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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

The Special Session

Members of the state senate, gathering in protest against being made rubber stamps for any program which a few citizens may conjure as the best which the friends of the Governor will approve, decide that a special session is necessary.

That is the important part of their decision. The rest of their deliberations are not as reassuring to the people who are demanding relief from the present tax burdens.

There will be a deep sympathy with the declaration that the cost of government be reduced, if the cuts are made in the proper quarters.

There could be very properly a curb put on such expenditures as the \$64,000 spent for washing the face of the statehouse when the work could have been done for much less.

There could be a cut in much waste that is involved in conduct of some of the state institutions. There could be a cut in the salaries of some of the higher paid officials.

But when there is a proposal to throw aside the minimum wage of school teachers, now fixed at \$800 a year, the people will very properly protest that they do not want their children reared under the direction of starved and worried teachers.

For the most part, the rank and file of public employees are not overpaid. Some of the jobs may be useless and might be abolished. But teachers and policemen and clerks who render actual service should be paid a living wage, at least, and any reductions in that direction would be too small to be noticeable in any tax levies.

The big problem is to shift the taxes from farms and real estate to incomes and on that question the senators were much too silent.

The attitude of the senators on the matter of being made rubber stamps for a fixed program handed them by a committee is commendable. They were elected by the people to make the laws if given a chance. The law recognizes that emergencies may exist where special sessions are necessary to give immediate relief. Such an emergency, in the opinion of these lawmakers, now exists.

Under the shadow of a campaign for re-election these lawmakers are much more likely to reflect the demands of the majority of citizens than they were at the regular session.

One of the pledges on which a majority of the lower and larger body of lawmakers was elected provided for a tax on incomes to replace the tax on farms which are now being confiscated by the state.

Why not meet and pass such a law?

The Dirtiest Job

The Wickersham experts, in their Mooney-Billings report, now in the hands of the United States senate, pack into 600 pages a narrative of California's judicial nightmare remarkable for its drama and brevity.

Judge Franklin A. Griffin of San Francisco, in his letter to Federal Judge W. S. Kenyon, as revealed in the report, exposes with even greater clarity what he called "the dirtiest job ever put over" as it was enacted in his own court room sixteen years ago.

Only four witnesses, he tells Kenyon, connected Tom Mooney with the Preparedness day bomb murders. Of these, three—Frank Oxman and the two Edaus women—"were wilful and deliberate perjurers."

Oxman, who testified he saw Mooney and Billings set the bomb, "was not within ninety miles of the scene of the crime." The Edaus "were produced with knowledge in the hands of the prosecution that they had given an entirely different account of their activities on the day of the tragedy than that to which they testified."

There remained the fourth—John McDonald, the pitiful, disease-racked itinerant waiter, who confessed perjury and was denounced by ex-Governor Young's pardon board as "a pathological liar."

"Not only did these four witnesses perjure themselves," wrote Judge Griffin, "but the disclosures since Mooney's trial point almost conclusively to the fact that they were produced as witnesses with knowledge that their testimony was false."

What more is there to say?

Nothing, except to give thanks for this honest, courageous judge and to pray that California has elected a Governor as honest and courageous as he.

Two Hypocritical Notes

The evasive American note to Japan on the Manchurian crisis has received a reply in kind. In an equally hypocritical note, Japan insults world intelligence. Secretary of State Stimson, by failing to cite Japan for treaty violation, gave Tokyo an out, which it now proceeds to take.

After four months of continuous violation of our nine-power and Kellogg treaties, and the complete destruction of Manchurian self-government with bombing planes and machine guns, the Japanese military dictatorship now has the effrontery to thank the United States for supporting "Japan's efforts to secure full and complete fulfillment in every detail of the treaties of Washington and the Kellogg treaty for the outlawry of war."

After interference with the economic equality of opportunity of Americans and others, the imperialistic Tokyo government poses as the protector of the open door: "The policy of the open door always will be maintained in Manchuria."

After brutally driving Manchurian government officials out of office and out of their homeland and setting up Japanese puppets, Japan now self-righteously accuses the local officials of deserting their posts: "Any replacement which has occurred in the personnel of the administration of Manchuria has been the necessary act of the local population. . . . They (local officials) for the most part fled or resigned."

After repeating again her hollow pledge to the American nine-power and Kellogg treaties in theory, Japan actually justifies their destruction in practice by the following dishonest statement:

"It may be added that the treaties which relate to China necessarily must be applied with due regard to the state of affairs from time to time prevailing in that country, and that the present unsettled and distracted state of China is not what was in the contemplation of the high contracting parties at the time of the (nine-power) treaty of Washington—(which, of course, is untrue, the purpose of the treaty being to protect China from foreign aggression just because she was in an unsettled and disturbed state)."

"This can not affect the binding character of the stipulations of the treaties, but it may in material respects modify their application."

In other words, black is white and treaties are to be observed, but not applied.

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