

COMMENT

Editorial Page of The Tillamook Headlight

FEATURES

Tillamook Headlight

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COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

The article on the Compulsory Educational bill in these columns by a county writer shows undoubtedly that he is very much in favor of this measure.

This much mooted proposed law has been upheld and lambasted for the past few months by various writers and speakers in Oregon until the average voter does not exactly know just what he "wants" to do about this measure when he goes in to the voting booth.

The Compulsory Educational bill as is well known, proposes to eliminate private and sectarian schools and give children an education in the public or state schools maintained by state taxation.

The principle question seems to be whether the state has the right to force education of the younger children in the public schools. It would seem from some of the arguments against the bill that to force attendance in the public schools is to deprive the child of proper religious training. Do the enemies of the bill intend to infer that those children who now attend the public schools are not being trained religiously and that they are being reared with no idea of God? This is the meaning that one may construe from the arguments set forth by the opponents of the bill and is a sentiment that practically all parents who send their children to the public schools will resent.

The primary object of the elementary school is to fit children for entrance into adult life. If the public schools do this what is the objection to the public schools? And if they do not accomplish this the energy that is now being spent to fight them should be turned toward improving the state schools. It is hard to understand what it is that makes the private schools so dear to their proponents. It can't be said that they excel in educational advantages over the public schools.

If it is considered necessary to bring religion into the elementary schools, consider the condition of the people who made this country, the pioneers. What education the pioneer children received consisted principally of the three R's, Reading 'Riting and 'Ritmetic. Their knowledge of religion was gained at night at home when the head of the family read from the open bible just before bedtime. The lack of religious training at school did not deter these people from making the United States the greatest nation on earth.

One of the arguments of the opponents of the bill is that the passage of this measure would cause religious prejudice. If there is anything on this green earth that will do away with religious prejudice it is that the children of all creeds be educated together and with a better understanding between them. It is the private school that breeds class and religious prejudice, where children of different sects are kept separate and where each sect is taught to believe that the others are not as enlightened as they themselves are.

Another argument against the school bill is that personal liberty would be violated if the bill were passed. Personal liberty exists only as long as the majority sees fit. If the majority of voters decide to change a law so as to interfere with the affairs of the minority there is no "personal liberty" violated. However this cry is sent forth whenever a radical change is made. When the United States government declared slavery illegal the southern people cried long and loud that "personal liberty" was violated. When the 18th amendment was added to the Constitution of the United States the "personal liberty" howl was set up by certain elements; and thus will it ever be.

The educational bill that is being put on the ballot for the November election was introduced for the sole purpose of better completing the democracy of our country, in that it is made for a better understanding between all races and creeds. The

talk of religious persecution came from another direction, and perhaps it is an echo of other ideas.

The arguments against the bill have consisted mostly of vituperation and hostile denials. Whatever is the result of the election on this measure the total votes will run very close, for and against, and it is for each voter to decide for himself.

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY

With this issue the Headlight enters into its thirty-fourth year of service to the people of Tillamook county. Established in 1888 by C. Wilson it has grown and prospered each year until now it is recognized as among the leading weekly papers of Oregon. During that time it has been owned by a number of people and each owner turned it over to his successor as the leading paper of Tillamook county.

Thirty-four years, and during that time the Headlight has recorded the joys and sorrows of the community; the birth and deaths, the weddings—all have found their place in print and have carried the tidings to our readers. The records of births of some of the Tillamook parents were printed in the same paper as the announcement of the births of their own children.

In its years of service the Headlight has made enemies but for every enemy it has also made a friend; that is the law of compensation. This paper has put forth policies because it believed they were the right ones and that they benefited the largest number. It has refused to "straddle the fence" on momentous questions and has stood upright in defiance of opposition.

Another thirty-four years and no one can tell what will happen. It is reasonably certain, however, that the Headlight will be in the field as a chronicler of human events in Tillamook county.

THE GREAT CHANGE

How time flies! Soon it will be Nov. 11—and the World War will have been over four years. It seems like yesterday.

Trouble has followed trouble in the wake of the war. And these troubles probably will be followed by similar troubles for many generations. The war was a great surgical operation in which various diseased organs of civilization were removed. Now the patient is convalescing. In adapting itself to the changes, it has occasional relapses, known as crises.

Some of the permanent changes, born of the war, already are in evidence. Russia, having thrown off czarism, gropes its way toward true democracy, which will come.

Germany, the same. Either of these countries might suddenly have a return to monarchical form of government, but that would be short-lived, as the history of France demonstrates. People who have once tasted the sweets of democracy do not for long return to the sourness of king-rule.

A brotherhood of man, a sense of obligation to our fellows, has come from the war and is growing steadily. It will lead to a "live and let live" policy toward foreign nations by all countries.

A reader with vision suggests that eventually the war will doom the ruling of any people against their will.

Another reader, contemplating the upset condition of the world's system of economics, suggests that we may be headed for the day when the man who doesn't work will not eat.

Terrible as the war was, it will lead to incalculably great good of many kinds, principally in the form of an international determination that "it must not happen again."

RURAL AMERICA WILL DO IT

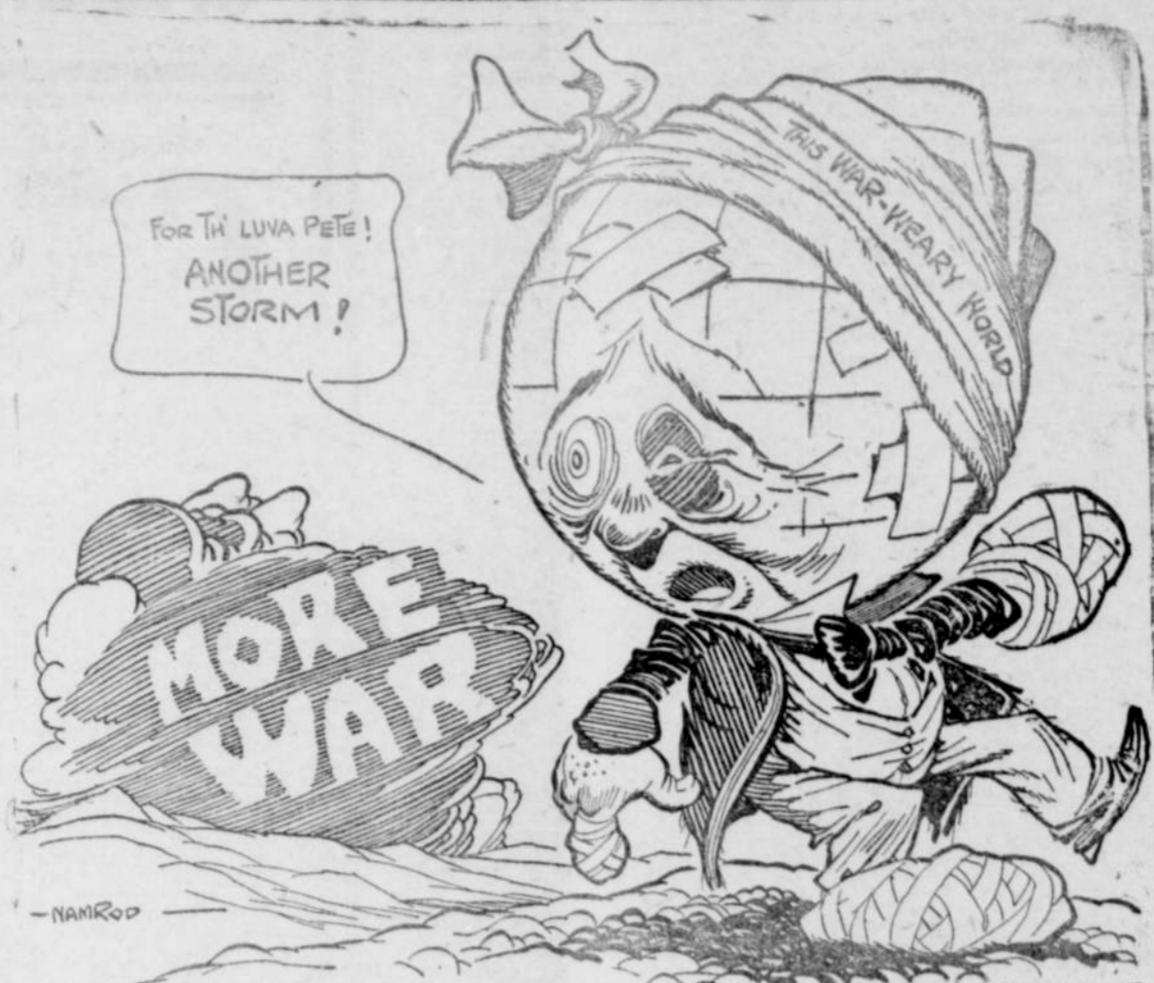
By Richard Lloyd Jones
Law enforcement is more generally practiced and respected in rural districts and small towns than in the larger cities.

All the great cities were, by a large majority, opposed to the elimination of the saloon. And yet it was the saloon in the large cities that did the most of the soul and body destroying business.

Bad in any place the saloon was at its worst in the big towns. Yet the majority favored its retention and today register protest against prohibition. On the other hand, by a large majority, the small towns and the rural districts favor the laws of decency.

For this reason the smaller towns do not today experience, as do the larger cities, that which has been termed the crime wave.

The committee on law enforcement of the American Bar Association, headed by Judge William D. Swaney, of Chattanooga, Tenn., has recommended to the lawyers of the land that a very drastic national law be enacted which will prohibit



The promiscuous sale of firearms.

This committee declares that the pistol serves no special purpose in the community today and that it should not be manufactured except so far as government and official needs may require under proper legal regulation and control.

The committee points out that there were nearly 10,000 unlawful homicides in this country last year and that burglaries have increased in the United States 1,200 per cent in the last ten years.

The committee also maintains that deliberate murder, burglary and robbery will seldom be attempted unless the criminal is armed. It also points out that crime per centages in Europe are very much less, due to the fact that it is difficult for civilians to acquire firearms and the penalty is severe for carrying them.

Our big cities are so busy with what the regard as the pressing business of the hour, that they are less likely to weigh the moral worth of an issue than are the smaller towns and rural districts. Therefore, the moral support of a righteous redress against a wrong social tendency comes from the less populated places.

The big town men too often think they are the big idea builders. That is their big mistake. It is the small towns that both make and save the big towns.

It is in the small towns and the farmers of the land who put across the big idea.

Restriction of manufacture and sale and possession of pocket firepieces must come and it is rural America that will bring it.

The man who doesn't know where he is going isn't getting anywhere.

Knowing thyself isn't much use unless you can convince others.

A soft answer turneth away wrath, but a soft head draws it.

WRITER BELIEVES IN BILL

To the Editor—I see so much on the Compulsory Education Bill, that is to be voted upon the 7th of November, that is misleading, that I wish space in your paper for a few words on the subject.

First, it is an honest square deal for all people. An old axiom of our country is "Equal rights to all, and special privileges to none." This bill is according to that. Every voter should read the bill, and see if he can find anything un-American or un-constitutional in it. Do not take what some people say; the country is flooded with papers and literature opposed to it, and many of them are very misleading, and untrue, as you can readily see by turning to the bill and reading it.

I will be willing to meet any one of the opponents of the bill in an oral discussion of its merits of the bill in the city hall of Tillamook, or any place in the county, in order to get the truth before the people.

I will affirm it is just, impartial and true Americanism. Who will deny it?

Yours for true Americanism. R. Y. BLALOCK, Beaver, Ore., Oct. 9, 1922.

LIFE LINES

By H. M. C.
Perhaps my older sister's right to paint and powder up; perhaps her lips should have their touch of red. No doubt she aims to look her best before it's time to sup and keep that way until she goes to bed.



Poem by Uncle John

THE PARTING.

You've made yer mind up, Jenny, so there's nothin' left to say, that I reckon would impress ye to do some other way. You never was a stubborn child, or one that don't behave,—but you're mighty not, I've noticed, on the little things you crave.

So, you're goin' to the City—where there's heaps of fine "careers" and worlds of "opportunities" around ye everywhere—I wouldn't want to tie ye to yer mother's apron strings, for life, they say, is measured by the happiness it brings.

When I think about them "type-machines" or clerkin' in a store, where the boss ain't never satisfied, but—allers wantin' more—where there's slim respect for purity, and everything's fer show,—it overcomes me, Jenny, and—I—hate—to—see—ye—go!

There's often hidden torments in the prospects that allures, and a million tons of riff raff in th' city's social sewers. And the hell of human passion, in the high as well as low,—I may be wrong about it, but,—I—hate—to—see—ye—go!

Yer mother'll recollect ye, when she say) the evenin' prayers. Some people think a mother is the only one that cares. But we'll watch the papers closer than we used to do, ye—wonder, Child—I—hate—to—see—ye—go!—and we'll wonder—wonder—ye—go!

From Uncle John



KNOWN FOR ITS SERVICE

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By the way, are you on our patron list? We shall be glad to have you there.

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