

lack of faith; and that is what the Catholic federationists have done for themselves.

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Industrial Education.

In aid of its plans to turn the industrial education movement into a movement for converting the public schools into "strike breaker" factories, the Commercial Club of Chicago—alias Forgan, Robinson, Big Business, et al.—have introduced a German expositor of industrial education for whose services they should be thanked, whether their intentions were as good as his performance or not. Under their auspices Dr. Georg Kirschensteiner, member of the Royal Council of Education and Director of the Public Schools of Munich, Germany, spoke recently at Ziegfeld Hall. He explained the Munich system of compulsory continuation schools, as one under which the pupils were not public school pupils put into industrial classes in order to make working boys and girls of them, but were working boys and girls put into industrial classes in order to make educated men and women of them. The whole spirit of Dr. Kirschensteiner's lecture was out of harmony with Big Business ideals—if sordid policies can be dignified as ideals. "Industry is not the object of civilization," he said; "it is only a means, the object being justice and culture." Mere "skill, whether of mind or hand or both," he argued, "without morality, is social death." And he summed up the whole subject with the pointed warning that we "must not debase honest toil to drudgery." Those quotations indicate the true ideal of industrial education.

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Rumored Removal of Mrs. Young.

The rumor grows persistently, that Ella Flagg Young (p. 963), the superintendent of schools who has given Chicago the best public school system it has ever had, is to be dropped as superintendent at the beginning of the coming year.

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Common Sense in a Court.

The Supreme Court of Minnesota has decided (120 Northwestern Reporter, 898) that if an applicant for citizenship is otherwise eligible, the fact that he has only a chaotic knowledge of the Federal Constitution and form of government does not exclude him from citizenship.

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The applicant was a native of Norway, 24 years in this country and 18 years in Minnesota. Ex-

amined as to his qualifications for citizenship, he said he didn't know where the laws were made, but supposed the Governors made them. But how many native-born citizens know where the laws are made? Our native-born President, for example, would probably say that the Taft-Aldrich tariff law was made in Washington by Congress; but the steel trust and the cotton mill and woolen mill and other trusts know better than that. The Norwegian was correct; the "governors" do make the laws—the "governors" of Congress and of State legislatures.

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The applicant from Norway didn't know the purpose of the Federal Constitution, nor the location of the national capital. But is that a proof of ignorance? When the cotton and woolen schedules of the Taft-Aldrich tariff law were made, the national capital was located east of the Hudson river and not very far south of the Merrimac. As to the purpose of the Constitution—well, John Marshall twisted that nearly a hundred years ago, and no Supreme Court has been sure of its purpose since that time, except when the election returns were more than usually legible.

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The applicant thought that Washington was still President; but what of that? William Howard Taft thinks he is President, and Roosevelt said Taft would be President if elected. If a court is to refuse citizenship to a Norwegian because he doesn't understand the Constitution, what should be done with an ex-Vice-President Fairbanks, who says that "muckraking is the cause of the growth of Socialism in this country"? Or with the editor of the Outlook, who says the declaration that "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed"—government by the people as well as of them and for them, as Lincoln put it,—is false.

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Local Option in Taxation.

When Frank Stephens of Philadelphia argued for local option in taxation before the Pennsylvania tax commission (p. 299), it no doubt seemed like a novelty to those who heard him; but he was only reviving the wisdom of no less a statesman than Thomas Jefferson. In writing to Peregrine Fitzhugh, June, 1797, Mr. Jefferson said:

I am suggesting an idea on the subject of taxation which might, perhaps, facilitate much that business, and reconcile all parties. That is . . . to lay a land tax, leviable in 1798, etc. But if by the last day of 1798 any State shall bring its whole

quota into the Federal treasury, the tax shall be suspended one year for that State. If by the end of the next year they bring another year's tax, it shall be suspended a second year as to them, and so "toties quoties" forever. If they fail, the Federal collectors will go on of course to make their collection. In this way, those who prefer excises may raise their quota by excises, and those who prefer land taxes may raise by land taxes, either on the Federal plan or on any other of their own which they like better. This would tend, I think, to make the general government popular and to render the State legislatures useful allies and associates instead of rivals, and to mollify the harsh tone of government which has been asserted. I find the idea pleasing to most of those to whom I have suggested it. It will be objected to by those who are for consolidation.

If that plan would have been good between nation and States—and how infinitely better it would have been than customs tariffs, with their fungus growth called "protection"—why would it not be good between State and counties, or State and cities? There is no good reason for having a State dictate its system of taxation to a county or a city that prefers another system for local purposes. On the contrary, there are many good reasons why every county and city should be self-governing in matters of local taxation.

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The Esoteric in Politics.

Mr. Roosevelt has broken his post-election silence. "Every dog has his day," he is reported to have told the National Press Club in Washington, "but the nights belong to the cats." "Cats" is cryptic. Mr. Roosevelt must have been having bad dreams about bad men.

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Jug-Handled Co-operation.

Jenkyn Lloyd Jones's "Unity" tells this interesting and instructive story of a great public improvement:

That was a spectacular exhibit of the power of co-operation that was recently effected in Iowa, when, by concerted action, carefully arranged for, a from-river-to-river road, reaching from Omaha to Davenport, was graded and put in as good shape as dirt roads can attain, in one hour of time. All the various county, town, and road district officials had been preparing for the event for weeks ahead. The necessary scrapers, road makers and other tools were at hand. The workmen were stripped for the fray, and when the word was given it is estimated that ten thousand workmen fell to. In an hour the job was done, and what the newspapers pronounced "the finest long-distance road in the entire West" was completed, and not a cent of wages paid.

But is this something to boast of? Not when all the facts are in. Will the workmen who made

that road without wages, get any better pay in consequence from their employers for their regular work? Hardly. But won't the land along that long-distance road fetch a bigger price from buyers in consequence, and command a higher rent from tenants? Probably. Then isn't there a little of the "con game" in that spectacular road-making without wages? The "power of cooperation" lacks something to commend it when cooperation in production is not supplemented with cooperation in distribution. This is not a criticism of "Unity." It is intended simply for general consideration.

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A Square Deal for Men.

In Cincinnati there is in operation a plan called the "Dow" plan, for the relief of dumb animals. On a hundred million pages of paper for universal distribution it is printing the following: "A Square Deal for the Horse. We believe every horse deserves three ample meals daily; water frequently; proper shoes; a blanket in cold weather; two weeks' vacation annually. Throw away the whip." Good. Very good, as far as it goes. But another hundred million copies with "horse" changed to "man," would greatly improve it.

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Education and Poverty.

In the "Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws," British "blue book" of 1909, page 72, the following interesting information appears:

In the early part of the nineteenth century the system of elementary education was in its infancy and sanitary legislation was practically unknown. Now we have free education in the elementary subjects for every child in the Kingdom, and large sums are spent annually from public funds in secondary and technical instruction. No boy or girl physically and mentally capable of learning may now go out into the world without, at any rate, a fair educational knowledge, and with the increasing facilities for obtaining all forms of instruction it might reasonably be expected that the people would more readily command employment and higher remuneration. In the year 1871, the expenditure upon elementary education was slightly in excess of two millions, of which some £550,000 was met by school fees. In 1905-6, the latest year for which the particulars are available, the expenditure had risen to about twenty millions, whilst approximately another three millions were expended upon various forms of higher education. A generation has elapsed since elementary education became universal, and the benefits to be derived from the system should now be accruing to the nation. Persons now above fifty years of age have not, it is true, participated in the advantages conferred in 1870, but of persons below that age we