

THE DAY BOOK

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GUARDING LIBERTY WITH A DARK LANTERN. — The knockout of civil service effected by the Jake Loeb majority of the school board through incidental use of the religious issue is the deadliest blow that has been struck at the public school system of Chicago in many years.

Besides taking a big smash at merit rule, the Jake Loeb majority has gone further yet as an enemy of liberty through its refusal to let the aldermen of the council schools committee scrutinize certain school board records.

Liberty and democracy have always made their battles in the open. The enemies of liberty in business, politics and religion always work in the dark. They don't want daylight. They must screen their operations from general public view. They're doing it now in their refusal to supply aldermen with specific facts asked for.

In the midst of all the hot charges and countercharges of recent days, notice the strong, quiet, intelligent argument and plea from the committee organizing the Public Education ass'n:

"We urge the board of education to withdraw, at the request of disinterested citizens, from the position which it has recently taken of cutting out the merit clause from the rules governing the reappointment of teachers. We urge as a substitute

measure the setting up within the superintendent's office of an adequate system for the testing and promotion of effective work in the schools, and the use of the entire experience and intelligence of the teachers and the community.

"We believe that the board of education will have the support of all those sincerely interested in the public schools, if such a system is adopted and enforced without discrimination against teachers because of their membership in any organization, or because of their religious or political affiliations."

Signers of this are persons from the large universities, from the business world, from Catholics and Protestants. Their names: Mary E. McDowell, Grace Abbott, Edward O. Brown, Bernard Flexner, Mrs. W. S. Heffernan, Mrs. Henry Kuh, Charles H. Judd, George H. Mead, Victor Olander, Allen B. Pond, Mrs. Raymond Robins, Carl D. Thompson.

Are these the people who are guarding liberty in Chicago? Or is liberty best guarded by Jake Loeb and the slender majority of one to three votes by which he manipulates the board of education?

NO SYMPATHY

"Some men have no hearts," said the tramp. "I've been a-tellin' that feller I am so dead broke that I have to sleep outdoors."

"Didn't that fetch him?"

"Now, He tol' me he was a'doin the same thing and had to pay the doctor for tellin' him to do it."

A regiment of soldiers were at camp and a young Scottish recruit was put on sentry duty outside the general's tent. In the morning the general arose, looked out of his tent and said to the young man in a stern and loud voice:

"Who are you?"

The young man turned round smartly and said:

"Fine. Hoo's yersel'?"