## CHAPTER XXIV

### GOVERNOR OSBORN

# CHASE SALMON OSBORN, EX-GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN

The Distinguished Scholar Has Been Classed as America's Greatest Philosopher. Having the Power to Choose Home from Any Part of the World His Choice Is Worth County.

Chase Salmon Osborn has been described in many unique, impressive, and superlative terms, such as greatest of all world-travelers, nationally-known orator, statesman, Sage of the Soo, The Iron Hunter, Michigan's Grand Old Man, the brilliant scholar among the Free Masons of the world, The Last of the Great American Pioneers, one of the world's greatest authorities on wild life. But no recognition that has ever been accorded him has pleased him more deeply than to have been called "Georgia's most distinguished and best loved winter resident."

Governor Osborn is not a native Georgian, but he proves himself a Georgian at every turn and everywhere throughout the state is claimed as one. He was born a Hoosier, on the banks of the Wabash in Huntington County, Indiana, in 1860. His young manhood was spent in Indiana and Wisconsin, and he finally settled at Sault Ste: Marie, in the Northern Peninsula of Michigan. He has been accorded many honors by Michigan, including the regency of the University of Michigan and the governorship; and of course he remains faithful to that state, of which he is a legal resident. But he has loved Worth County enough to create here a permanent camp, Possum Poke in Possum Lane, near Poulan. For years he has spent an increasing proportion of his time in Worth County, and now lives here more of the time than he lives anywhere else. His praises of South Georgia have gone around the world. His defense of Georgia, when the state's penal system was unjustly singled out for criticism throughout the nation in 1933, was broadcast from the Gulf to Canada and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. Governor Osborn has proven himself a friend of Georgia. Many Georgia newspapers call him a real adopted son. Worth County in particular claims him as such.

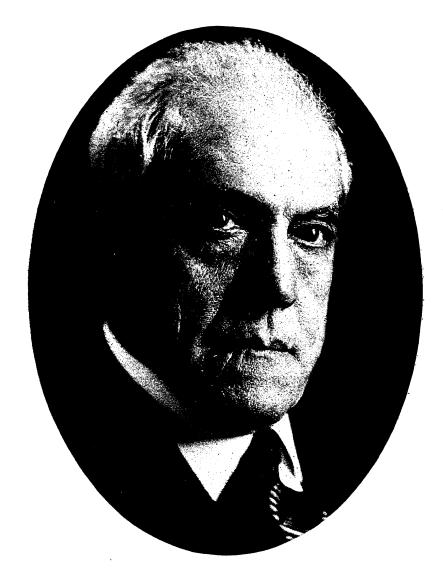
How Governor Osborn first came to Poulan, some forty years ago, is told in the Atlanta Journal of January 27, 1926. Commenting editorially on this story, the Journal says:

"It will live as a classic of our soil and sun."

"You ask me," says Governor Osborn, "to tell how I came to be a resident of South Georgia. If there is interest in the matter at all it resides in the reasons for my staying here. Anybody might come here accidentally as I did. But to stay when one has the world to choose from and the power to go where one likes is the thing. Between thirty and forty years ago a Mr. Hunton, of Detroit, bought pine lands hereabouts and built a sawmill. A mutual friend of Mr. Hunton and myself came here as his guests to shoot. There was a neat little boarding house, it burned. My friend, Mr. R. J. Cram, of West Chester, Pa., who would be here now if he had not been stricken with total blindness (he is since deceased), conceived the idea of building a hunting camp. To this end he invited three or four others to join him. I was one of them.

"To be a bit independent of the camp I bought a few acres and built a camp on a smaller scale for my own use and also set out pecan trees. Those were the busiest days of my life. One year found me in Africa; another in Asia; still another in Europe or in South America or elsewhere out of my own country. So for years I could not come to Georgia regularly. But I had met Editor J. L. Herring, John G. McPhaul and other fine men here. They looked after my small belongings until I could visit them more frequently. This came about when I decided to quit active business and devote myself to study and writing.

"Having seen all the earth and having wintered in California and Florida and on the Riviera and in Egypt and in the South Seas and, in fact, every place thought to be attractive in the winter, it was easy to discover the advantages and attractions of South Georgia. First of these are the people. And if one rightly constituted as to philosophy and morals, people must always be the first consideration. I found them with an honesty and realness and grace that I had not seen elsewhere or since or before in all the earth. There was no pretense, no pose, no frills, no "dog"—just plain, honest-to-God people If



HON. CHASE S. OBBORN

there is an inhibition in South Georgia I have not discovered it in forty years of contact. They love you if they do, and they hate you if they do. There is a charm of personal and human honesty that is of the land. This makes for social conditions that are perfect.

"In addition to this there is none of the mongrel mob that crowds into and flourishes in places cheaply popular. One can be quite sure that if a man introduces a woman as his wife, she is. Whether important or not, this is true. If one wishes society that is not plated he can find the cream in Georgia. Their high and excellent kind, North mingling with South, form circles the like of which has not yet been discovered elsewhere. If one wishes just quiet gentility, where life is sweet in its simplicity, he chooses spots like Poulan, where I live in Possum Poke in Possum Lane. Somewhere between these descriptions are the excellent towns of Sylvester and Tifton.

"In seeking the genesis of conditions in what I pridefully call my part of South Georgia, I found a great reason for its social superiority came from the fact that it is largely peopled from North Carolina. Now there may be tough Tarheels, but I never saw one that was not good to know and live with. It so happens that even they are improved by transplanting to Georgia, just as is the Yankee.

"I can visit and walk afield and shoot and botanize and geologize and do as many things delightfully as I wish, and everybody tries to see that I succeed at what I undertake or wish to do. Nor do they ever obtrude. Such good taste and good sense are hard to find elsewhere.

"There is a tranquil charm and beauty in Worth County. For a time it puzzled me to determine why. Then of a sudden, as it were, I knew the mocking bird as it had not revealed itself before; and the brown thrasher sang for me its delicately tenuous notes; the towhee that you call down here the jorce, flitted in the black holly bushes that you call the gall berry; the cat squirrels played in my pecan trees; the golden jasmine and wild violet and the bay magnolia told me new stories of delight to match the flash of the cardinal. In fact, one cannot phrase the loveliness of Worth County without exhausting both language and space. There is a subtle something that I cannot define that once seen seizes the senses as nothing else that I have witnessed on the earth.

"I know well the sun sets and the gloamings of Teheran and the Mokettim hills that are more famous than those of Kashmir. Worth County has evenings and mornings that are born in the heavens in a manner of mystery so engaging and fascinating as to be untellable. And these are almost confined to

Possum Poke, Poulan, Ga., the Winter Home of Governor Chase S. Osborn.



Little Poke Burned, January, 1934. It has Been Rebuilt



THE BIG POKE

South Georgia. At first I thought it chauvinism that made me find this thing of silent joy just in Worth County. Then I discovered that the latitude and longitude of Worth County are exactly right for a certain suffusion and blending of the sunlight and the zodiacal light producing an effect that entrances one. Seen through the towering long-plumed pines or veiled by poplars and persimmons and gums in which nestles festooned mistletoe, there is nothing in the world as beautiful. No etching is to be mentioned as even approaching the delicacy

of tracery. And the colors are so exquisite one may fairly taste them. Once in a while a faint auroral effect is to be detected and the result is transporting.

"Suppose we get down to earth and mention the practical for a moment. Life is easier and filled with more worthwhile things in Worth County than is always appreciated or can be enumerated. It is one of the healthiest regions of the earth. The death rate is the lowest in America. The nights in winter are snappy and stimulate one. The days are mild and grateful and relax one just enough. There is none of the enervation of a warmer climate nor any of the dangerously exacting rigors of the northern winter; just a perfectly balanced condition that keeps one at his best all the time; neither too high in spirits nor too low—a state of ebullient riancy.

"If you wish climate and opportunity and charm of people and songful birds and fragrant flowers and good soil and wild and tame life proportioned invitingly, you can find these combined with sweet sunshine and wholesomeness which is all I wish and is why I hope to live a part of all my life in Worth County and South Georgia. In fact, there is more than the average person can comprehend or assimilate of the perfections of earth. Snakes stay in their holes in the winter in Worth County. I could just keep on forever in praise of South Georgia."

Governor Osborn has been much more than a mere hunter of game. His achievements show a spacious variety.

"He has the first cosmic mind I ever contacted", said a distinguished educator.

Harry Stillwell Edwards, that most brilliant Georgia litterateur, wrote of him:

"There never was but one Chase Osborn. Talk about the many-sided Franklin, Osborn reflects life from three points to his one. He has done about everything except manufacture an almanac, that Franklin attempted, and his honors exceed Ben's by several columns in WHO'S WHO."

In the MACON NEWS Charles J. Bayne wrote: "He has wrested more secrets from China than Roy Chapman Andrews, and brought more wealth, of its kind, out of Africa than Barney Barnato.

"He was studying greasor revolutions and Andean condors before Castro got his first shell-shock or Annie Peck had seen the foot-hills of Chimborazo. "He was examining cosmic forces before Einstein learned that the square of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

"He has lived in more intense solitude than Thoreau at Walden Pond and more hectically than Gavroche on the barricades of Paris.

"He has given away more money than he has spent on his own creature comforts and scattered a richer largesse from the mintage of his mind."

And Dr. Malcolm Wallace Bingay, Editorial Director of the DETROIT FREE PRESS, pays Chase Osborn this public tribute:

"It was said when Goethe died that he was the last of the human race to have grasped all human knowledge. The world had swept so far ahead in learning that no other one mind could ever again be the compendium of it all. That, however, was before Chase Osborn got around to being born."

Then Dr. Bingay goes on to list the subjects touched upon in a fifteen-minute visit with the Governor:

"Sheep raising in Australia; the first and fifth editions of Fitzgerald's Omar; Herodotus, Josephus and Edgar Lee Masters; Lincoln's inspiration for the Gettysburg address; Plato, Neo-Platonism and Christianity; Rabindranath Tagore and his poetry; Sinclair Lewis and the Nobel prize; Pulitzer and THE NEW YORK WORLD; modern trends in journalism; Zoroastrianism; the new tariff law; socialism; hunting; the Potagannissing archipelago; the proper cooking of pheasants; the geological formation of the North American continent; the origin of the moon and its influences over the tides; state politics; Madagascar; Darwinian mysticism, the scientists' fear of controversy; Einstein and his theories, traced back 400 years; Milliken's cosmic rays; history of the debtor's laws; "Conversations of Goethe with Eckerman"; Willy Pogany, the artist; intellectual and spiritual regenerations of middle age; the divine spark of friendship. These are all that I can remember, but I feel sure I have missed some. If you think this is an exaggeration you don't know Chase."

As a world-traveler he has covered more territory than Marco Polo or Abbe Huc. He has been in every country on the earth, whether dependent or suzerain, and on every island that is as big as a flyspeck on a map of the world. From the Lofoden Islands to Tristan da Cunha, Lakes Tanganyika,

Como, Baikal or Superior, Hudson Bay or the Straits of Magellan, Cape of Good Hope, Persia, Tibet, Kamkatka, he has seen them all. He has visited the Arctic and Antarctic Circles. He has been in Russia seven times and three times across Siberia. He has followed the Great Wall of China for hundreds of miles, and yet he knows the mazes of the Okefenokee Swamp and the Everglades. In Africa he led his own simple safari instead of being guided and guarded by professionals. And wherever he has gone, whether on the Nile of the Yangtze-Kiang or on Ty Ty Creek, it has been as an ardent lover of life in all its manifestations. He traveled only for study.

As a scholar he has received high recognition. Governor Osborn is an alert and correct observer. His curiosity is quick and insatiable; his memory is unusual; his comprehension and his powers of deduction are sweeping; his imagination is vivid and swift and cosmic. His mind is astoundingly full of facts and ideas, all instantaneously at his command. The academic degrees conferred upon him include a B.S. from Purdue University (As of 1880), 1926; LL.D., University of Michigan, 1911; LL.D., Olivet College, 1911; LL.D., Alma College, 1912; and LL.D., Northwestern University, 1922. Dr. Osborn is a member of the Lake Superior Mining Institute, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, Seismological Society of America, American Society of Mammalogists, American Geographical Society, American Ornithologists' Union, Sulgrave Institution, and Archaeological Institute of America. He is an honorary member, and the only American member, of the Madagascar Academy of Science. He was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1932. His name is listed in WHO'S WHO, in WHO'S WHO AMONG NORTH AMERICAN AU-THORS, and in AMERICAN MEN OF SCIENCE.

He has made contributions to geography and the social sciences in his work on Madagascar and South America. He has been the means of identification of unusual flora, and contributor of facts as to the appearance of rare or new birds, in both Michigan and Georgia; and he has worked with WEB-STER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY in the recording of new words appearing in the language. Research on the practicability of transportation across the continent by means of vacuum tubes has been original with him. His study of weather conditions, extending for many years, over the

world, makes him an amateur meteorologist of distinction. His search for iron and iron-bearing rocks, which took him into every corner of the earth and resulted in notable discoveries in such widely removed places as Madagascar, Canada, Africa and Lapland, brought him some wealth and recognition. He has contributed to cosmic geology a new terrestrial motion which explains earthquakes and the recurrence of the glacial epochs. Whether he concentrates for the moment on the prickly pear, or Altamaha grit, or the sucks of the Alapaha near the Georgia-Florida line, or the possibility of power development, he combines business sense with scientific eagerness.

An estimate of what Governor Osborn has made and given away in his lifetime would be large. His ability to make money and his happiness in giving it away cannot be considered apart. It has been said of him that if he had chosen to devote himself to the accumulation of money, instead of looking upon it as a decidedly subordinate interest, he might easily have become the richest man in the world in terms of dollars. Among other fine things in his financial record is the fact that what money he has made has never been taken at the expense of others. Wherever he has turned, he has seen possibilities for the creation of wealth. He has taken newspapers that have failed and made them over into successful enterprises. He has discovered new values in the earth. He has avoided waste.

With those about him and all who have dealt with and for him, he has shared generously. His gifts to those dependent on him, to those who have worked for him, to friends, to innumerable struggling artists, to charitable and educational institutions, his unceasing help of everyone about him, have constituted a steady and voluminous distribution of such wealth as he has made, in addition to the constant giving of himself. His gifts to Purdue University, to the University of Michigan, and to Tulane University at New Orleans are notable. Even the two camps that he lives in, North and South, have been given to others, although he retains a life right to use them. Mostly now it is of himself, of his time and his knowledge, that he gives.

The following statement of his philosophy of the economies was published in the AMERICAN MAGAZINE and afterwards reprinted in thousands by the Presbyterian Church in the United States for world-wide distribution:

"My greatest inheritance was poverty. With poverty came

gibes and slurs from children who had more. It made me bitter for years. But it stimulated me to do things, for poverty is ambition's stepladder. With the acquisition of some money and enough food and respectable clothing came reflection. I saw the earth as a vast banqueting table. Sort of a buffet or what the Scandinavians call a smorgos board. This table is laden with the nourishments and the spices and flavors of life. Some persons, I noted, were rudely pushing weaker ones away and hogging the good things, even the actual food in instances. There is enough to go 'round, if all would take only a fair share. But with some taking more even than they could eat and hoarding it, others had to go hungry.

"I made up my mind to give back whatever I had that I did not need to live upon. People who take more than they need from the table of the earth do not always know that they are pigs, but they are. Socialism will not cure the pig habit. The way out is for those who take more to consider themselves as trustees for the surplus. Maybe some day they will help others up to the table, where they can help themselves. That day is coming rapidly.

This charity must not be called charity. The name of it is JUSTICE. Add to it human love, and the world is made safe

and happy for all mankind.

"A genuine spirit of giving would heal most of the evils of the world. Not giving as charity, but a genuine giving by each man of his best self for the common good of all.

"Our system of education makes for false appetites. Success is measured by taking only, which leaves in its trail hunger of soul and pain of body and ill-health of mind. We are educating unconscious and conscious burglars, who are trained skillfully to take as much as possible and give as little as possible. This is not the worst phase of modern education—it is that it is builded upon the assumption that taking is happiness. ...

"In the long run the balances would be the same if the competitions of life were those of giving rather than taking, and there would always be a better taste in the mouth of mankind; there would be no heart hunger, no bitterness, no envy, no malice, no war, no woe; there would be all joy of living; no fear of death."

In political and social conditions he became interested early From the time he emerged to lead the elements of order and decency in Florence, Wisconsin, against the vicious and murderous forces of that border mining town, down to the present, he has been conspicuous for independent courage. In Michigan he was postmaster, state fish and game warden, commissioner of railroads, regent of the University of Michigan, and Governor.

He applied his personal habits in doing things—incisively, economically, efficiently, and honestly-to public affairs. His record as governor, when he paid all of the indebtedness of Michigan, reduced the tax-rate near one-half, and left a big surplus in the treasury, is a matter of history. He was first to reduce the numberless boards and commissioners into a workable administrative organization— a development which laid the foundation for the later reforms in Illinois and afterwards for the federal budget system. The Michigan Workmen's Compensation Law framed and adopted under his administration was one of the earliest in the United States and became a model for many that were passed subsequently by other states. Among other important and far-seeing reforms, bills and resolutions favoring woman suffrage were passed by him, despite bitter and unprincipled opposition; and he struck a first blow at the liquor interests by outlawing the brewery-owned saloon in Michigan. In 1912, Governor Osborn called the conference of progressive governors which petitioned Theodore Roosevelt to become a candidate for President; although he did not leave his party to join the Progressives.

His influence has been not only constructive but honest and cleansing. Northwestern University, in conferring an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon him, asserted him to be "not only an advocate but also a practitioner, of clean government."

His urge in politics has been to be a good citizen. "If one is that and offers himself, that is all that is necessary. I have always been able to take failure of election with greater equanimity and tranquility than election. The latter brings great responsibilities, and confers no honor beyond that which resides all the time in one's heart and mind and soul."

In all his political activity, he has never had the office in mind; always the people, and principle.

He has long been an outspoken advocate of the outlawing of alcohol, and increasingly so as the battle has seemed to go against the so-called Prohibition Amendment. He was the

first executive of the State of Michigan to grapple with the alcohol evil, regardless of any possible effect on his political future. Familiarity with the blessings of the dry regime in Georgia, has been part of his conviction and an argument that he has used in addresses in many states.

His attitude toward the people he has himself clearly expressed:

"I discovered that the strong have a way of sending special representatives to a capitol, and that the weak and unorganized are not represented at all, unless public officials constitute of themselves their especial guardians. I would have those in office in this country consider themselves the representatives of the weaker and the unorganized, the people, to fight for their interests, present and future. I would not of necessity be against the strong. The weak need the strong. But the strong must be made to help the weak take care of themselves. That is my view of public duty."

The Republican State Convention of Michigan in April, 1928, endorsing him for nomination as Vice-President of the United States at the National Republican Convention in June in Kansas City, passed the following resolution:

"The Republican party in Michigan is proud of the record of Chase S. Osborn who has served the state faithfully and well in offices of trust including the office of chief executive. We commend him to our delegates to the national convention in Kansas City as our choice for the office of vice-president of the United State and we instruct them to use all honorable means to accomplish his nomination. His long and honorable public career in which unfalteringly he has championed the cause of the people not only qualifies him for but entitles him to this position. If he is nominated and elected his scholarly attainments and profound knowledge of public affairs will bring lasting credit to the state and to Republicanism in the nation."

In Georgia, Chase S. Osborn considers himself a guest and does not meddle with politics. He has, however, at many times been approached by individuals, organizations, and party leaders with the object of having him change his legal residence to Worth County, Georgia. "Come down here for good and we will make you Governor and Senator." In the ATLANTA JOURNAL, Harry Stillwell Edwards said: "After

a while he'll forget the road back to Michigan and then we'll run him for governor down here. Maybe he is that South Georgia governor we've been clamoring for so long."

These he has taken as the gracious gestures of the most hospitable people on the earth, and he has been grateful for their kindliness.

As a public speaker he has a nation-wide reputation and an ever-widening audience. "Most fluent I have ever heard," "most dynamic," "most resourceful," "most inspiring," "brilliantly felicitous," "unequalled vocabulary," are the kind of comments he calls forth.

When he gave the Commencement Address at Wesleyan College in Macon it was noted by Harry Stillwell Edwards: "For the first time in nearly a century of Wesleyan Commencements, the boys in the rear were awed into silence."

Governor Osborn has spoken to a gathering of more than one hundred thousand persons. And he will speak for the school at Bridgeboro, for Oak Ridge Institute (colored) in Sylvester, for Kiwanis at Albany, for the Board of Trade at Tifton, for the Masons of Worth County, or in the churches of Moultrie, Ocilla, and Poulan, or in camp meetings, and count the trouble and expense of it only a privilege and honor to himself. He prefers the small town always to the big cities, and he knows both intimately. He has never accepted an honorarium nor a cent for expenses.

As an author, his output has been voluminous and important.

THE ANDEAN LAND, published in two volumes in 1909, was practically the introduction of South America to American readers. Many chapters have been bought and reprinted by leading magazines.

THE IRON HUNTER, published by the Macmillan Company in 1918, tells in part the story of his career. "Here," said the BALTIMORE SUN, "is that America which inspired the world; the America in which a man born in a little log house of two rooms with one real glass window and two others of greased paper' comes after struggle and effort unceasing to broad usefulness, wide knowledge and to leadership of his fellows." THE IRON HUNTER has been translated as a textbook into many foreign languages. It was chosen as the first of one hundred books that were translated by the United

States government into Russian in order to counteract the spread of erroneous opinion in Russia about our country.

THE LAW OF DIVINE CONCORD, published in 1921, has by some critics been called his masterpiece. It is art and thought and beauty, sociology and philosophy and a glowing comprehension of God.

In 1924 he published MADAGASCAR, The Land of the Man-eating Tree, the first book of this great island empire by any American and the first in the English language outside the writings of the London Missionary Society. "The joy of Madagascar is Osborn," said one critic. "Osborn eating crocodile eggs cooked at the turn of hatching. Osborn hunting big game, looking at living things, getting a taste of it all," Again there is the "brilliant adventuring into a thousand divergent ideas," the limitless scope of his interest and sympathy and knowledge of all phases of life, in his presentation of the history, mythology, anthropology, and social customs of this almost unknown country.

In THE EARTH UPSETS, published in 1927, Governor Osborn has set forth proof of a hitherto unrecognized additional motion of the earth, which accounts for earthquakes, the drift of the continents, and for the recurrence of the glacial epochs. It is of particular interest here to know that, while Governor Osborn has worked on all of his books in Worth County, practically the whole of his great scientific work, THE EARTH UPSETS, was written at Possum Poke in Possum Lane.

His story of FOLLOWING THE ANCIENT GOLD TRAIL OF HIRAM OF TYRE AND SOLOMON, which he wrote during an exploration in Africa, has been published serially by the AMERICAN TYLER-KEYSTONE, the oldest Masonic magazine in the world printed in the English language, preparatory to issuance in book form. In this he has described the little ant-lion or "doodlebug" that may be seen any day by the Bee Tree Ford in Worth County, with as intent interest and as vividly dramatic expression as he has devoted to a hippopotamus hunt or an attack on his camp by lions.

He has also written A SHORT HISTORY OF MICH-IGAN; and has been one of the editors of the Michigan volume of THE AMERICAN STATES, a series to be published by THE LITERARY DIGEST.

Governor Osborn is a member of The Authors' League of America; the Michigan Authors' Association; Washington Arts Club, Burns Club of Atlanta, and the only patron member of the National Arts Club of New York.

Notwithstanding all his distinguished records in so many fields, the Governor always states, whenever asked his calling, that he is a newspaperman.

Innumerable magazine articles have been written about him, for the AMERICAN MAGAZINE, the CENTURY MAGAZINE, COLLIER'S WEEKLY, and others. Books have been fashioned around him and some of his experiences. Many books have been dedicated to him. He suggested and inspired Emerson Hough's THE COVERED WAGON and Paul De-Kruif's SEVEN IRON MEN. He is in WHITE LIGHT-NING by Dr. Edwin Herbert Lewis, THE FIREFLY'S LIGHT by Emerson Hough, JOE PETE by Florence Mc-Clinchey, AMERICA IN THE MAKING by Mark Sullivan, and WE START OVER AGAIN, best seller, by Vash Young. The latter calls him "one of America's most hopeful philosophers."

Governor Osborn's life has been packed with color and drama. Famous American paragraphers have attempted to describe him. Dr. Bingay in the DETROIT FREE PRESS has written:

"Friend Chase Osborn has been made a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. And what a Fellow he turned out to be! Why, he's a whole association for the advancement of science all by himself. He is always himself and usually 49 other Fellows.

"The citation as reported does not expressly say just what science he has advanced. Maybe it is just the science of living, theology of existence. Wherever he is, he is at home. If left naked in a wilderness he'd live and enjoy life. He would sing to the fish and whistle to the birds or do whatever it is these naturalists do and pretty soon there would be a camp. Iron mines would be found and newspapers established. If tossed into the crowded life of a city he would not wither and pine away. He would thrive on the choking massed humanity and enjoy elbows on ribs and feet on feet.

"He has reached the three score and ten, but if you want to remind him of it you had better do it by telephone. He is still a combination of seven dynamos, twenty-one buzzsaws, and all the encyclopedias now in existence."

Harry Stillwell Edwards calls him at one time, "that world-renowned versatile genius," who "is at once the ENCYCLO-PEDIA BRITANNICA and the WORLD ALMANAC with the HARVARD CLASSICS thrown in for good measure;" and at another time goes on:

"Osborn—he doesn't like titles—is certainly a philosopher of the antique mold, with a thorough contempt for conventionalities and social solemnities. He is an adept at making 'big' men look small and little men look big. He can shake the teeth out of a fellow and then smile in a way to win instant forgiveness. But he knows real people at a glance and the secret of his boundless popularity is that he finds most of them in the honest-to-God people around him and doesn't notice whether they eat with knife or fork. When at Possum Poke, his lodge in the Worth wilderness, Osborn dresses to suit the climate and the environment. Rumor has it that he lives on cornbread. field peas and pot liquor, and in two old blue homespun shirts that may have seen better days but cannot possibly see worse. It is said that an old plantation mammy who washes and darns them was once heard to exclaim in desperation, 'Good Lord, ain't this here white man got no shirt ertall!'

"It fell to me to introduce this wonderful man at Wesleyan, where he was called last week to deliver the Commencement Address. He reached Macon, my home town, two days ahead of me, and when I arrived introduced me to people I had never before met. All the ladies knew him and possibly loved him—I'm afraid to speak positively, because a lot of Macon ladies are married. He appeared on the stage at Wesleyan in royal robes, a blend it seemed, of all the designs he was entitled to wear, though he insisted that they represented Northwestern University. My Kimono and mortarboard looked like first mourning in comparison.

"And this was the gentleman I was called on to introduce. My recollection is that I declared him a de luxe edition of the Encyclopedia Brittannica, carryiing the best definitions of heart and soul I ever encountered, and then stood from under."

Another description of the personality of Governor Osborn, as he has been known in Worth County as well as in the city of New York, is worthy preservation here, The editor Brentano's BOOK CHAT, Joel Townsley Rogers, wrote:

"A man has come in through the open door. A tall man, brown as a panther, with marvelously intent eyes. His fine hands fumble in a curious shyness, which is belied by every bellicose line of face and carriage. His shoulders thrust forward; his jaw is clamped invincibly; he strikes a riding crop against his thigh. It is his glance which holds me. In his dark brown eyes is an intensity of living, a passion to know and suffer and understand all things, such as I have seen in no man before.

"A man unknown . . . . Yet as I see this man whom I have never seen before, and as I arise from my chair, I feel a tremendous surge of exaltation. A vertigo of delight, as though I read again a great epic which once had stirred me to an ecstasy but which to my shame I had forgotten. Here we are standing, two men face to face; and I feel like shouting. I want to grip one of those clumsy fumbling hands and cry, 'In the name of God, tell me who you are! What have you done? What are your dreams? It is a wonderful world, my friend. Let us tell each other what we think of it!' . . .

"This man is perhaps in his early fifties. I learn later he is topping the turn of the sixties. He sits on the edge of his chair, nervously moving his hands, looking at me with those terrific honest eyes as though at a scowl he'd be up and away. I stare at him, and a thousand words are unspoken, for I feel that here before me sits Odysseus. Odysseus still on his voyagings toward the termination of the sun.

"He tells me his name—Chase Osborn. . . . He has come in to tell me about a young author—wonders if I will read this chap's books and say a helping word. He has heard this author is a fine young man, though he has never met him. 'Fine, fine!' he repeats earnestly, his straight eyes shining. I feel that all men are fine men to those eyes. Men are good. . . . A heart which delights in all men's joys, which is wounded by their pain. He has bridged the vast isolation of individuality, if that be possible, till he may project himself on others as an incarnation of their nobler ambitions, as a partaker of their desolotions and regrets. Likely the first sight of him so startled me as with memory of a man known because he was the very man I should like to have been. It is a strange occurrence, and may cause a touch of shame, to see one's better self coming in the door. . . .

"Here he stands, Chase Osborn published in Indiana, 1860.

A unique printing. Travel, biography, politics, and philosophy. More than any man I know the Great American Novel. An Odyssey of vast adventurings. An apocryphal gospel."

His boundless interests, minute and accurate observation, amazing memory, rounded comprehension, vivid imagination, swiftwittedness, deft precision, hair-trigger action, dynamic energy, ebullient spirits, and glowing practical smypathy have set him up and apart from men, the center of admiration and attraction. But aside from his remarkable mental power and radiant personality, or at least beneath them both, giving them birth and sustenance, are the sober, steadfast, granitic qualities of character. To the writer of this sketch, these are the secret of his greatness. A volume telling of the principles by which Governor Osborn has ruled his life consistently and rigidly would be among the most helpful and inspiring books ever written. And it would also be among the most fascinating and colorful.

He believes in God and the Bible completely and perfectly. He lives with God. Those who have heard the blessings at his table can never forget the intimacy and the reverence and the radiance of his talks with his Creator; how he weaves into his thanks before food, with as great feeling and nobility as any poet or ancient prophet, the lovely and the practical things of the immediately preceding hours; his approach to God as "father and mother of the earth;" his gratitude, for many things- "for the gift of sleep;" his petitions for strength, understanding, patience, to be just, for harmony with the Divine purposes, and "for all others that which we ask for ourselves." In the morning as he bathes and does his chores, he says many prayers, sometimes chanting The Lord's Prayer in his own kind of monotone. He said, once: "I was awake much last night. I must have said fifty prayers. It is so much better than counting sheep."

But prayer does not profit, he believes, unless it is applied here and now and practically, and every hour of his day is in the spirit of his beseechments. God is the first need of man, he holds, in our own troubled day as always. If one has God in his heart, all things are possible. Without God, all things, even nations and civilizations, come to naught.

Order is Heaven's first law, and one of the cardinal rules at Possum Poke. Everything must be shipshape at all times. Without loss of time or energy, he proceeds with the necessary work of the moment, in a world of which the smallest detail is known to him and fixed and most convenient. Everything is left ready for the next move. He is ready for any emergency, decks always clear. Fixed order has been one of his marked characteristics: a first factor in his efficient management of everything.

Because he sensed that to get along in the world you had to get started, he early developed the habit of always being beforehand instead of late; always a jump ahead instead of a jump behind. His way to do this is to get up earlier. That is why Possum Poke time is more than two hours faster than Eastern Standard time. When the five o'clock whistle of the Poulan Cotton Mill is blowing to wake up its workers, Possum Poke's eight o'clock breakfast is already on its way.

The old-fashioned virtue of thrift is now enjoying a revival. With Governor Osborn it has been a life-long point of view and habit. This is one of the reasons he has been able to face the so-called depression with complete equanimity.

An economy as practiced there is not only the avoidance of waste; it involves also taking the best possible care of everything.

His foresight is apparent on every hand. He keeps many an "anchor to windward" in reserve supplies of all necessities. Always in camp there is a stock of canned goods, and also there is the stern rule that these are never to be used except in case of real emergency. There are boxes of stamped envelopes that never are touched, on the same principle. All supplies are watched and are never allowed even to run low. Efficient living to hom comprehends not only thrift but intelligent provision for the future and for emergency. Even his love of giving does not dull this phase of his practical commonsence. "You cannot warm your neighbor at your heart if you do not take care of your own fire."

These small things show common-sense to the point of genius; and they indicate, among all his gifts the greatest of all, an inborn reverence and loyalty to principle.

If I have done anything in life it is because I have applied my principles thoroughly and not slighted small things."

The same minute and deep comprehension and the same devotion to principle underlie all his social relations. He prays

to God each day that he may be just and kindly to all his fellow-creatures.

In business he has been characterized as "a sentimentalist who pays his bills." He pays immediately on delivery, or before whenever that is possible. Every item is checked for accuracy and legitimacy; but if any extra service has been given, he will voluntarily add to his check a little more than enough to cover it. Some of his transactions have puzzled income-tax collectors. In one Worth County case, when a neighbor could not meet his note but could pay something on the interest, the Governor told him to buy paint with the interest money, then to paint the church and apply his time against the principal. He has always included exchange on all his checks.

He understands most contingencies, both of business and human life, and one of the secrets of his place in the hearts and minds of his neighbors is his consistent protection of the interest of the other person as well as his own.

Socially, he is conspicuously an individualist; his communion with God and his keen interest and delight in all natural phenomena have made him independent of companionship; and yet his human attachments are warm and deep and interwoven everywhere. His observing mind and deft hands, and his love of all honest labor, have made him able to do any kind of practical work about the camp or garden and made him independent of servants; yet he surrounds himself with a number of helpers, as much for the joy of looking after them as for what they do for him.

It has been said that no prophet is without honor except in his own country. That is not true of Governor Osborn and Worth County. His vastness of soul and mind has been recognized with respect and admiration; and his greatness of heart, his human kindliness, has been returned in affectionate regard. He has wished only to be a good citizen of Worth County. There is no day at Possum Poke when he does not contribute gladly to some local cause—for a community gathering, for basketball uniforms, to help someone who is ill or destitute. The calls upon him are more than he can care for, but no one comes who is not helped in some degree. He has assisted Worth County men who worked for him in buying their own homeplaces. He has enabled many young South Georgians to secure business and nursing and college training. He has been a supporter of all the churches of Poulan, regardless of denom-

ination. In civic crisis he has stood by the city officers. The Public Library Building of Poulan, the only one in Worth County, is a monument to Possum Poke, and a great proportion of its books are the gift of the Governor. The first radio in the County was given to the Woman's Club of Poulan. The coming to Worth County of the Honorable John Charles Chaffer, Evanston, Illinois, owner of the Turtledove Plantation; Dr. Mortimer E. Cooley, Dean Emeritus of the Colleges of Engineering and Architecture of the University of Michigan, owner of the Cooley Plantation; and Mr. Charles P. Randall of the Board of Trade, Chicago, has been due to the efforts of the Governor. And a thousand guests of Possum Poke, including many young authors and artists, have become imbued through him with enthusiasm for South Georgia which they have carried to every corner of the nation.

In Poulan, in Worth County, in all Georgia, South and North, Governor Osborn has been unfailingly an interested and constructive neighbor and friend. Worth County counts itself fortunate to have him. We are proud of him. We love him. He belongs to us. His generosity makes this History of Worth County possible.

His mastery in so many fields we recognize. His genius for taking care of himself and taking care of others we have witnesses and we understand. Incredible and limitless as his achievements and his generosities have been, we believe that if his love of God, his keen common-sense, and his strict devotion to principle could be imparted to the youth of Worth County and of the nation, this would be his greatest achievement of all; and a gift greater than all other gifts to our generation combined, because it is the thing most needed at this moment by mankind.

Governor Adopts a Daughter

On April 30, 1931, in the Worth County Court House at Sylvester, Governor Osborn legally adopted as his daughter Miss Stella Lee Brunt, a native of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Miss Stellanova Osborn held the degree of Master of Arts in mediaeval literature from the University of Michigan and had been editor of the Official Publication of the University of Michigan for some time. She had aided the Governor as literary secretary for a number of years intermittently. His work had so increased with his age that he felt compelled to obtain

an assistant, to act not only as his secretary but, if need be, as his nurse. Possum Poke in Possum Lane is to be Miss Osborn's home and she is to become a legal resident of Georgia.

#### FINIS

It was the ambition of the publishers of this volume to have it finished during the bicentennial year of Georgia's history. It had been compiled but the lack of funds prohibited its publication in the year 1933, but as it is going to press in the 80th year of Worth history it may be said not only is it in response to legislative enactment in commemoration of Georgia Bicentennial but in Commemoration of Worth's eighty years of growth and developmnt.

The manuscript was deposited in the state archives at Atlanta last year and when published a bound volume will be exchanged for the manuscript.

The development of Worth County in the short space of eighty years, properly portrayed, would challenge the imagination of a fairy tale artist. In the years old Worth has measured up to all demands put upon her by the National Government.

In the nation's wars the stalwart sons of Worth were in the vanguard of the fighting troops. In the World War her conquering sons returned home decorated with every decoration offered for valiant service. Those of us who to our sorrow were forced to stay at home to keep the home fires burning, responded to our country's call just as valiantly as those who were so fortunate as to be in the front ranks. Lacking the blair of trumpets and earth's applause, never the less as the calls were made for supplies or service, Old Worth always without one single lapse did all that was asked of her and then some. We bought more savings stamps than were allotted to us, more liberty bonds than we were asked to buy, we through our local Chapter of the American Red Cross raised so much more than was actually needed that when the Armistice was signed we had over eight hundred dollars in our treasury.

For the last two years our nation has been engaged in another war. The war against the world depression. In this fight Worth County has done herself proud. Through our associated Charities, Kiwanis and Red Cross funds we took care of the unfortunate from our own resources, until last year when our Great President declared war against depression and called every citizen to arms to fight the depression, we again responded enmasse. With the result that Worth received probably more government funds for direct relief and work relief than any county in the state in proportion to population. This is attributable to the fact that the Government requires local agencies to co-operate and do their share and the amounts spent by the Government was commensurate and measured by amount spent by local organizations.

Our people as individuals through Civic Organizations have responded nobly, our city and county authorities have cooperated to the fullest and as a result of this unity of purpose and unselfish cooperation at this time as this is being written on July 20th, 1934, there are very few if any of our citizens that are suffering for necessities, and the best thing about it is that they were given work, and useful work to do rather than a dole.

Last fall it was decided by the leaders of Georgia to call for a popular subscription to build at Warm Springs as a token of our love and loyalty to our great president, "Georgia Hall" for the Warm Springs Foundation. The State Committee were wise in the selection of Dr. T. C. Jefford as chairman of the Worth County Committee to raise the quota for Worth County. Through his untiring, faithful and wise leadership, in the face of the fact that Worth County is entirely agricultural, with no income save from its farms the splendid sum of \$150 was sent to the Foundation.

In the Fall of 1932, it took over 70 baskets of food, clothing, etc. for empty stocking fund to approximate the needs of those in a small territory around Sylvester, while last fall the need was so small that there was no concerted efforts to relieve distress.

In evaluating the assets of Worth County we would be recreant as a historian should we fail to call attention to our greatest asset, and that is the high moral and spiritual values of our citizenry.

Our Judges, our Solicitors, and other county officers, and leading citizens still realize that it is better to be loyal than to be treacherous, to be clean than to be vile, to be pure than to be lecherous, to be honest than to be a cheat, to be brave than to be a coward. And amid the prevailing confusion of our times there still remains in old Worth a vast amount of in-

disputable good. There are multitudes who still live by the faith, and that it is still good to be generous in thought and act, to be kind and to be virtuous. There is no slump in the value of morals, only in the popular observance of them; and moral integrity, honesty, personal purity, love of one's neighbor faith in God, Christ like character, and all such are the abiding and unrepealed and unrepealable gold standard in the realm of the spirit. Here in Worth these things are being seriously lived by our citizens in high places. Here there is a region of light and a human coinage that does not depreciate.

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