

other citizens, I have decided views as to policies and as to candidates, but I shall refrain from expressing them until I believe it is proper for me to do so. Upon this statement I am entirely content to leave the people to draw their own conclusions regarding such rumors as those to which I have referred. If, in the future, I shall decide to be a candidate for any office I shall be prepared to say so frankly and state the grounds upon which I ask for support. In the meantime I shall try, as I have tried in the past, to conduct the treasury department for the benefit of the people of the whole country, and absolutely without regard to whether any action I may take in the line of my duty may adversely affect my personal or political welfare."

FOLLOWING MR. Cortelyou's statement Frank H. Hitchcock, first assistant postmaster general, issued a statement. Mr. Hitchcock was one of the men whom rumor charged with disloyalty to Mr. Roosevelt. An Associated Press dispatch under date of Washington, December 18, says: "In breaking the silence he has maintained for several weeks respecting statements concerning him that have been made from time to time, Mr. Hitchcock says the statement of Secretary Cortelyou, published today, disposes of the charge that he ever has been disloyal in any manner to President Roosevelt. He declares that any such charge is absolutely false and that the president knows it to be, having told him so. Mr. Hitchcock's statement is as follows: 'I have read Secretary Cortelyou's statement as published in the morning papers. I am sure that the public will accept it as a truthful declaration of a thoroughly sincere man. It disposes of the charge that I have been in any manner disloyal to the president. That charge is absolutely false; in fact, the president has told me he knows it to be false. I do not care to discuss the matter further. I should not say even this, were it not for the apprehension that some people who are unfamiliar with the facts may be misled by the statements circulated.'"

THE FOLLOWING Washington dispatch from the not always reliable New York World may, or may not, throw a little light on the subject: "Frank H. Hitchcock, first assistant postmaster general, will not hereafter be permitted to handle the enormous patronage of the postal service, which up to this time has been utilized to build up a great political machine for Secretary Cortelyou in the south. President Roosevelt has notified Postmaster General Myer that all nominations coming from his department will be accepted prima facie as having his unqualified indorsement. Large batches of nominations of postmasters have reached the White House, all chosen by Mr. Hitchcock, without consultation with Mr. Myer, and the president has sent them to the senate. Until the disclosures which preceded his latest formal declination of a third term the president did not realize that all these nominations were for the sole purpose of aiding Cortelyou. He supposed they came along as a matter of routine, and that in many instances Mr. Myer knew of the selections made. It developed that Mr. Myer was devoting his attention exclusively to other department affairs. One reason why Mr. Roosevelt rushed his third-term statement on the public so long before he had intended to was the discovery that Secretary Cortelyou was advancing his political aspirations through the financial interests in New York. The president saw himself in danger of being put in a false position. Everything that Cortelyou was doing politically was in the president's name and ostensibly to secure a third term for him. The president saw that a movement ostensibly in his behalf which was engineered through the big financial interests he had been fighting was sure to bring himself into discredit. He determined that whatever Cortelyou did to injure Taft should no longer be done in his name."

MR. CORTELYOU is having trouble in other directions. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "Justice Gould of the district supreme court today cited George B. Cortelyou, secretary of the treasury, to appear in court January 3, to show cause why he should not be enjoined from turning over or delivering the balance of the \$21,450,000 of the Panama canal bonds to certain banks and persons to whom he had announced allotments. The citation issued by Justice Gould is based on a petition filed by George W. Austin of New York, who describes himself as a taxpayer and property owner in the United States and who declares

he made a proposal to purchase bonds of the advertised issue of the face value of \$3,000,000. He avers he had agreed to pay at the rate of 103.375 and accrued interest per \$100 and on notice of the acceptance of his subscription stands ready to deposit the amount with the assistant treasurer at New York. Mr. Austin informs the court that he had been advised through the public press that in direct violation of the statutes and in absolute disregard of the treasury department's circular of the \$25,000,000 of the bonds allotted only \$1,000,000 were allotted to persons who were individual bidders, and who, in accordance with the statutes and said circular, were given an equal opportunity to subscribe therefor, the remaining \$24,000,000 were allotted to divers national banks and only \$3,550,000 of which were allotted to banks which had offered a higher price than that bid by him. When he learned that his bid had been ignored and no allotment made to him he says he complained to the department and the response convinces him of the secretary's intention to disregard the statutes and thereby commit a malfeasance for which he says Mr. Cortelyou is not a man of sufficient means to answer to the citizens of the United States and to him."

A DES MOINES, Ia., dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald says: "The Cummins-Dolliver controversy over the alleged promise of the governor not to be a candidate for the United States senate against Allison means much in Iowa to the democratic party. The clash of these two men has opened anew the sore in the republican party. It has split wide open the republican organization which republicans had hoped had been welded together again. It means that next fall the democrats will elect several congressmen, it means they will gain a stronger grip on the state legislature, it means they may succeed in electing several state officers and it may mean that Iowa will give its support to the democratic candidate for president. When Dolliver charged Cummins with violating a promise, Governor Cummins came back with no mild explanation. It was a challenge to battle, a flat announcement that he is a candidate for the senate and an offer to discuss his former promises to republicans in the campaign. Because of the attitude Dolliver has taken it will mean he will have to return to Iowa and enter the campaign in behalf of his colleague Allison. In doing this Governor Cummins will find him an opponent and has threatened to expose a few things about Dolliver. The governor says that Dolliver many times himself said that Allison's condition would not permit of him serving another term and claims he told Cummins' friends here that he expected the governor would be his colleague in the next senate. Governor Cummins says he kept his promise not to take Dolliver's place at the hands of the last legislature. He has been given the credit largely of yielding to Dolliver. A member of the last legislature who was active in the last republican factional fight and who says he will enter the field again if necessary has declared this is not true."

AN ELDORA, Iowa, dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald gives to democrats this pleasant reminder: "At his country home near here, in Grundy county, Hon. Horace Boies, Iowa's former democratic governor, is this week celebrating his 80th birthday, and is in receipt of letters and telegrams of congratulation from prominent men all over the country. Mr. Boies loves his farm and farm life and spends the major portion of his time on the big farm near Grundy Center. There are nearly 3,000 acres in the estate, and the land is as good as may be found in the whole of Iowa and would bring \$150 an acre if placed upon the market. Here it is that Farmer Boies, as he is wont to be called, loves to live among his tenants and their cattle and live stock."

REFERRING TO Mr. Roosevelt's centralization speeches, Governor Vardaman of Mississippi says: "If that means anything it means that whenever the party in power wants to do anything the constitution shall not be in the way of doing it. It can be stretched out, or shoved in, as the exigencies of the presidential or party will may demand. Nearly a hundred years ago Mr. Jefferson saw the dangers of such a policy and called the attention of future generations to it. If the constitution does not fit present conditions and a change is necessary, then in the name of candor and honesty, let the constitution be changed by amendment and

not by legislative or judicial construction. I am more convinced now than ever before that a constitutional convention ought to be called and certain changes made in the constitution to suit the conditions that confront us today and were not dreamed of by the framers of the constitution of 1787. I would not call a convention for the purpose of changing the constitution to suit the ideas of Mr. Roosevelt, for I am very much opposed to the concentration of authority at Washington; but I believe that, unless a convention is called and the constitution amended, the change which Mr. Roosevelt desires to make by construction may be carried out, and when once the barriers are broken down and all regard for the constitution as originally written shall be thrown to the winds and the fiat of the presidential will shall be the only chart to guide us, the republic will be on the verge of dissolution, or perhaps on the high road to imperialism. The brakes must be applied or the republic is lost, and it can only be done by the people through a constitutional convention."

A WASHINGTON City dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald tells this interesting story: "That Nebraska is really to be made the locus of a highly significant contest involving control of the delegation to the republican national convention is becoming the firm conviction here. The Taft people want Nebraska, and claim an especial right to it by reasons of their securing resolutions in the state convention last summer. But the LaFollette movement is giving the Taft people much concern in the middle west. It is reported that since the president took himself out of the situation LaFollette is widely regarded as a most typical representative of Roosevelt policies, and the tendency toward him in Minnesota and Kansas is reported to be giving Taft managers much concern. Nebraska and Kansas are to be looked after at once and the LaFollette people now have emissaries working there. The Taft folks are watching this state closely and it is reported that from their Columbus, O., headquarters they have taken steps to keep the state lined up. Minnesota is apparently pretty hopeless. The LaFollette people got in early and have a powerful support with Roosevelt out there. In short the question of LaFollette vs. Taft is serious in several states, including Iowa, and, it is reported, Oklahoma. If LaFollette should by some accident pry two or three of these states off he would have a capital in the convention on which the Taft organization has been counting and which would gravely weaken Taft. Whence the deep concern at Taft headquarters."

DEXTER MARSHALL has written for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and other newspapers an interesting article entitled "How Quay brought about the nomination of Roosevelt for the vice presidency in 1900." Mr. Marshall says that Mr. Roosevelt was nominated for vice president "single handed by the late Matthew Stanley Quay of Pennsylvania and for a reason which he then explained to no one." Adding "the notion that the nomination was compassed by Thomas Collier Platt is a mistake." Mr. Marshall says that Quay forced Roosevelt's nomination by threatening to push a resolution which would cut down the southern representation in the republican national convention. And sooner than submit to this Mr. Hanna withdrew his opposition to Mr. Roosevelt and his nomination followed.

A BIRMINGHAM, Ala., dispatch to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (rep.) says: "Walker Percy, a prominent democrat and representative of several large corporations in Alabama, is the leader of a movement which has gained much strength to work against Alabama sending a Bryan delegation to the national democratic convention. He denies a statement that there is to be an effort to organize another party or to strengthen the republican party, but says that the fight is to be made in the democratic party. He said that some years ago some men who had not affiliated with the republican party had made an effort to get into that organization, but the action of President Roosevelt in deciding against the ill white crowd and allowing the party to be an office-holding party pure and simple prevented it. Three hundred prominent business men, manufacturers and others signed the petition to work against a Bryan delegation. Julius Davidson, one of the republican chairmen, states tonight that many anti-Bryan democrats will join the republicans."