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(Other editorials will be found on page one.)

**GOATS NATURALLY BUTT**

At this early stage the presidential campaign is beginning to take on an unusual character. The most notable turn is that resulting from the activities of Dr. Barton, Baptist, and Bishop Cannon, Methodist, in behalf of Hoover. Following them are certain editors and preachers, who, some times frankly and sometimes in thinly disguised form, are working toward the same end in their papers and pulpits. The fulminations of these throw light upon their own reaction to the position they are taking. These deliverances and pronouncements indicate a somewhat apologetic and dissatisfied state of mind. The gentlemen know that their denominations have always stood for complete separation of the church and state. They realize that their present activities are political in their nature, and they know that the general public will so regard them.

Consequently, they are forced to explain or defend their actions. They do so by saying that their present political activity is because a great moral principle is involved. True, Bishop Cannon has already begun to talk about the Catholics, but, for the most part, they seek to justify their action on other grounds than that of antagonism to the Catholic church. They confidently assert that the "moral element" will not support Smith. They speak of the "sober, God-fearing" Democrats rising up to defeat Smith.

That this also has its dangers for them is being recognized. Democrats are beginning to see that these religious leaders are dividing even the Democratic members of their own denominations into the two groups of sheep and goats. The "sheep" are those who follow these reverend political leaders into the Republican fold. It follows that those who do not so follow are the "goats," and are either immoral, immoral, or lacking in the usual attributes of Christians. The danger lies in the fact that goats are naturally butters, and already resentment is being expressed at this effort on the part of these distinguished apostles of the "great moral issue" to force life-long Democrats into the Republican party. Last week two letters indicating such resentment appeared in the Greensboro News, one from a man and the other from a woman.

Outside the natural resentment of hundreds of loyal and steadfast Christians to such a classification, there is an element of humor in the situation, and that is the salt which is destined to save the churches from the otherwise natural consequence of the wholesale slander of the tens of thousands of men and women who have loyally supported the churches and lived sober and devout lives, for it is funny to see the hundreds of Sunday school superintendents, teachers, deacons, elders, many of whom have been leaders in the prohibition movement, and yet dare to support Smith, classified as immoral if not immoral. Only the broadness of mind, the charity, and the saving grace of humor of these men and women will prevent disastrous consequences to the churches whose ministers thus consciously or unconsciously classify the members of their flocks. For the writer's part, the same tolerant spirit which compels him to disregard the religious relations of Smith in the candidacy for the presidency will prevent his taking offense at his assignment to the category of the immoral or immoral. It is but to laugh.

While their loyalty to temperance and all other social reforms is steadfast, these Democrats who support Smith know that something more is involved in the contest than prohibition, and feel that prohibition itself as an effectual bar to intemperance is not endangered. They do not feel that the Volstead act is sacred and should necessarily be like the laws of the Meads and Persians, utterly unchangeable, even when it is found to be largely ineffectual in many populous sections of the country in securing real temperance. Substance and not adherence to any word or law as a fetish is what these men and women want, and what the country needs. Accordingly, they are not likely to permit Barton and Cannon to drag them into the Republican party. They wonder why

this question was not raised against the heavy-drinking comrade of the libertine McLean, Harding, in the campaign of 1920. In the failure to raise it then and in its being raised now, they begin to see evidence of the oft-made charge that the national anti-Saloon League is an adjunct of the Republican party.

The country generally, too, is beginning to learn something of the practical habits of Tom-tom Heflin, chief speaker for the anti-Saloon League and the anti-Smith cause. General discussion of the hypocrisy in the wide difference between the profession and the practice of the man is spreading. It would be strange for it to be otherwise, in view of his violent advocacy of prohibition and his known failure to practice what he preaches. Men and women are beginning to suspect that the support of the anti-Saloon League is not to be obtained so much by the observance of the law and abstinence from the use of intoxicants, as by the manifestation of a willingness to perform its orders when it cracks the whip.

That the thinking men among those who were opposed to Smith's nomination are beginning to see the danger inherent in this effort to classify as non-moral, or immoral, or inconsistent all those who support Smith is apparent from a recent editorial in Charity and Children.

We quote from it: "We have many readers who are just as dry as we are, but who are nevertheless convinced Democrats and believe profoundly that their party will give the country a better administration than will the Republicans. It is a dangerous thing to assume that a man, in voting for Smith, is violating his conscience, for aught we know, he might be violating his conscience just as much if he voted for Hoover, or if he chose to stay at home and take no part in deciding the control of the government for the next four years. We are certain that neither Dr. Barton or Bishop Cannon thinks that either the Baptists or the Methodists as such should take a position on, say, the tariff; yet they are necessarily taking such a stand when they organize to defeat the candidate of one party, for that means helping elect the candidate of the other party. That is dragging the church into politics, and there is no way of getting around it."

**BE PATIENT**

Democrats who oppose Al Smith because of his prohibition views should be patient and find out what his views really are. He has promised to express himself clearly and definitely in his acceptance speech, and has declared that no one else has been given authority to express views for him. Al knows how to say in an unmistakable way what he means, and after the acceptance speech everybody will be able to judge for himself whether the Democratic candidate's views are antagonistic to temperance.

It is already clear that Smith does not desire the repeal of the prohibition amendment, and has said that the old-time bar rooms should not be restored. Even Raskob, it is said, is a non-drinker and has never in any way had a dollar's interest in the whiskey business. Both these men are undoubtedly concerned in having laws effective in bringing about temperance. That their views of what is effective should not coincide exactly with ours is not to be wondered at. Their environment is entirely different, and their views have been formed from observation of the working of the present laws in their own state and adjoining states. If honest northerners had been acquainted with the situation as it existed in the South in reconstruction days, they would doubtless have viewed the re-construction program in quite a different light from that in which they did view it and the evils might have been earlier corrected. We of the South do not know the northern environment and are not capable of judging any more what is actually from real interest of temperance in the Middle Atlantic States than the honest Kankees of fifty years ago could conceive of the actual conditions in the South under the reconstruction acts. Let's hear Smith and then decide whether he is in favor of debauching the country. It is inconceivable that he is, or that any other man who has the sense Smith has or the concern that he has shown for the welfare of the people, could wish a reign of intemperance. On the contrary, we may believe, till authoritatively told to the contrary, that the difference in views as to the drink evil is a difference as to conception of what is the best way to secure a decent and effective regard to temperance. Certainly, neither Smith nor Raskob has ever made money of the liquor business and is not concerned from that standpoint, as one may well conceive the man who has been in charge of enforcement these past years and will probably remain in such control if Hoover is elected. Andrew Mellon now owns more liquor, probably, than both Smith and

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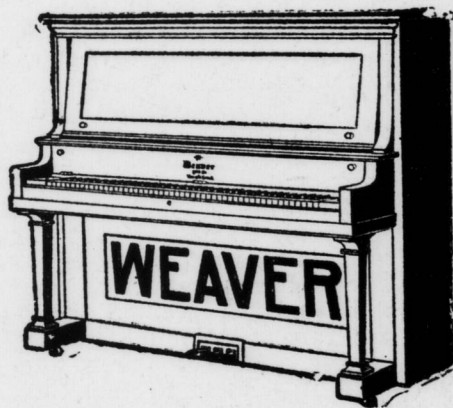
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