

CURRENT TOPICS

IN THE OKLAHOMA primaries, J. W. McNeal was chosen as the republican nominee for governor, while Lee Cruce of Ardmore defeated W. H. Murray for the democratic nomination for governor. The three republican congressmen, McGuire, Morgan and Creager, were renominated. The "grandfather" clause, denying suffrage to negroes, was adopted.

THE INSURGENTS of Kansas won an almost complete victory in the republican primaries of that state. Six out of eight of the insurgent candidates were nominated. Governor W. R. Stubbs, the progressive candidate for renomination, defeated Thomas Wagstaff, a standpatter, by a majority of 27,372. The contest between these two men waged warm. Both made extensive speaking tours. The results of the republican congressional nominations follow: First district, R. D. Anthony, incumbent, standpatter, defeated T. A. McNeal by a majority of 107. Second district, A. C. Mitchell, insurgent, defeated C. F. Scott, incumbent, standpatter, by 1,000. Third district, P. P. Campbell, incumbent, standpatter, defeated Arthur Cranston. Fourth district, Fred S. Jackson, insurgent, defeated J. M. Miller, incumbent, standpatter, by a majority of 4,571. Fifth district, R. R. Rees, insurgent, defeated W. A. Calderhead, incumbent, standpatter, by 2,500. Sixth district, I. D. Young, insurgent, defeated W. H. Reeder, incumbent, standpatter, by 1,000 votes. Seventh district, E. H. Madison, insurgent, no opposition. Eighth district, Victor Murdock, insurgent, no opposition. The democrats had no candidates for congress in the First and Eighth districts. In the First, J. H. Calgers' name was written on the ballot. He was nominated. The other democratic nominations were: Second, Grant Harrington, Kansas City; Third, J. D. Botkin, Winfield; Fourth, Henderson Martin, Marion; Fifth, G. T. Helvering, Marysville; Sixth, H. O. Caster, Oberlin; Seventh, G. A. Neely, Hutchinson.

VICTOR MURDOCK, Kansas insurgent, gave to the Associated Press this statement: "The significance of the overwhelming insurgency victory in Kansas is two-fold. First, it is a complete repudiation of both Cannon and the system by which he has robbed the people of free government in the house. Scott, Miller and Reeder were chairmen of important house committees while Calderhead was on the ways and means committee. All were beaten because they subscribed to the Cannon system. Second, the Kansas insurgent victory is an effort by the republicans of Kansas to say with emphasis to the nation that the republican party of Kansas, by endorsing Governor Stubbs and Kansas insurgents in congress stands for immediate and effective legislation framed to drive special and selfish interests out of control in American politics."

SENATOR GORE testified before the senate investigating committee, in session at Oklahoma City in relation to the McMurray Indian land contract. The senator's testimony brought in the names of Vice President Sherman, Senator Curtis of Kansas, and Representative McGuire of Oklahoma. The senator told of a conference held in his office in Washington. The Associated Press report says: "Senator Gore testified that he had been approached by Jake L. Hamon, former chairman of the Oklahoma territorial republican committee and also former chairman of the Oklahoma state republican committee and that he had been offered a bribe of \$25,000 or \$50,000 to remove certain legislation pending in congress so that \$30,000,000 might be paid to J. F. McMurray, an attorney at McAlester, Oklahoma, and his associates. The money was to represent 'attorney fees' of ten per cent of \$30,000,000 which was to be secured from a New York syndicate for 450,000 acres of coal and asphalt land now owned by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in this state. Vice President Sherman's name

was mentioned by Mr. Hamon, Senator Gore testified, as being 'interested' in the land deal to the extent of favoring the approval by congress of what are known as the McMurray contracts with the Indians. What happened in another private room in Washington and also where, it was alleged, Hamon made more 'overtures' relative to the land deal, was told by Congressman C. E. Creager, of the Third Oklahoma district. Congressman Creager supplemented the testimony of Senator Gore. He said on June 16 last he had been invited by Hamon to meet him in a private room at the Occidental hotel in Washington. Having gone there, Mr. Creager testified, he was informed he could have a substantial 'interest' in the land deal if he would withdraw his opposition to the approval of the McMurray contracts by congress. Asked the question, 'Were any figures mentioned as to how much you were to receive?' Mr. Creager replied, 'No, I did not let it go so far as that. I made it plain I was not open to being influenced in that way. I had already gone on record as being firmly opposed to the granting of such an enormous fee to attorneys.' Congressman B. S. McGuire, who was charged by Senator Gore as being 'interested' in the McMurray contract, was said by Mr. Creager in his testimony, to have been at the time of his visit an occupant of the same suite of rooms with Hamon and McMurray at the hotel. Clerks of Senator Gore testified to having been invited by McMurray and Hamon to 'frog leg' suppers at Washington, at which the Indian contracts were to be 'talked over.' These invitations, it is alleged, were all 'turned down.' On one occasion, one of the clerks testified, Hamon said Senator Gore was awfully hard on his friends. Senator Gore, in his testimony, asserted that the offer of bribery went so far that Hamon said the \$25,000 or \$50,000 would not be paid over in the form of a check or marked money, but 'that it would be all clean, hard cash.'

SENATOR GORE'S testimony brought out the following charges: "That Hamon told him that a man higher up in the government was interested in the approval of the contracts and therefore there was no reason why Senator Gore should not be. That when asked who was the man 'higher up' Hamon had replied Vice President Sherman. That Hamon told him Senator Curtis of Kansas 'was interested' in the deal. That Hamon told him an employe of the department of justice at Washington 'was interested' in the deal; that he (Senator Gore) knew the name of the employe, but would not divulge his name or the name of his informant, especially because the latter would lose his position. That Former Senator Long of Kansas, acting as counsel for McMurray, had gone to President Taft on April 28 to urge the approval of the contracts, but that the president had said 'It would take a good deal of argument to convince him that the amount of fee asked by McMurray was justified.'

AN ACCOUNT of that part of Senator Gore's testimony referring to Vice President Sherman follows: "Mr. Burke: In your conversation with Mr. Hamon you stated he named a very high official that he said was interested in these contracts. You omitted his name? Mr. Gore: I say again that I should very much prefer not to name it. I am, however, subject to the will of the committee. Mr. Burke: The committee is here to get the facts and we must have all this conversation. Mr. Gore: He suggested that Vice President Sherman was interested in the contracts. Thomas H. Owen, counsel for Mr. Gore: In that connection you spoke of an article appearing in a Kansas City newspaper that two gentlemen had called on the president. I wish you would say who was mentioned in that file. Mr. Gore: In the newspaper of April 14, Vice President Sherman and Senator Curtis were named as having called to discuss the segregated coal and asphalt lands. I think before the senate met the next day the information came to me. Senator Gore explained that he believed Vice President Sherman was favorable to the contracts, and a short

time later he introduced a resolution in the senate that would require further action of congress before the contracts could be approved."

VICE PRESIDENT Sherman, referring to the Gore charges, said: "The story that comes to me about the charges made by Senator Gore at Muskogee today is absolutely without the slightest shadow of foundation." Representative Bird McGuire, speaking to the Associated Press denied emphatically that he had now, or ever had, any interest in Indian contracts with McMurray or anyone else. He said he would go to Muskogee at once and appear before the congressional committee now in session there. "I don't know what was said to Senator Gore," stated Mr. McGuire here today, "or whether anything was said to him by any persons, but this much is true: No living man who is honest and responsible will say that I have now, or have ever had any interest in any Indian contracts with McMurray or anybody else. A man who would base a statement in the United States senate, on what some person may have told him in a matter like that is nothing more or less than a common slanderer." After stating that he would attend the investigation tomorrow, Mr. McGuire said: "I expect they'll want me to make a statement and to a dead certainty I'll be ready to make one."

THE REPUBLICAN insurgents completely dominated the Iowa republican convention in session at Des Moines. Senator Cummins presided. Cummins and Dolliver received enthusiastic endorsements. The new tariff law was branded as a failure and a luke-warm reference was made to President Taft. The Dubuque (Iowa) Herald gives the gist of Senator Cummins' speech as follows: "The republican party can not endure permanently half progressive and half standpat. The issue relates to the undue and disproportionate share which corporate capital is able to wring from the profits of industry and the injustice it is able to inflict upon helpless individuals and defenseless communities. The demand for revision of the tariff originated in the necessities of the people and was founded upon the fundamental instinct for justice. If there had been an honest attempt to fix duties according to the cost of production I might have yielded my view on the question of fact, but there was no such attempt. There is no exigency in public affairs or party action that can induce me to say that a thing is good when I believe it to be bad, or to say that it is true when I believe it to be false. I for one refused to follow, and would again refuse to follow, Aldrich, Hale, Lodge, Cannon, Payne, and Dalzell into a sneering, contemptuous open repudiation of my party platform. I do not favor an immediate general revision of the tariff, indeed I earnestly hope that we may never be compelled to enter upon another general readjustment of the system. The demand for an independent non-partisan tariff commission has become well nigh unanimous among republicans. We must insist upon a law or rule of congress that will allow one schedule to be amended or revised without going over the whole range of the tariff. There came from the hands of the attorney-general, a bill, on interstate commerce, which, if it had passed, as Aldrich so emphatically declared it should pass, would have consigned the republican party to eternal disgrace and defeat. All that was good in the bill was carefully preserved, and all that was bad was either wholly rejected or materially modified. The power of the east over the west in controlling the supply of money is already too great and what we have done (in the postal savings bill) will add immeasurably to the eastern influence. The square deal is now, as always, the noblest expression of governmental purposes. Wise and practical conservation is a duty from which we must not shrink. When all is said, we come to this, that justice is the object toward which we are striving. There is no one thing that will do more toward filling the land with peace and content than to enlarge the authority and increase the responsibility of the individual man."