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Prison Schools.

That even prison life is yielding to modern humanitarian impulses is indicated in the number of prisons that are maintaining schools for the benefit of prisoners. Out of 55 prisons in the United States and Canada reporting to United States Bureau of Education, 44 of them have schools. In 33 of these a civilian head teacher is in charge. Altogether there are 27 evening schools, 19 day schools, and 8 correspondence schools. Both academic and trade subjects are taught.

Tariff Bill Passes Senate.

The administration tariff bill has passed the Senate by 7 majority amidst a burst of applause, and Senator Simmons congratulated on all sides. Senators LaFollette and Poindexter, Progressive Republicans, voted with Democrats. When the vote had been announced Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire, the leader of the minority, was recognized and congratulated Senator Simmons "for courteous, kindly and considerate manner," in the conduct of the debate. He said he knew of no tariff fight characterized by such good feeling throughout and attributed it the personality of Senator Simmons. Senator Simmons expressed his appreciation. The bill he asserted would go to the country and speak for itself.

Coming Senatorial Contest.

Taking note of the prediction that the next senatorial contest will be a warm affair between the aspirants, the Wilmington Star wisely observes: We can't see why these ordinarily affable and genial gentlemen should get anyways cantankerous, but if they should do so, the balance of us ought to refuse to get bitter because three or more men may want an office bad enough to get excited about it. When it's all over one man will get the office, draw the pay, and tell us all to cool off and get together for the next fight. It is a good idea to let the fellows who want an office have all the excitement and indulge in all the bitterness and disappointment. The balance of us will have to stay home and get on borrowing terms with our neighbors. Don't tear your hair. Let the other fellow tear his.

A Little Sermon.

Christianity is life rather than a doctrine or a creed, and it is by the life alone that Christian principles are to be tested and judged, and they are the truest Christians who claim fellowship in Christ with everyone whose life declares that he is holding out hands of faith, however lame, to the one God and Father of us all. Do you remember our Lord's parable of the good Samaritan? Have you ever thought how it must have sounded to those who first heard it? Think of him, in a haughty exclusive church, in which he held no official position whatever, choosing as His pattern of goodness a member of a despised and hated sect of heretics. It is not the doctrine, what we think about God, but the love of God, and the will to do the will of God which makes the Christian.—Rev. C. Banister.

Cities Interested in Farmers.

An exchange says the leading metropolitan papers of the country are now paying as much attention to agriculture and rural topics as they are to national questions and the affairs of the States and great cities. Agriculture really is a national question, for it is the country's greatest resource. The high cost of living has brought the subject home to the great cities, for they now realize their dependence upon the farmers for their bread and meat. The shortage of meats and breadstuffs has made living in the cities such a problem that the people and the press are now directly and greatly concerned in the welfare of the farmers and in the promotion of agriculture.

Rural Problems.

Today more thought is being given toward solving problems that exist in country communities than ever before. Educators admit that schools have been inefficient, with courses of study not suited to rural conditions and the people are more and more realizing the need of better schools and improved farming conditions. The betterment of rural conditions depends upon the close relationship and co-operation of the schools and the home. These two forces must work together and upon their affiliation depends the growth and advancement of rural communities. With the child as a medium the school and the home must realize they are supplement; each a vital part of the conditions from which must evolve the young men and women, who are to carry forward the work of this generation in their own communities.

Now a few words on compulsory school law. The law requests any parent or guardian to send his child four months out of six to get some schooling. A man must be very bad off who can not spare the labor of a dear little boy or girl 4 months in a year, if that little boy or girl is say, eight or nine year old. We believe that children should be taught to work, but we do not believe the children should be put with their nose to the grind stone as soon as they peep out of the cradle. The law is reasonable enough. A child is excused when it is sick,

when it lives over two and one-half miles from school, when it is mentally unfit for school attendance, when it is too poor to purchase clothes and books to attend. If there is such a case of poverty in any district in the county by all means let the good people dig in their pockets and see that such a child gets the necessary means to purchase clothes and books.

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