues.