



(C) Acme

An air view of the flood at Rutland, Vermont, which washed out the railroad trestle

There in this shrine of patriotism these Americans keep company in spirit with St. Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris, with the Maid of France, with Mirabeau and the other inflaming spirits of the Revolution, with Guynemer, who sailed off into the blue and never returned, with Voltaire and Rousseau and Victor Hugo.

In estimating the forces for national security France knows how to value men of the mind. In losing them, whether they be her own sons or not, she realizes that she loses something incalculably precious and irreplaceable. When she writes their names in a sacred place, she has already written them in her memory.

*"The tomb of the dead," as M. Herriot said of the memorial to these martyred idealists, "is, in truth, the heart of the living."*

### Gomez Executed

ANOTHER Presidential candidate in Mexico has fallen before the firing squad.

In this case it is General Arnulfo R. Gomez who was executed. With him was executed his nephew. General Gomez had been a fugitive for a month. His forces had been dwindling. He had escaped the fate of General Serrano, another aspirant for the Mexican Presidency, who had been captured and shot without even the empty benefit of a

court martial. That was somewhat more than a month ago. In the meantime Gomez, seeking refuge across the border in Guatemala, was reported to have escaped. Even before his execution, however, his effort to overthrow President Calles had been a failure.

*As long as Mexicans choose their Presidents by bullets instead of ballots, so long Presidential candidates will continue to fall by the same means.*

### The Connecticut Flood

IN the number of lives lost the flood of the Connecticut and adjacent rivers which has brought unprecedented disaster to New England is comparable to this year's great flood on the Mississippi. In the Mississippi flood the toll of death was 147; by Sunday of last week the death list in the New England flood had reached the estimated total of 125. What the damage to property will prove to be is as yet, and will for some time remain, unknown. In area affected, beside the great territory covered by the raging of the Father of Waters, the flood of the Connecticut seems small; but the inundated region in New England is well populated and its cities are busy with industry. There especially a flood has strong allies in disease and fire. Under such circumstances habits of self-government are of incalculable value; and the people of New England have had long training in governing themselves.

As the flood waters gathered Vermont communities were the first to suffer, and then quickly thereafter communities of western Massachusetts. The city of Rutland in Vermont was partly under water. Montpelier and Barre were isolated from the rest of the world. The little village of Becket in Massachusetts was practically wiped out. In New Hampshire as well as in Vermont and Massachusetts villages and towns were cut off from all communication with the outside world. Later, towns in the State of Connecticut along the Connecticut River suffered. Trains were blocked. Food supplies, such as vegetables and milk, could not be transported. Thus cities outside the flood area as far as Boston were affected.

Aid, of course, was offered at once, particularly by New York and by the Federal Government. Army airplanes were sent out to survey the stricken district. The President despatched troops for relief. Governor Weeks, of Vermont, in the spirit of self-help characteristic of his State, declined the offer of troops, supposing that it was for guard duty; but the Army in such disasters brings other aid—the restoration of communication, for example, and even medical service.

*Through experience of the same kind of disaster perhaps the Middle West and New England may be drawn to understand each other better.*

## A Public Man's Good Name

**G**OVERNOR ALFRED E. SMITH may conceivably become President of the United States.

In the meantime his opponents will do well to keep that in mind.

Politicians and critics of public men sometimes forget that the American people have a respect for the Presidential office that extends to those who may occupy it. They resent reflections upon a President's character. They are not likely easily to forgive those who, in the heat of a campaign, have brought unproved charges against a man they elect as President. American history, unfortunately, abounds in instances of such charges; but, fortunately, it affords ample illustration of their futility. To cite but four cases, they proved unavailing, and dishonoring only to those who made them, against Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Warren Harding.

From this time on until the nominations are made next June Governor Smith will be more than ever a conspicuous subject of controversy. The effect of what he says even about State issues in New York will be National. And National also will be the effect of whatever may be said about him.

In the State campaign which ended on election day, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, the former President's son, has challenged Governor Smith on several counts. He has declared that in managing the financial affairs of the State Governor Smith has been extravagant; that he has been mistaken in his water-power policy; that in making judicial appointments and in ordering investigations he has been partisan. These are all legitimate subjects for public discussion. It is, of course, the very object of political debate to hold up to the scrutiny of the voters an official's policy and record. But Colonel Roosevelt has gone further than that. He has declared that "the red light district has crawled to the very steps of the State Capitol." Disclaiming any attempt to question Governor Smith's integrity, he has nevertheless let it be inferred that somehow Governor Smith is responsible for conditions of protected vice at Albany. He has named Democratic leaders in Albany who are under indictment for running a gambling pool; he has declared in general terms that Tammany Hall has lived by corruption, and that "Governor Smith was bred in the Tammany fold and is the bell-wether of their flock." But up to the day before election he has produced no proof connecting Governor Smith with the political corruption he describes. It is hard for the ordinary reader or hearer of these charges to believe that in intent they were not an attack upon Governor Smith's good name, a reflection upon his personal fitness for high office; but, whatever they were in intent, that is precisely what they have been in effect.

If there is no proof of Governor Smith's direct responsibility for corruption—and there is none offered—then is Governor Smith to be condemned because of his party?

Who, then, shall escape condemnation? What about Republican corruption? What about the Teapot Dome lease which the United States Supreme Court has declared to be vitiated because of fraud? That was perpetrated not at a State capital, but at the National capital, and under the auspices of a Republican Administration. What about the scandal of the Pennsylvania primaries? That was a product of Republican politics. What about Illinois? Republican. And the noisome corruption in Indiana? Again Republican. Has New York been more corrupt under the rule of Demo-

cratic Tammany Hall than have Philadelphia and Chicago under the rule of Republican machines? If the sins of a party are to be visited upon any of its leaders, however high his own integrity may be, then no leader is to be trusted, for there is no party without taint.

Is Governor Smith, then, to be declared unfit because he has not denounced corruption in his own party? Is he to be condemned, not for what he has done, but for what he has not done? Is the charge against him one of unworthy silence? Is a public official to be judged, not by his deeds, but by his words?

What, then, shall be said of President Coolidge? What ringing words of his have stirred the indignation of the country against his party's offenses in Indiana and Illinois and Pennsylvania? Was it President Coolidge that took the initiative in exposing and prosecuting those who had defrauded the Government in the naval oil leases? Is President Coolidge also to be condemned because he has not been a crusader? Perhaps we need a crusader—a man incorruptible, far above suspicion, whose words and acts can burn and cleanse. Colonel Roosevelt, as he himself has said, has denounced the corruption in his own party. Honor to him for that. But that is beside the point. The question is whether the charge against Governor Smith that holds him responsible for protected vice is merely that he has not been a crusader? Is this enough to smirch his name? Surely the charge against a public man must be more than this or else it is nothing.

If a man by temperament, training, associates, manners, or character is unfit for the Presidency, it is of the utmost interest of the American people to know it. If any one has the evidence to support it, innuendo and inference will not do. Let him first be sure that it is irrefutable proof; and then—at whatever cost to himself—let him give that proof to the people. Otherwise silence.

## Ten Days in Russia—and Ten Years

**T**EN YEARS is at least ten times as long as the Bolsheviks expected to be able to stay in power when they drove Kerensky out.

An American who now lies buried under the walls of the Kremlin in Moscow, the correspondent and Communist John Reed, recorded that event in a book which he called "Ten Days That Shook the World." The period that followed might be called "Ten Years That Did Not Shake the World." The fact that the Soviet Government is celebrating its tenth anniversary and that no great change due to the Soviet Revolution has occurred in the rest of the world is a double contradiction of the beliefs the Bolsheviks held when they made themselves the rulers of Russia.

When Lenine and Trotsky overthrew the Kerensky Government, they and most of the chiefs of the Communist Party thought they might stay in office for six months, and hardly dared dream of such political luck as staying in for a year. Sudden violent changes were the order of the day. General Kornilov had bid for command and failed only a month earlier. The impotence of the old army cliques was not as evident as it became later. Any one who was in Russia and had means of knowledge was aware that the idea dominating Communist Party councils was the idea of taking as much