

In the meantime, the vitality of the price system should not be overlooked. The system is not dead by any means. When wage rates are forced to uneconomic levels by the pressure of organized labor, this does not pass without some type of reaction. Unemployment may rise, firms may migrate to lower wage areas, consumers may resist higher product prices, employers may be forced to higher levels of efficiency in order to absorb higher wage costs. If some labor organizations have been unmindful of these factors, others have shown exceptional facility in recognizing the economic facts of life.

*Western Reserve University*

### *Francis Neilson at 90*

OUR COLLEAGUE, Dr. Francis Neilson, celebrated on January 26 his ninetyeth birthday.

Dr. Neilson's career has been an inspiring one. He is of sturdy English stock and was reared in a household rich in England's bountiful cultural heritage, though poor in material goods. As a lad, he came to the United States an immigrant who did not know where his next meal was coming from. He worked as a clerk and as a manual laborer while he educated himself.

Venturing upon a career on the stage, he fell under the tutelage of Dion Boucicault and mastered its technique. As a young actor and later as a promising stage manager, he branched out into writing. Jim Huneker, the essayist and critic, in the United States, George Douglas Brown and David Meldrum later in England, helped him to develop the style that has made him one of the great essayists of our time. He also came under the influence of Anton Seidl and others, permitting him to embark upon a career in music that reached its apex when he was stage director of the Royal Opera in Covent Garden.

Returning to London in his youth, he pursued his career in the theatre and the opera while embarking upon still another career in politics. Meanwhile, of course, he was writing the plays and librettos and poems that are a notable part of his literary output. In politics he became the leader of the Constitutional Radical wing of the Liberal party and a leading member of Parliament. He threw up place and power rather than compromise his anti-war principles but later, in the Union for Democratic Control, he continued his fight against war, for open covenants openly arrived at, and against secret diplomacy.

His book, *How Diplomats Make War*, published on the eve of America's entrance into the first world war, set off the literature of the post-war disillusionment. It was the first of a series of books in which he has car-

ried on his crusade against war; in his opinion there are no "other means" by which diplomacy can be carried on. Between such books, he has published other notable works intended to achieve a society based on justice and liberty, continuing the crusade that had impelled him to enter the political arena. And he has pursued his humanistic studies, marked in his eighty-ninth year by the writing of another contribution to Shakespearian criticism, *Shakespeare and The Tempest*.

For the past sixteen years Dr. Neilson has devoted a considerable part of his time to studies ranging the sciences and the humanities for the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*. These have won readers for this JOURNAL in more than two score countries of the world. It represented a continuation of his lifelong interest in scholarly journalism. His own talent for it he had exhibited between 1920 and 1924 when, with Albert Jay Nock and a notable staff, he edited the old weekly *Freeman*, producing a journal of opinion without equal before or since its time.

There is much more that might be said about Dr. Neilson, but not by a writer pledged to brevity. Perhaps, however, I may be permitted to transgress upon my warrant to add a personal note. During the sixteen years that the editing of this JOURNAL has been my charge, Francis Neilson has been my mentor. He has labored to give me an appreciation of style, to acquaint me with significant trends and developments in the sciences and the humanities, to give me a grasp of the techniques of scholarly journalism.

This interest in my mastery of my craft is just one aspect of his concern for the development of younger writers, artists and scholars, expressed in many ways. For example, through his work at Liverpool Cathedral in England, he has seen to it that scores of young men get the education and training that their ripening talents require.

It is a source of satisfaction to all of us that, at 90, Francis Neilson is still waging the good fight for a democratic social philosophy that seeks to release the free spirit of man, that seeks to restore to the individual an appreciation of his God-given talents and of his ability to control his political and social destiny. Out of the writings of the English Constitutional Radicals, the American liberal democrats, and of the world's philosophers from the time of the ancient Hebrews and the Greeks to our own, he has distilled a social philosophy that is an original system. The generation now coming up will remember him gratefully for it. Acquaintances and friends in his generation, mine and the one that has just come upon the scene will hope that he will be spared to us for another decade to elaborate the ideas whose influence is so manifest in our work. With our affectionate congratulations on this happy occasion, we, all of us who are associated with the work of this JOURNAL, add a heartfelt *multos annos*.

WILL LISSNER