

- The advantages of a secular as against a sectarian school.

RELIGIOUS OR SECULAR SCHOOL SYSTEM?

The question of religious versus secular education has been discussed quite often in our country. One side claims that the answer was given long ago during the Spanish regime when the Catholic Church had control over the education of the Filipinos. The results were far from being satisfactory. The other side could cite the United States as an example to prove the success of secular authorities in the maintenance of a national system of education as a medium for the development of democratic ideas and practices.

Our public schools and state universities have been accused as godless centers of education. This kind of accusation is, however, meaningless. For whether they are so or not has nothing to do with the question as to whether they give effective

instruction to the Filipino youth or not. The public schools have produced presumably the same proportion of law-abiding citizens and criminals as the private schools which are run by nuns, sisters, priests, brothers, and preachers.

The former president of Antioch College, Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, who later became head of the Tennessee Valley Authority, has pointed out to us the case of Newfoundland, a nation which has failed miserably to maintain its status as a free member of the British Commonwealth after its government had placed under religious control its entire school system. After discussing the advantages of the secular nature and administration of American state universities and land-grant colleges as instruments for promoting demo-

cracy, he admitted that while they have not been completely satisfactory, at the same time they have not failed. He then went on to say:

"What are the alternatives to this democratic, secular educational system which is so frequently and so drastically decried by representatives of authoritarian religion in our country? One of the British dominions took a strikingly different course. Newfoundland escaped secular education. Tax money collected by the government was distributed to the churches in proportion to their population; about 40 per cent each to the Church of England and to the Roman Catholic Church, and

the rest mostly to the Methodists. These church authorities were left to provide the educational system from bottom to top. Nowhere in all the English-speaking world was there such sorry failure in education or in citizenship as in this dominion, populated almost exclusively by hardy English-speaking people from the British Isles. Finally, after a century of inefficiency, graft, wide-scale smuggling, mismanagement, financial favoritism, and lack of educational advance, the whole dominion went bankrupt and surrendered its status — the only such failure, as I recall, of an English-speaking population in the British Empire." —*Philippine Weekly Review*.

POWER

Human nature is much the same in government as in the dry-goods trade. Power and strict accountability for its use are the essential constituents of good government. — *Woodrow Wilson*