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Re-discovering ILLINOIS

by LESTER B. COLBY
 ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By Lester B. Colby
 Illinois Chamber of Commerce
 Hinton G. Clabaugh is very jealous of two things that have gone into his life's record. One is that he has always "toted fair." The other is that he has never taken an off-color dime. I know that one time when a powerful organization brought pressure upon him to gain official favors he replied: "Money doesn't have to pass; there are other forms of graft." And it wasn't done.

I know that Hinton G. Clabaugh, the new head of the Illinois prison parole board, sighed a sigh of relief when he stepped out of government service. I know he didn't want to go back to anything like it. I know that Governor Small had to do some powerful pleading to get him into this sort of work again.

No Politics In This
 There is no politics in this series of articles. I would not write them if I thought politics might be suspected. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is not in politics. If when this series is done any reader can judge, by reading, whether I am for or against Len Small, it will be my belief that I have failed in my motive.

But one purpose enters here—to serve Illinois. When Gov. Small and Mr. Clabaugh set down to discuss the position, the latter told the governor that under no conditions would he consider the post. They talked for three hours. I do not know all they said and the following may be considered only a brief summary of the conversation. Though I use quotations I do not mean that what I present is verbatim. It is merely the meat in the nut, a skeleton of what they said.

At First Refused
 "Please don't ask me to do this," said Mr. Clabaugh. "I've served my time, sixteen years with the government. They were hard years; years of sacrifice. The pay was little, not enough to get along on. I'm just getting on my feet. I owe something to my family. Get someone else."
 "But you know the business. You understand. I've looked everywhere and all the trails lead to you. You are the man," was the governor's reply. And then Gov. Small went into the charges that had been made against his office, the bitterness, the heartbreak of it and he ended up with:

"There may be reasons why some were afraid to make the facts known in some cases for which I was blamed. I'm no longer young. I need help. Illinois needs help. The situation is critical. My enemies howl and my friends are afraid. I have come to realize that, after all, I am responsible for the acts of my appointees."

And then the governor uttered the classic plea that brought action from Clabaugh. It was:

Classic Plea
 "People hold me accountable for the evils that have grown up. If I go to men like you, who could help me remedy them, men I can trust, and you all turn me down, one after the other, then can you hold me, the governor, to blame?"
 "That is the only argument you have given me that makes me stop and think," replied Mr. Clabaugh. "I'll consider it."

Clabaugh advised with his friends. Almost with one accord, they pointed out the grief, the unending grief.
 "I've been through grief before," he replied.
 The newspapers got hold of the story. They pointed out that it was a hard and difficult job but no one of them in any way cast doubt upon Clabaugh's integrity.

"If one of them had, I think I'd have turned the job down," he told me. "I wouldn't think of taking it if rocks were thrown in my path. I wouldn't touch it if politics entered." I told Gov. Small, plainly, that I knew none of his political friends; that I would have nothing to do with anything political.

Not Political Job
 "This is not a political job," said Gov. Small. And right there he made his pledge that any political office holder in the state who interfered would be discharged if it is in the governor's power to discharge him. He said this is a job involving the liberty of human beings and the protection of society. "I will not embarrass you by even asking you your politics," he added.

Governor Small went to Mr. Samuel Insull, Mr. Clabaugh's employer. They held conference. Mr. Insull called Mr. Clabaugh in and they went over it together. They talked of the trouble and grief it would bring.
 "What is your re-action to it?" asked Mr. Insull.
 "All worth-while jobs bring grief," said Mr. Clabaugh. "I've had plenty

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of it. I know what it is."
 Then Mr. Insull shook his hand and told him to go to it and God bless him. He also said that Mr. Clabaugh's position would be waiting for him when he came back. He advised him to take it as a public duty and an important public service.

"I'll be at the job two and a half years. That's all, no more," said Mr. Clabaugh to me.
 In writing this article I am not representing Mr. Clabaugh as a friend. Though I saw him often during the war, almost every day for many months, it was all business. Until I shook his hand the other night, I had not spoken to him or seen him since the late 1918, nearly eight years ago, just after the war was closed and our paths ceased to cross.

Urges Law Enforcement
 I am representing the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the people of Illinois. I have come into this picture now to serve a purpose. Hinton G. Clabaugh has a request to ask of the people of Illinois. He wants organized business men to take place in the firing line for the enforcement of law.

He is by nature an organizer. Responsible men in Cairo and Rockford, in Quincy and Danville and all of the cities and towns between are to be asked to take part in the orderly reconstruction of the forces of the law in the state.

I have told about Hinton G. Clabaugh, pictured his personality, so that the honest citizenry of Illinois may know the type of man who is asking them to rally in the name of the law. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is being used as a mouth-piece because it is non-political and has no ax to grind.

COOLIDGE VACATION IS LARGELY IN NAME
Business of Executive Office Is Conducted as Usual From His Camp

The President's vacation at White Pine apparently, is one in name rather than in reality. Returning newspapermen say that except for the fact that the summer capitol is on the edge of the wilderness, there is very little difference in the routine which goes on between there and Washington. Twice a day pouches arrive from Washington containing the official papers for the President's survey. Between times there are delegations as well as individual visitors. The average man who believes that during his vacation period his real enjoyment comes in dropping all intercourse with business affairs and associates, would be inclined to feel that Mr. Coolidge's vacation was a very poor substitute. Not only through the morning hours does he have men of affairs with him, but even his luncheon and dinner hours are given over to extending courtesies to men whose constant attention is given over to the vital and important things in our national life. His newspaper conferences are still continued twice a week and judging from the newspaper reports, his life in the woods has rather quickened the sharpness of his search for improvements in the government, and for pointed comments on the false or faulty propositions which are presented to him. Withal, the President thrives, although those close to him confess that his appetite for work and concentration is a thing which continues to surprise them.

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ADMINISTRATION IN REAL FARMER'S AID
Move to Reduce Loan Interest Rates Better Than Much Bunk In Congress

The administration from the summer capital at White Pine, New York, has during the past week given evidence anew of its real interest in the agricultural situation throughout the country. The President as usual is moving forward on the theory that actions speak louder than words. As a result, and because of an initiative which he inaugurated, a movement is under way and has already begun in the Wichita, Kansas, Federal Farm bank district by which there has been a reduction from 5 1/2 to 5 per cent on farm loans. It is interesting to note that this is the beginning of a series of reductions in other districts. The net result of course, will be a reduction in the net cost of farming. Orations in favor of the farmer are always interesting, but a forward practical step of this sort has more direct effect than a thousand hours of fervid oratory.

In addition there is a movement in the making, having for its purpose the relief of the farmers in certain of the western states threatened by

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