

Saw Mr. Young at his office. Specially cordial. Told him that I should vote for him, if he was nominated, but I thought I might vote for Gov. Smith if he was nominated, but I was too much of a Mugwump to decide now. Easy to talk with him, full of life and humor.

Told him what I had on hand, and that I wanted to know just what his attitude was on the Water Power authority of which Gov. Smith talks and which, he said, Young approved of.

He tells me that some time ago the Gov. asked him to come to Albany to talk about water power. He says the Gov's interest has been growing ^a one, he began to talk about it before he thought or knew much about it, that some of the things he said come back to tease him, but that it has been a steady growth in his mind.

Young said, "Well, I believe that if the water power should become controlled by the legislature, that is, its development and control got into politics, that you would have an impossible situation, that there would be change of authority and change of appropriation. Appropriations might be refused for one year when you were in the middle of an important work, that if the electric power were a fully developed industry and standardized like the railroads, it might be possible for the government to manage it successfully, but I do not see the legislature of N.Y. doing it yet awhile."

The Gov. said, "Hell! Don't you suppose I know that?"

Then he asked him what about regulation. He said that if it was a matter of developing the water power of the St. Lawrence, that he believed it could be done in this way. There are four governments interested in the St. Lawrence power - Canada, the U.S., Ontario and New York. Ontario already is committed to state ownership of water power. Anything done would have to be done with

that government. It would be practically impossible for private interests to develop a power dam with Ontario - quite, possible, however, for the state of New York to do so; that, in his judgment, it would be possible for the states to own the full stock of a dam and to raise the funds, not by taxation but by going into the money market. This, of course, is what Smith is preaching - a bond issue; that under the contracts made this money would be spent without political interferences, that is, it really would be a corporation handling the money.

Here you have Young at once at what he calls economic regulation not political, and he thinks that entirely possible.

I mentioned the fact that Smith has said that if he (the Governor) is a Socialist in this matter, then Young is. Young says that neither of them are because they go into the market for their money. Socialists would take the money direct from the people by taxation for the state power development.

He told the Gov. that while he would be willing to approve the water power authority so far as the St. Lawrence was concerned, that he did not think that it could be wisely or advantageously applied to the small water powers in the interior of the State. In the case of the St. Lawrence you have a million or more H.P. - this power is owned by the State. His idea is that it should be sold to distributing companies, that the State could regulate the prices at which it was sold; but in the case of the small powers they would have to become their own distributing agency. He said, supposing such and such a water power in the interior was developed. You could not afford to bring the power to Albany to light the capitol. He speaks of the development of power that already is going on in what he calls the River District development (Look up proper ^{title} people) Says

that under this law that most of the ^{water} power of the state is actually taken care of. Niagara, it seems, is in a different case, franchises having been granted before there was any well developed plans for preserving the power. When Smith talks of water power authority he doesn't of course distinguish between the small powers and the St. Lawrence. As I understand it, Young doesn't believe the former practical though he does the latter; but not to quote him. It might be misunderstood all around, he being, as he said, laughingly, tarred with the power trust.

I asked him to tell me confidentially what kind of a President Smith would make. He said, "I think he would make a very good one. But there are two things that I don't like. First, I am a little afraid of the Gov's habits - of taking too much liquor, at times. There would be the possibility of his making some public and painful exhibit." "But," he hastened to say, "he never has done that, and probably as president there would be less danger of his doing so. The second is that I don't like the gang that would gather about him in the White House. Here is something that will interest you and show you what I mean.

The other day Mayor Walker asked me to come to the City Hall, wanted to talk to me about Transit. I found him at his desk, the whole top of it covered with papers. He said, 'Look here. These papers are all about the transit question.' I said 'Are you going to go through them?' 'Of course, not,' he said, 'I haven't the time. If you were here instead of me, you would have the time. But you will never be elected. I can be elected because I am Jimmie to a horde of people; but the fact that I am Jimmie prevents me from giving the time to these papers. I have got to remain Jimmie, and if I do that I must go when I am sent for - to a ward meeting, a caucus, what not. If you were here, and they sent to you to go to a ward meeting, you would say, No. I can't go, I am busy with the transit question. You could do

that because you never were Jimmie but I can't do it."

"That is," Young went on to say, "he has to stay in with his gang. Al has to remain Al to his gang; and he would have to do it, to a degree, in the White House. And I would not like the look of the thing."

I remarked that I would much prefer it to the gang that surrounded Harding. He said, heartily and sincerely, "So would I. ^{Smith's} That/gang while they looked worse on the surface would be much cleaner inside than Harding's gang."

His office is 25 stories up at 120 Broadway, and as I looked out of the window I remarked on what I thought was the extraordinary beauty that New York is developing in spite of itself. That we didn't know what we were doing, that it was an American something, and it did seem to me that possibly there were many things happening more important than architecture, happening in industrial life, in which we were getting amazing developments without knowing that was where we were headed for. I said that the thing that took me in Smith was the pure Americanism of him, that it was still possible for us to do this thing, to have it come right out from the bottom.

After our talk, he said, "You said something that impressed me very much and you ought to emphasize it in your article, that Smith is the most American of products, and that when the Klan in the name of Americanism fights him they are fighting Americanism itself." I told him that that fact is what has taken hold of me and I am interested in trying to write a little something on him as I see him. I asked him if he thinks there is any danger in the fact that Smith is a Catholic. He laughed in derision. "Of course not," he said. "The very fact that we can put a Catholic into the White House is giving honor to Americanism."

Didn't get around to law enforcement. Strong impression of a delightful individual and a clear thinking one and a powerful one. Probably there will be no mistake at all in nominating him; and if he gets it, as John Dunlap hopes, he will give any other candidate a great run for their money.