

L.T. Smoot - Wed. Sept. 23, 1936

The "Farmer in the Dell" was the burden of the singing among all politicians today. The political gridiron is in the middlewest. And Governor Landon is right in the thick of it, literally. In Des Moines today he was taking full advantage of the reception given to his speech last night. The keynote of that, as you've probably heard, was his sentence, "History teaches us that the stability of civilization depends on the ownership of the land by the man who works the land." Then he went on to outline a policy for protecting particularly farms of the one-family type. The Republicans, he said, will concentrate on bringing help to such.

All day today Governor Landon was conferring with mid-western farm leaders. His tour will take him still further through the farm belt into Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, Democratic leaders were also considering the farmer in the dell. President Roosevelt had called a conference of Mr. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, and Edward A. O'Neal, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation. We understand

that they were considering crop insurance, drought relief, and numerous other agricultural problems. Secretary Wallace ~~has~~ been working on the speech he is going to deliver Friday night, answering Governor Landon's address from Des Moines.

The conference ~~xxxx~~ that the President has called for tomorrow will be frankly political. He ^{has} summoned the principal lieutenants of his campaign staff to Hyde Park to discuss campaign strategy.

Meanwhile, in Cincinnati, Father Coughlin is under heavy police guard. He arrived ^{there} at Cincinnati early this afternoon and went immediately to a hospital. There he was treated for a cold and an affliction of the stomach. He explained that the heavy police escort had been assigned to him because he had been receiving threats of assassination.

FORUM

I've just come from an extraordinary session of the Sixth Annual Forum of the NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE. I think Mr. Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for the presidency, summed it up most aptly. He was the first speaker ^{to that great crowd} in the ball-room of the Waldorf ~~this morning~~. And he opened his speech with the remark: "So far as I know, this is the first time since the historic debates between Abraham Lincoln and Steve^a Douglass, ^a that the candidates for the presidency of the United States have ~~addressed the same audience on any one occasion.~~" ~~faced each other.~~" That, I believe, is literally true. In addition to Norman Thomas, the speakers today were ^{Mr.} D. B. Colvin, Prohibitionist candidate; John W. Aiken, Socialist-Labor Party candidate, Earl Browder, nominee of the Communists. And this evening Governor Landon will ^{Speak} ~~send~~ a message ^{by radio} to the FORUM and of course President Roosevelt, broadcasting from his Mother's farm at Hyde Park, will officially close the Forum.

Only one candidate ~~was~~ missing, and ~~that was Mr.~~ ^{Mr.} Lemke, the nominee of the Union Party. He was to have been there this morning. ^{Mr. & Mrs. Ogden Reid of the Herald-Tribune, and} Mrs. William Brown Meloney, Chairman and organizer of this extraordinary affair, had chartered a special plane to bring ^{him} ~~Mr. Lemke~~ to New York. Unfortunately, the plane was

grounded

~~XXXXXX~~ ground by bad weather, ~~so the Union Party candidate couldn't be~~

~~there.~~ That I learned, is just a sample of the headaches Mrs.

Meloney has had in the amazing feat of rounding up all these ^{presidential} candidates. But Mr. Kenne got thru the fog this afternoon and made his speech just before Ex-President Hoover spoke.

~~Then, too, I witnessed the astounding spectacle of the day~~
^{was} Jim Farley, the sunny Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, sitting on the platform side by side with John D.M. Hamilton, ^{the sunflower} Chairman of the Republicans. There they were, chatting as though they were the best of friends. It was they and Ex-President Hoover who made the principal speeches of the afternoon.

The audience interested me almost as much as the speakers. It was composed largely of what Mr. Roosevelt calls the "economic royalists". But it was strikingly noticeable that they gave not only a polite but a cordial reception to Norman Thomas, the Socialist, Colvin, the Prohibitionist, and even Earl Browder, the Communist. Of course, it must be admitted that Republican Mr. Hamilton got the ~~greatest~~ ^{- of Mr. Hoover} ovation of all.

^{But,} It was probably the first time that many in that fashionable clad

audience had ever seen a Communist. The consequence was that Mr. Browder was obviously careful. He tried to reassure his hearers, said the Communists had no thoughts or hopes of being able to win immediately. What they did hope for was a progressive platform under the present capitalistic system. Norman Thomas, on the other hand, was far more outspoken. He politely but caustically kidded his audience. One of his cracks in particular got a laugh. He mentioned that Mr. Lemke, in addition to running for president for the Union Party, was also going to run for Congress as a Republican. Raising his hands in benediction, he exclaimed: "God save your party, you Herald-Tribune Republicans!"

EUROPE

Madrid is practically in a state of siege. With the Rebels almost hammering on the gates, the ancient capital created by King Philip the Second is like a beleaguered city. ^{tonight.} To the north, the Fascists have reached the River Deva, twenty-eight miles away; in the south the government troops have been forced to reform their line of battle at a point only twenty miles from the capital.

More grim and sensational yet is the ^{rumor} ~~news~~ from Toledo. The latest dispatches, which ^{may} appear to be authentic, report fierce fighting in the streets with the Spanish Foreign Legion and an army of savage Moors entering the ancient stronghold. ^{(The rumor is that} The Rebels ^{have driven} ~~promptly drove~~ through to the Alcazar, where fifteen hundred Rebels with their families were still hiding in the subterranean ruins of the ancient palace. An old Spanish saying tells us why they were able to hold out so long after the government forces had blown ^{up} the Alcazar ~~up~~. The saying is: "The Toledo Alcazar is as deep as it is high.") That accounts for their long resistance.

The Rebels are also approaching the outskirts of Oviedo,

where one of the two largest munition factories in Spain is established. They are also advancing upon Erbar, near San Sebastian, a site of another great arsenal.

And there's food for grave thought in the bulletins from Geneva. The Ethiopian question will not be taken to the World Court. The League decided to settle it without going to The Hague. The Credentials Committee voted ten to one to recognize the right of Haile Selassie's delegates to sit in the League Assembly. That's by way of being a victory for Haile Selassie. Though the chances are about a thousand to one against its ~~helping~~ helping to restore the lost kingdom. Of course we now ask: "What will Mussolini do?" That's not so hard to guess. He has made it ~~quite~~ clear that he will not allow delegates from Italy to take part in any sessions attended by the Ethiopians.

Also
~~Earlier News~~ indicates Europe is ~~also~~ alarmed today by *Confirmation of the* news from Majorca, largest of the Balearic Islands. *as* Italians, the rumor goes, are in virtual control of that ~~xxx~~ island, *held* *by an officer* It is now in command of a lieutenant of the Italian Air Force.

This seems to confirm the rumor current a couple of months ago, the rumor of a dicker between the Spanish Rebel

leader, General Francisco Franco, on the one side, Mussolini and Hitler on the other. The report was that in return for help, Franco, if victorious, would give Mussolini a foothold in the Balearics and Hitler a lease on the port of Ceuta, on the African side of the ~~Six~~ Straits of Gibraltar.

CHINA

~~Just as~~ *ominous* ~~is the~~ news from China. Another outbreak of hate, this time in Shanghai. A Japanese sailor shot, two of his companions seriously injured. Promptly, the landing party of Japanese marines was strongly reenforced and a few hours later Japan declared martial law in its part of the International Settlement at Shanghai.

More than two thousand marines have been landed *from* Japanese warships, and two Japanese men-o-war are on their way to Hankow, where a Japanese consular policeman was murdered.

DIAMONDS

All over the world, there seems to be an epidemic of world's fairs. Chicago led off a couple of years ago with its Century of Progress Exposition. Next year San Diego followed suit with the California Pacific International World's Fair. This year Texas held its Centennial at Dallas, with Fort Worth putting up a ribald rival show.

Meanwhile, Cleveland is out-done by none with her Great Lakes Exposition. And that's by no means the end. Two years from now Father Knickerbocker, for the first time in his ~~his~~ history, is going to have a world's fair for himself and it promises to be a monster. And San Francisco is going to have a big celebration when those two ^{giant} ~~big~~ bridges across the Golden Gate are finished. Los Angeles, always jealous of Frisco, is going to offer a rival show as soon as the waters impounded by Boulder Dam have made the arid lands of southern California productive.

But, you'll have to travel all the way to Johannesburg, South Africa, to see the most eye-opening of all exhibits. The Union of South Africa is holding an ~~exhibition~~ ^{exhibition} at the present moment. They call it the "Empire Exhibition." The big show of that, is ^{the} a hall of jewels, hundreds of thousands of Pounds' worth,

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of the most beautiful diamonds in the world. They are bringing the famous DeBeers collection from Kimberley, where so many huge diamonds are found. And that's quite an event, for that DeBeers collection has never been shown to the public. ~~In fact, you'll have to be a person of considerable influence to be admitted.~~

It includes several ²wopping great diamonds, some of them weighing two hundred karats or more.

However, it's quite a jaunt from the U.S.A. to Joburg, as the South Africans call the capital of their goldfields.

DAHLIA

Until today, I never knew that the dahlia was one of the plants that the world owes to America. It takes its name, of course from "Dahl", a once-famous Swedish botanist. But Europe never saw a dahlia until Seventeen Eighty-Nine, when the first seeds were exported from Mexico. From those seeds sprang most of the hundreds of modern varieties.

I happened to find this out because I saw this morning the grandfather of all ~~the~~ dahlias. It's a little scarlet flower, about two inches in diameter. It was the seeds from that dahlia that were sent to Spain from Mexico in Seventeen Eighty-Nine. I happened to see it at the Dahlia Show at Horticultural Hall, in the R.C.A. Building, Rockefeller Center. ^{There} I ~~xxx~~ ran across thousands upon thousands of the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen. Some ~~of them~~ measured over a foot in diameter, and some ~~of them~~ are only an inch across. And the ancestor of them all, is that little scarlet flower about two inches in diameter that comes from Mexico. The Dahlia Show is a part of International Week, which is being celebrated at Rockefeller Center. All the buildings comprising Radio City are decorated with the flags of all the nations. Fifty-two of them.

BASEBALL

That was ^{an} ~~a pretty~~ exciting ball game at Baker Bowl in Philadelphia this afternoon. In fact, I've seldom seen the end of the season with so much suspense in it. When the Giants started their double-header at Baker Bowl yesterday most of the fans thought that they would make sure of at least a tie, if not ~~a victory~~ ^{the pennant before nightfall last night.}. All they needed for a certain tie was to ^{split} ~~slip~~ that double-header. But what an afternoon that was at Baker ~~Kinkax~~ Bowl. Bill Terry, the old master, obviously was saving his best pitchers, holding them in reserve. What happened to the second and third string slingers he put on the mound yesterday is baseball history. He didn't bring Harold Shoemaker out of the bull pen until the second game was already almost hopelessly lost.

So today it ~~just~~ had to be a different story. But at that there were moments in the eighth and ninth innings when it looked as though the tail-end Quakers were about to bring another upset and knock the conquering Giants off for a third important game.

With Champion Carl Hubbell on the mound it was

easy going at first for those Giants. Up to the end of the seventh he had ^{the} ~~those~~ Phillies shut out ⁵ ~~seven~~ to nothing.

The Giants had knocked Sivess out of the box in the fourth to be replaced by Jorgens. ~~But~~ [§] in the Phillies half of the eighth the Giant fans started to groan. Mighty Hubbell began to weaken. Then with the bases full Bucky Walters who did such a swell job of both hitting and pitching yesterday made a sacrifice. That brought a run over the plate. One run, two runs, three runs for the Phillies. Were the Giants going to crack again and give a repetition of ^{their fizzle} ~~that awful~~

~~showing that they made yesterday?~~ After those three runs Hubbell tightened up. ~~§~~ But in the ninth danger threatened again. The first man up to bat was Dolph Camille who distinguished himself yesterday ~~by~~ by hitting his twenty-seventh homer and the most ~~XXXXXXXX~~ tremendous homer ever seen at Baker Bowl. But yesterday he wasn't ~~g~~ facing Carl Hubbell. However, this afternoon in the ninth he took the first pitch that Hubbell threw him and wham -- slammed it out of the park again for his twenty-eighth home run. Now the score was five

to four. We can imagine what the tension must have been at

~~Baker Bowl.~~ But ^{After} giving away that one homer the old
master on the mound ^{passed the next baton and then} tightened up again. The last ~~xxx~~ three

Philadelphias ~~batsmen~~ fell in quick succession, giving the Giants

the game, which ^{means} is a sure tie for the penant no matter what

the Cardinals^s or Cubs may do. And, it put them within one

game of clinching that pennant and their share of the World

Series money. <

All over the country you'll be hearing Carl Hubbell

fans cheering tonight. It was his sixteenth straight victory,

his twenty-sixth ^{for the season.} ~~in succession.~~ As the Cards didn't play

today that restores the Giants to a five and a half game lead.

PEDESTRIANS

Motor car drivers will be glad to learn a piece of news from North Carolina. There have been plenty of plans to teach motorists to drive safely. But hitherto it has never occurred to anybody to teach pedestrians to walk safely. Anybody who has ever driven, can testify to the terrifying effects of the carelessness of some people who use the highways on foot, people who walk abroad in dark clothes at night and never observe the rule of the road, which is that they should walk facing the traffic so their faces at least may be seen. Many is the fatal accident caused by a motor car driver having to swerve suddenly in order to avoid striking someone afoot. And here it is time for me to go out and dodge traffic on fifth avenue-----

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.