

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday - 1936

Enclosed clippings from various newspapers including Sun and Post, together with all remarks on Lincoln and the Supreme Court.

The Democrats are accusing the Republicans of making political use of Lincoln on his birthday. It is quite evident that those who are connected with the Supreme Court's A A A's decision are working Lincoln's attitude towards the Dred-Scott decision for all its worth. As a matter of fact it took a war to upset that decision, to secure an amendment to the Constitution which went much further than Lincoln, himself, had been willing to go, or thought it possible to go.

He saw along that it might come to war, also that the war might lead to the amendment freeing the slaves. The parallel now seems to me lost for the decision against the A A A is a decision that does not reach down to the base of the trouble at all. The basis of the trouble is a privileged class of producers with their laborers - the group protected by the tariff, and allowed to get it to swell as big as they can.

They have always had the farmer under their heels and have been able to defeat him. Now there comes a time when the

purley is threatening the whole nation and the question is whether we will be able to get out of this without a revolution, not a revolution which will give us the privileged class groups for the sake of the farmer but which will rip out unjust tariff taxes. *2 purley of all kinds*

But this is not what I started to dictate, however.

A telegram to the Cleveland celebration is enclosed.

An interesting thing at the Pen & Brush Club where Ruth Bennett is now with the Public Works/^{Art}group instructing art teachers, the children from the public schools and the boys clubs, etc, in drawing/^{modelling}and painting. The head of the particular department had given the children ~~working with~~ Lincoln as a theme and there were a dozen colored crayons on the wall. They chose their own subject and the interesting thing to me was that the two things they saw was Lincoln's kindness and Lincoln's labor. They dramatized in the most amusing way the story of the bird he rescued, the pig he rescued, the barge he rescued on the trip to Indiana. They have him chopping wood and one of them pictured seated on a stump of the tree he had just cut down, wiping his forehead with a red bandana. There is a picture of the flatboat that he navigated on an Illinois stream with a full rigged ship in the background. It was his kindness that interested the children, probably because their teacher had emphasized those things. And there was one of the scene in the Washington theatre at the time of his assassination. The theatre had three tiers of boxes.

They are working hard to get publicity for their enterprise - rather pathetic the whole thing to me - so unstable in its foundations. But who knows how long the money is to continue. Such fine people having ^{faith in} what they are doing. They depend more or less on ^{well} I fancy. They would do much better, these fine women, if they would undertake any kind of a job - somehow start something.

It is pathetic, too, the ways these good photographers struggle to get anything they can sell or have hopes of selling.

I went from the Pen & Brush to the Lincoln Hotel where the Madison Square Boys Club has ^{been} the patron and the possible beneficiary of an excellent Lincoln collection. They have had the help of Rufus Wilson, ^{of} the Lincoln Insurance Company, and ^{who} Meserve/~~were~~ there. It is a really interesting collection.

The ^{director} / has promised to give me facsimiles of ~~the~~ many ~~of~~ the documents and some pictures which have been given to in the days she was collecting her/and which she does not want.

Here again they seized on me for their publicity, I being a late-comer and a possible *subject* for the newspaper.