

Will Rogers Day.

THE NATION is doing homage to Will Rogers today. The date which would have been the fifty-sixth birthday of the man with the fewest enemies of any American living or in history is the one designated for the beginning of the Will Rogers Memorial. The public is happy to remember with kindly appreciation the contributions he made to entertainment, humor, philosophy and humanitarianism. A generous cross-section of the same public is expressing that appreciation by becoming participants in a fund designed to perpetuate the characteristics which were his.

Will Rogers never harmed any person. On the contrary, the "stuffed shirts" were without rancor when he punctured them around their wearers. He was wholly without bumptiousness and conceit was nonexistent within his composition. He was a supershowman with a single act—that of sharing with his audiences his ability to twirl a lariat and embellish it with a running fire of comments which might be described as the only stage skit based on native traits, philosophy of living and love of fellow beings. His audiences grew to worldwide dimensions but the quality remained unchanged. He knew the uncanny ability to see the good within the individual and never lost the faith that some existed. If it were not immediately obvious he promptly took its presence for granted and called it into action before changing subjects.

He made fun of more causes and persons than fell to the lot of any other public figure. He performed the feat off the stage as well as on it. Members of Congress, Presidents, kings, dictators, candidates, heads of industrial units, financiers, clergymen, educators—all came within his field of endeavor. All are today happy to respect the memory of the man who died many years too soon and eager to become contributors to a fund which will perpetuate the name of Will Rogers, Forthright American.

There can be no knowing the amount of money he personally gave to aid persons who were struggling to improve their conditions. He might be said not to have known what either his own right hand or left hand was doing with the money which came to him because of his ever-growing popularity. At any rate, he never mentioned any incidents.

His monument, therefore, must needs and will be one which will exemplify the humanitarian traits that made him beloved.

Will Rogers is dead but that which he was remains a Living Ideal and the attempt formulating today is to keep it renewing the faith through generations who will not be permitted to know him but who will be privileged to benefit from perpetuation of the lessons he prepared for them.

Will Rogers' Birthday.

TODAY is Will Rogers' birthday. It is a day which, to America's beloved humorist himself, in the later years of his life, was a yearly reminder of the neighborliness of the American people. It was his belief that we are all friends and kinsmen, and that all we need to enable us to forget contentions and animosities is to be brought to think of that fact. Will Rogers' life was, in our generation, the reminder we needed.

Today is Will Rogers' birthday—the first since untimely death interrupted his great mission for making all the American people, and all the world's people, friends one with another. The day is fittingly chosen by the national Will Rogers Memorial Committee for opening the public subscription for establishing a permanent memorial suitable to the great service Will Rogers rendered his people in his time.

It is good for men to be reminded often of the superlative fact of our common birthright. It is good to reflect that living is not so complex but that simplicity, kindness and generosity may not still win the acclaim and affection of the world. It is good to know and to remember that greatness may be achieved in the hearts of the people as well as on the battlefields of war or trade.

The Will Rogers Memorial will serve to remind us of the desirable human qualities which Will Rogers possessed, of the great service he performed in rendering these qualities recognized for their human worth, and of the good fortune of the American people in holding the sources which produce such men as he. The public subscription is a fitting demonstration of the public affection for a public friend and benefactor.

Pension Inquiry to Washington.

THE LEGISLATURE, in a way, "lays by" its old-age pension furrow to await the ripening effect of the sun of federal favor. Or, in other words, the conference committee of the two houses working on the old-age pension bill postpones further meetings until word can be had from Washington whether or not the bill meets the requirements set up by Uncle Sam for sharing federal funds.

As the old-age pension bill stands, it is a conservative one—at least in contrast to the extravagant expectations raised in some quarters by adoption of the pension amendment. If finally enacted in its present form, the bill will extend the State's aid only to those aged persons who have neither an income equal to the maximum pension amount nor property which if capitalized would equal that amount, and would pay a person having a lower income only so much as might make up the difference. Thus the State's old-age pension law will be plainly a measure for the relief of the indigent aged.

It is likely that the questionnaire on its way to Washington will seek, also, to clear up a somewhat unsettling question as to the manner in which the federal statute and the Texas amendment will jibe. It will be recalled that the Texas amendment authorizes the Legislature to "provide . . . for old-age assistance . . . not to exceed \$15 a month . . ." This amount was fixed obviously with the idea that another \$15 would come from federal funds, and that the maximum payment to pensioners would be \$30 a month, and it apparently was inferred that the federal help would be in the form of dollar-matching.

But the federal statute itself reads as if the plan of federal aid, instead of dollar-matching, is to be reimbursement to the States of "one-half to total of the sum expended . . . under the state plan."

The language of the Texas amendment can be read to mean that the Legislature has no power to set a higher sum than \$15 a month for old-age pensions, even though the Federal Government might pay half so as to make the actual expenditure