"He's Our Al" Sung by Democratic Delegations

New York, Massachusetts and Connecticu: Delegates to Use Broadway Music Corp. Song on Way to Convention

As Democrats from all parts of the country commence to file into Houston for the convention to decide the party's nomination for president, the Broadway Music Corp., New York, headed by Will Von Tilzer, finds itself with an Al Smith song which is live in possibilities. The number, "He's Our Al," released a few weeks ago, has been taking on rapidly at various Democratic gatherings in the East, and is winning favor not only through its singable melody, but by its tone of praise for Alfred E. Smith as a great leader.

Restaurant and theatre orchestras have been particularly fond of the song because of its adaptability for "coulumb" work in special presentations. One of these, Loew's Melba Theatre orchestra in Brooklyn, under the direction of Frank Silver, composer of "Yes, We Have No Bananas," has been using the song in a stage presentation which has created much enthusiasm.

Mr. Von Tilzer, who is well known for his thoroughness in working out national campaigns on popular numbers, has not been idle and has found Democratic bodies in various States responsive to "He's Our Al." The following letter from Charles H. McGee, chairman of the Democratic State Committee, Boston, Mass., is a good sample of the kind that have been received. The letter follows: "I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 8, enclosing a copy of your new song 'He's Our Al.' To your concluding paragraph you desire me the orchestrations and chorus slips I will see that they are distributed throughout these delegations on board the Shawnee and we certainly can make use of them on the trip to Houston and return."

Simon Van Lier Visits American Music Trade

General Manager of Publishing Division, Keith, Prowse & Co., Ltd., London, Attends the Conventions

Simon Van Lier, general manager of the publishing division of Keith, Prowse & Co. Ltd., London, England, was a visitor at the conventions of the National Association of Sheet Music Dealers and Music Publishers' Association last week in New York. Mr. Van Lier arrived here recently for the purpose of making a business trip through the country as far as San Francisco, and expects to spend the next few weeks calling on many of the large Western publishers as well as important retail and jobbing houses.


Mr. Van Lier states that England's tastes in popular tunes and dance music follow those of the United States, but that it is generally four or five months behind us. The fox-trot, the "Black Bottom" and the Charleston have all found their way into favor with England's younger set, but the tango has never proved a particular fad in the British Isles any more than here. England has some good dance composers and show song writers, but most of them follow America's leads. Such American composers as Gershwin, Donaldson, Youmans and Rodgers are enjoying a very strong vogue in England at present.

F. B. Haviland Sues Doubleday, Page & Co.

F. B. Haviland, New York music publisher and former partner of the late Paul Dresser, has entered suit against the book publishing firm of Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, for $25,000, claiming infringement on his copyright of "Low Bridge, Everybody Down," also known as "Fifteen Years on the Erie Canal." Sigmund Spaeth, popular lecturer and author on musical subjects, also is involved in the court action, as the suit revolves around a book compiled by Spaeth entitled "Read 'Em and Weep," which is published by the Doubleday-Page house. The "Erie Canal" ditty was incorporated in "Read 'Em and Weep" without Haviland's permission. Haviland copyrighted the song in manuscript form in 1912, and in sheet music form the following year. The Doubleday-Page concern is opposed to paying damages on the ground that the "Erie Canal" number was in circulation long before Mr. Haviland copyrighted it.

New Store Opened

A new music store, called the Music Shop, has been opened in Gainesville, Fla., by Parker & Miller, of Jacksonville, handling Cable pianos, Columbia and Victor phonographs and records.