

CURRENT TOPICS

THROUGH Walter Wellman, Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, who made a special trip to St. Paul, Governor Johnson of Minnesota announced his candidacy for the democratic nomination for the presidency. Mr. Wellman says: "At last it has been borne in upon the mind of this sincere and earnest, but ambitious, man (Governor Johnson) that it has raised for him a question of duty." In a second letter Mr. Wellman says that there are six hundred thousand Scandinavian votes in the United States and that Governor Johnson will be certain to receive these votes. Mr. Wellman says that Governor Johnson's friends promise that Minnesota will instruct its delegation to the national convention to present Mr. Johnson as a candidate.

A WASHINGTON dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald and under date of March 20 follows: "With hope renewed by action of the New York state committee in adopting almost unanimously a resolution in favor of an uninstructed delegation to the national convention, the anti-Bryan democrats of the east are redoubling their efforts to prevent the nomination of the Nebraskan. The two-thirds rule offers the key to the situation. With New York and Pennsylvania figured on to send uninstructed delegations to Denver, with Minnesota to send a Johnson delegation and with little Delaware assured to Gray, the anti-Bryan politicians are looking to all of New England, to Ohio and to West Virginia to join in and prevent Bryan from having the necessary two-thirds majority on the first roll call. If the result can be delayed beyond the first call of the roll Bryan's enemies believe they will have him licked. The anti-Bryanites are talking about carrying out their program without the aid of the south to start with, figuring that when it is developed that Bryan can't get two-thirds the southern leaders will begin to throw strength to somebody else. Governor Johnson is the most prominent factor in the somebody else line right now. Developments in New York and elsewhere are not the only significant things. Several democrats of national prominence have been in Washington during the week and have talked with democratic members of the house and senate. James M. Guffey, the leader of the Pennsylvania democracy, was one of them. Jefferson Levy, who has taken Bourke Cockran's place on the Tammany Hall committees, was another. David B. Hill, who declares he is out of politics and who was in Washington on a case before the supreme court, also talked. It is said that Mr. Guffey's and Mr. Levy's conferences had to do with efforts to prevent Mr. Bryan obtaining a two-thirds vote in the national convention and to enable the democrats in that assemblage to pause and take stock of political conditions before selecting a candidate."

IN A LETTER under date of St. Paul, Minn., March 27, and addressed to the publisher of the Swedish American Post of Minneapolis, Governor Johnson announces his candidacy for the democratic nomination for the presidency. In this letter Mr. Johnson said: "Matters have progressed so far, however, that it seems to me that I should at least say, in answer to your interrogation, that if the democratic party of the nation believe me to be more available than any other man, and felt that by my nomination I could contribute any service to the party and to the nation, I should be happy to be the recipient of the honor which has been paid me by the people of Minnesota, and if the democratic party of the state desires to present my name to the next national convention, I am sure I would have no objection; but even if Minnesota were the only state to declare for me at that time, I should still feel that the distinction was one of the greatest which could come to me."

A N ASSOCIATED Press dispatch under date of Washington, March 24, follows: "If Mr. John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, the minority leader, makes good his warning given in the house of representatives today the republicans will be forced to pass certain legislation or else meet with obstruction at every turn by him or his democratic colleagues. Mr. Williams declared that up to now the republicans have had smooth sailing. He did not want the country to think that the minority was trying to assume responsibility for legislation. He did not want to appear as trying to coerce the majority until the republicans had absolutely demonstrated before the country that they did not intend to do anything at this session." He said that he had waited for the republicans to do something. "I have finally come to the conclusion that the republican party has forgotten to do anything. It has become the party of negation and of passivity, and, as far as I can see, has no idea of doing anything. It is plain now that without some method of parliamentary coercion you are going to be deaf to every demand of the country." Mr. Williams announced that "from this moment on for the balance of the session coercion is going to be exercised." No recommendation for unanimous consent on the part of the republicans, he said, would be granted unless it would be to adjourn or take a recess "until the majority shows that it is sufficiently alive to the demands of the country" to report for consideration in the house such measures as an employers' liability bill; some bill for the publicity of campaign contributions; a free wood pulp and free print paper bill and a bill against exparte injunctions acting as a supersedeas of the law passed by a sovereign state."

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A BITTER WAR is on among Iowa republicans. At the recent state convention some of Governor Cummins' strongest opponents were chosen delegates to the national convention and the delegation was instructed for Taft. The Des Moines Capital, edited by Lafe Young, who was chosen one of the delegates-at-large, makes public a statement which it says was prepared by a Cummins leader and read and approved by Governor Cummins himself. This statement according to the Capital, was delivered to the Iowa leader of the Taft forces. In this statement the Cummins men complained that in their "progressive" program they had received no help from the national administration. Following are extracts from this statement: "But it is a fact that the Iowa progressives have received no encouragement or assistance whatever from the national administration; on the contrary, they have been winning their victories, as they feel, despite the national administration. The whole power of the federal government and federal patronage in this state has been against the progressives. They recognize the fact that Roosevelt took a cabinet officer from this state after he had been defeated and his faction discredited. There is no resentment from this, but the progressives do not want to help another man to the presidency who will undertake to be progressive and to accomplish the right things and yet will make it harder for Iowa republicans to carry out reforms at home."

REFERRING TO Editor Lafe Young the Cummins statement says: "He is perhaps the most offensive standpatter and corporation man in the state, not merely because he has been a bitter factionalist and has repeatedly bolted the ticket, but because of the common belief—whether well founded is another matter—that he is a purchasable quantity and essentially dishonest in his political methods. He has been vacillating. His support of the progressive movement was literally purchased a few years ago. His antagonism to the movement made him rich."

ERVIN WARDMAN, editor of the New York Press (rep.), delivered an address at Utica, N. Y., on the evening of March 27 in which he charges that the administration is using federal employes in every section of the country. Mr. Wardman says: "We are struck with horror as the details are uncovered of a compact between Mr. Taft's managers and the high financiers of Wall Street, whereby his can-

didacy is underwritten by those very 'undesirable citizens' against whom so uproaring a war has been waged for seven years, to land the residuary legate in the White House. Mr. Roosevelt denied that he has the federal machine under his orders to force the nomination of Mr. Taft or anyone. I, for one, say let us not show the disrespect to his high office to impugn his declaration concerning this prostitution of federal offices. Let us take him at his word—if you please. But the facts remain, whether it be by his command or against his desire and injunction, the federal machine is exerting all the power of the United States government to compel the republican voters to make the nomination of Mr. Taft, whether they want him or not. You will find a collector of the port, or internal revenue officer or a land agent or a postmaster, or some other holder of a government office in charge of the Taft canvass in every state north and south, east or west. You will find the Taft delegations held by and composed of these federal office-holders. When Mr. Roosevelt says that he is not doing this, what's the use of doubting him. We need not blame Mr. Taft. Sufficient is the evil of the fact, whoever inspires—the fact—the indisputable fact—an attempt, arrogantly conceived and desperately prosecuted, to establish a White House dynasty by the decree of the federal machine. And this I say, this striving to take out of the hands of the American people the selection of the candidates for whom they may vote, is a thing that strikes at the elemental principles of our whole system of government."

THE ALDRICH currency bill passed the senate March 26 by a vote of 42 to 16. Previous to the vote on the Aldrich bill a vote was taken on the Bailey substitute authorizing the government instead of the national banks to issue the emergency circulation for which the bill provides. The vote on the substitute stood 42 to 13 and this vote was an entirely partisan one, forty-two votes being all republicans, even Senator LaFollette voting with his party associates.

AS THE ALDRICH currency bill passed the senate it provides for not more than \$500,000,000 of emergency currency to be issued to national banks upon the deposit by them of state, county and municipal bonds, to be approved by the secretary of the treasury. The currency is to be issued with a view to securing an equitable distribution of the currency over the United States and in accordance with the unimpaired capital and surplus of banks in each state. Banks are to pay for this emergency circulation one-half of one per cent a month during the first four months it is circulated, and afterwards three-quarters of one per cent a month. The bill provides that no banks shall pay less than one per cent on government funds deposited with them. As amended, the bill carries an important change in banking laws relating to bank reserves. This amendment provides that of the fifteen per cent reserve required to be kept by the banks not in reserve cities, four-fifths of this is to be kept in the vaults of the banks and of that amount one-third can be in the form of securities of the kind required. By another amendment the period during which half of one per cent interest is to be charged, was changed from six to four months after which three-fourths of one per cent is to be charged until redeemed.

REFERRING TO the proceedings on the currency measure the Associated Press report says: "At the instance of Mr. LaFollette an amendment was adopted prohibiting any national bank from investing its funds in stocks or other securities of a corporation, the officers or directors of which are officers or directors of the bank and providing a penalty of imprisonment of from one to five years. In accepting this amendment Mr. Aldrich stated that he had not time to consider the amendment fully, but was in sympathy with its general purpose. He said it could be perfected in conference. The propos-