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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1, 1930

## TWINKLES

Have you strolled through the galaxy of attractions at the fair? If not, you're missing a real farm show.

If only this world had enough men of the Judge Jim Webb calibre. But such being the case there would be little necessity of a better one elsewhere.

Now that Bobby Jones has accomplished what the critics termed impossible, by winning everything in golfdom in one year, why don't the Democrats nominate him for president? Very few folks would hesitate to ask if Bobby were wet or dry.

## TARIFF HATRED OF AMERICA

THE MINOR GUNS in the Republican campaign barrage, the two-by-four spell-binders, are going about the South declaring that the record of the Hoover administration and the tariff bill are not, and should not be, campaign issues. They are very emphatic in this declaration because they realize what a blow the tariff has been to the South and how the average citizen, regardless of political affiliation realizes that he or she has not benefitted by the tariff monstrosity.

But up where the big heads of the Republican party, the leaders, lay their plans it is admitted, with some pride, that the main issue of the campaign is the success or failure of the tariff. Incidentally, the G. O. P. campaigners should enlighten their help in the South and let them know just what's going on. In a radio speech broadcast throughout the nation recently, Congressman Wood, of Indiana, chairman of the Republican congressional committee, declared that the Hoover administration and the tariff bill ARE THE REAL ISSUES of the campaign. (He should send Mr. Jonas a wire to that effect).

Since such is the case, and since the Republican leaders have decided it is their duty to stand or fall by Hoover and the tariff, let's see if the two haven't had something to do with the business depression.

Today this nation occupies the "unenviable position," to borrow the term from one of our leading statesmen, "of a nation built upon the misery and misfortune of other nations." Production in America has been so keyed up that we produce more than 120 million Americans can possibly consume. Where, then, are we to find markets and prosper unless other nations purchase our products? Are we not doomed to economic isolation unless we find a market for that surplus? Our textile plants could supply the demand of America alone by running only seven months per year—what of the remaining five months? It all means that we must cut production, turning thousands away from work, or sell our surplus products. Has the tariff bill helped eliminate that surplus? No. Instead it has laid the foundation for making the surplus larger. More than a score of countries, in a retaliatory move against the new tariff which bars their goods from America, have decided to do without American goods. Still the campaigners would tell us that Hoover and the tariff have had nothing, nothing at all, to do with the depression.

Many of our American corporations in the attempt to do business with these other countries are moving their plants away from the United States. What does that mean? It means, to borrow the expression again from one of the soundest thinkers of this period, that "the American laboring man who had been working in these plants is left sitting in the shadows while the Canadians and the Irishmen hold the jobs he once held." The manufacturers will continue to do business, but the American workingman cannot benefit thereby, because he is losing his job. And what could be the cause, if it is not the tariff? Two thousand American industries are moving to other countries, because of the tariff, yet Hoover and the tariff bill of his administration have nothing to do with the unemployment situation—bosh!

Why is wheat selling at a record low price—and cotton? Why are cotton, wheat and tobacco farmers wondering how they may exist? Across the bakeries of London are posters reading "Our Bread Not Made From American Wheat." America has incurred the enmity of the entire world by the tariff bill. Can other nations be blamed for their attitude when they turn thumbs down on our wheat, our cotton products, our tobacco? Mr. Hoover stood by and permitted the selfish big interests to strike this great blow against the economic heart of this country by their tariff bill. Today he could have been the biggest man in the country had he dared to tell the big business that it could not revise the tariff to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, and that he would not permit them to throttle the farmer and the workingman. But he did not. That cannot be denied. And, as it is, he heads the most hated government on earth.

How the Republican leaders have the heart and the audacious courage to go before the people and uphold the tariff monstrosity, is hard to comprehend. Surely the citizens of this country will not be fooled. Why is the farmer suffering, why is the laboring man without work, why are the business men, the merchants, doing only a small business? The tariff is the answer. And the manner in which American firms are moving to other countries does not as-

sure anything in the immediate future but increasing unemployment and a gain in missing payrolls.

The Republican campaigners, attempting to mislead the voters by their many yells and howls, cannot dispute the facts set forth above. Let the little man, fighting the fight of his life, beware.

## SOME FACTS, NOT POLITICAL PALAVER ABOUT SCHOOL BOOKS

CASTING AROUND for something to howl about in order to take the attention of the people away from Republican failures, Republican campaigners, notably Mr. Jonas, have been discussing and "cussing" the cost of school books in the State.

Often in the past The Star has urged citizens not to take political propaganda too seriously until they found out for themselves how much of the propaganda was based upon facts. It will be worthwhile to bear that urge in mind now and hereafter.

Speaking in South Shelby Mr. Jonas had quite a bit to say about North Carolina schools and the cost of text books. Ten dollars, he said, is required to purchase books for one school child each year. Is that true?

Since the school book controversy arose B. L. Smith, superintendent of the Shelby city schools, and a member of the North Carolina Text Book Commission, has written to the newspapers showing just what is the true situation. Mr. Smith writes not as a member of any political party and not for political purposes. He writes as a member of the book commission in order that the people, the fathers and mothers who purchase books, may know the actual facts. Here is his summary of the situation, and every citizen who desires information regarding the matter should read it:

"There is a lot of loose talking done about the cost and change of text books. As a member of the North Carolina Elementary Text Book Commission I have felt it my duty to investigate the matter to see whether North-Carolina citizens are having to pay too much or to change too frequently. In my humble judgment the advantages are with this State.

"The competition among publishers is quite as keen as that among any other business groups. There is very good reason to believe that this keen rivalry forces the company that gets the contract to a very close margin of profit.

"The State government sets a nominal profit which a dealer is allowed to receive for handling the books. It is so small that it is often difficult to get a business concern to bother with it.

"Due to the great amount of research and experimental work done in the preparation of a book for publication, it has become very expensive to prepare the "copy." Books are more durable than they have been made heretofore. More care than ever is exercised in the make-up of the books to prevent eye-strain and to facilitate learning. Illustrations are more attractive than they have ever been.

"The actual cost of text books is invariably exaggerated. The Shelby schools meet the accredited rating. Here the average cost per grade amounts to only \$3.22. If the parents see to it that the books are taken care of, it is reasonable to expect that they can be resold for half price. That would leave a net cost per pupil per grade of \$1.61 for all of his books—reader, speller, language, arithmetic, health, writing, music, drawing, geography, history, and dictionary. How

can any man who indulges himself to daily newspapers and weekly and monthly magazines have the temerity to deny childhood an outlay so small for his educational training?

"Then too, there is the constant perversion of the facts with reference to change. (Surely no one would think, when tallow candles have been replaced by electric lights, the messenger by radio, the ox cart by the airplane, that educational materials could remain unchanged.) All adoptions in North Carolina are made for a minimum period of five years. As a matter of fact, they usually run longer. Two years ago the language books were changed after a use of six years. They were supplanted by an improved set of books at a lower price. One year ago the readers were changed after 13 years of use. They were supplanted by a modern set of books at a lower cost. The arithmetics, histories, and geographies that are now in use have been used for nine years. The law allows only one major and two minor subject changes in any one year; therefore, the shortest possible time for replacing this material would be after a use of 10, 11 and 12 years, respectively. It may not be changed even then, and will not unless other books of superior educational merit are available.

"What is the situation with reference to lower prices in other States? The North Carolina Board of Education writes into every contract that the price is not more than is being

paid in other States and that, in case a lower price is ever given another State, the price in North Carolina will be lowered to the same figure. This latter actually happened only a few years ago when a certain text book was adopted at a lower price in the State of Tennessee.

"The lower prices in California and other States are due to subsidies on the part of the State governments, part of the cost being taken care of by taxation. Some States rent the plates and do their own printing; some buy the books outright. In a number of cases the books are furnished free of cost to all pupils. Some parents, wishing to give their children unsoiled and uncontaminated books, arrange with the State to buy them. In as much as the child is already entitled to a set of books through the State tax provision, only a nominal sale price is charged. I know of no place where the same books or books of equal merit are obtained at less cost to the State than paid in North Carolina. To be sure it falls on the citizenship in different ways—in North Carolina the parents pay all the cost, in some other States the government through taxation assumes part of the cost, and in others the government through taxation pays all the cost.

"Through its laws North Carolina guarantees to its citizens the selection of the best educational materials at the lowest cost. Surely our parents are entitled to the best possible price and our children to the best possible text books!"



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