

A Big Question

THE Yakima Republic has the following editorial: "Senator Dill in a radio speech in Spokane raised a question that may, in case the coming election is close, have a far-reaching influence on who shall be the next president. Under the constitution each state shall have presidential electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives 'to which the state may be entitled.' Because of the failure of congress to do its duty in reapportioning the house of representatives, Washington and other states are entitled to more representatives than they have and some other states are entitled to less than they have. Each state is entitled to less than they have. Each state is entitled to have the number of its representatives based on the 1920 census and though congress has wilfully refused to do its duty that fact should not limit the relative strength of the state in the electoral college. If the election should be close it is not impossible that the next president will be elected by illegal votes, that is, by votes apportioned on the actual number of representatives rather than by the number to which the state is entitled. If that should be the case the matter would undoubtedly be litigated and ultimately decided by the supreme court which would be called upon to decide whether congress can by its neglect deprive a state of its legal quota of votes in the electoral college which officially chooses the president. An action once started along that line would bring congress to a realization of its duty and a bill would be put through in short order reapportioning the house in a manner in which it should have been done immediately after the 1920 census. Even without a close election the state legislature might well consider authorizing an action to require Washington's vote to be counted for the number to which it is entitled rather than for the limited number which congress sees fit to recognize."

The writer does not believe the matter referred to in the above by the Yakima Republic will bring any headaches—because the election is not going to be close.

The constitution of the United States leaves the matter of apportioning the representatives in congress to congress itself; and the second clause of the 14th amendment gives congress the authority to fix the number—

And if the reader will turn to that clause he will find that in every state that "abridges" the right of a citizen to vote (and every southern state does), "the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion to the whole number of male citizens 21 years of age in such state."

The 19th (equal suffrage) amendment made the word "male" of no effect.

Well, if there were to be a close election, and it were contested, the United States supreme court would have some big questions to decide, outside of the neglect of congress to specifically make a reapportionment based on the 1920 census.

Besides the fact that the election will not be close, however, there is another thing, in the opinion of the writer, that would make up the principle of the rule. It is this:

The constitution leaves this matter to congress, and its action or failure to act, thus leaving the matter as it was, would rule. Just the same as an office holder keeps his office till his successor is "duly" elected and qualified.

Every reader knows why the southern states "abridge" the right of a citizen to vote; that it is done with the "grandfather" clause and in other ways to keep the colored people from voting—

And in some of those states, as in Louisiana, the colored people make up a majority of the whole population. So the southern states have representatives in congress in number proportionate to their whole population, and therefore presidential electors, too, in the same proportion—

Though the constitution is plainly against this. It is all as "plain as a knot on a log," but nothing is done about it. Congress, having the power to act, does not act. If the matter mentioned by Senator Dill of Washington were carried to the United States supreme court, the matter of the illegal electoral votes from the southern states would have to go with it—

But, even so, the writer believes the decision would be that the vote would stand, till congress, having the power to act, had actually taken action.

But there are some big and far reaching questions of justice and right bound up in this matter.

Cool Rides Across Equator

THE equator passes through only two American nations—Brazil and Ecuador. In fact, the latter country takes its name from that imaginary line—

And Ecuador is the first country in the world to build both a railway and a highway across the equator.

So, today down in Ecuador we may take a train in Quito, the country's capital, and ride to Cayambe. Quito is just 16 miles south of the equator and Cayambe is 50 miles north of the line. This new rail link will form a part of the Pan American railway—

And in addition to the railroad an ancient Indian trail crosses the equator. From Quito northward work is in progress in the modernization of this trail; and it is now possible to motor to Cayambe, and within a short time, further north to Ibarra. From the latter place there is a usable automobile road to the Colombian border. Within the last year or two both Ecuador and Colombia have been building highways toward each other. Recently, an automobile made the journey from Quito into Colombia, and some parts of the route were found to be in fine order.

Southward from Quito there is a highway through the Ecuadorean valley as far as Riobamba and motor cars frequently make this 150-mile journey. The motorist, therefore, may drive from Colombia into Ecuador or travel more than 200 miles "along the roof" of the western world. Eventually this road will form a link in the great Inter-American highway.

Does one suffer with the heat in traveling over this equatorial highway? No, not at all. The ride is a cool and delightful one. Remember we are moving along 10,000 feet up in the air—10,000 feet higher than the sea. At this altitude the temperature is usually delightful; the sun may be warm at midday but one needs a blanket under which to sleep at night.

He Did, Did He?

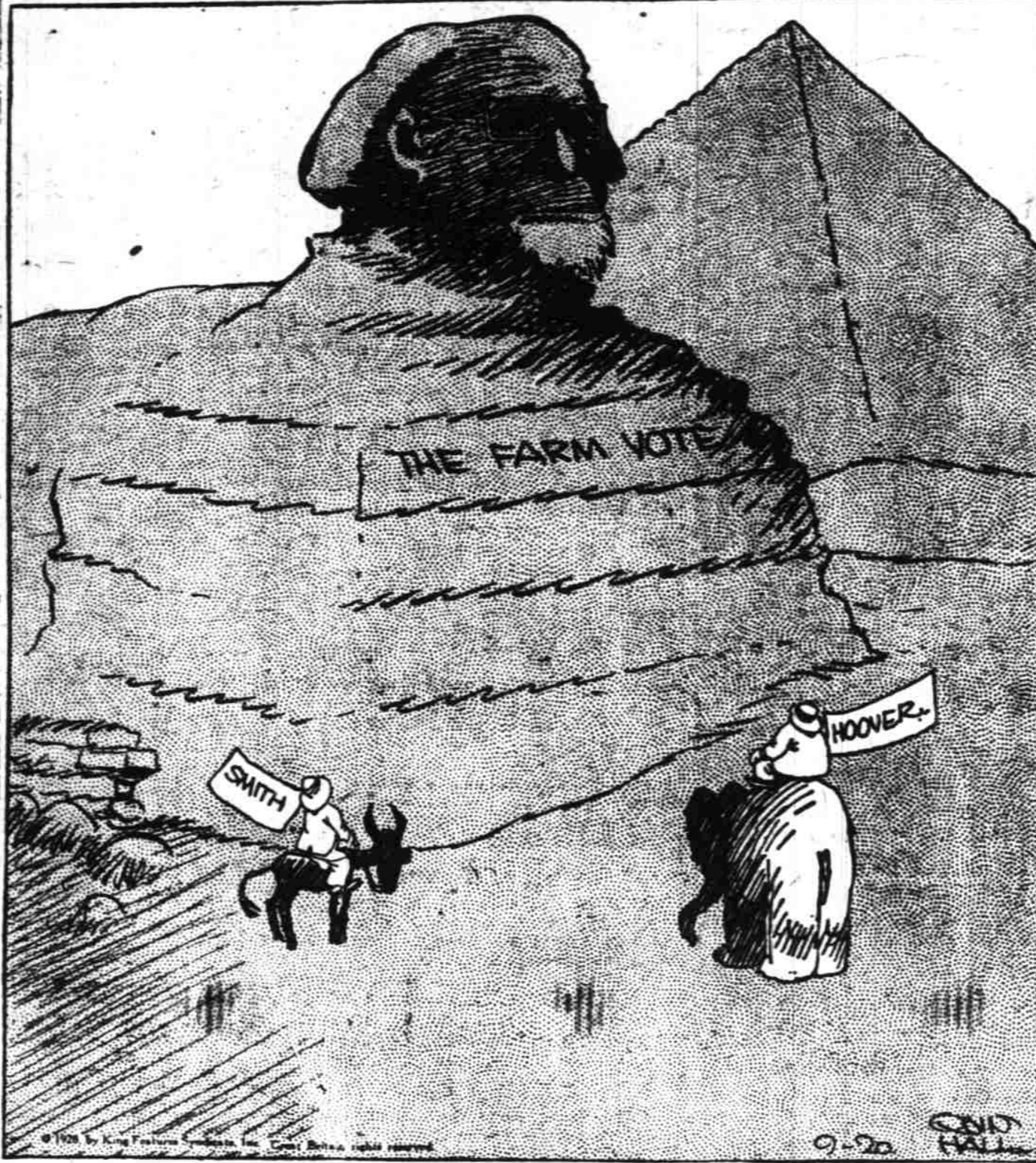
SAYS the La Grande Observer of Wednesday: "Smith's Omaha talk, whether heard by radio last night or read in today's paper, impressed different people differently. One thing is certain, it failed to contribute anything to the farm relief question. Smith expressed sympathy for the McNary-Haugen bill, but he has repudiated the equalization fee principle. Which is all there is in controversy in the bill. Generalizations about controlling crop surpluses and getting a competent board of experts to find a solution carry little weight these days. Smith will win votes in the west on his personality, but not many on his farm relief ideas."

The La Grande paper is right. Smith did repudiate the equalization fee principle, called by that name, some days back, in a newspaper interview in New York. At Omaha, however, he said he was in favor of the McNary-Haugen bill "principle," but he avoided mentioning the equalization fee by name. Of course, the equalization fee "principle" is the McNary-Haugen bill "principle," as everybody knows—with the possible exception of Mr. Smith—

So it is evident that he will have to explain his position again, if he wants the corn belt voters to get it exactly straight; also his eastern supporters who are against the equalization fee.

One-half of the housing facilities being built in the large cities are apartment houses. It is assumed that the cliff dwellers who occupy those structures have a new version reading "Be it ever so ornate, there's no place like a flat."

The Sphinx



A Washington Bystander

By Kirk L. Simpson

WASHINGTON.—It begins to look as though Governor Smith's announcement that Nebraska would map his campaign plans for the middle west invasion with a view not only of recouping his loss of Senator Simmons of North Carolina as a supporter, but possibly returning with two or three republican scalps dangling from his belt. And the real bait on the hook with which he contemplates fishing in farm bloc waters, it turns out, is more apt to be his ideas on water power policy than farm relief. This, at least, is the construction put on the governor's announcement that Nebraska would map his campaign plans for the middle west invasion with a view not only of recouping his loss of Senator Simmons of North Carolina as a supporter, but possibly returning with two or three republican scalps dangling from his belt.



Kirk L. Simpson

Norris was still sulking in his political tent, which happened physically to be his summer home in Wisconsin, when the Smith plans were announced. Water power was the subject on which the Nebraskan crusaded in the senate during the last session with all the ardor of his nature.

Norris' Influence

Norris has always been held to be his ideas on water power policy than farm relief. This, at least, is the construction put on the governor's announcement that Nebraska would map his campaign plans for the middle west invasion with a view not only of recouping his loss of Senator Simmons of North Carolina as a supporter, but possibly returning with two or three republican scalps dangling from his belt.

inuously a painful thorn in the side of Curtis of Kansas, now Hooper's running mate, as majority leader.

"Young Bob" LaFollette has indicated many times a great degree of respect and admiration for the political principles and abilities in statecraft of his Nebraska colleague, Blaine of Wisconsin to some extent takes the same view. Neither has yet declared himself in the presidential race. Blaine has denied having announced for Smith, although admitting that many of his friends of Wisconsin were going to vote for the New Yorker.

It seems possible that Smith's drive to capture Norris, if successful, might bring him also one or both of the Wisconsin senators.

Two "irregular" Hooverites Brookhart of Iowa, also of the irregulars, is out for Hooper, as is Howell, Norris colleague in Nebraska. Norris and Howell have been rated as friends as well as political associates. The fact that

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Howell is up for reelection and has "gone regular" in support of Hoover possibly might influence Norris' action. Shipstead, the lone farmer labor senator, like Norris, is still an unknown quantity in Minnesota an dpresumably a neutral in the presidential race. Brookhart holds that Smith's power policy pronounced in his acceptance speech precluded the admission of Norris to the Smith cause. Such authorities as Senator Copeland of New York, however, insist Governor Smith's policy of public development and generalization of power with lease to public utilities companies or other users only "at the gateway," which means continued public ownership of generating plants and thereby strict regulation of power rates to consumers, meets exactly the Norris viewpoint.

They Say --

Expressions of Opinion from Statesman Readers are Welcomed for Use in this Column. All Letters Must Bear Writer's Name, Though This Need Not be Printed.

Parents Hold Key

To School Problem

Salem, Sept. 18.
To the Editor of the Statesman: On one point at least Mr. Millie and I seem to be in perfect agreement: that the ultimate responsibility for the existence of secret societies in the high school rests upon the parents. If it were possible to have a personal interview with each and every parent, explain the matter to him, and obtain a definite statement, no pledge of any kind would be necessary. But with more than a thousand pupils expected at the opening of school, this is a manifest impossibility; yet the matter cannot be left in uncertainty.

The average pupil will not concern himself greatly over the moral issue; he will follow the line of least resistance and sign rather than get into trouble. And if the parent is indifferent, or encourages this attitude, nothing will be accomplished. There is only one way in which the matter can be settled; and this is not by indifference or evasion, but by a direct refusal to comply with the requirement, followed by a demand for the reinstatement of any pupil who may be excluded.

But the mere abstract statement that every one ought to be expected to obey the law will be of

no more value than the statement that every one ought to tell the truth in a court of law. Mr. Millie would hardly accept the testimony of a witness who refused to be sworn on the ground that he was under a moral obligation to tell the truth anyway; yet the oath administered to the witness is nothing more than a pledge.

The solution of the whole matter depends on public sentiment; if that sentiment is indifferent or hostile, nothing permanent can be accomplished; but in order to ascertain what public opinion is, some definite action must be taken; and the requirement of the pledge seems the simplest way of getting results. If Mr. Millie's contention is right, it ought to be put to a test; if it is supported by the sentiment of community, we shall be under the necessity of changing our policy; and Mr. Millie will have done a real service to all concerned by forcing the issue.

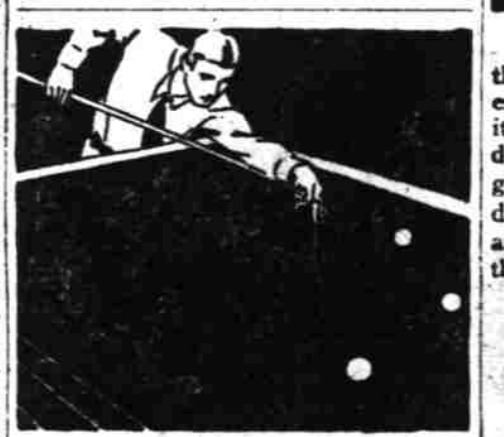
I could wish that others might follow his example, and do as much real thinking on the subject as he has done; anything at the present moment is better than indifference.

J. C. NELSON,
Principal High School.

CLICKS

Just as soon as Al Smith found out what the equalization fee idea in the McNary-Haugen bill was, he heartily indorsed it.

Register by October 6 or lose your right to vote.



"GOOD FOR LONG RUNS"
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If the democratic presidential nominee could travel over the nation for a while he probably would get some idea of national problems.

No hurricanes or tornadoes in Oregon. No wonder people are eager to make their homes here.

Those girls soliciting magazine subscriptions "to pay their way through college" are working an age-old graft.

Spain has another "upheaval." Life in that country seems to be one long "Spanish Fandanglo."

A California youth threatened his girl friend with a water pistol and forced her to marry him. How those California flappers do hate!

Smoot says Hoover will win. That makes it unanimous.



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