

The Oregonian

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LA FOLLETTE MISSTATES FACTS.

The growing community of interest politically between President Wilson and Senator La Follette is indicated by the latter's endorsement of Mr. Wilson's Chinese policy in La Follette's Weekly. So over-eager is the Senator to approve what the President has done that he errs seriously in his recital of the facts relating to the Chinese loan.

Mr. La Follette seems disposed to give the credit, whatever credit there be, to Secretary of State Bryan, for he ascribes the repudiation of "dollar diplomacy" to that gentleman, though the statement announcing the fact came direct from the White House. Not until afterwards did Mr. Bryan rather superbly give that statement his approval.

The Senator's version of the part played by the United States in the Chinese loan affair is not correct as far as that of the President. Mr. La Follette speaks of the State Department being used as the agent of high finance, as "developing the State Department into a business agent for a certain powerful group of speculative bankers in New York." Mr. Wilson's statement puts the boot on the other foot, for it says:

We are informed that at the request of the last Administration a certain group of speculators had endeavored to participate in the loan now desired by the government. Such a proposition is repulsive to the American people and the American government. So far from Wall street using the State Department as its agent in speculation, the State Department used Wall street as its agent in furthering American policy in China. The New York bankers joined in the loan agreement at the express request of the government. Mr. Wilson stated this fact and the true state of the motives which actuated his predecessor and Secretary Knox, as follows:

Our government wished American bankers to participate along with the bankers of other nations in the Chinese loan. The good will of the United States toward China should be shown by participation in a loan which would give American capital access to that great country, and that the same should be shown to the American people by the participation of the American people in the loan.

But Mr. La Follette in his animosity against Mr. Taft, which is evidently greater than his zeal on behalf of Mr. Wilson's policy, says:

Dollar diplomacy demanded a share of China that a share of the huge loan she was preparing to get from Europe. The bankers in Wall street, the mass of fastening Wall street control upon the affairs of China.

Mr. La Follette has done good service to the country, which men of both parties praise without stint. But he has allowed himself to be blinded with prejudice to such a degree that he can see no good in anything done by either Mr. Taft or Mr. Wilson. He has no undue friendship for Wall street by his anti-trust and his railroad policy. The latter has done enough to answer for without being blamed for those of which it is not guilty. Many persons would be glad to confer honors on Mr. La Follette, but they are not willing to do so unless he shows more fairness towards those whom he opposes.

A REMEDY FOR LOG-ROLLING.

A plan for the equitable distribution of Congressional pork has been evolved by Anson Phelps Stokes, secretary of Yale University. It really applies generally and systematically to the plan which has been followed for three years in the improvement of the channel between Portland and the sea, and more recently in improvement of several Oregon harbors. The principle is that the locality directly benefited should contribute a share of the cost, of those improvements which fall within the province of the Government, and that those sections which are willing to make such contributions should have the first claim on funds available for this kind of work.

Mr. Stokes proposes that every locality specially benefited by a river and harbor or a public building appropriation should be required to contribute 10 per cent of the cost of the improvement. A general law of this kind would do away with graft and log-rolling. It would protect the Treasury from raids for improvement works which never have been and never can be navigable and for the erection of buildings at villages and small towns, where the rent now paid for postoffice quarters is but a fraction of the interest on the cost of a proposed building. Where an appropriation is made for the improvement of a river or harbor, the cost of the improvement should be apportioned, to be distributed by the Building Bureau according to the same principle. In applying the rule to rivers and

harbors, the share of the expense borne locally should vary according to the magnitude of the undertaking and the extent of the benefits. The Government should pay a large proportion of the cost of improving such rivers as the Mississippi and the Columbia than of any of their minor tributaries, where the benefit would be almost purely local. Yet every state on one of the main waterways should contribute to its improvement. The same principle should be applied to harbors. The benefits of improving one of our great seaports are so general that the Nation's share of the cost should be larger than in the case of a small harbor, draining the commerce of a restricted district.

Mr. Stokes is on the right track. He proposes that Congress apply the principles of merit and self-help to Federal improvements and thereby relieve itself from much well-deserved criticism.

PROGRESSIVENESS RUN WILD.

California under Bull Moose rule has given an example of progressiveness run wild. The Bull Moose idea appears to be the regulation by-law of every movement a man makes, and legislation of the kind which was once known as grandmotherly government. The Progressive party has no advantage over other parties in devotion to social and industrial justice, but that does not extend to the appointment of a commissioner to care for bees, to regulation of the weight of eggs, of the manner of drawing beer, of the length of bed sheets or of the sale of theater seats. This is progressiveness made ridiculous.

California has taken the place of Kansas as the state where freak legislation abounds. Perhaps this is the effect of reaction from a long period of boss rule or may possibly arise from the heat of the sun on the ardent California temperament. When zeal for the public weal goes to such extremes, another reaction is due and the Golden State will be fortunate if progressiveness does not cause it to fly to the arms of a new boss as a safe refuge.

WHAT THE MISSING TEN DO.

Four men with improved machinery and the help of science now produce as much food as was produced by fourteen men. Where are the ten?

This question was asked by President Henry Waters, of the Kansas Agricultural College, at the cost of living conference. The answer is that the ten have not been produced in line between the farmer and the consumer, compel the farmer to pass his produce through their hands on its way to the consumer and each take a piece off the loaf of bread in transit.

Two main factors in the high cost of living are an enormous wasteful production on the farm and a wasteful system of distributing, not only farm products, but manufactures. Other main factors are the tariff, the trusts and an unscientific currency system. Methods of farming and distribution can be improved by voluntary cooperation of individuals. The intervention of the Government, state or National, except in some minor particulars. The National Government can aid by collecting and distributing information as to the best methods of farming. The states may aid by factoring and distribution of farm products. As regards production and distribution of farm products, the rest can be left to those immediately concerned. By revising the tariff, dissolving the trusts and reforming the monetary system, Congress can help, but farmers and consumers must do their part.

SOME EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.

A recent census bulletin giving educational statistics as compiled by the enumeration of 1910 shows that the country as a whole is making rapid strides towards universal education, and but one state, Iowa, makes a record below that of the United States as a whole. The illiterates of the country as a whole, the illiterates 10 years of age and over in 1900 comprised 10.7 per cent of the total population; this was decreased to 7.7 per cent in 1910, which was indeed a remarkable record, showing that in the face of an increase of total population of 67.47 per cent, the number of illiterates were reduced from 8,189,069 in 1900 to 5,516,163 in 1910.

Oregon in 1900 had a total population of 412,536. Of this number there were 19,856 illiterates over 10 years of age; in 1910 we had a population of 674,476, but there were 82,369 illiterates than in 1900, or a total number of 10,594, reducing the percentage of illiterates from 3.3 per cent to 1.5 per cent. Iowa had but 2.3 per cent of illiterates in 1900, the same as Nebraska, while Oregon had 3.3 per cent. In 1910 Iowa reduced her illiterates to 1.5 per cent, and Oregon and Oregon each to 1.5. So Oregon really made greater strides during the last decade than any other state and may claim to be the banner educational state of the Union.

Christendom was further fortified by the discovery of "The Donation of Constantine." This document is now acknowledged by historians to be a forgery, but when it was first given to the world it was supposed to be genuine. By its terms the pious Emperor was made to bestow upon the Roman pontiffs that authority over the western world which he resigned by renouncing the seat of government to Byzantium. Upon the donation of Constantine was established not only the temporal power of the Popes over their Italian territory, but also their supremacy over all earthly sovereigns. It is possible, however, that its importance in this respect has been exaggerated. The Popes generally, it is averred, preferred to base their claims to universal sovereignty on direct communication as vicars of God.

Hildebrand, who is known as Gregory VII in the line of Popes, was a great reformer and a great fighter. Reforms had become necessary in the church through the growth of simony. We read also that many bishops permitted themselves to mitigate the rigors of canonical chastity by taking one or more concubines, and a general spirit of sloth had fallen darkly upon Christendom. Hildebrand initiated vigorous warfare against all these evils. At the same time he waged a determined struggle with the German Emperors over the question of investiture. Should bishops receive their investiture of the keys from the Emperor or the Pope? The controversy ended in a compromise. Hildebrand and his immediate successors effected a great reformation in the church. In carrying out their plans perhaps their heat killed more than their good sense. The new canal which has been dug across Cape Cod makes an artificial island of this famous peninsula, but it is said that in doing so it merely restores conditions which were once natural. In the days of the Puritans there were two channels cutting across Cape Cod, but they were subsequently blocked by drifting sand. The peninsula has acquired fame both as a vacation resort and as the home of a quaint population whose sayings and doings lend an original flavor to literature.

Some enthusiastic historians of the church are willing to trace the beginnings of the papal power back to the residence of Paul and Peter in Rome. Paul certainly visited the imperial city and Peter may have done so, but whether he did or not the tradition of his life and death there has served the church quite as well as the reality could have done and perhaps better. It is certain that the Christian era would have been a different one had Peter never after the crucifixion increased rapidly in numbers and influence and presently came to be looked upon as the central congregation for the whole world. The Jerusalem church was far inferior to it in prestige almost from the beginning, but because of its narrow Jewish spirit and because that city was a long distance from the focus of the Empire's thought and action. Religion, quite as much as commerce, follows the flag. As early as the year 190 the Bishop of Rome, whose name was Victor, felt powerful enough to excommunicate the Western Christians because they failed to agree with his views as to the proper date of Easter.

In the fourth century the growing authority of the Roman pontiffs was disturbed by the Donatist schism which drew away a considerable number from the orthodox fold. All effort failed to bring back the erring inhabitants of the Southern Mediterranean coast and it is possible that their heresy would have persisted to this day had they not been overwhelmed and swept out of existence by the invasions of the barbarians. The religious serenity of Western Europe was also disturbed in those early times by the Arian heresy. Most of the Frankish and other Teutonic heathen had unquestionably been converted by Arian missionaries so that their Christianity was tainted at the very fountainhead. It was not until the fifth century that they fully acknowledged the supremacy of the Popes. Still even their errors were of some use. When they overran Northern Italy and captured the City of Milan, for example, they relieved Rome of a dangerous rival. Strays as they were, the Arians in the early Christian centuries aspired to divide the dominion of the religious world with Rome itself. Augustine felt their perilous attraction in his younger days, but, no doubt through the influence of his mother, Monica, he finally renounced unqualified allegiance to Rome.

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Hildebrand, who is known as Gregory VII in the line of Popes, was a great reformer and a great fighter. Reforms had become necessary in the church through the growth of simony. We read also that many bishops permitted themselves to mitigate the rigors of canonical chastity by taking one or more concubines, and a general spirit of sloth had fallen darkly upon Christendom. Hildebrand initiated vigorous warfare against all these evils. At the same time he waged a determined struggle with the German Emperors over the question of investiture. Should bishops receive their investiture of the keys from the Emperor or the Pope? The controversy ended in a compromise. Hildebrand and his immediate successors effected a great reformation in the church. In carrying out their plans perhaps their heat killed more than their good sense. The new canal which has been dug across Cape Cod makes an artificial island of this famous peninsula, but it is said that in doing so it merely restores conditions which were once natural. In the days of the Puritans there were two channels cutting across Cape Cod, but they were subsequently blocked by drifting sand. The peninsula has acquired fame both as a vacation resort and as the home of a quaint population whose sayings and doings lend an original flavor to literature.

Some enthusiastic historians of the church are willing to trace the beginnings of the papal power back to the residence of Paul and Peter in Rome. Paul certainly visited the imperial city and Peter may have done so, but whether he did or not the tradition of his life and death there has served the church quite as well as the reality could have done and perhaps better. It is certain that the Christian era would have been a different one had Peter never after the crucifixion increased rapidly in numbers and influence and presently came to be looked upon as the central congregation for the whole world. The Jerusalem church was far inferior to it in prestige almost from the beginning, but because of its narrow Jewish spirit and because that city was a long distance from the focus of the Empire's thought and action. Religion, quite as much as commerce, follows the flag. As early as the year 190 the Bishop of Rome, whose name was Victor, felt powerful enough to excommunicate the Western Christians because they failed to agree with his views as to the proper date of Easter.

In the fourth century the growing authority of the Roman pontiffs was disturbed by the Donatist schism which drew away a considerable number from the orthodox fold. All effort failed to bring back the erring inhabitants of the Southern Mediterranean coast and it is possible that their heresy would have persisted to this day had they not been overwhelmed and swept out of existence by the invasions of the barbarians. The religious serenity of Western Europe was also disturbed in those early times by the Arian heresy. Most of the Frankish and other Teutonic heathen had unquestionably been converted by Arian missionaries so that their Christianity was tainted at the very fountainhead. It was not until the fifth century that they fully acknowledged the supremacy of the Popes. Still even their errors were of some use. When they overran Northern Italy and captured the City of Milan, for example, they relieved Rome of a dangerous rival. Strays as they were, the Arians in the early Christian centuries aspired to divide the dominion of the religious world with Rome itself. Augustine felt their perilous attraction in his younger days, but, no doubt through the influence of his mother, Monica, he finally renounced unqualified allegiance to Rome.

For a century or two after Augustine's time the splendor of the western pontiffs was more or less dim. They failed to assert much authority over the bishops in Gaul, Spain and Germany, and even at home their prestige seemed to have suffered a collapse. The redeeming glory of that dark period shines in Britain. In that remote and unpromising region between the years 590 and 604 Pope Gregory originated a genuine Summer of Intellectual and religious growth. Monasteries were founded everywhere in England, Ireland and as far north as the desolate Scotch Isles and behind the security of their impenetrable walls literature and philosophy flourished with a vigor which found no rival in the world. Missionaries were sent from Britain to the deserts of the North Sea and the heart of Germany and France and carried the true doctrine into the remotest fastnesses of the Arian heretics. The authority of the papacy in those outer dominions of the church was further increased about this time by the invention of the printing press and the decisions and statutory regulations known in history as "the False Decretals." These illusive but useful relics from an imaginative past were seized upon by Pope Nicholas I and made the foundation of the practical power of the papacy. It grew very rapidly and made headway against all obstacles.

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