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EDITORIALS

PIGS CAN'T VOTE

(Pulaski Enterprise, Mound City, Ill.)
An old dakey is said to have made the following wise crack after listening to a tall story: "You know I can't read and I can't write and all I know is what folks tell me, and if they don't tell me what's so, I don't know anything." A good many people only know what is going on from reading the newspapers. Well, if they read enough, they know a great deal. Reading the news as it appears in the papers gives one a liberal education in many ways.

Take the condition of the country for instance, and who is not interested in knowing about that? Its political and financial problems of late are of interest to most of us. Well, what do we really know about it from what we read in the papers? In 1932 we read the Democratic platform. That suited most of us. We read that it suited Mr. Roosevelt and he was elected to carry it out and he would. That is what we knew, because we read it in the papers.

Next, we read there was to be a war on the depression and it was to be banished forthwith. Well, has anybody heard of any victory over the depression? There were many generals appointed (who never commanded anything before), many aides (who never aided anyone before), to direct the large army which was assembled, but they do not seem to have met the enemy. They were always putting the saddle on the wrong horse and getting thrown off. It would seem they couldn't win a dog fight even if they owned both dogs. They have partially succeeded by various tactics in taking farming, business, and banking under their control, but what that has to do with licking the depression we have not found out. Their army strategy seems to be centered in trying to find the depression; if found, they might drag it before a Senate Committee and, when thus cornered and surrounded by the Army, makes faces at it and call it names.

Well, so far nothing we have read about has happened. President Roosevelt did not carry out the platform. Everything has been different from what we read it was going to be. Debts and taxes are rising like dust clouds; the unemployed are

still unemployed, except those in the Washington army. Now do we know what we have read about the State of the Nation, or are we in the same position that the colored man was, even if we can read and write?

We read more. We read that the President is laughing and having a fine time. Well, maybe there is a joke somewhere, the President is enjoying the proceedings so much. At least, he is having a fine time, so much so that his reception room rings with hearty laughter. It may be like the American joke the Englishman did not quite grasp. He heard that a man by the name of Strange had bought a lot in the cemetery and put up a large monument without anything on the monument. When his friends asked if he did not intend to have his name engraved on it and a proper epitaph, he said, "Certainly not; I do not want anything on it because when people go by and see nothing on it they will say, 'That's Strange!'" The Englishman undertook to tell the story, but forgot the man's name and said that the man put up a monument without anything on it so that when people went by and looked at it they would say, "Isn't that funny!"

It would be strange if the President did not get some fun out of the whole performance, but we just don't see how he gets so much, with the serious prospects confronting the country—increased unemployment, increased taxes, unrest and uncertainty growing—everything different from what we expected when he was elected.

Of course, it is not his fault if he does not know how to straighten everything out the way it should be. It is the fault of congress. There is where the brains of the country are located, and perhaps being able to get this wise government body to let him try anything is where the fun comes in. If what he does works, he gets the credit; if it does not, congress takes the blame, as far as he is concerned. The people ought to elect a new congress if the present one does not represent them, but congress is too smart to let them do it. Congress does know how to get re-elected, and that is not strange. They let the President have enough of our money to spend so he can be re-elected and they expect to ride along with him. They say our money was spent to make jobs for the unemployed and provide for those on relief, but the number grew faster than the money spent, so the more unemployed, the more money to spend, and the more money to spend the more on relief. This sounds like the old Iowa adage, "We will raise more corn to feed more pigs so we will have to raise more corn." However, pigs can't vote, so it is all right to kill the pigs; but the unemployed and those on relief can vote, so why worry if the number increases? Now is that strange, or is it just funny?

We read that our farmers are being encouraged to raise less, but at the same time millions in foodstuffs, such as corn, oats, wheat, butter, meat products, wool, etc., are being imported. This may be one reason why our farmers have not

been getting a satisfactory price for what they raise. Unless something is done about this, the less our farmers raise, the less, perhaps, they will get for what they do raise. Now does this make sense, or is it just one more blunder?

We read that this money the government is spending was secured largely from the banks, who used our bank deposits to buy the bonds from the government. If it is ever paid back, we will have to furnish the government with the money to do it by way of taxes; so we will be taxed to pay off a large part of the government debt to get our own money back from the banks. Of course, the government might print some money and pay the banks that way, but what would such money be worth?

No doubt some of us need help. With so many people in the country there will always be some of us needing help, perhaps more now than ever. However, there must be a screw loose somewhere, because it does not seem reasonable to have to take a four years' course under college professors and brain trusters and still not arrive at any reasonable or practical way of solving our problems.

Do you remember when you were window shopping and did not know just what you wanted or whether it would be what you wanted if you did get it? You remember seeing a sign on a hook in the window reading "Smile, damn you." You laughed, didn't you? Then you went in and bought what you did not want. Well it seems to us that reading the

political news in the papers from now on will be like looking in shop windows. We will be told whom to vote for and if we can be kept laughing and believing all the President says he is going to do if he is re-elected, and forget about what he said he was going to do before he was elected last time, we may be tempted to vote for him again. Perhaps, when reading what he is going to do, we won't need another education. Perhaps when we go to shop this fall we will look more carefully. We may not want to laugh Experience is a great teacher.

Perhaps, as this is considered the richest and most resourceful country on the face of the earth and we are looked up to as such, we should have somebody as president with an aristocratic name, with a family that it outstanding and very popular, and having sufficient finances of his own to maintain city and country homes—in other words, somebody who can put up a front, look grand, and talk Perhaps—but why read more? Now that we are being given the opportunity again to pick out something in the window, shouldn't we pick out something that is serviceable and that we can afford to buy?

Aren't we just disgusted enough with this army of failures, coached by professors, maintained by patronage, and headed for pauperism, to vote for just a common man of unquestioned integrity, with common sense enough to know what the country needs, and with enough experience to know how to get it?

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