

despite the fears that he would be handicapped by a reactionary legislature, to have been able, like Governor Wilson of New Jersey, to hold legislative action up to his own level. It could not have been easy, for he was confronted by corporation interests with determined, powerful, subtle, resourceful and well paid opposition. Yet California comes out of this legislative session in the best of form. Among the progressive measures to its credit and the credit of Governor Johnson are these:

A railroad rate law redeeming Governor Johnson's campaign promise to "kick the Southern Pacific out of California politics."

Abolition of the party circle on election ballots.

Limitation of working hours for women in the industries to 8 a day and 48 a week.

The Oregon plan for election of United States Senators.

Abolition of the "assumption of risk" and the "fellow-servant" doctrines of the courts in personal injury cases.

Conservation of natural resources.

But best of all in the work of this California legislature and its progressive Republican Governor are the following Constitutional amendments for the people of California to vote upon:

Initiative and Referendum on 8 per cent. petitions.
Recall of elective officials, including judges, on 12 per cent. petitions.

Extension of jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission to all public utilities corporations.

Shorter ballot by making State Printer and Clerk of Supreme Court appointive.

Votes for women.

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RECIPROCITY AND THE FARMERS.

A statement by the master of the farmers' national Grange, N. J. Bachelder, made by him before the Senate committee on finance last winter, has been going the rounds. It is a plea in opposition to the Canadian reciprocity agreement now before the new Congress in special session.

We like the sound of it—"protection for all or for none."

But this slogan is not good against the reciprocity agreement. On the contrary, it is as good an argument for universal free trade as could be desired, and it tells for and not against that agreement.

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If that agreement were adopted, the American farmer would be as well protected as now, which is not at all.

He might then begin to realize that all through the protection game he has been played for a "chump."

Protection does not and cannot protect agricultural interests. It can and it does rob those interests for the interests it really protects.

In some local or individual instances near a foreign border, farmers may get slightly higher prices for some of their products, in consequence of protection; but not enough, unless in the most exceptional instances, to compensate them for the higher prices they have to pay for protection on manufactures. Away from foreign borders, however—and most of the farmers that Mr. Bachelder represents are far away from foreign borders—a tariff on farm products does not increase the price.

Except along the Canadian border, therefore, and in no great degree even there, the reciprocity agreement will not be prejudicial to any farmer.

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For that reason the adoption of the reciprocity agreement is highly desirable.

When the American farmer realizes that protection can not protect him, as he will realize soon after the adoption of the Canadian reciprocity agreement, he will be as eager to throw off the protection that doesn't protect but does burden him, as he has been to retain protection in general on the supposition that he gets some of it.

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It is due President Taft to say that in his speech at Atlanta, Georgia, he declared that when the negotiations began he "asked the Secretary of State and his commissioners to offer free trade in everything; but this Canada would not grant us, because she has a protective system and she was afraid of the competition of our better organized industries."

That is a fact for the farmers of Canada to ponder. But as to our own farmers, if a free trade reciprocity agreement cannot be made, what is to hinder their demanding the abolition of our protection system altogether?

Nothing but their own fallacious notion that there can be "protection for all."

For a generation American farmers have been buncoed by cunning protectionists. They are being buncoed now through the tariff law. They ought to know it, but apparently they do not. They will know it, however, if the Canadian reciprocity agreement goes into operation. And when they do know it, why should they continue to consent to a protective tariff which burdens them with high prices for what they buy, but neither protects them on what they sell nor any longer even pretends to?

Mr. Bachelder's cry of "protection for all or for none," sounds well. Let it circulate. It is good doctrine.

Whatever Mr. Bachelder may mean by it, it will soon come to have but one meaning—the only sensible meaning of which it is capable,—namely, universal free trade. "Protection for all" is as impossible as sailing a yacht with a bellows attachment, or lifting yourself by your bootstraps. Therefore, "protection for all or for none" must come to mean "protection for none" as fast as farmers wake up.

And for demonstrating this the Taft reciprocity agreement with Canada is likely to prove a powerful agency. By enlightening the American farmer it will take his vote out of the protection column. Nor will it make him any poorer. It will tend, on the contrary, to make him richer.



THE SANITARY DRINKING CUP.

To prevent the spread of pestilence, epidemic, contamination or worse, through the use of the public drinking cup, a crusade for sanitary drinking fountains is stirring up the city and nation. This is as it should be. No caution can be too great, no preventive too particular, where the health or safety of children or of the grown-up public is concerned.

Infection of the body, mind or spirit of hopeful, carefree, optimistic youth has always its tragic consequences. Hence the adoption and rigid enforcement of every meritorious measure designed to remove, prevent or destroy the insidious or malignant forces of disease, vice, corruption or injustice must be considered the most important business of modern life.



Besides the condemned, unsanitary public drinking cup, there is also the deadly cup of exclusive selfish enjoyment, given to the vicious, debauching and vandalistic uses of pride, profit, ambition, arrogance and the pursuit of power. A cup of drunken frenzy, filled with the biting, maddening poison of greed, vanity and the lust for conquest and command.

It stands in bejeweled, glaring insolence upon the sideboards and the altars of wealth and fashion. It is the loving cup of many of the big commercial and political organizations. It contains the toast of all the banquets of Big Business, as it quenches the thirst of mighty plunderers and exploiters.

The pirate crew that too often slips out of Wall

street toward Washington under cover of the well-prepared and confusing darkness of war-scares, industrial panics, financial reforms, political readjustments and self-locking Morganizations—where anything has been left open, lifts shamelessly on high the same soiled and blood-stained cup, to celebrate with wild rejoicing some splendid loot of the public treasury, the swift seduction of official virtue, or the easy strangulation of legislators whose wind was naturally short and sympathetic.

But the poison this venomous cup pours into the weakened vitals of these "upper class" corruptionists unfortunately but surely seeps down to the destruction of the foundation class—the workers.

Verily, no man shall drink unto himself alone.



Where a strutting bond-holder is fattened, a bent and broken bread-winner is shriveled. Where a pampered royal profligate scatters in drunken abandon and riotous waste his abundant store of wild oats, some hollow-eyed child in Southern mills or Northern sweat shops cannot in an endless, grinding day gather the value of enough honest wheat to buy a decent crust.

O, the lying, bitter, suffocating cup of Greed!

We could spare the spectacular, slimy creatures who scornfully stand upon the quivering sorrows of the mass and recklessly spill what of the poison they do not empty into their sordid souls. We could spare them—and, evolution or not, good riddance!

But the helpless ones who laboriously and ignorantly create the riches from which the poison is distilled! The tragedy is theirs. Theirs the loss, the misery, the starvation, the shame, the long, long despair and the hopelessness of the awakening that never comes.



Out of this stunned, poisoned and degraded state must arise another crusade. A crusade of workers, by workers, for workers. A crusade for the overthrow and abolishment of the demoralizing, deadly cup of Greed.

It must be a victory of votes—votes for men who represent the workers, men who cannot be bought, bribed, bullied or bedeviled by any of the arts, gifts, temptations or threats of the masters of money.

We need more open, public fountains of opportunity, of justice, of freedom to think, work and grow.

We need to do away with the taint of dollars,