

CURRENT TOPICS

NINETEEN democratic senators, constituting a majority of the Colorado senate, have agreed upon the terms of the initiative and referendum bill to be placed before the senate. An Associated Press dispatch describes the measure in this way: "The bill provides that legislation may be initiated by the people upon a petition signed by not less than fifteen per cent of the total vote cast for governor at the last election. This fifteen per cent must come from at least two-thirds of the counties of the state, each county being represented on the petition by not less than fifteen per cent of the total vote cast for governor by that county. The same percentage and the same restrictions figure in the referendum. In both the initiative and referendum, fifteen per cent of the vote cast for governor must figure in the balloting and a majority of fifty-one per cent will carry or defeat the legislation at issue."

FOR THE USE of voters who desire to ascertain what candidates for congress intend to do on public questions, Everybody's Magazine has prepared the following list of questions to be submitted by the voters to every candidate: "If elected to congress, will you vote: One—For Cannon for speaker? Two—To take away from the speaker the power of appointing committees and to give it to the house? Three—To revise the tariff again, so that it will represent only the difference in wage cost of production between the United States and foreign countries? Four—To authorize the interstate commerce commission to regulate rates on the basis of a physical valuation of railroad properties? Five—To authorize the interstate commerce commission to limit the issuance of stocks and bonds to the actual investment? Six—For the direct election of United States senators? Seven—For a reorganization of the postoffice department, and the appointment of a permanent director of posts? Eight—For a bill to prevent the government from selling any more of its mineral deposits, the same to be leased at adequate rentals and for moderate periods? Nine—For a bill to prevent the government from selling any more of its existing water sites, the same to be leased as above?"

THE DEMOCRATIC Textbook for 1910 is said to be an interesting document. A Washington dispatch describing the publication says: "Speeches delivered by the insurgent republicans in congress furnish a large part of the matter in the 516-page democratic campaign text book just issued by the national democratic congressional committee. The volume begins with the enumeration of the campaign issues and is concluded by republican Congressman Hill's denunciation of the Aldrich-Vreeland currency law. Hill is the only regular republican quoted. Thirty-seven pages are devoted to speeches of insurgents, the most prominent being Senator Dolliver's attack on the tariff, the adverse remarks of Senators Cummins and LaFollette on the railroad bill, Congressman Fish's defense of insurgency and speeches by Haugen in opposition to the tariff law and the railroad bill. Tariff and the high cost of living are brought forward as the main issue, and 176 pages are devoted to these subjects. Champ Clark has the place of honor with a tariff speech. The republicans are attacked for not making the law requiring publicity of campaign funds more effective, for favoring ship subsidy, for failing to pass desirable labor legislation, and are accused of showing a lack of activity against the trusts."

THE FIRST genuine signs of the big war that is coming in the republican party was given when the republican state committee of New York defeated Theodore Roosevelt for temporary chairman of the state convention by a vote of 20 to 15. The Associated Press report of this meeting says: "The committee selected Saratoga, and September 27, as the place and time for the convention. After the meeting had been called to order and the time and place of the state convention chosen, William J. Barnes, Jr.,

of Albany, offered a resolution presenting the name of Vice President Sherman for temporary chairman of the state convention. Lloyd C. Griscom moved to substitute the name of Colonel Roosevelt and also moved that the vote be postponed until later. After much debate the motion to postpone was defeated by a vote of twelve to twenty-three. The resolution to make Colonel Roosevelt temporary chairman was then lost by a vote of twenty to fifteen, following which Vice President Sherman was unanimously chosen, Mr. Griscom and Henry Mack of New York not voting. The state committee then adjourned to meet Monday evening, September 26, in Saratoga."

COMMENTING UPON the action of the committee in rejecting the name of former President Roosevelt, Mr. Griscom said: "I presented the name of former President Roosevelt after consulting with him. The place of the temporary chairman was obviously his, not only by virtue of his having been president of the United States, but by the signal services rendered by him to the republican party in New York state. Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to engage in the political campaign in this state, and his name at the head of the convention would have lent extraordinary prestige to the meeting and been of incalculable value to the party throughout the state. There is no question of indorsing or not indorsing the administration. If an effort is made to show that the choice of Vice President Sherman is an indorsement, whereas the choice of Colonel Roosevelt would not have been, it must of necessity fail, as Mr. Roosevelt's views regarding the conduct of public affairs by his successor are well known."

MR. ROOSEVELT "was mad all through" when he heard of his defeat. He gave to the press the following statement: "To the various persons who asked me whether I would accept the position of temporary chairman of the state convention I said I would do so only if they were sure, after knowing my attitude, that they desired me, because my speech would be of such a character that it might help if the convention nominated the right kind of a man, on a clear-cut, progressive platform; but that it would hurt if neither the right kind of a man were nominated nor the right kind of a platform adopted."

"THE OLD GUARD" in the republican party were delighted in the defeat of Mr. Roosevelt. The New York correspondent for the Louisville Courier-Journal sent to his paper the following dispatch: "One of the 'old guard' leaders in the republican organization in this city told a friend yesterday that before many days Colonel Theodore Roosevelt would 'know his place.' The organization made good the prediction today ahead of the scheduled time when, at a meeting of the republican state committee, Colonel Roosevelt was defeated for the post of temporary chairman of the state convention and vice president James S. Sherman was selected in his place by a vote that was unanimous. The prestige of ex-President Roosevelt has received several hard knocks since his return from the hunting trip through Africa and his tour of the courts of Europe. First, the New York state legislature ignored his recommendation that the extraordinary session pass a direct primaries bill. Then his nephew, Theodore Douglas Robinson, was defeated for the senatorial nomination in the Thirty-second senatorial district, Vice President Sherman engineering the defeat. Then again the refusal of the republican state convention in Ohio to sustain Mr. Roosevelt's friend, Garfield, and adopt a 'progressive' platform came as a third defeat for the colonel. But it was admitted even among Colonel Roosevelt's friends that the action of the republican state committee today was the heaviest blow yet. It upset Colonel Roosevelt terribly. When he first heard of the news he fumed and refused to believe the report. It was just about luncheon time when Col. Roosevelt was at the 'Outlook' office. Those

who saw the colonel leave the building to go to lunch noticed that Mr. Roosevelt had his fighting face on. Some reporters accosted him in the corridor outside the Outlook office and asked him for a statement. When Colonel Roosevelt gave out his statement it was clear from his attitude that he felt the state committee had committed an egregious blunder in turning him down and that he felt confident, Mr. Roosevelt's friends were declaring tonight that they would take the fight into the convention. That body has all the power necessary to undo the state committee's work. The leaders of the opposition laughed at this suggestion. They assert that the votes cast against Colonel Roosevelt in the state committee represent fully a two-thirds majority of the delegates to the convention. That Colonel Roosevelt will go to the republican state convention at Saratoga as a delegate from his district and that he will make a speech which will make the ears of the old guard tingle may be taken for granted as a result of statements apparently inspired that were forthcoming after his defeat, but nobody has any idea that he will be able to stamper the convention which the reactionary element in the republican state convention expects to dominate completely."

THAT THE ATTACK on Roosevelt was carefully planned is generally believed. The Courier-Journal correspondent says: "It may be stated on good authority that the defeat had been carefully planned during the conferences held on last Monday afternoon and one on Monday night at which Vice President Sherman himself was present. Some of the opposition leaders had been lying awake worrying lest Mr. Griscom should fail to ring in the colonel's name and give them the much longed for opportunity to administer the substantial rebuke they subsequently did. State Chairman Woodruff was positively bubbling over with pride and satisfaction after he had laid aside the gavel and joined one of the chatting groups of committee members that swapped congratulations over having 'done' Roosevelt after the meeting. Barnes, Speaker Wadsworth, George W. Aldridge, Francis Hendricks, Congressman George R. Malby and all of the old guard were in an equally joyful frame of mind. The democrats who heard of Colonel Roosevelt's defeat and the trouble it is likely to bring about in the republican organization were jubilant. The republican bosses who were instrumental in Colonel Roosevelt's defeat and who bitterly have resented his interference and attempts at dictation to assume the role of a dictator, were hardly less exultant. The democrats declared without reserve that the repudiation of Roosevelt by the state committee would mean an overwhelming democratic victory in the fall. Incredible as it may seem, some of the republican leaders who had helped to rebuke Colonel Roosevelt admitted that their party was in for defeat and did not seem to care much as long as they had an opportunity to demonstrate unequivocally their control of the party machinery and clinch their grip on the leadership. There were some circumstances in connection with the action of the republican state committee which, no matter how one looks at them, add to the humiliation of the once all powerful Colonel Roosevelt. In the first place the selection of Vice President Sherman for the place to which the colonel had aspired came with a peculiar sting because Vice President Sherman had been chiefly instrumental in bringing about the defeat of young Mr. Robinson for the senatorial nomination. In the second place the record of the state committee meeting contains the damaging evidence of the man representing Colonel Roosevelt's own district voting against him. J. J. Bartlett, the committeeman from the Long Island district, in which Sagamore Hill is situated, did not attend the meeting himself, but had given his proxy to Colonel Lafayette B. Gleason, secretary of the republican state committee, about whom there could not be the slightest doubt that Colonel Gleason's vote would be adverse to the colonel. Members of the committee could hardly withhold their feelings of victory over Mr. Roosevelt until the meeting could be adjourned."