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Moving Day

When Government comes down from its lofty perch and concerns itself with miseries as real as those involved in a once a year moving day; may we not hope that it will become the beneficent father that we dream of its being? One trouble with Government has always been that it insisted on concerning itself with theories and politics, that it did not take off its coat and come down where people live, to see what actually was hindering and confusing them in their daily life and indifferent to theory or elections, set out determinedly to correct the evil.

Admin. ch.
We have got one department at least in our present government and one government head that busies itself almost exclusively in attacking the things that ball us up, and that is the Bureau of Commerce under Herbert Hoover.

One of the latest troubles that this beneficent and friendly department and its friendly leader has set out to overcome is that annual fall misery, moving day.

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It seems never to have occurred to the authorities that it was possible to scatter the leases, and instead of concentrating them, say on August 1st, that it was possible to have four or six moving days. No one who passes through the moving period in a great city can have failed to note the inextricable confusion and the tremendous burden that it thrusts on all sorts of activities and particularly upon service corporations. It is the most extravagant way of doing things. Those who make a business of moving must, in order to handle the peak load, be equipped with ten or twenty times as many vans and men as they can use to advantage at any other time of the year. The telephone people, the electric light people, gas and water companies are called upon to do in one week work that ought to be distributed over many weeks. The strain on the good temper, the comfort and health is incalculable.

But here comes this beneficent person in Washington, turning his guns on the subject. One of the committees that he has been keeping busy ever since 1921 has been concerned with getting out great construction business into something like responsible order. The distribution of the leasing period over the year is only one of the numerous wasteful practices that this committee has been attacking. And now they come out showing us how the thing can be done, showing us what has been done in various cities and showing too how if this leasing date is broken down expensive and aggravating peak loads are distributed.

In talking with Mr. Hoover, he says that the difficulty is in great cities like New York, that in cities of half to a million and a half it is not difficult, that through the leaders in construction the building trades can be brought into line. This is but one small reformation in the great undertaking of bringing order and system into the construction business of this country.

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