

THE CHATHAM RECORD

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L. L. Wrenn's statement here Friday evening that no man who voted for Al Smith is worthy of the support of the people for any office is a sweeping slander. We cite Mr. Wrenn to Senator Norris, a man of his own party, for an instance of the injustice of his declaration. In the first place, Smith is worthy of the support of the best men and got the support of a large part of such men and women in this country, and sweeping slander of Mr. Wrenn is unworthy of a man whom the Record has highly esteemed. Opinions may differ, and any man may justly and appropriately attack the wisdom of another's course but to impugn the character and motives of practically half the citizens of a country, along with the character of their standard bearer, is unjust and fool-hardy. Mr. Wrenn probably believes what he said, but it shows mighty little sense to think it—and we are permitted to pass opinion upon judgment.

The Record has impugned no man's motive nor slandered anyone during this campaign. It has said no ill words of Mr. Hoover, a man whom the editor has long esteemed, having been county food administrator under him during the war and learning then to regard him as a man of great character and ability. However, we cannot say that we have not belittled the judgment of some folk, and feel yet that we are justified in it; for lack of sound sense, prevalence of ignorance, and uncharitable judgments have abounded. More Pharisees have paraded themselves than during any other period of our recollection. Also more and deeper ignorance has manifested itself than one could scarcely have conceived as existing among a supposedly enlightened people. The editor thinks he is better than few, if any, but he believes that he is justified in congratulating himself on the fact that he has more sense than oodles and oodles of folk. You may class him as an intellectual Pharisee, but not one who considers himself holier than thou. The educational effects of the campaign should result in a clearing up of the density of ignorance so marked during the campaign. At least, some folk ought to know by now that Catholics are neither Mormons nor atheists.

Whether Smith is beaten or not (it is not known at this writing), his campaign, we believe has changed the course of events. The disposition of Muscle Shoals in the interest of the people has become a question that a republican administration can no longer disregard; while the question of farm relief has been vitalized. As the most of the Populist demands have since their day been incorporated into the law, in effect if not in form, so will Al Smith's ideas, so forcefully presented to the people become imbedded in the laws of the country, with the probably exception of those on prohibition, which the Record has all along considered of minor importance. Al Smith's campaign has been worth all it has cost, even if the one result is the liberalization of the people and the flattening of religious bigotry.

We allow no one to exceed us in zeal for honest elections, but we do not approve of unsubstantiated insinuations and accusations. We have no doubt that the election in Chatham has been square and honest. Any insinuations to the contrary is an insult to the intelligence and honesty of the republican poll holders in the county, as well as a charge of dishonesty against the democratic poll holders. In Sampson county for thirty odd years the Populist and, later, the republican majorities constantly grew with the very same democratic control of elections as exists in Chatham county. Sampson republicans have had no cause to cry robber, and if the Chatham republicans will simply cast enough votes they will find that their men will be elected.

Senator Simmons' democratic cake is dough, whatever the result of the election in the state. If he has caused the loss of the electoral vote to Smith, there are tens of thousands of staunch democrats who cannot overlook the offense. On the other hand, if Smith has won in the

state there is precious little hope of the Senator's being elected the next time even with the help of the republicans, which he may safely count upon, it appears.

Solicitor Williams has won laurels for himself by his staunch support of the whole democratic ticket. He spoke at Goldston, Friday evening. Mr. Williams is popular in that section and should have accomplished something worthwhile for the ticket.

If the money used by McNinch in his anti-Smith campaign is clean enough to use by the anti-Smith saints it should be clean enough to report, and if there is any means of enforcing the law against McNinch's committee it should be enforced or the law repealed.

Quite a number of voters were challenged last Saturday at the various polling places. Every worthy citizen should be allowed to vote somewhere, and it is not right to attempt to disfranchise one on the slight technical grounds respecting registration. A liberal policy is as fair to the goose as to the gander, and an unfair one can work against the goose as well as against the gander.

One of the most foolish things in the whole campaign was the criticism of Smith for making Raskob campaign manager. The criticism was based chiefly upon the fact that he seemed as much Republican as Democrat, or more. He had voted for Cleveland and for Wilson, but for Harding and Coolidge. Clearly, he was of the very political character to appeal to the immense class of independent or loosely bound republicans, the very groups that Al Smith had to win. A regular Southern Democrat, like former chairman Harrison, would have made no impression upon them. But the very choice of Raskob sharply called the attention of all the liberal-minded republicans to the possibility that Smith had qualifications that would appeal to them. When one goes possum hunting, he should take a possum dog, rather than a bird dog, and when Smith went Republican hunting, or on a hunt for independents, Raskob was the fellow for the job. Glass, for instance, would have been as futile as a setter out at night on a possum hunt. Whether Smith is elected or not, for this is written before the event, he has proved himself a politician as well as a statesman, and the election of a man of Raskob's ilk as chairman of his campaign committee is one of the clearest proofs of the fact. There had to be a hunt, in the first place, for money. Raskob filled the bill in all particulars, if it had not been for those smiling-headed democrats who could not see the nature of the business at hand, and were offended at the selection. But their lack of sense was not Smith's fault.

Walter Cahoon has done much in this campaign to discredit the Junior Order and to put it into a class with the Kluckers. If the Junior Order is not a political machine, it should severely rebuke Cahoon and his ilk. It has been stated that it is against the laws of the Order for a member to use the name of the Order in a political speech. If that is true, even our Brother Hurst violated deeply the principles of the Junior Order when he made his first attempt to organize an anti-Smith club at Pittsboro. His membership in the Order and what it stood for was largely the burden of his speech. Is the Junior Order a political machine? If not, the Order should set about cleansing house.

Walter Siler, as assistant attorney general, was called upon to give an opinion as to whether the Anti-Smith committee is required by law to give an accounting for the receipt and expenditure of campaign funds, and he reached the logical conclusion that it is as much required to do so as is the democratic committee or the republican. Yes, sir; the McNinch bunch, the Klucker bunch, and all the other factions in the campaign should be compelled to show whence came the money they expended in the campaign.

We dare any other county seat to show as complete an evaporation of the anti-Smith movement as occurred at Pittsboro. The anti-Smith club here was unable to survive the first big laugh the Smith folk got on it. Smith may have won or lost in the nation and state, we don't know at this writing, but assuredly, Pittsboro has done its part to flatten the anti-Smith propaganda.

Away last spring The Record made the prediction that before the election the people would see the matter clearly and be whooping it up for Smith. If there ever has been whooping for any man it has been

for Smith. Thousands who first saw him as a menace later saw him as a political prophet, a very Amos come for the redemption of the people from the hands of the ruthless corruptionists.

Our fight for Smith has been absolutely unselfish. We felt, and feel, that the country needs him at the helm of the government. Only one dollar has come to The Record to help it in the campaign and that has to be returned because of a mishap which prevented the announcement for which it was to help pay appearing in the paper. This is a sample of the subsidization of the press of which some fanatics spoke. The only paper in the South definitely proven to have sold its editorial influence was a Louisiana paper, which sold out to the anti-Smith folk.

The editor joined in a conversation which he found in progress between Messrs. R. E. Harris and Zeb Johnson a few days ago. They were talking about the sale of their wool, and a discussion of sheep raising ensued. Mr. Harris had recently sold two spring lambs in Raleigh for \$33, which he said had not cost him more than \$3 each to raise. We suggest that farmers who are not raising sheep talk with these gentlemen over the sheep business. Chatham has tens of thousands of acres which might be utilized in the raising of sheep.

That good seed is a real insurance of a crop is substantiated by the experience of Mr. M. H. Woody, who bought enough pedigreed Mexican big boll seed last spring to plant three acres. He says he will get three bales from the three acres, despite the most discouraging season.

Well, it is over. The Record has been really concerned. Never before has the editor felt that so much was at stake in an election. As this is written before the event, we do not know what is the result but whatever it is, it will prove of everlasting moment. The differences in the Smith and Hoover policies are of far-reaching extent. That matter of water power is one that will be proving the wisdom or the contrary of the winner a thousand years from today.

Within our memory no man has proved the drawing card that Al Smith did. Byan drew mighty big crowds, but for ten years the Alliance had been attuning the people for such a master to play upon. But Smith has to tune his own fiddle, so to speak. His personality drew millions of former critics to him as a magnet draws iron filings. Never before have we heard an orator in whose every sentence carried a thot. The old-time orator wrapped one thought with many words and fancies, and flung it forth like a big soft ball. Smith flung undecorated stone after stone. There was no wrapping and no finery about it. It was simply an hour each time of flinging the hardest and roughest stones he could lay hands upon, one after another.

If the anti-Smith democrats in the State had not undertaken to secure the electoral vote of the state for the Hoover ticket through their own initiative and had left it to the republicans to make a Hoover campaign, we believe Hoover would have made a greater showing in the state. The smart-alexy anti-Smith democrats got themselves in bad odor and were thrown upon the defensive. Their one effort was to hold what they had, but lost every day of the campaign. On the other hand, if the republicans had taken the initiative and the anti-Smith democrats had simply gone their way till the election, and then quietly played bad politics in depending so much upon the initiative of the anti-Smith democrats. They should have made a determined campaign from the beginning for both the state and national ticket if they wished to advance the interest of the party. At least, that is the way we see. However this is written before the election, and the result may, despite the present outlook, falsify the above opinion.

Smith may not have won, but as Washington told Arnold after his failure to capture Montreal, he has done better—he has deserved to win.

Many folk who do not know the doctrines and basis of practice and policy of their own denomination have considered themselves capable of pronouncing Smith unfit for the presidency because of his Catholicism. We heard the other day of a Methodist steward who did not know that his local church does own the

church building in which it worships. And this writer had occasion recently to test the knowledge of a number of citizens of average intelligence about the government of the four churches in Pittsboro, and what they didn't know would make a long article. The campaign just ended should be an incentive to self-education.

The Record wishes to register its appreciation of the whole-hearted service in this campaign of Clyde Hoey, Cameron Morrison, Josephus Daniels, J. W. Bailey, Attorney General Brummit, Mr. Eringhouse, and others who have given of their time and talents so generously to the cause of Governor Smith. Those named have been particularly effective in their campaign speeches, and it may be truly stated that without their aid the vote in the state would have been quite different, whatever it may have proved to be. And here it is not improper to list some of the papers that have done most valiant service. We mention the News and Observer, the Durham Herald, and Sun, the Asheville Citizen, the New Bern papers, both owned by Mr. J. B. Dawson, the two Elizabeth City papers, the Daily Advance and the Independent, the Raleigh Times, the Monroe Journal, the Greensboro papers, all three of them, for the Daily News, while taking its usual non-partisan stand, has served mightily by its firm stand against religious bigotry. These papers have served the righteous cause for which we have fought without hope of reward, but we believe those mentioned stand out as specially deserving the gratitude of the supporters of Governor Smith.

It is very probable that Engineer J. W. Fletcher, who was killed when his car turned over near here Tuesday after a tire had blown out, would be living today if the usual barriers had been erected along high way No. 90.

Frank Page has resigned as chairman of the highway commission to accept a vice presidency with the Wachovia bank. Mr. Page's salary has been \$15,000. It is possible that he will get more with the bank, but his chief reason for resigning seems to be that the state does not longer need so expensive an employee to conduct the highway business, since it has reached that point where it can go without him.

TOWN AND COUNTY BRIEFS

Lexie Clark, Pittsboro's clever dairyman, is modernizing his dairy, thus giving greater assurance of a sanitary milk supply. He is spending a considerable sum in concreting his barn. Mr. Clark largely supplies the local demand for milk. He invites his customers to inspect the job when it is completed.

The Record has failed to note the return of Mr. D. L. Webster to the county as a permanent resident. He has brought the interests of the other heirs in the estate of his father, the late A. M. Webster, including

the dairy, and is residing at the old homestead. Mr. Webster has been employed in bridge construction work for several years.

75, died at her home near Ramser Mrs. Mattie J. Caviness, aged last Friday. She was a sister of Mrs. M. J. Jordan of Gulf, and Messrs. R. L. Dozsett of Siler City and J. L. Derstet, Mt. Vernon Springs. She was a member of Coleridge Methodist church for 50 years.

Hon. W. D. Siler came in Friday from Rowland, where he had the evening before delivered an address to a great crowd of stalwart democrats of that section of Robeson. He remained over here till after the election.

Sampson county is celebrating home coming week in connection with its great fair this week. Season tickets have been sent free to native Sampsonians living out of the county. The Weeks family and the Lance's have gone and it is possible that the editor will have slipped down for a day or two.

Mr. M. H. Woody is a little more hopeful of the cotton crop in Chatham than we expected to find him. He, as gin census man, reported 1390 bales ginned up to October 18. He thinks the total ginnings will go over 5000 bales, which will be a full half crop.

Mr. Grady Snipes did not feel at home at Biscoe and has come back to Pittsboro and taken a job with Mr. O. M. Poe.

The editor appreciates an invitation to be present Saturday at the unveiling of a marker, under the auspices of the D. A. R. at the House in The Horseshoe, the home of Col. Phillip Alston in Revolutionary days. The notorious Fanning attacked the home of his inveterate enemy, Col. Alston, but was beaten in the fray. Col. Alston after the Revolutionary war was killed in Georgia. Governor Williams afterwards occupied the house, and now it is the home of the clerk of court of Moore county. Bullet holes are said still to indicate the ferocity of Fanning's attack. There will be a worthwhile program. Col. Alston was a brother of the contemporary ancestor of Mr. Lacy Alston and the late Mrs. W. D. Siler, also probably of the contemporary ancestor of Capt. Alston, veteran, Seaboard engineer and Mrs. Evely Alston. Accordingly, the occasion takes on a local feature, and there will probably be a number of Chathamites present on the occasion. We learn also that the same relation exists with Mrs. Henry London and Miss Carrie Jackson, their grandmother being an Alston.

Mrs. Nancy Edwards died ten days ago at her home near Siler City. The burial was at Moon's chapel.

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