

The Outlook

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THE WEEK

Out to Beat Al Smith?

DIVERSE reports come to us concerning the policy of Southern politicians toward the candidacy of Governor Smith.

From a well-informed correspondent in the extreme South comes, on the one hand, the report that, especially in the cotton States, the impression seems to grow that the way to defeat Governor Alfred E. Smith in the Democratic nomination is to concentrate on defeating him. According to this impression, the plan is to drop other political interests and to put all effort into the naming of delegations to the Democratic National Convention pledged to nobody, but oath-bound against Governor Smith's candidacy. One instance is cited in which the women of the Protestant churches of a little city in Texas had banded together for the exclusive purpose of fighting Governor Smith's nomination. Another instance is that of a Southern Methodist conference in which the defeat of the Smith candidacy was made the subject of a resolution which only the more diplomatic members prevented the conference from passing in its original form, but which was finally passed in a form which left little doubt as to its meaning.

Dry, anti-Catholic, anti-Tammany, and anti-New York City sentiments, it is said, all furnish motives for the movement. But the theory behind it is, of course, that if the Smith campaign leaders learn before the Convention that there are a decisive number of votes which they never can have, that campaign will collapse the sooner and leave the anti-Smith forces free to pick a satisfactory candidate at their leisure.

As political strategy the obvious weakness of this plan is that it makes Governor Smith the sole figure on the Democratic landscape. Saint or horned demon, he would receive from this, if the plan were carried out, an extraordinary amount of personal advertising. If all who are not against Smith in the South are thus driven to be for him, the Smith

campaign will almost necessarily, it is argued, attract a large number of Southern adherents who would normally be disposed to neutrality.

It may be replied that such a plan once succeeded. In 1916 the Republican bosses saw to it that a sufficient number of delegates were pledged to nobody in particular, but against ex-President Theodore Roosevelt to assure Roosevelt's defeat. So honest were these delegates that when the bosses changed their minds they could not change the delegates' minds. But that was more than ten years ago. Perhaps that cannot be done now.

At any rate, the impression among the original Smith following, according to this report, is growing that their candidate is being politically martyred. This impression may even extend to some who now are opposed to Governor Smith. It is suggested, therefore, that the anti-Smith movement might prove more effective if it opposed the Governor, not with the vote of general antipathy, but with a better candidate.

The question thus arises whether it is best to try to beat Governor Smith with nobody.

Or Out for Other Men?

ON the other hand, we get from our Washington correspondent, who has been traveling through the South, the report that nobody in the South—certainly no politician—is lying awake nights hating Al Smith. Those who are opposed to Governor Smith, according to this report (in which, of course, we have great confidence), do not seem to think of him much unless he is called to their attention. As a matter of fact, they talk about other candidates. There may be localities in which Democratic voters are content with being against Governor Smith, but they are not numerous or significant—at least in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. It is true that the

Democratic voters in the South are not combined on a candidate. If they should be, our correspondent believes, the result would be a repetition of the fratricide of Madison Square Garden. Any candidate upon whom the Southern States might now concentrate would inevitably become a successor to McAdoo, and therefore become the man whose mission was to stop Smith; and that would mean dissension.

As a matter of fact, we are told, Southern Democrats are interested in a number of candidates, some of whom are not enemies of Governor Smith at all. They are interested in Ritchie of Maryland and Reed of Missouri, both wets, and decidedly interested in Donahey of Ohio, a dry. Kentucky's mind is running strongly to Evans Woollen of Indiana. Tennessee is thinking of a Southern candidate—especially McReynolds, of the Supreme Court, and Representative Hull, both Tennesseans. Others are thinking of Meredith of Iowa, Baker of Ohio, and Houston, now of New York.

According to this report, Governor Smith is not as strong now as he was before Mr. McAdoo withdrew. There is less bitterness than if all Democrats opposed to him were united now on one candidate. Some of the Southern leaders appear to think that Governor Smith is already beaten. But, in any case, another fight like that of 1924, it is argued, and the argument seems reasonable, means ruin to the Democratic Party.

Perhaps the adherents of Governor Smith would like to see their opponents pick somebody now for his opponent.

Oil Prospects in Mexico

QUARRELS about oil have embittered relations between Mexico and the United States ever since the Mexican Congress passed the Petroleum Law of 1925.

That law was enacted under the new

Constitution of 1917, which declared resources of the soil to be the property of the nation. President Calles put the law in effect at the end of 1926. It provided, by Articles XIV and XV, that titles to oil lands acquired before the passage of the new Constitution might be confirmed, substituting concessions for fifty years in place of full ownership, in case application was made within a year. American corporations opposed the measure as an invasion of their legally acquired property rights.

The Mexican Petroleum Company, an American firm, fought the law by asking for a court order to restrain the Department of Industry, Commerce, and Labor from canceling its drilling permits under the terms of the law. Now the Mexican Supreme Court has created intense interest in Mexico City and Washington by a decision in favor of the company, declaring these articles of the law unconstitutional. This decision of the court must be reinforced by four other similar and successive decisions, it is true, before it becomes definitively established. Then the Mexican Congress will have to pass a new Petroleum Law not infringing on the property rights of foreigners before trouble over the issue can be considered entirely past. But the way to dispose of it is now open.

Mexico has taken a long step towards the peaceful adjustment of relations with the United States.

Football at Its Best

FOOTBALL attained the peak of its career this season for a multitude of reasons particularly cheering to those who have nursed it along through one stormy period after another. Its present state of health is unsurpassed, thank you. That applies to the enjoyment of the spectator, the emancipation from the old-time drudgery of the player, and sportsmanship now frequently as graceful as that of the tennis court.

From time to time the game had been in danger from various evil influences. These have been eliminated with apparent permanency. Coaches look upon themselves as educators, and are in most cases members of the faculty. Their teams more than ever this season have been organizations rather than the machines of the old days. Still in the newspapers one finds an eleven referred to as "the thundering herd" or the "Siwash steam-roller." It is a pity that more of the spectators could not sit at the training table with some of these



Acme

GARVEY'S DASH TO VICTORY

This was the high light of Yale's triumph over Harvard in the stadium on November 19. It shows to perfection the pretty interference with which the Yale backs were provided throughout the game

herdsmen or rollers. They would be found to be simple college boys, good students, and better sportsmen than are found in any other game involving personal physical contact.

The battle is as hard as it ever was in the physical sense, and infinitely superior in the mental sense. Except in such instances as those in which one team outclassed another, not an important game this year was won by sheer superior physical power. Generalship accounted for the triumphs all along the line. Thus we have practically a standardized game, with all the thrills of well-matched skill in physical contact, battle plans, forays, and skirmishes, but yet with a great margin of allowance for the upsurge of individual genius, the latter often turning out to be the deciding factor.

It is perhaps significant that some of the great triumphs of the season were scored by elevens habitually given to first-class team-work of an elastic nature—Yale and the Army as fair samples in the East, Illinois in the Middle West, and Georgia in the South. The elasticity of individual play and of coaching was perhaps best illustrated by the turning back of Notre Dame by the Army. Notre Dame was the product of the greatest machine coach in the land, Knute K. Rockne. It was inconceivable, his material being of the best, that

he could be defeated, according to his followers, since Army already had lost a close hard game to Yale. Yet the beautifully geared machine was upset by a special and unexpected defense that was the product of shrewd thinking by coaches and players. Once checked, the South Bend team was in its turn unable to stop a soldier attack that was built upon sheer audacity. It was the audacity of one man, Hoben, that gave Yale a victory over Princeton in the last eight minutes of what had looked like a losing game for the Blue. It was a great year for quarterbacks, therefore. And it was an even greater year for the coaches who taught these quarterbacks and then turned the game over to them on the field. Indeed, the old evil of side-line coaching has been checked less by rule than by undergraduate opinion, reinforced by action on the part of coaches who believed that the game belonged primarily to the players.

With the rise of football coaching to the dignity of a teaching profession, football players are coming once more into the control of the game.

How the New Rules Worked

MORE than one incident of the good humor with which the modern game of football is played comes to