

very rapid growth in the last few years, and conservative Massachusetts shows a strong inclination to abandon the old position that school buildings should be for schools only.

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Corruption the Child of Privilege.

Minneapolis Morning Tribune (pro. Rep.), Jan. 27.—If the tariff is the mother of the trusts, corruption is the child of special privilege. This is a historical truth, though the status of the corruption has gradually shifted with the decay of personal and increase of popular government. So much the worse for the nations, because the corruption that used to be limited to rulers and their satellites now spreads through the whole body of the people. In olden times kings sold monopolies and spent the money in war and luxury. The people suffered the oppression of monopolies, but escaped the corruption of receiving back in bribes a fraction of what they paid in tribute. Under popular government special privileges are still bought and sold, through which all the people are oppressed with monopoly prices to enrich the few. They are so much worse off than the former subjects of irresponsible despots that just enough of the price of their betrayal is returned to them in the form of bribes to undermine their manhood and taint their citizenship. The whole tariff deal is a dicker in the artificial prices of domestic monopoly by which the common people think they are getting an advantage in prices and wages at the expense of foreigners, while the enjoyers of special privilege know that they are getting an unjust benefit at the expense of all the people. This continual debasement of moral standards cannot go on without corrupting all the people in their business and political relations. Business and political graft are the fruit of education in the school of special privilege.

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X-Rays for the Supreme Court.

The Albuquerque Tribune-Citizen (dem. Dem.), Dec. 17.—The Supreme Court of the United States finds itself the subject of that fierce scrutiny from which it has always shrunk, and against which it has always defended itself by impenetrable reserve and portentous dignity. . . . It means that the march of progress has at last halted before the huge mysterious sphinx, the riddle of which has ever since the time of John Marshall been the overarching problem of our institutions, to men who have really thought. It means that democracy has at last challenged the greatest anomaly in a democratic government—a court with supreme powers, itself uncontrolled and unelected. . . . The existence of a court with the power of annulling legislation, with power to rule and overrule the President and Congress, itself responsible to no one, is an anomaly, and cannot be defended. The recent battle over the appointment of new judges for the first time brings the Supreme Court into politics. And once in, it must sooner or later find itself aligned with democracy. That is, it must become an elective body or there must be taken from it the power to rule Congress and the Executive.

RELATED THINGS

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THE CINCINNATUS OF THE WEST.

For The Public.

The patriot, with dignity sublime,
Refused a throne; he loved his country best,
Not Self—this Cincinnatus of the West;
He wears a crown of glory for all time!

The first in peace his noble valor won;
The first in war that made a nation free;
The first in hearts that owe him liberty;—
The Father of his Country—Washington!

HENRY COYLE.

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A SHOE THAT FITS BOTH FEET.

For The Public.

A famous leader of the Russian Revolution addressed a large and enthusiastic American audience. The invitations to the address read: "Full dress is requested."

The meeting was a success. Men and women representing millions of dollars attended and applauded the revolutionary arguments of the speaker. They also melted with sympathy when he told them of the wrongs of his people.

The Pessimist and the Socialist were discussing the incident. Said the Pessimist:

"The man's plea was directed against Special Privilege, but his special privilege audience applauded wildly because he was directing his attacks against Russian conditions. In America we hate Special Privilege in Russia, but we love free passes. This country differs from Russia only in the kind of Special Privilege which it permits."

"That's true enough," answered the Socialist, "I could stand on my feet and tell stories of wrong and oppression, both political and industrial, which would be just as pitiful as those told by our Russian friend, but they would be stories of our own city, not of Russia,—but the people would scarcely applaud my sentiments for these very wrongs are at the root of their Special Privilege."

The Pessimist smiled. "You might indeed tell such things, but five minutes after you started you would have no audience."

"You are wrong there," answered the Socialist, "for while I would doubtless lose most of the dress suits and low neck gowns, that loss would be more than made up by my gains in detectives and policemen."

They said no more for both were thinking of the meeting held in Philadelphia a few months before, which was broken up by the police because the speaker took the name of Roosevelt in vain.

MAX WORTIL.