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

Deflated Schools

Today the boys and girls who will determine what society will be thirty years hence, go back to the school rooms.

They will feel, to some extent, the effect of depression. For the schools are being deflated under the pressure of big taxpayers who find economy necessary.

Wages of teachers will be reduced. There will be fewer janitors. There will be a trimming of expense for materials. There may be a shorter school year.

The one place where there will be no reductions in cost will be in the interest due on debts. That charge remains stable.

The big deflation comes in the abandonment of the night and adult schools.

These schools were most important. They gave hope to those compelled by misfortune to leave school at an early age. They served a more useful purpose than some of the other activities.

At the same time, the funds for library work are curtailed and some branches may be shut down. That means that those who spend their enforced leisure in improving their minds will be forced to other means of filling in the idle hours.

The night school and the library must be maintained, if not through public taxes, then by a volunteer organization that will work without pay and carry on these enterprises.

The school board may find a way to give the use of school buildings for night schools and as social centers. There are certainly many men and women in this city who are capable of conducting classes who would welcome the chance to work without pay in order that those boys and girls who desire more knowledge and education may not be disappointed.

Is there not some leader in this city who will take up this job of organizing these forces?

If the school rooms are not available, the churches might well open their doors for community classes.

At no other time in history is the night school so important. People must find some way to spend their time. There are many who can not afford the price of ordinary and usual forms of entertainment, to say nothing of self improvement.

Here is a chance for some citizen to make himself immortal by inflating the schools back to their old standards. The night school must be retained and can be. This is the day to learn the meaning of co-operation.

Then and Now

One of the most effective modes of campaigning for the Democrats this year will be to present comparable passages from Hoover's speeches in 1928 and those which he gives in this campaign.

How effective this contrast may prove is well revealed by the "new leader" in holding up for public view the tenor of his acceptance speech on Aug. 11, 1928, and that which he gave on Aug. 11, 1932. In 1928 he said:

"Commerce and industry have revived . . . the hours of labor have decreased . . . the job of every man has been made more secure . . . the poorhouse is vanishing from among us . . . there is no guarantee against poverty equal to a job for every man."

"That is the primary purpose of the economic policies we advocate . . . I would use my office and influence to give the farmer the full benefit of our historic tariff policy . . . at one time we demanded for our workers a 'full dinner pail.' Now we have gone far beyond that conception . . . no one rightly can deny the fundamental correctness of our economic system."

In 1932 he set for the following complete reversal of the time he had played four years earlier:

"The last three years have been years of greater suffering and hardship than any which have come to the American people since the aftermath of the Civil war . . . We have created vast agencies for employment . . . The farm board emergency loans to the farmers' co-operatives served to stem the panics in agricultural prices . . . We must preserve the fundamental principles of our social and our economic system."

It was in 1932 that he had played four years earlier:

"The period of what we are told to call 'economic stress' has worked many a hardship upon us. It has decreased the value of securities, lowered the price of stocks, ruined real estate markets, bankrupted the farmer, wrecked the small business man, impoverished the millionaire and put the Republican party in a very uncomfortable position."

It is only upon individual responsibility that accrue the great sums of individual accomplishment which carry this nation forward . . . We have enacted many measures of emergency relief to agriculture. They are having effect . . . Today millions of our fellow countrymen are out of work. Prices of the farmers' products are below a living standard."

There is every prospect that the same deadly contests will be offered to the Democrats for the picking in any address which Mr. Hoover can make between now and November.

Death Traps

Contrary to general belief, those agencies of massacre known as grade crossings are on the increase in the United States.

According to Milton W. Harrison, head of the Rail-way Security Owners' Association, there were 7,927 more of them in 1930 than in 1924. This, in spite of the fact that the railroads themselves in those years spent \$166,000,000 in grade crossing elimination.

On interstate railroads, only 361 crossings were eliminated in 1931, compared with 403 in 1930.

A report of the interstate commerce commission reveals that last year 1,811 persons were killed and 4,657 were injured seriously in grade crossing accidents.

A number of states have set about to make their highways safer through grade separation programs. New York, under Governor Al Smith, bonded itself for \$100,000,000 for this purpose and each year builds twenty to thirty grade separations.

Pennsylvania and California have done splendid work. The Wisconsin program of Governor La Follette has been an object lesson in the same economies of this type of public works.

The La Follette highway program of 1931 included provision for advancing the normal grade crossing work of three years into one. It was financed on a

five-fifty basis with the railroads, but the state loaned the railroads the money.

Whereas eighty-four people were killed in Wisconsin grade crossing accidents in 1930, only forty-two were killed in 1931.

Beside cutting the death rate in half, the program found jobs for 11,000 people and made traffic easier and faster. According to Governor La Follette, grade crossing elimination ranks second only to reforestation as a job provider for the unemployed.

In this work more of the money invested goes into wages than in any other public works, except tree planting.

The job primarily is up to the states. The government provides for such work in its federal aid road contracts, but no loans for this purpose are forthcoming from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

States may profit from the experience of New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and find here quick dividends in jobs, in faster travel, and in salvaged life and limb.

The Hungry Child

"All theories must give way in the presence of a hungry child."

No better statement of the needs of the present unemployment relief yet has been made. This is the sentiment impelling Newton D. Baker and the others in charge of the national welfare and relief mobilization, whose job it is to provide food, clothing and shelter for some 25,000,000 men, women and children this winter.

There are other better ways to do this job than through private charity; there should be greater federal contributions; there must be fundamental changes, so that this crisis can not develop again; the system somehow must be revamped to prevent such suffering as has occurred these three years, and will continue to occur until good times return; man's machine-made leisure somehow must be made profitable in ways other than financial.

The belief is quite general that he could have carried it this year. Whether Roosevelt can carry it, even with Smith's active support, is widely questioned.

The same condition prevails in Rhode Island, though with even less favorable Democratic prospects.

Most, if not all, the leaders are apparently loyal, but in a discouraged, hand-shaking sort of way, one constantly is running into side remarks about "Bryan and '96," about Roosevelt's poor health and the possibility of Garner becoming President, about Walker and what Tammany is going to do.

But these things have to do with theories. Mean- thing, need must be met, want satisfied.

"All theories must give way in the presence of a hungry child."

Labor's New Front

In days of American industry's infancy, a group of Massachusetts employers drew up a manifesto against the new labor unions that were bothering them. These workers, they declared, were banding "to the dishonor of God, the scandal of the Scriptures and the grief of divers of God's people."

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Walker Case to Fore

As might be expected, the Walker case is coming in for a lot of discussion, though in a confused, prejudiced way. The idea that Smith and Walker have something in common appears to have taken quite a hold in and around Boston.

No doubt, this is because of the imagined break between Smith and Roosevelt. New England evidently needs some enlightenment as to the more intimate details of New York politics.

Whether they are prepared to abandon prohibition all the way through or merely want to get rid of the competition in bootlegging, nobody seems to know.

They are making enough noise in favor of the Democratic repeal bill, however, to scare the Republicans.

And, in contrast with their early status of outlaws, American unions today are armed with a measure conferring upon them the dignity of governmental approval and protection, the Norris-La Guardia act, that has been called "Labor's New Magna Charta."

The American Federation of Labor is only fifty years old. In this half-century its battles, bitter and often bloody, have been fought chiefly for three simple ends—the right to organize, better working conditions and a living wage. From now on the struggle enters a bigger and more difficult phase.

Union labor's new front in this country may be said to have five salient. These are:

1. An "economic wage." This goes beyond the mere minimum comfort standard. The new wage theory holds that industry itself in the machine age will suffer unless the workers, as industry's chief customers, are paid real wages that increase with industry's productivity.

2. Hours of labor to fit industry's capacity to hire. Realizing that even after the depression millions will remain jobless by reason of new inventions, the A. F. of L. officially endorses the five-day week. A universal six-hour day, it is claimed, would put to work all the technically unemployed.

3. National planning. Organized labor endorses the La Follette bill for a national planning council, and argues that, unless industry brings production and consumption into proper harmony, hard times will recur.

4. Security reserves. Labor insists that industry set aside some of its profits for protection of the workers against old age, sickness, accidents and unemployment.

5. A share in management. The Amalgamated Workers, railway shopmen and other progressive unions are working out systems of employee-management co-operation, with success.

But above all, labor will fight for the inalienable right to work. Intelligent capital also will fight side by side with labor to conquer the great scourge of unemployment.

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M. E. Tracy

Says:

Al Smith Appears to Hold Roosevelt's Fate in His Hand in New England.

BOSTON, Sept. 6.—From a Democratic standpoint, former Governor Alfred E. Smith holds the key to New England. At all events, that is the almost unanimous opinion of men with whom I have talked.

They say the national ticket will be deserted by thousands unless Smith comes out in its behalf. While unwilling to predict that his support would insure victory in any state, they do not hesitate to prophesy defeat without it. This is one point on which Republicans and Democrats seem to agree.

I have met no Democrat who admits that he will scratch the national ticket. On the other hand, I have met none who doubts that many will.

There is no evidence of an organized bolt or anything like it. Indeed, there isn't much to go on save conversation as to what other folks effect.

About the only thing one can be sure of is that Smith has a tremendous influence in this section and that his silence is having a marked effect.

Bay State Doubtful

NEW ENGLAND is normally Republican, though Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut occasionally jump the fence. Smith carried Massachusetts four years ago, and was the first time that state had gone Democratic in a presidential election for many years.

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