

BEFORE AND AFTER.

Post-Nomination Treatment of Governor Smith by Republicans.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Prior to the Democratic National Convention at Houston and during the successful Gubernatorial campaigns of Governor Smith the Republican press of the city recognized the futility of attempting to disparage the Governor's remarkable record. Republican Party activities were recorded in a dispirited vein. Editorially, they approached the viewpoint of a non-partisan. But now these same papers, since the Democratic Party has named its standard bearer, have taken on the cloak of prejudice, and in their zeal to derogate Governor Smith's admirable record and his qualifications to assume administrative duties of enlarged responsibility have even stooped to the introduction of press articles of an unfair and insidious nature.

The Tammany bugaboo is brought out of the moth-bag and given every prominence in their columns notwithstanding the fact that these same State papers know, because of their intimate association with the Governor, that he has never allowed any political faction to influence his judgment in State affairs.

Editorially, Hoover's fitness to approach the agrarian problem is stressed, while Governor Smith's knowledge of this question is rated at zero, disregarding the fact that the Empire State is placed among the leading farm and dairy States of the Union, and his long tenure of office must necessarily have equipped him with some knowledge of the problems of those who till the soil. The reported widespread dissatisfaction with the Hoover candidacy and the record of his party on this issue in the Western rural regions indicate either the circulation of these metropolitan dailies needs Western expansion, or, if they are reaching those concerned with this problem in the farm belt, its appeal is not striking home.

On the prohibition issue these wet Republican organs are absurdly ridiculous in attempting to reconcile their support of Hoover with that of their paper's advocacy of prohibition revision. To soften up Hoover's recent dry declaration, they attach great importance in differentiating between "Prohibition is a noble experiment" and what he is purported to have said, "Prohibition was an experiment, noble in purpose." Why ponder its meaning? He has publicly endorsed and promised continuance of the Coolidge policies. That includes existing prohibition legislation. Smith's stand on this issue needs no interpretation. Hoover chose to avoid a clear-cut expression.

We are told, too, that Governor Smith did not deal in a spirit of fair play with the Houston Convention by these same wet New York Republican organs, contending his personal views on prohibition should have been subordinated to that of his party platform, and they give generous space in their columns re-echoing like views of a few rabid dry proponents of the South. What a spectacle—the Anti-Saloon League and the wet Republican press locking arms and shedding copious tears because they have only now discovered Governor Smith's opposition to existing prohibition laws.

Democracy can well afford withdrawal of this corporal's dry guard of the South, who heretofore have intimidated the party with expressions of exaggerated political power.

There is a vast element in both major parties which has looked for a leadership such as is now offered by Governor Smith, a leader who understands what the people want, instead of trying to tell them what they should have. Governor Smith will lead a powerful following to the polls in November and public opinion will not be swayed by a prejudicial press, even in these days of high-powered hypocrisy.

WILSON SMITH,

New York, July 19, 1928.

Noises of the Night.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

As if the noise of air compressors, rock drills, blasts, cement mixers et id genus omne by day were not sufficient, of nights we have the loud-speaker radios with which nearly every one in this neighborhood is supplied, and a few player pianos, which,

like the one on Shakespeare Avenue, near Jesup Place, can be heard over a block away, and which jazzes until the well known "wee sma' hours ayant the twa."

I can stop some of the radios by turning on my violet ray apparatus; but against the player piano I am helpless.

Why should it be necessary for me to enter a complaint and appear in a police court in order to get relief? Should not the police be empowered to notify those making undue noises after 10 o'clock that they must stop?

The Board of Health can stop the yapping of a small dog or the squawks of a parrot; but for noises made by humans it "passes the buck" to the police.

ROBERT GRIMSHAW.

New York, July 18, 1928.

Thomas's Criticisms of Candidates.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

So often and in so many papers do I read quotations from my speeches headed "Thomas Raps Smith and Hoover" that I am in danger of getting a hammer reputation if not a hammer complex.

Now, I have criticized Messrs. Smith and Hoover not on their personal character and attainments, but on their connections and records. Probably I shall keep on as occasions demand, but I have also and emphatically stressed issues and our own proposals. May I state that even more than in necessary criticisms I am interested in a positive program to deal with the coal tragedy, the growth of a private power monopoly, unemployment, injunctions, imperialism, and other matters set forth in our program and in my speeches. I have even had something positive to say on the wet and dry issue.

NORMAN THOMAS,

Socialist Candidate for President.

New York, July 18, 1928.

Pre-Pajama Memory.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

I, too, sing of arms, legs, clothes and the man. Mr. Dixon flutes of the fluted smock (THE TIMES, July 16). "In it a man can discard everything but his stockings."

It has been done, substantially, and the stockings were discarded, too. Our grandfathers did it. They were not pretty in them. When sportive, they called them "nightlies." They wore them in bed.

New York, July 16, 1928.

A. S. B.