

CURRENT TOPICS

THE DEMOCRATIC national committee met at Washington, Thursday, December 12, and called the national convention for Denver on July 7, 1908. The people of Denver offered \$100,000. Some opposition was expressed toward the acceptance of more of this fund than was actually needed for convention purposes and Mr. Clayton of Alabama voiced this sentiment in a resolution to that effect. He was supported by John Sharp Williams, Governor Hoke Smith and others. Tom L. Johnson, Senator Stone of Missouri, Mayor Dahlman of Omaha, and others favored accepting the money. Mayor Johnson said that money for campaign purposes is contributed by corporations with the view of securing advantages in legislation or otherwise, while the contribution of Denver could not be ascribed to any such purpose. The people of Denver, he said, have a regular organization for the purpose of attracting conventions to that city for business reasons and it was perfectly proper for the democratic national committee to accept the offer.

THE MOTION to table Mr. Clayton's resolution was approved by the following vote: Yeas: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, District of Columbia, Alaska, Indian Territory—31. Noes: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Porto Rico—14. On the first ballot Denver received twenty-two votes as against seventeen for Louisville, five for Chicago and one for St. Paul. July 7 was selected as the date for the convention after a very brief discussion.

THE VOTE in detail on the first ballot for the selection of the convention was as follows: For Denver—Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Alaska, Indian Territory—22. For Louisville—Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Porto Rico, District of Columbia—17. For Chicago—Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina—5. For St. Paul—Minnesota—1. The committee then proceeded to vote on the date of holding the convention. June 30 and July 7 and 14 were all suggested, but the sentiment was largely in favor of July 7, and resulted in the choice of that date.

AN IMPORTANT resolution adopted for the democratic national committee was that introduced by Mr. Johnston of Texas and amended by Senator Tillman as follows: "Resolved, That the democratic national committee cordially approves the movement under way to insure publicity, in the states as well as in the nation, of contributions of money or other things of value, and of expenditures made by any person, association, committee or other organization for political purposes."

SENATOR TILLMAN has introduced in the senate resolutions directing the committee on finance to investigate the recent proceedings of the secretary of the treasury in connection with the financial crisis and also to make inquiry concerning clearing house certificates. The resolutions were presented in two series, the first dealing with the operations of the treasury department and the second with clearing house certificates, both being divided into three subdivisions. The first of the resolutions directs the committee on finance to investigate and report to the senate, as follows: "First—Whether the issue of certificates of indebtedness bearing

three per cent interest, bids for which were invited by the secretary of the treasury November 18, 1907, were for the purpose of borrowing money 'to meet public expenditures,' as provided by section 32 of the act approved June 15, 1899, and if not whether there is any warrant of law for the issue of said certificates. Second—Whether the issue of \$50,000,000 of bonds of the Panama canal loan, bids for which were called for by the secretary of the treasury on November 18, 1907, was required to 'defray the expenditures on said canal,' there being at the time when both of these loans were made upward of \$200,000,000 in the treasury for current expenditures. Third—Whether any legislation was necessary to protect the people and business interests of the country from the issue of unlawful money, if clearing house certificates are such, and to prevent the illegal increase of the public debt in time of peace."

THE SECOND series of the Tillman resolutions direct the finance committee "to investigate and report to the senate as soon as practicable," on the following points: "First—Whether clearing house certificates, with which the country is now flooded, have been issued under authority of law or contrary to the same. Second—Whether the issuing of such certificates by an association of banks, both state and national, and the use of the same as money subjects such certificates or notes to the tax of ten per cent provided in section 3412, United States revised statutes. Third—Whether it would be permissible under the law as it is for an association of banks, warehouses and elevators to issue certificates based on cotton, wheat and tobacco, stored in such warehouses and elevators, and fully insured, to be used as money in marketing said crops in the same way as clearing house certificates are now used."

THE POLITICAL circles were deeply stirred by the following newspaper dispatch: "Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—In view of the issuance of the call of the republican national committee for the convention the president makes the following statement: 'On the night after election I made the following announcement: "I am deeply sensible for the honor done me by the American people in thus expressing their confidence in what I have done and have tried to do. I appreciate to the full the solemn responsibility this confidence imposes upon me, and I shall do all that in my power lies not to forfeit it. On the 4th of March next I shall have served three and a half years, and this three and a half years constitute my first term. The wise custom which limits the president to two terms regards the substance and not the form, and under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination." I have not changed and shall not change the decision thus announced.'"

REFERRING TO Mr. Roosevelt's statement the Washington correspondent for the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal says: "If any man knew of the president's intention to make the foregoing declaration at the present time he kept the president's secret well, for there was no intimation that it would be made for some time to come. When the president was in Tennessee last October, returning from his bear hunt in the swamps of Louisiana, he was informed that the republican leaders of that state proposed to hold their state convention as soon as possible after the call of the national committee for the national convention, and that they intended to send a solid delegation instructed for the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt. As the national committee was to meet in Washington early in December it was expected the Tennessee convention would be not much more than a month later; that is, early in January of the new year. The president has told a great number of individuals during the last few weeks that he would not be a candidate for the presidency next year, and he reiterated this declaration to certain members of the republican national committee last week. It was Mr. Roosevelt's origi-

nal intention to wait until after the election of the first delegates instructed for him and then to issue a convincing disclaimer of his candidacy. According to the plans then making for an early convention in Tennessee, the president's announcement to the contrary would have come some time next month. The best information obtainable as to the president's intentions toward the third term movement has always been that he would stand by his declaration of 1904, and that he was simply waiting for his own time in which to reiterate that declaration. As recently as last Saturday, however, it did not seem likely that Mr. Roosevelt would make his announcement during the present year, and it seemed more than possible that he would, indeed, defer it until well into 1908. On that day he had an hour's conference with two of the leading republicans of Tennessee, and it became known that the president had asked them to defer the holding of their convention far beyond the date on which they had first expected to hold it. The president himself said to a dozen visitors last Saturday that he thought he had the southern convention projects pretty well in hand, and that none of them would be held very early in the new year. There was only one theory for this determination of the president to head off the early conventions, which seemed likely to elect delegates instructed for his renomination. That theory was—and for confirmation it lacked only the president's statement in so many words—that he wished to hold the political situation under control as long as possible in order to prevent his enemies from gaining control of the convention."

THE OMAHA (Nebraska) World-Herald says: "The first effect of President Roosevelt's reiterated refusal to again be a candidate is to discourage the progressive element of the party. This feeling is tersely stated in a dispatch to the Des Moines Register and Leader from its staff Washington correspondent. The Register and Leader, it should be noted, stands at the very head of the genuinely progressive republican newspapers of the country, and so its views are entitled to weight as being fairly representative. The dispatch alluded to is in part as follows: "If the truth be told, the outlook is today not encouraging for the nomination of a progressive candidate. Vast railroads and corporation forces are enlisted to prevent that very thing, and it looks now as if they had already accomplished their purpose. The best judgment here is that Taft is a beaten man and there is no doubt that anti-administration forces control the national committee. Cortelyou is looked upon as satisfactory by certain interests and they are backing him. Hughes, too, though many believe him radical, is supported by big conservative interests and so it is with Fairbanks, Cannon, Knox and Foraker. After the meeting of the national committee here last week, the conservatives openly declared they had the administration beaten and that things had reached a point where the president could no longer control the situation. In short the indications are now that the republican convention will nominate a conservative candidate and the democrats will name Bryan and the real battle between conservatives and progressives will be fought out at the polls."

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the Minneapolis Journal sends to his newspaper the following dispatch: "The streets and hotel corridors of Washington are full today of echoes of the Gridiron dinner Saturday night, and Governor Johnson's wonderful speech there. It created a sensation such as the club has never witnessed in the twenty-three years of its existence, say the old members, and has had the effect of bringing Johnson once more to the fore as a presidential possibility. This may sound strange in view of the mortgage Bryan seems to have on the nomination, but nevertheless it appears to be true. One of the guests at the Gridiron dinner was Colonel Nelson, proprietor of the Kansas City Star, the greatest newspaper in the Missouri Valley. He has announced publicly that he is now for Johnson for the nom-