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THE SCHOOL LAW DECISION

The federal court decision returned last week annulling the compulsory school law on the ground that it was unconstitutional was in line with the opinions expressed by many of the ablest lawyers in the state during the campaign when the question was brought to a vote of the people. While the decision of the federal judges rested largely on the question of property rights it was generally understood during the campaign that the element of religious intolerance was an important factor in putting the bill over at the 1922 election.

All good Americans are believers in the public school system and are jealous of any infringements on its prerogatives but the matter of education of the young is so closely knitted to the question of religious rights that it is not easy to draw a line.

Under a Republican form of government such as ours parents are supposed to have some rights regarding the training and education of their children and the three federal judges whose unanimous decision set aside this law, show that they do not propose that such parental rights shall be taken away.

Making good Americans out of the rising generation is of paramount importance but the taking away of the right of parents to place their children in schools where they can receive religious instruction in line with the parent's belief does not seem to be a step in the right direction.

Religion and morality are, after all, the very basis of good citizenship and while we call ourselves a Christian nation, we have so many sects and creeds, all with the same end in view, that it is most probable that no one of them is entirely right nor can any one of them be entirely wrong.

In matters of religion and education it is well to remember the old statement that "There is so much of bad in the best of us and so much of good in the worst of us that it does not sound well for any of us to say much about the rest of us." Tolerance is one of the brightest jewels in the crown of Christian civilization. Let us all try to cultivate that virtue.

LA FOLLETTE A THORN

Robert M. LaFollette, senator from Wisconsin, who is said to have admitted that he may head a third party in the coming presidential campaign, may never be president but he is liable to be a very disturbing thorn in the flesh of some of the old line conservatives in both the major parties within the next few months. "Little Bob," as his friends call him, has always been a liberal—sometimes radical—progressive and has been the foe to special privilege to these many years. His worst enemies credit him with being honest and square and the present condition of the public mind regarding grafters and grafting in high governmental circles, as being brought out in the oil and other investigations is calculated to make LaFollette several votes should he become a candidate.

The testimony of a witness before the senate committee the other day to the effect that the witness—who is a private detective—had been employed to go through LaFollette's office and papers last summer in an effort to "get something" on the Wisconsin man that could be used to silence him when he commenced raising a fuss about oil grafters, will not add to the peace of mind of campaign managers in either of the old party camps.

A thorn in the flesh that cannot be extracted can deal out a lot of misery and all efforts to "extract" little Bob either from public life or from being a receptive candidate in either of the old party camps. The witness testified that after going through LaFollette's desk and papers he found absolutely nothing that could be used against him.

THE BASIC FACTS OF AN ECONOMIC ISSUE

In his radio talk that was broadcasted from Pendleton Sunday evening, Mr. Miller, field secretary for the state bankers' association, pictured the McNary-Haugen bill as desirable as a temporary measure to provide relief for farmers. He said, however, that there are many economic and political reasons why it would be bad policy to consider it as a permanent affair.

The measure is being advocated as a relief measure, not as a permanent policy. But the farmers would have just as much right to demand that the export commission plan be made a permanent policy as manufacturers have to ask for a high tariff policy that would permanently allow them to keep their own prices above the world level.

There is no difference in principle between the export commission plan and the high tariff policy. The intent and the only intent of the high tariff law is to place the protected industries of this country upon a basis where they may charge prices that are above the world level. The Fordney-McCumber law affords such protection to virtually every manufacturer in the country able to meet competition and defend themselves without the aid of the high tariff rates that prevail. It is contended even by protectionists that the rates are now too high and that they could be lowered and should be lowered.

While that situation exists the wheatman is abundantly justified in asking for passage of the McNary-Haugen bill. In fact he has a vastly stronger case than has the manufacturer because it is well known that the wheatman is not making money at present and must either have lower prices for the things he buys or higher prices for the things he sells.

Most people are glad to see the farmer to curtail produc-

tion and to diversify. He is also told to economize in his expenditures. It would be more to the point to tell the manufacturer to deflate and thus bring about lower prices so as to restore the value of the farmer's dollar. The present plight of agriculture is not due to shortcomings on the part of the farmer. There is nothing really the matter with agriculture. The trouble is caused by the other fellow, the manufacturer, who inflates his prices and has been encouraged to do so by the tariff system. The industrial inflation is at the very bottom of farm distress, for it is entirely responsible for the shrunken value of the farmer's dollar.

These facts are basic and basic facts must be squarely recognized if we are to have an adjustment. The East Oregonian believes in diversification, where possible, and all that. But we grow tired of hearing people berate the farmer and of hearing the offer the farmer advice that often is unwise when all the time the farmer is plainly the victim of a policy of special privilege adopted to serve the eastern industrialist.

The thing is not a political issue so much as it is an economic question. A republican has just as much right to demand tariff adjustment as has a democrat. He can do so and still protect a real producer like the woolman. Washington, D. C., is full of men and the department of agriculture is full of men who know very well what is the trouble. For months past high officials in a republican administration have been telling us that the trouble arises from the fact that the farmer sells on a free trade basis but has to buy in a protected market.

President Coolidge must know the situation. To contend otherwise is to say that he does not have average intelligence. It is to contend that the president does not know as much as do the bureau chiefs in the department of agriculture.

The farmer and all business men aligned with agriculture have a right to demand that effective steps be taken to restore the balance between industry and agriculture. The McNary-Haugen bill is a move in this direction. It should be adopted and allowed to operate until a permanent cure is provided through removal of tariff privileges. If the present administration cannot do even this much in the direction of restoring economic justice, how can it have any claim upon agricultural votes this fall?—East Oregonian.

In a recent diplomatic note to the president of France, Ramsay McDonald, discussing the question of national security, says:

"The French people desire security; the British people cherish an identical idea, but whereas France conceived security as security against Germany alone, the British Empire attributes to the word a far wider significance. What we desire is security against war."

<p>Visiting Business Acquaintances First Second Story Worker—What sort of luck did you have on that last safe-blowing job you was going to pull? Second S. S. Worker—Cheese it, cheese it, I no sooner gets down my tools to look over the place till somebody swipes 'em and when I goes out looking for them I gets my pocket picked.—Goblin.</p>	<p>A Hard Battle "I saw a man hanging on to a half empty keg a while ago about a mile out to sea. He couldn't swim and was nearly drowned." "Did you have much trouble in making the rescue?" "A little. I had to hit him over the head with an oar to make him let go, but I finally got the keg aboard."—Bayonne News.</p>
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