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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Smith's Attack On Owen

His attitude in handling the Ku-Klux Klan in New York, his repeal of the Lusk anti-red laws, his position on censorship and on birth control, all those features of Al Smith's record as Governor of New York have built for him a justly deserved reputation for tolerance, even toward those he thoroughly detests.

It therefore is no more than natural that this newspaper, itself an admirer of Smith's past record in that regard, should be disappointed at his own suddenly acquired intolerance.

Such intolerance was manifested in no uncertain form in his Oklahoma City speech.

For example, in his attack on ex-Senator Robert L. Owen, a life-long Democrat turned to Hoover shortly after Smith's nomination, just as John J. Raskob, a Republican, turned to Smith.

Owen's reason was that he could not stomach Tammany.

About that Smith said:

"I know I do not have to tell you friends of mine in this section of the country that the cry of Tammany hall is nothing more nor less than a red herring that is pulled across the trail to throw us off the scent. . . . I know what's behind it; it is nothing more nor less than my religion."

To charge that a man who opposes Smith because of Tammany is using Tammany as a screen to hide the real motive, religion—that is not tolerant. It is not fair. It is no more fair than it would be for Smith's opponent to charge that Raskob's adherence to Smith was for religious reasons.

Such a charge calls for proof. And Smith did not present the proof.

By what process of reasoning does Smith deduce that Owen's objection is in reality inspired by religion rather than Tammany reasons?

Does Smith presume to say that a man cannot honestly oppose him on Tammany grounds?

Read the record of Tammany. Retrace the story of the forty thieves, of Tweed and of Croker. Go back over the graft and corruption that have been interwoven in Tammany affairs.

And then ask yourself, is it exalting the principle of tolerance to brand a man as a religious bigot, simply because he announces that Tammany's record makes him suspicious of any candidate who has at any time been active in the affairs of that organization?

It is true that Al Smith has made a strong case for himself on the Tammany issue. And we believe Smith's record is one of honesty in public office. We believe that he has risen above Tammany. But at the same time, we concede that others, knowing the history of Tammany, have plenty of reasons for wholesale suspicion of that organization and for voting against Smith because of those suspicions.

Perhaps Washington officials know more about the alleged pact than they let on. If so, they have no right to pledge the United States to any course of action on a matter of this importance before the American people have had a chance to know what it is all about.

Secret agreements, secretly arrived at, still may go in Europe, but they aren't relished here. The Franco-British agreement may be a very praiseworthy thing, but the way it was arrived at smacks too much of the diplomacy of a hundred years ago.

If the nations of the world can agree to lessen their burden of armament, let them do so, by all means. But let's go about it not in secret, but with everybody's eyes wide open.

A Naval Pig in a Poke

France and England are reported from Geneva as having asked America if she is willing to accept their recent naval accord as a basis of discussion at a forthcoming disarmament conference.

The news is almost unbelievable, but, if true, Washington should promptly reply with an emphatic "nothing doing." For unless our officials know much more of the pact than they profess to know, we would be buying a pig in a poke.

Despite a veritable, world-wide clamor for information on the subject, the details of the much-discussed naval deal between France and England remain a deep, if not dire, secret.

True, the British government intimates in grieved tones that the whole thing has been exaggerated grossly. At most, inquirers are given to understand, London and Paris merely have exchanged ideas with a view to reconciling their well-known differences on naval and kindred subjects.

But an altogether different impression seems to prevail in Paris. There it is bruited that the agreement really is much more far-reaching. Usually well-informed observers go so far as to say the old Franco-British entente has been revived or revived.

France, it is said, will be allowed a free hand in light submarines and certain military matters, while Britain may go as far as she likes building light cruisers, the two powers agreeing to cooperate, and pool their resources in this direction under certain contingencies.

Even if only rumors, suddenly bursting as they do upon the quiet of world hopefully murmuring of peace and disarmament, these reports are doing an immense amount of harm. If they are not true it would be a very simple matter to prove it and put an instant stop to all these harmful speculations and speculations.

There may be no more gossipy, slander or insinuation this trip than there has been on several previous occasions but it is taking a peculiarly disagreeable form.

In 1896 the late William J. Bryan took the stump in July and delivered 600 speeches before election day. Though feeling ran high on that memorable occasion people had little time and less incentive to descend to the back alley brand of character assassination.

Unfortunately, however, it is humanly difficult to say the least, not to believe there is some fire where there is so much smoke. For upward a year and a half the League of Nations' preparatory commission has been stopped dead in its tracks trying to arrange for the next disarmament conferences, because the British and the French have kept on insisting that no call should go out until their "conversations" got some place.

Now, apparently, an agreement has been reached. But under the circumstances it puts considerable strain on one's credulity to believe this agreement, reached after all these months of secret negotiations are trivial or casual.

To the contrary, it is reported widely that France and Britain have agreed, among other things, to the exclusion from any limitation all cruisers carrying smaller than six-inch guns and all submarines of 600 tons and under.

"If so," as the Manchester Guardian (England) quite correctly observes, "we may say goodbye to the hopes of an effective disarmament treaty, for we may be sure that the United States never will agree to exclude any cruisers whatever."

Now should we. Small cruisers are a perfect naval weapon for Britain, with her far-flung chain of naval bases. And small submarines are a perfect weapon for France to protect her shores and communications from nearby powers. But neither are of much use to the United States, which country has no naval bases to speak of outside of its own home waters.

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Secret agreements, secretly arrived at, still may go in Europe, but they aren't relished here. The Franco-British agreement may be a very praiseworthy thing, but the way it was arrived at smacks too much of the diplomacy of a hundred years ago.

This is especially true of the textile industry. It is only fair to say, however, that textile men are inclined to blame trade conditions, rather than politics.

Change of style, as expressed in short skirts, lightweight clothes and simple dress have led to a material reduction in the quantity of fabric required. Edward J. Ashe, vice president and general manager of the Standard Knitting Mills, which produce underwear, tells me that steam heat and closed cars have made a surprising difference in that.

He says there is practically no market left for the heavy underwear which was once so popular in cold sections of the country, but that the resulting curtailment of output is somewhat offset by the fact that people demand a larger number of garments throughout the year.

Here you have an illustration how inventions and improvements affect general conditions. At first thought no one would think that substitution of closed cars for open would mean anything to the manufacture of underwear.

Our industrial structure does not consist of independent units. Production is determined not only by needs, but by style and many other factors. Every trade brings forth a group of allied trades.

Mills Drift South
The textile industry of this country has not only been affected by general conditions, but by a southward drift. Forty years ago it was centered in New England. Today, more than half the spindles are below the Mason-Dixon line.

It is commonly supposed that this shift was brought about by cheap labor, that the mills moved South to take advantage of lower wages, tax laws and the toll of little children.

The impression prevails that mills in this section are poorly constructed, that little attention is paid to the welfare of the workers and that the industry is dominated by a ruthless spirit. That is true in some cases, but not of the Standard Knitting Mills.

They were tireless in his use of the microscopes. He visited lens-grinders and began to use them to examine everything in sight.

It is believed that he made his finest ones by allowing a drop of molten glass to fall on the hole in a brass plate. When the glass solidified it formed a tiny lens mounted in the plate.

Leeuwenhoek tells us, "He looked through them and was amazed at how prettily the muscle fibers of a whale and the scales of his own skin.

He went to the butcher shop and begged to have his ox eyes and was amazed at how prettily the lens of the eye of the ox is put together.

He peered for hours at the build of the hairs of a sheep, of a beaver, of an elk, that were transformed from their fineness into great rough logs under his lens.

He delicately dissected the head of a fly; he stuck its brain on the fine needle of his microscope—how he admired the clear details of the marvelous big brain of that fly!

Leeuwenhoek was a scientific Columbus. His microscope was his ship in which he sailed into lands which human eye had never seen.

Liquor is not the great issue in this campaign.

The Great Campaign Issue

I certainly do not believe that liquor is the great issue in this campaign. That is one of the wisest things said since the political conventions.

There is nothing the President can do about liquor. All he can do is to recommend to Congress, and he can assume the leadership. . . . That also is an obvious fact, which wet and dry extremists ignore.

These quotations are from the opening campaign speech at Omaha of Alfred E. Smith, wet candidate of the predominantly dry Democratic party.

We agree with Smith. That is, we share his conviction that the prohibition measures should be modified in the interests of law, decency, liberty, and temperance. And we also join in his judgment that this is not the sole or even the chief issue now in electing a national administration.

Therefore we have made our choice on other grounds.

The great issue today is to put into the most powerful position on earth a President best capable by training and experience to meet the manifold domestic and foreign problems of these United States.

That is why we are for Hoover. That, too, is probably why a majority of voters are reported for Hoover.

We assume Smith also will enlighten eastern wet states with his dictum to the arid plains.

Liquor is not the great issue in this campaign.

M. E.

TRACY

SAYS:

"Whatever Weight the Prosperity Argument May Have in Other Sections, It Is Rather Weak in Tennessee."

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 22.—

Harry Kaisan, one of the suspects arrested in connection with the kidnaping of a 10-year-old boy in Honolulu, whose body since has been found, admitted writing some of the ransom letters while under the influence of hyoscine-hydrobromide, commonly known as "truth serum." After coming from under the drug, he denied it.

A similar contradiction has been met with in hundreds of cases. The effectiveness of "truth serum" is still a matter of dispute. Its use rests on the assumption that truth is natural and that people lie only by the exercise of will power.

Hyoscine-hydrobromide is supposed to deaden those nerve centers by which a person controls his or her action and to produce a condition somewhat akin to twilight sleep. Under its influence the patient talks as a matter of memory, rather than as a matter of volition. Under such circumstances it is argued that truth will result.

Give People Issues

Politics especially as illustrated by some features of the present campaign makes one hope that "truth serum" can do all that is claimed for it and that some day its use will be extended beyond the criminal element.

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Weak Prosperity

In spite of all the talk regarding prohibition, farm relief and religion, it is generally admitted that "prosperity" is Hoover's strongest argument.

Governor Smith took it seriously enough to voice the belief that there was not so much of it as some people thought in his speech of acceptance. Other Democrats assail it from a different angle, claiming that it would suffer no decline if their party were successful.

Whatever weight the "prosperity" argument may have in other sections, it is rather weak in Tennessee. Not that times are particularly hard, but that wages have gone down.

According to this report, the average wage in lumber mills dropped from \$19.81 to \$18.67 per week. The cotton mill wage showed an even greater decrease, dropping from \$14.41 per week to \$12.57 for women and from \$19.68 to \$17.27 for men.

Need More Clothes

Varying reductions are shown in a majority of lines surpassing as it may seem, increases are reported in silk and hosiery mills, cotton seed oil plants and the printing trade. While there does not appear to be an unusual amount of unemployment in Tennessee, business is not regarded as booming.

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Prohibitionists will clap their hands to hear von Heunefeld say he will not take any alcoholic beverages on this wide swoop over the Pacific, "having found that alcohol stimulates for a few hours only, then fatigues quickly."

This is a rap at the advocates of the medicinal use of booze.

Hoover could make a big hit in the hurricane-swept States and Puerto Rico by turning aside from his campaign for a week or ten days to apply his organizing genius to their relief.

Both candidates met the foolish chairman, the one who introduced Hoover, making a silly reference to Smith which brought hisses, and the one who introduced Smith at Omaha, talking until the crowd rebelled.

There should be a constitutional amendment compelling all chairmen to say: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is Mr. So and So"—and then sit down!

We wonder whether President Coolidge ever overlooks his wife's birthday, as a result of being utterly absorbed in the incessant congratulation of kings, queens and jacks, scattered all over the world.

Questions and Answers

You can get an answer to any answerable question of fact or information by writing to Frederick M. Kerby, Question Master, The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington D. C. enclosing 2 cents in postage. Your question and all advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be made. All other questions received are unanswered. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope and a postage stamp.

Editorial

What is a vortex ring?

A mass of fluid rotating about a closed curve as an axis; a motion similar to that of the particles of a rubber ring, such as a pneumatic tire, when it is turned so that the inside of the ring becomes the outside and vice versa. The most familiar form of vortex ring is that of a smoke ring. Vortices are usually

projected to considerable distances and exhibit mutual attraction and repulsion.

Is Anna Eva Fay, the mind reader?

She died May 12, 1927, at her home at Melrose Highlands, Mass.

This Date in U. S. History

September 22

1692—Two men and seven women

executed at Salem, Mass., for

alleged witchcraft.

1776—Captain Nathan Hale said,

"I regret that I have but one life

to give for my country," and

was hanged as a spy.

1834—Portland, Ore., settled by

American colonists.

1889—Che