

real effort to deal fundamentally with a failure in our industrial and economic organization which is as old as industrialism. Mr. Hoover says:

There is a solution somewhere, and its working out will be the greatest

blessing yet given to our economic system.

This is a long-time job. It is an old and world-wide industrial problem which we can solve only by American ingenu-

ity and sticktoitiveness. This dismal economic phenomenon has been endured too long by civilization without an organized attempt to combat it.

The time to begin an effective, vigorous, aggressive attempt is to-day—now.

IS THE FARMER "GOLD-BRICKED" AGAIN ON THE TARIFF?

BY O. M. KILE

EVERY time the farmer touches the tariff he gets burned.

It was so in the 60's, when the farmers entered into a deal with the Eastern manufacturers to outvote the South and put through a programme of protective tariff and free Western lands.

It was so all through the years when the farmer's voice was strong in condemning the tariff, yet his vote was too weak to upset it.

It bids fair to prove true again to-day, when the farmer admittedly has the votes and the power in Congress to get just about anything he wants.

"If the present Tariff Bill goes through, it will impose a charge on the American people of between five and six billion dollars in excess of the actual amount necessary to offset the difference in wages here and abroad," says Gray Silver, head of the organized farmers' legislative activities at Washington.

The farmer seems to have been out-traded. He has come to the point where he needs some tariff protection against a few products, such as wool from Australia, frozen eggs from China, lemons from Italy, and hides from South America. Except for these products and a few others, tariff protection is practically useless to the farmer. Of what good, for instance, is a tariff on corn or most grades of wheat, when the American farmer must export these products and sell in competition with the producers of all the world? On our really important crops—the crops that bring in the money—tariff protection means little to the average farmer.

Yet Congress has liberally provided him with a nice, fat, new tariff on nearly all agricultural products. The farmer can't say that the tariff-makers in Congress never did anything for him. They have. They have been most generous with their tariffs—on farm products that do the farmer no good. And then, having done this, what could be fairer than to give everybody else high tariffs on their products too? Certainly the farmer should not object to that theory, the tariff-makers argue. So, as Mr. Silver points out, the farmer is placed in the position of paying billions more for the things he has to buy and receiving tariff benefit on a few comparatively insignificant products.

The farmer believes in protecting in-

fant industries and in protecting against ruinous competition, but what raises his ire, and what should raise the ire of all consumers, is to see tariffs used merely for the purpose of raising prices in this country. For instance, a tariff of twelve dollars is asked on ammonium sulphate, a fertilizing material, at the very time the producers are selling large quantities abroad. Glove manufacturers are asking several hundred per cent duties on grades of gloves not even made or likely to be made abroad.

But how, you ask, has it been possible for the tariff-makers to put this across if the farmers hold the balance of power in Congress?

Well, in the first place, they haven't finished the job of putting it across yet. Not quite, but they very likely will.

The difficulty comes from the fact that the agricultural bloc is a bi-partisan organization. And the tariff is not a bi-partisan matter. It has furnished the chief party issue during all these years when party issues were scarce. A lot of Democrats have come out in favor of protection of certain specific things, and some have even adopted the idea of sufficient protection to overcome the difference in labor costs here and abroad. But it is not quite possible yet to get the two parties to lie down together on the same tariff bed. Not even in the agricultural bloc.

You see, tariff isn't essentially an agricultural question, although it of course affects agriculture. So the bloc members and the Farm Bureau leaders very wisely agreed right at the start not to touch the tariff problem as a bloc. Tariff has never been discussed at a single meeting of the agricultural bloc.

Now a new bloc has arisen in the Senate—a so-called agricultural tariff bloc. It includes some twenty-five Senators, all Republicans, and mostly from the mountain States and the Pacific coast, but for some unexplained reason including Senator New of Indiana, Senator Willis of Ohio, and Senator Keyes of New Hampshire. Its chairman is Senator Gooding of Idaho, and it includes several members of the regular agricultural bloc, notably Senators Capper and Ladd. It holds regular meetings and works on the Senate tariff-making committee with considerable effect.

But this is not an agricultural organization. Certain agricultural groups, like

the poultrymen, the wool men, and the butter producers, who want high tariffs on their products are glad enough to accept the help of the tariff bloc. But the big and powerful agricultural organizations like the Farm Bureau and the Grange take little notice of and have very little to do with the tariff bloc as such. The reason is that all the bloc's efforts are to *increase* tariffs; they are doing nothing to get schedules cut down on the products the farmer and the consumer have to buy.

The opportunity for this unsatisfactory situation arose when certain farm organization leaders, with more vehemence than logic, asserted last fall, "We are going to ask for the same tariff protection the manufacturer gets." This statement was later corrected to read, "We insist that tariffs be such only as are necessary to overcome the difference in the cost of production in this country as compared with costs in foreign countries." But the damage had been done. The manufacturer said: "All right; we are perfectly willing to give you the same kind of tariffs we take. We want high tariffs; you may have high tariffs, too, on your farm products."

Right there the farmer was out-traded. Whether or not he can improve his position before the Tariff Bill is finally passed remains to be seen.

What the farmers' organizations are working for now is to take the tariff out of politics.

They want a non-partisan tariff board that will make scientific determinations as to just what duties must be laid to make up the difference between labor costs here and abroad, investigate special exceptions to this general rule, and then present a Tariff Bill to Congress to enact with but brief discussion and few modifications. The American Farm Bureau Federation has indorsed and is working for the Frelinghuysen Bill designed to accomplish this purpose.

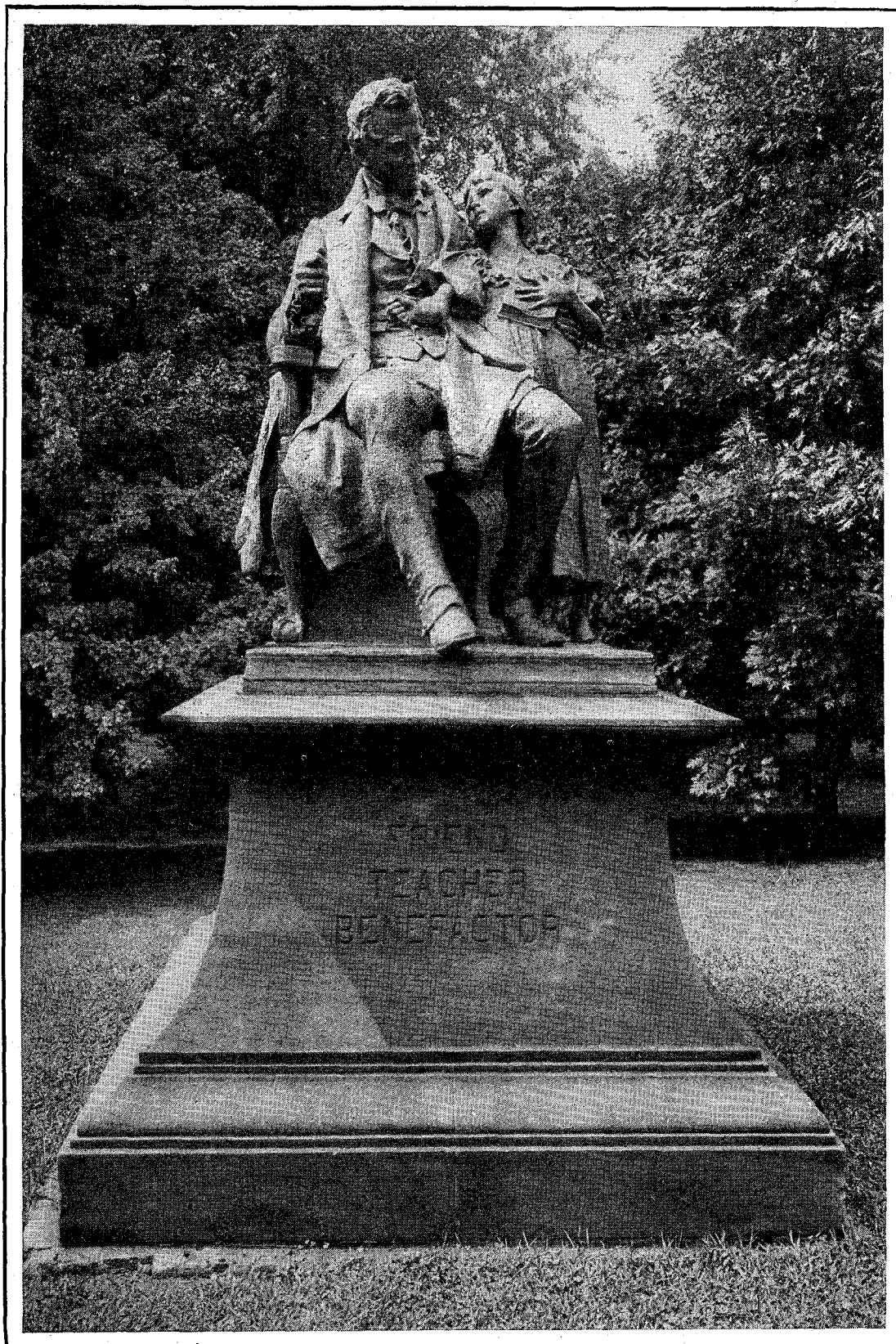
Can it be enacted?

Senator Gooding says: "Not until the South is educated away from the free-trade idea."

Senator Ladd says: "Tariff can and must be taken out of politics. It will only be a little while longer now until this is accomplished."

Give the farmer a little more time, and he may yet learn how to handle the tariff without getting burned.

AMERICANS WORTHY OF



(C) Harris & Ewing

STATUE OF THOMAS H. GALLAUDET, TEACHER OF DEAF MUTES, BY DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH

Dr. Gallaudet founded the first school for deaf-mutes in the United States, and Gallaudet College, on the grounds of which the statue has been erected, is the only college which gives degrees to deaf-mutes. The fund for the statue was subscribed to by alumni and alumnae of the College in all sections of the country