

## FORUM

### MR. GARRICK ON SCHOOL BILL.

LA GRANDE, Sept. 20.—Editor Observer, Dear Sir: From the Observer I gather something about a bill called the School Bill, and as I understand it this is a bill to empower me to prevent you from having anything to say about the education of your son or daughter after they are six years of age.

Now, Mr. Editor, you must understand that as a father you are allowed (if you can) to raise children, and you are required to exercise all the prerogatives of a kind and loving father until the child is six years of age. Then, if the bill passes, you surrender all your rights to the state, so far as the child's education is concerned. But you still have the privilege of paying all expenses such as food, clothing, lodging, books and doctor bills, etc., but the public school will take care of the child's physical, mental and moral and spiritual training and of the father two be it said they are strictly of a negative quality.

How do you like it, and how will mother like it, who for her little girl or boy suffered the untold agonies of the death-hour? Then at the end of the most anxious period of the child's life to have to (figuratively speaking) hand over the kid to the tender mercies of government servants.

Apparently it matters not, although the parents may well be able in every way to educate their boy or girl up to the standard required by the state Superintendent for Grade Schools. That will count for nothing if this bill becomes a law, because the state will step in and demand complete control of every child of school age, for six hours daily, five days a week for eight years.

This wonderful bill, Mr. Editor, contemplates a step backward of several thousand years; it contemplates the nationalization of children. And Mr. Walter M. Pierce, who contemplates governing the great state of Oregon in the near future, has promised to support this bill. Alas! How are the mighty fallen. If Walter Pierce can sanction the nationalization of children. It is only one step further to sanction the nationalization of all matters. The Spartans did it, and under such conditions, Russia would have nothing on Oregon.

The question arises here: What is the motive for proposing such a bill? Is this your only answer: Anti-Catholic? Shame! Shame! How can any man with such a narrow view of things temporal or spiritual aspire to the government of a state in the United States?

States of America? Surely one corner of a barnyard would be ample space for such a narrow mentality to function in. Is it not the right of every American citizen to worship God as the Catholics do if he so desires? Is not America the land of the free, where every man enjoys the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of his own conscience?

Then who authorized either Protestants, Jews or Pagans to dictate to the Catholic how he shall worship, or to hate him because he has a mind of his own in all such matters. It would be a most excellent thing if all Protestants, Jews and Catholics would come forth from the Medieval Ages and rejoice in the light of the 20th century.

One word more in praise of our worthy townsman, Mr. Pierce, who is sacrificing himself for the benefit of all the tax-ridden poor people of Oregon. His sole object in seeking your vote and ours to land him in Salem as governor is to reduce all our taxes, etc., and here is how he would start in to do it. By supporting a measure whereby all Parochial schools would be closed, thus involving the state in expenditure of millions of dollars for the building of public schools.

That is a sample of how Mr. Pierce will reduce your taxes! That is a fair sample of optical flap-doodle, or pure bunkum.

But there is another and a far more serious angle to Mr. Pierce's political promises, viz., if by his able support this infamous bill becomes a law, then he loses the hearts and loving goodwill of a very large proportion of the inhabitants of Oregon, of whom the least that can be said is that they are as good as their neighbors. But such a bill as this will not become a law in Oregon because it is not framed for the good of all the people.

If Mr. Pierce hopes to have a list of a show for the governorship, he would do well to repent and apologize to all the voters of Oregon for having outraged their intelligence and dignity by fishing for votes with such rotten bait.

Respectfully,  
L. GARRICK.

**BOOSTS IMBLER SCHOOL.**  
IMBLER, Sept. 20.—When country children are taught in terms of farm and home problems, of home and community needs, they will feel that school has some relation to real life. Too often the country school is something apart from the life of the community, and has no influence on the social or business affairs.

The great majority of pupils in the village and town schools come from the country. We have been educating them away from the farm. Let us reverse the march of events and make our schools actually function. A con-

eral diffusion of knowledge is paramount, yet the average annual expenditure per child for educational purposes in the city school of America is \$53.20, that for the education of the country boy or girl is only \$18.00, so let us get busy and boost and make this little school of ours one of the best in the county.

O. O. BEUCHAT.

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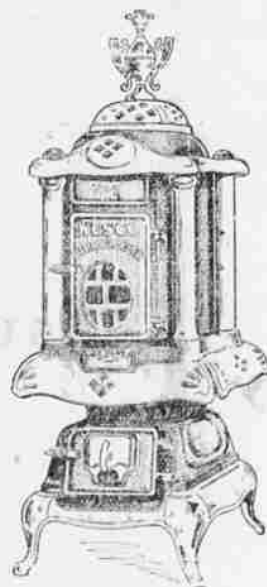
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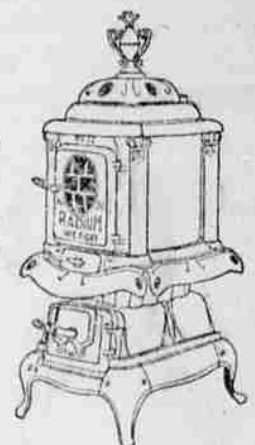
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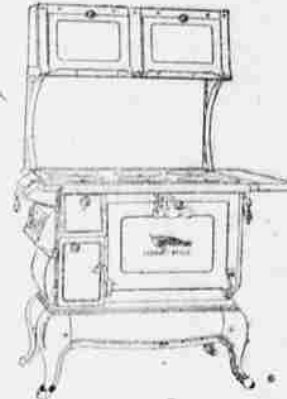
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