

Max Gardner Scorns Safety In "Political Storm Cellar"

FIRM IN STAND FOR AL SMITH

Tells Forest City Voters He Will Not Insure Great Majority by Turning Back on National Ticket

Denies He Doesn't Want Votes of Those Opposing Smith—Answers Mayor Flack

One of the largest crowds ever assembled to hear a politician speak in Forest City was present Monday night at the Cool Springs high school auditorium when O. Max Gardner, Democratic nominee for governor, spoke to the voters of Rutherford county.

Mr. Gardner, who was born in Rutherford county and whose grandfather represented this county in the legislature 64 years ago, was introduced by Rev. George R. Gillespie, the entire audience rising and cheering him when he was presented.

At the beginning of his address he answered the open letter of Mayor Charles Z. Flack of Forest City, which appeared in several state papers Monday morning, "in order that there would be no mistake."

Mr. Gardner was given the strictest attention throughout his masterly address, and was frequently given thunderous applause as he made telling points against the Republican party and took his manly stand for the national ticket.

The meeting was opened by County Chairman Ridings, who in a few well chosen words explained the purposes of the meeting. He then called upon Rev. G. R. Gillespie to introduce the speaker. Mr. Gillespie was given hearty applause. He was generous in his praise of our own beloved Max Gardner and strong in his support and loyalty to our next governor and the Democratic ticket—state and national.

Mr. Gardner spoke as follows:

Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am very grateful to my good friend for his kind and generous introduction to the magnificent audience of my friends, my neighbors, my relatives, my early associates in life, and I wish to offer my grateful acknowledgement for his very kind and generous introduction. You can never make a pretty woman happy to tell her so for she knows about it already, but to tell an ugly woman she is pretty, makes her happy, so if my friend, Bro. Gillespie wants to make me happy by his deliberate misrepresentations, I am happy.

I have been identified by blood in this county all my life, and by every tie that I now hold sacred, I feel closer to Rutherford county than to any other county in this State; and it gives me pleasure and great joy to come back and look into so many familiar faces.

Before I commence my argument of the evening, I want to take this occasion to answer the questions asked in today's papers by the Mayor of this town, Chas. Z. Flack. (His answer is found elsewhere in this paper.—Ed.)

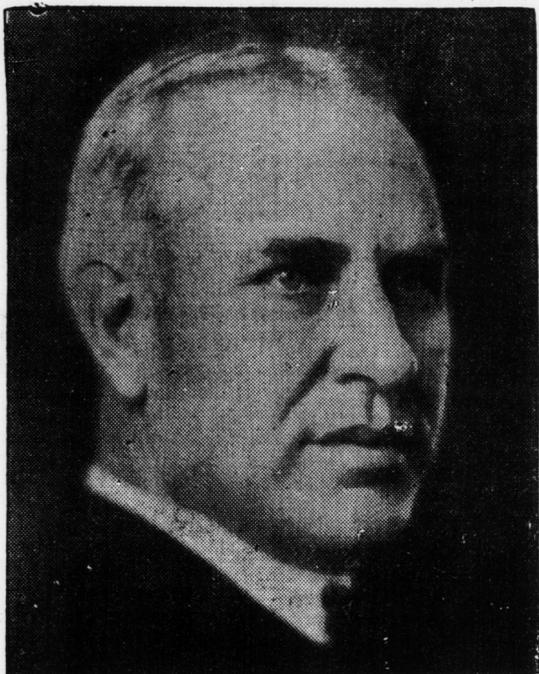
After reading his answer to Mr. Flack's questions, Mr. Gardner continued:

My friends I want to say in the very outset of this speech that I will try not to injure the feelings, nor bruise the conscience of anyone in this house. That is not my policy. I have never taken the position that all good people belong to the Democratic party. I have never, for instance, believed that Heaven was occupied exclusively by Democrats. I believe there are a few Republicans there, and I expect that before this campaign is over, I will wish they were all there.

A Gesture of Opposition

The story I want to bring to you is a joint story, or a story in parts, dealing with North Carolina and with

Stands Loyally By Ticket



O. Max Gardner, Democratic candidate for Governor, refuses to take refuge in any political storm cellar, or insure his election at the expense of disloyalty to the national ticket, he declares in an address Monday night at Forest City.

the nation. The Republican party is but making a gesture of opposition. I did not know until the other day that they were undertaking to make a fight in this State. I don't think I shall ever forget the first political convention I ever attended. I took Bro. Abernathy with me, a good old Methodist preacher, and a Democrat. I met him in Hickory, and he went with me to North Wilkesboro. We got to the convention and found that the delegates were loaded to the brim with everything but enthusiasm. He stayed at the convention awhile, but got tired and left. He was asked by one of the delegates on the street, "My friend, what are you a candidate for?" He said, "I am a candidate for the Kingdom of Heaven." The other man said, "You will shoo God be elected; no one is running against you." That is the way I feel about the campaign. No one running against me. Why should the Republican party offer opposition in this State.

Everywhere you go the great metropolitan papers of the country tell the story of North Carolina. The story of this State is truly epic. That is no fanciful story. There has been nothing like it in all the history of this state. It is the story of man everywhere. The Governors of Tennessee, Florida, Virginia and other states come here. The great scholars of the universe come to this state to study.

Educational Development

You take our process of education. There has never been anything like the regeneration of Education. Now in this state twenty-eight years ago, the average school term was thirty-eight days, and the teacher's salary was \$24.73 per month. At that time the total school value in this state was less than \$1,000,000.00. Now it is \$100,000,000.00. 29 per cent of the white people could not read or write. They sat in the bondage of illiteracy. That presents a vanished picture. At that time there were only thirty public schools in North Carolina. Less than 2,000 boys and girls in the public schools in the state. Then we had 1190 log school houses in North Carolina. Today we have none. North Carolina today presents a picture of reformed educational life. A life that shines on and on.

Progress of Road Building

In 1921 we did not have any good roads in this state. North Carolina has a bond issue of \$115,000,000.00. 7,500 miles of dependable roads have been constructed in this state under Democratic government. The re-

LOVELACE HEADS FOREST CITY BANK

Lumber Textile Magnate Succeeds Clarence M. Young, Deceased

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Farmers Bank & Trust Company of this city, held Friday afternoon, Dr. T. B. Lovelace was elected president to take the place of Clarence M. Young, who died last Monday of paralysis.

J. H. Thomas, who resigned as president July 10 to take over the executive management of the Chimney Rock Mountains, Inc., was elected vice-president at this time.

Dr. Lovelace, who is at present located at Macon, Ga., is one of the best known men in this section of the state. He is connected with several large cotton mills in this section and holds large interests in Gaffney, S. C., mills. He is also connected with several large lumber companies in Georgia and Alabama. Dr. Lovelace was associated with the late Raleigh R. Haynes, founder of the large Cliffside mills at Cliffside and was the first vice president of this organization, a position he held until going to Georgia. Dr. Lovelace was the first to suggest the organization of the Farmers Bank & Trust Co, which is now recognized as the strongest country bank in the Tenth Congressional district, and has been one of the largest stockholders since its organization in 1914.

markable thing about this is they connect the county seats of this state. At no time has there been suggested anything, anywhere, from any source, that the hands of a single man has been stained by corruption. That is a credit to North Carolina that will stand throughout the years.

I was talking with a Republican in New York who was from Pennsylvania, a corrupt state. My friend introduced me and said I would be the next Governor of North Carolina. He asked would there be any opposition. I said, "Very feeble." He said, "I drove through your state going to Florida and noticed the good roads, and upon inquiry found that the roads were built under the rule of the Democratic party. I also found that you had spent \$100,000,000.00 for roads. You ought to be able to (Continued on Last Page of This Section)

GARDNER QUIZZED BY FOREST CITY'S MAYOR IN LETTER

Asked Whether He Seeks Votes of Anti-Smith Faction in State

The following questionnaire was sent to Hon. O. Max Gardner, Democratic nominee for governor, Saturday by Mayor Chas. Z. Flack, of Forest City, who is a member of the anti-Smith Democratic Executive Committee, to be answered by Mr. Gardner, in his speech here Monday night.

The questionnaire follows:

Hon. O. Max Gardner, Democratic Candidate for Governor, Shelby, N. C.

Dear Sir:

It is reported that in your Bladen county speech you stated that you are supporting the Democratic ticket, (from Constable to President) and "will survive or perish with it."

There has been much comment in this section, as well as probably all over the State, as to just what was your full meaning. It is claimed by both those favoring Mr. Smith for President, as well as those opposing him, that you meant by this declaration that you wanted the votes only of Democrats who are supporting Governor Smith for the Presidency. Since you are running for Governor on the Democratic ticket and all Anti-Smith Democrats believe in opposing the election of Governor Smith they are representing the true Jeffersonian Democracy of the South and so far as I personally know it has been the intention of all Anti-Smith Democrats up to this time to vote a straight Democratic ticket in Township, County and State.

I believe it incumbent upon you to let the Democrats of the State know whether you are still standing by your initial speech in Boone or have you changed to the platform of Mr. Pete Murphy of Salisbury, whereby you want only the votes of Smith Democrats?

It is the opinion of many in Rutherford county that fully half the Democrats of this county will not vote for Governor Smith and it is the opinion of many that fully half, if not more, of the Democrats of the State will not vote for Governor Smith. May I ask, as a member of the Anti-Smith Democratic Committee from Rutherford county, that in your speech here Monday evening September 24th, you please make your position clear all Democrats of the State just what you did mean by the above declaration, and whether or not you want the votes of all Democrats in North Carolina.

It is my information, Mr. Gardner, that you were born in this good county and still have many relatives living here. I want to assure you, sir, I have no intention of causing you any embarrassment when you return to your home county, but believing you to be the clean two-fisted fighter that all North Carolinians consider you to be, I feel sure that you will be glad to make your position clear in regard to the above question.

CHAS. Z. FLACK Mayor of Forest City.

MR. J. L. COWAN DIES AT HOME IN DYSARTSVILLE

Dysartsville, Sept. 25.—Mr. J. L. Cowan, aged 82 years, died at his home Sunday after an extended illness. The funeral services were held Monday afternoon at Dysartsville.

Mr. Cowan is survived by three brothers, J. C. Cowan, of Rutherfordton, and Robert and Edward Cowan, of Dysartsville. His wife died sixteen years ago.

Mr. Cowan was a member of the Methodist church for sixty-three years. He was one of the largest property owners in his county. He has a number of other relatives in Rutherford county. Several from Spindale and Rutherfordton attended the funeral services Monday.

HON. O. MAX GARDNER WILL STAND BY PARTY'S LEADER, ALFRED E. SMITH

In Answering Mayor Flack's Letter Says He Is Unwilling to Drive Any Democrat From Party

O. Max Gardner replied in full detail to the questionnaire sent out by Mayor Flack in his speech here Monday night. His fair spirit in every respect made a lasting and pleasing impression upon his audience and left no doubt upon his stand upon the questions involved.

Mayor Flack issued a statement, found elsewhere in the Courier, Tuesday, in which he says he is well pleased with Mr. Gardner's reply.

In replying to Mayor Flack, Mr. Gardner said:

"When I reached home Sunday I received an open letter from my good friend, Charles Z. Flack, of Forest City, asking for an interpretation of my speech in Elizabethtown in which I am reported as having said that I was supporting the democratic ticket from constable to president and that I shall survive or perish with it. Mr. Flack writes that he is an anti-Smith democrat and a member of the anti-Smith executive committee and he wants me to say here tonight whether I am seeking the votes of all democrats in North Carolina and whether I have abandoned the policy taken in my Boone speech.

"I am glad to give my answer to his courteous letter and to make a fair and honest expression of my views. I have not abandoned the policy announced in my opening speech at Boone in which I said, that I was ready to fight to the limit, not for my convictions but for the right to have my convictions and that I freely concede this right to the humblest of my fellow citizens.

"It has been my policy, and shall continue to be my policy to loyally support the entire ticket of the democratic party in state and nation.

"I announced in my second speech of the campaign at Statesville that I would strive to the utmost of my ability to appeal to the loyalty and devotion of North Carolina democrats, to preserve our party solidarity and to cordially and unitedly support the entire ticket. I was asked the same question there that Mr. Flack has asked me here, that is, 'If there be democrats who will not support Governor Smith for president, do you want them to vote the county, district and state democratic ticket?'

"As leader of my party in this campaign, I do not hesitate to answer I most assuredly do. If a democrat cannot vote for me for governor, I do not want him to punish Zeb Weaver by not voting for him for congress. If a democrat cannot conscientiously vote for Governor Smith for president, I do not want him to punish the democratic sheriff of this county, nor the democratic state ticket, by declining to vote for either.

"Some of the best personal and political friends I have in North Carolina are opposed to the election of Governor Smith and while I differ with them, no words shall fall from my lips to drive anyone of them into the republican party. I can understand how a democrat might vote against me. I can understand how a democrat might vote against Governor Smith, but frankly I cannot understand, cannot penetrate the politics of a democrat who votes the republican ticket for Hoover. Just remember when you vote for Hoover you are not voting for a man, but voting to put the republican party in power.

"It has always been the policy of our leaders to enlist every vote possible for the democrat ticket, but party leaders have never made a campaign appeal based on a split or divided democracy and I hope never will. I never ask any democrat to vote for me and not vote for any other democrat, and I have

GARDNER'S REPLY IS SATISFACTORY TO MAYOR FLACK

Will Hold All Democrats to County and State Tickets Is The Mayor's Opinion

In an interview Tuesday, following Hon. O. Max Gardner's speech here Monday night, Mayor Chas. Z. Flack, member of the Anti-Smith Democratic Executive Committee, said:

"Mr. Gardner's reply to my questionnaire asking him if he still stood by his Boone speech or had adopted Mr. Pete Murphy's platform, whereby he wanted only the votes of those Democrats who would support Governor Smith, was perfectly satisfactory to me. As long as Mr. Gardner adheres to the text of his reply last night and delivers speeches as he delivered in Forest City, I am sure no Anti-Smith Democrat will have any criticism. Nor should any Smith Democrat have any criticism. Speeches like Mr. Gardner's last night will hold all Democrats to the county and state tickets in my opinion."

YOUNG VOTERS' CLUB TO BE ORGANIZED

A meeting will be held in the court house at Rutherfordton Thursday night (tonight) at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of organizing a young peoples' democratic club. Young voters of Rutherford county, of both sexes, are urged to be present. Mr. J. S. Massenberg, of Hendersonville, will be present and make a short talk. Short talks will be made by several others. The young democratic voters clubs are primarily for young people from 16 to 30.

SUCCESSFUL MONTH FOR KINDERGARTEN

The merry sunshine kindergarten, opened September 3rd with twenty-two pupils and has had an average daily attendance of twenty. Miss Nell Young the teacher is highly pleased with the progress the children are making. She has room for five or six more children and if any parents are interested, see her by Monday, October 1st, the beginning of the second month.

never set up such a rigid standard as to prevent even a republican from supporting a democratic candidate.

"This position is without doubt the policy of Governor Smith, himself. He has been elected governor of New York four times and while he always stood solidly behind the national ticket, he was never heard to say that he did not want the vote of democrats for governor who would not support his party's nominee for president. He has always received thousands of votes his democratic presidential candidate could not command.

"No one realizes better than I that I could be elected governor by an unprecedented majority if I would compromise my nomination, surrender my loyalty to the national ticket and duck into a political storm cellar while the lightning flash and the thunders reverberate, but I cannot and will not pay the price. I have tried for 20 years to equip myself by training, study and experience to make for North Carolina a good governor. I was unanimously nominated by my party for governor and I say in all humility without the least defiance, that I would go down to defeat before I would desert the leader of my party in this campaign."