

School Taxes Abolished

When people first hear about the home-farm school system, they are inclined to think it would be very expensive. I shall show you that that is a mistaken idea. Indeed, I will show that it can be made self-sustaining.

The federal government has in its postal savings fund over \$100,000,000 which it loans at 2½ per cent on "Bonds secured by the taxing power." School bonds are thus secured and are being accepted as collateral security for loans from this fund. But only from banks and banking institutions.

California has about \$40,000,000 outstanding school bonds drawing on an average nearly 5½ per cent. Think what a saving it would be to the taxpayers if we could get money at 2½ per cent.

Believing that self-preservation of government demanded full protection and a square deal for the children, I had a bill prepared and introduced in congress to so amend the present law—that whenever a school district issued its bonds, properly protected, the district could take such bonds direct to the federal government and secure the money thereon on the same terms that trust companies can now secure it on the same security.

Some persons are fearful that bankers would fight such a law. I have interviewed many bankers and I have yet to find one who is against the measure. A man would be a cold blooded human vampire indeed who would fatten his already overflowing pocketbook at the expense of the helpless children.

I beg you to follow me very closely as I intend to go a bit beyond your daily line of thinking in my endeavor to aid the public school, the taxpayer and the child.

Many school districts in California, to secure cheap money, 5 per cent, have issued their bonds for forty years. Let us consider the facts in relation to existing conditions in such school district and my plans for 2½ per cent money.

The district has issued its bonds, \$100,000, at five per cent, running forty years. If it secured the money from the government at 2½ per cent, collected the 5 per cent, paid the government its 2½ per cent, loans the saved interest to the farmers at a low rate of interest, say 5 per cent. (Farmers would be very pleased to secure 5 per cent, long time loans, especially when they were paying the interest to themselves.)

When the district bonds fell due, the saved interest would equal the face of the bonds. That saving of itself would be some benefit to the taxpayers.

But let us go a bit deeper into the results, let us note the wonder workings of compound interest. When the bonds fall due the saved interest would be \$100,000, and the accrued interest on the saved interest would be \$200,000. Thus the district would be \$300,000 to the good without costing any one a cent.

The district could then pay off its bonds, \$100,000, leave the remaining \$200,000 stay at interest, and the result would be the district would have a well equipped farm paid for and an annual income of \$10,000 for ever and ever, thus abolishing all school taxes which are a trifle over half our state taxes.

Now mind you, all this vast benefit, to each of the 225,000 rural school districts would have cost no one a penny, nor have we entered upon an untried road, for all that I

here suggest is being carried on, save for private interest instead of for the benefit of taxpayers and children. All we have to do is to get an amendment to the present postal savings law, giving schools the right to deal direct with the government without the intervention of any middleman, and then apply the best known business and financial methods to our school management.

I have been asked if this plan would not require an army of clerks to keep records, and an army of investigators to look into the validity of all bond issues? To both questions I reply, no.

Each state owes the children thereof intellectual as well as financial support. Each state has its legal advisor and its school administrative officer. Through these the state could learn at no expense the validity of school bonds issued therein.

With this knowledge the state could underwrite its school bonds, and the federal government could take these bonds, without further investigation and without danger of loss. If you would give this benefit to your children and lessen taxes, get busy. JOHN F. MURRAY.
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SOME WAR BORN PHILOSOPHY

In the fierce heat of war, the French soldiers have developed a war-time philosophy. Here it is reduced to epigrammatic form:

"You have two alternatives. Either you are mobilized or you are not. If not, you have nothing to worry about.

"If you are, you have two alternatives: Either you are in camp or at the front. If you are in camp you have nothing to worry about.

"If you are at the front, you have two alternatives: Either you are in reserve or you are on the fighting line. If you are in reserve, you have nothing to worry about.

"If you are on the fighting line, you have two alternatives: Either you scrap or you don't. If you don't you have nothing to worry about.

"If you do, you have two alternatives: Either you get hurt or you don't. If you don't, you have nothing to worry about.

"If you do you have two alternatives: Either you get slightly hurt or you get badly hurt. If slightly, you have nothing to worry about.

"If badly, you have two alternatives: Either you recover or you don't. If you recover, you have nothing to worry about. If you don't and have followed my advice clear through, you have done with worry forever."

It must be admitted that this is fatalistic in its character. It is found reduced to a single sentence current in the language: "Don't worry about what you can't help."

If we could only compose our minds always to the ideas embodied in the quotation above, which has been called the "Litany of the Trenches," we would save ourselves from much needless anxiety.

There is an old saying: "It is worry, not work, that kills." And worry has its foundation and cause in the mind. It is the apprehension of the blow that hurts far more than the blow itself.

Men and nations are not broken down by what they suffer so much as what they fear or expect to suffer.

Another war-time saying which emphasizes the same trench philosophy was stated by Major Beith in a lecture. He spoke of the fear of shells experienced by the new soldiers at the front and quoted the veteran who said: "Don't worry; you never hear the one that gets you."

Strengthen America



DRINK--A Challenge to America

There never was a time when America so needed her sober senses as today—it is a time when selfishness must be subordinated to the great task of winning the war.

We are being told by those who have come from the Front that we in this country haven't begun to feel the pinch of the war. Except for an occasional parade or brass band, a flag raising, a Red Cross or Liberty Loan appeal or something of the sort, it doesn't look much like war in the home town.

There are no ruined homes nor torpedoed skyscrapers and churches. Our streets are just as they were before, and we go out to our lunches as we always did.

Most of us flatter ourselves that, if we have bought a fifty dollar bond, we have made about all the sacrifice that the country has a right to ask of us.

But—once in a while, when the boys march down the street with flags flashing in the sunlight and drums throbbing, we get a tightening of the throat and there's a moment when the picture blurs.

And—once in a while as we read an account of how the "Huns" outraged unprotected women and children, there wells up a feeling of anger and resentment which makes us feel like putting our fists through something.

Meanwhile, some of the finest fellows in this country are freely giving themselves for service in the trenches and on the sea and we honor them because of their readiness to serve their country.

Probably millions of our boys will go to the Front before the war ends, to do their level best to stop the tide of red ruin and outrageous killing.

But there's one fact that stands out clear and sharp as we take a world-wide view of the war—namely, that we've got to reckon not only with "Kaiser Bill Hohenzollern" but with "Kaiser John Barleycorn."

Every great general in this war—every great strategist who has had the courage to face all the facts has pointed out the danger of drink.

Lloyd George put it this way:

"We are fighting Germany, Austria and drink, and as far as I can see, the greatest of the three deadly foes is drink."

Marshal Joffre said:

"Alcohol, by diminishing the moral and material strength of the army, is a crime against national defense in the face of the enemy."

"Men with drink in them don't fight—they brawl," said Vance Thompson. "It is not boldness men get out of drink. What they get is the fuddled logic of the maniac."

The nations at war very soon discovered who their real enemy was. It was not the Teuton and the Turk—it was Alcohol.

And so France, England and Russia have grappled with their arch enemy—but he is putting up the biggest fight in his history, for he knows that if he loses out in this war, he will be played out forever.

"We are fighting Germany, Austria and Drink," declared Lloyd George—

Today England's foes are America's foes. We know how to meet the first two, but what are we doing about the Third?

We can fight THIS enemy at home. It lies with the men who can not go to the Front in Europe, the women who can not help out as nurses or welfare workers to enlist now to overthrow our common foe.

Can we count on you?

If you believe that the traffic in Alcohol does more harm than good—HELP STOP IT!

Strengthen America Campaign