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Friday, January 10, 1919

to persuade the Legislature to cut down the budget. Outside the \$15,000 public service commis- sioners and their subordinate placeholders, practically every body concedes the uselessness of the Public Service Commission, but many of us doubt if a single commissioner would be able to improve conditions.

Health insurance makes a nice subject to write and talk about, but whether it is practical, whether the state should subsidize and control the doctors, or whether a municipal physician, paid exclusively by the State or the employers of the community would serve the people as they should is something that can be told exactly only after the experiment is tried.

Everybody who has studied the question seriously and from a practical standpoint believes that inclusion of occupational diseases as compensable under the compensation law is about as far as the State should go in the direction of state insurance or state provision for medical care and attention of wage-earners who are at all able to pay such attention and who, naturally, prefer to select their own physician or medical adviser.

### Bigots Beaten

The decent people are waking up to the unfortunate stigma placed upon the State of Georgia by Tom Watson bigots. They just had an exciting campaign in Atlanta for school board the leading issue being "Shall Catholic Women Be Allowed to Teach in the Public Schools?" The battle for the bigots was led by Rev. John Ham, of the Baptists.

The Atlanta "Constitution", the leading secular daily, in an editorial the day before the election said:

The issue to be decided by the people of Atlanta at the ballot box Wednesday, when five memberships of the Atlanta school board are to be filled by popular election is clearly defined. It is the issue of repression against progress.

Next Wednesday the voters of Atlanta are to determine in the time-honored democratic way whether or not the present worn-out, obsolete, archaic policy of school government is to be cast aside and supplanted by a policy of efficiency, enlightenment and progress.

The expression of the voters next Wednesday will record the success or the failure of the movement, backed by the enterprising sentiment of this community, to place the school department, and to a large extent the destiny of Atlanta, under the direct control of the people themselves.

The people now have the opportunity to determine whether the Atlanta schools shall forge ahead and get abreast of other progressive cities, or whether they shall remain in a hopeless state of stagnation and inertia, which means retrogression.

If they are not determined to do this, they are not fit to govern.

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### First Elected.

Governor Alfred E. Smith is the first Catholic to be elected governor of New York State. As on his first message. The general makeup of the man, his splendid equipment for state service, by reason of his experience in the Assembly as member and as Speaker, in the constitutional convention, as Sheriff, as president of the New York Board of Aldermen, have given him a preliminary training such as few provincial days under English rule. He put into force the famous "Charter of Liberties", popularly known as "The Dongan Charter." It decreed that the legislative power in the Province of New York "shall reside in a general council and the persons convened in general assembly, referred upon the name of the assembly, rights and privileges that made them a body corporate, to and independent of the British parliament, a charter of civi- ty and general rights, proclaimed religious liberty and right of suffrage, and political measures enacting that there should be no taxation without representation, that taxes should only be levied by the people in general assembly, that there should be no martial law, that the consent of the people should be that election to public office should be by a majority of voters, those principles of American public that "all heretofore existences was based upon, and over, as a tribute to his statesmanship, the constitution which he had framed for New York was adopted by the after the American war of independence in her colonies and constitutes the present form of government in Canada, Australia and South Africa.

### A Brave Mayor

Michael J. Doyle, mayor of Montreal, has refused to accept the offer of a seat on the board of directors of the Canadian National Railway, a move which has been hailed as a brave and patriotic act.

### The Message.

While Governor Smith's first message is a plain spoken document it is not likely to rank with similar efforts by governors Hughes or Roosevelt or even Whitman, judged by that test. Nevertheless, his very necessity to the people of the State is more than that of any other official.

### Expectations

Expectations are high with the Governor's inauguration that certain reforms, more extensive and that state expenditures should be reduced and a change in the hope that Mr. Smith may be able

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not be judged solely and wholly on his first message. The general sentiment of this community, to place the school department, and to a large extent the destiny of Atlanta, under the direct control of the people themselves.

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