

Mr. Roosevelt's Tour

Theodore Roosevelt left his Oyster Bay home August 23, for a journey of 5,492 miles, covering fourteen states. On the day preceding his departure, Mr. Roosevelt received a letter written by President Taft to Lloyd C. Griscom, president of the New York republican county committee and a warm friend of Mr. Roosevelt. In this letter the president declared that he had never taken any part in the scheme to defeat Mr. Roosevelt for temporary chairman of the county republican state convention. On the contrary he deplored the result of the committee meeting and rebuked the party leaders who had permitted the impression to go abroad that the president of the United States was behind any factional preferences. He indicated that at every opportunity he had advised the fullest conference with Mr. Roosevelt. After reading the president's letter Mr. Roosevelt said: "I am very glad to see Mr. Taft's letter and am pleased with it." Mr. Roosevelt added that he could not just then state definitely what his whole plans would be.

A Beverly, Mass., dispatch says that President Taft and Vice President Sherman have had a fall out on account of the Roosevelt episode. Before leaving for his western trip, Mr. Roosevelt said that if his county desired him to go as a delegate to the state convention, he would accept and that if they wanted "fight" he would give them plenty of it.

Mr. Roosevelt's itinerary was given out as follows:

August 23—Left Oyster Bay and arrived at Utica, N. Y., where he delivered an address.

August 24—Starts west for Chicago.

August 25—Arrives in Chicago on Lake Shore train at 9 p. m.; leaves on Northwestern road at 10:16 p. m.

August 26—Arrives in Omaha.

August 27—Reaches Cheyenne, Wyo., and delivers set speech.

August 29—Delivers speech on conservation at Denver; visits Pueblo.

August 31—Discusses important national problems at Osawatomie, Kan.

September 1—Delivers address at Kansas City.

September 2—Delivers address at Omaha.

September 3—Speaks at Sioux Falls, S. D.

September 4—Speaks at Fargo, N. D.

September 6—Speaks at St. Paul.

September 7—Speaks at Milwaukee.

September 8—(Morning), delivers address at Freeport, Ill.

September 8—(Evening), reception and dinner in Chicago at Congress hotel under auspices of Hamilton club.

September 8—(Midnight), leaves for Cincinnati, Ohio.

September 9—Arrives in Cincinnati.

September 10—Arrives in Pittsburg.

September 11—Ends western tour in New York.

Mr. Roosevelt began his journey on a special car and was everywhere greeted by large crowds. His first stop was at Albany, N. Y., where he was greeted during his five minutes stay by a cheering crowd. Ten thousand persons greeted Mr. Roosevelt at Utica. Describing Mr. Roosevelt's Utica speech, which was largely devoted to national conservation, the Chicago Record-Herald says:

"And right off the reel the colonel dropped his first bombshell. In the opening sentence of his speech he placed himself directly in opposition to Vice President Sherman, speaking in the vice president's own county, by warmly endorsing State Senator Frederick Davenport, who is a stanch progressive and whom Mr. Sherman has announced that he would not support. Colonel Roosevelt spied Senator Davenport at once and he greeted him warmly. As soon as he began his speech he turned to the senator and said: 'I am glad to see you on the platform, Senator Davenport. The only kind of politics I care for is the kind of politics in which decency is combined with efficiency. I hold that the only way in which a politician can really serve his party is by helping that party efficiently to serve the people. Because the senator and the men who have acted with him have stood for this principle I am glad to be on the platform with him.' There was more cheering as the colonel uttered these words. When he could be heard again he added: 'You will at least notice that my utterances are free from ambiguity.' Then he jumped into his speech."

Referring to the contest for control of the state convention, the Chicago Record-Herald's

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correspondent says: "Most of the country delegates to the state convention have already been selected and for the most part they are admittedly anti-progressive. The fight in the cities and towns will come at next month's primaries and on the result of these will hinge control."

William Barnes, Jr., a member of the "old guard" and republican leader, gave out a statement in which he says that the "old guard" would welcome Roosevelt to a bitter fight in the state convention. Mr. Barnes added:

"It is, therefore, highly sensible on the part of Roosevelt, if he hopes to control the policies of the republican party in this state, that he should go to the state convention as a delegate and there thresh out what he thinks ought to be the policy of the party with those who have different opinions from him. It is assumed, of course, that he will abide by the decision of the convention—as will those who will oppose him there, if he is successful. I am not informed what attack upon the representative form of government he will make, except that he has already committed himself to the destruction of the convention system of making nominations. Upon that question he will be opposed with all the intelligence and power of those who recognize in this populistic departure the beginning of the fall of representative government. There can be no compromise on this subject. That he desires to commit the party to the extreme folly of the direct nominations fad is unfortunate. This great nation wants peace and it is looking to President Taft to secure it. Today a pall hangs over the business and industrial world. Capital is timid, enterprise falters, industry lags because of political agitation. From one end of the country to the other the political agitator is still at work trying to arouse the people to a sense of alleged wrong that they may make him important. What the business man and the worker for wages wants is peace; an opportunity to pursue his calling and secure happiness without the constant interference of politicians endeavoring to rouse him to a sense of fancied misfortune."

After his Utica speech Mr. Roosevelt made the following statement: "They will have all the fight they want. I am only going into the convention because that I feel that the interests of the people of New York demand that the republican party be given a chance to stand squarely and uncompromisingly for clean, decent, honest politics. I go to that convention to make the speech exactly as it had been planned originally, and while I hope there will be enough good sense to prevent anyone opposing the principles for which I stand, yet if they do oppose them, then it is their own affair, and so far as I am concerned the issue shall be absolutely clean cut."

When he was shown Mr. Roosevelt's statement, William Barnes said: "The opponents of the direct nominations, after the contest they have been through, will not violate the principles for which they have been fighting at the dictation of any one man and it looks as if they would have to have a fight."

The republican county convention in New Orleans county in selecting delegates for the state convention, instructed them to favor Mr. Roosevelt for temporary chairman over Vice President Sherman.

Mr. Roosevelt left Utica at one o'clock Wednesday morning, arrived at Buffalo at 6:20 o'clock, taking breakfast with four hundred men at the Ellicott club. He left Buffalo for Chicago at 7:30 o'clock.

Mr. Roosevelt reached Chicago on the afternoon of August 25. He spent one-half hour as the guest of newspaper reporters at the Chicago Newspaper club, then he took an automobile ride about the city. At one time Mr. Roosevelt said: "I believe in party government, but the moment a question of honesty is involved, I recognize no party distinction or if I make any it is a little more my business to put the graft and crook out of public life if he belongs to my party than if to another."

At the Newspaper club Colonel Roosevelt commented on the failure of either lions or rhinoceroses to prevent his safe return from Africa, recalling a prediction offered by Prof. Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, that the hunting trip would be the death of the former president. "I am especially glad to show this professor how wrong he was," Colonel Roosevelt said, "I wasn't the one who was killed. Not a lion did its duty. And then on toward the end of the trip I think Wall Street pinned its hope on some rhinoceroses, but even that hope failed."

Timothy L. Woodruff, republican state chairman from New York and former Lieutenant

governor, issued a statement August 25, in which he denies that there was any conspiracy to humiliate Mr. Roosevelt. He puts himself directly against the direct primary plan and says he is glad Mr. Roosevelt is going to the convention, for then they can fight it out.

In his tour through Iowa, Mr. Roosevelt was accompanied by Senator Cummins. When he reached Lexington, Neb., he was notified that he had been elected a delegate to the republican state convention for New York by the republicans of his county.

Mr. Roosevelt received a particularly hearty reception at Cheyenne. Indeed, all the way people gathered by the thousands to give him greeting. From Cheyenne he went to Denver where the reception was merely a repetition of what it had been all along the line.

COUNTY OPTION—WHAT IS IT?

So much that is false and misleading has been said about county option that many are not sure as to what it means. To such, the following explanation, clipped from the Crete Vidette-Herald of July 28, may be of interest:

"There is much misunderstanding regarding this question. We will try to make it plain to our readers. County option does not mean prohibition. It is simply local option, as we now have, only the county is the unit instead of the town. Nor does the county option plank in the republican platform settle the question—that only means that if a majority of the members of the legislature are republicans the party pledges that they will pass the bill and a republican governor will sign the same. Even that does not give us county option. The final decision, before a county will be under a county option law will have to be decided at a special election by a majority vote of the people of a county. So that in the event the bill is passed and signed, a petition containing a certain number of voters will have to be presented asking for such an election.

"Then the question of county option and anti-county option will come directly before each individual voter for solution. In Saline county it is not reasonable to suppose that county option will carry. If it does it will have to be done by a majority vote and this being a government where majorities rule, the minority will have to gracefully submit to the will of the majority. In any event the question can not be brought up for at least one year. There is no reason for any to tear their shirts or threaten to desert their party. The Vidette-Herald will oppose county option where directly confronted with that proposition, but it will give loyal support to the nominees of the republican party whether they are for or against county option. This is a question on which men can honestly differ without in the least estranging themselves from the political party of their choice."—Crete Vidette-Herald.

As appears from the above a county option law is not county prohibition as is so often falsely stated, but it is simply local option with the county as the unit, similar to the local option we now have with the city or town as the unit.

Under our present law from 50 to 75 per cent of the voters are disfranchised upon this issue. Under county option all would have a voice in the matter. Is not this fair? Is it not republicanism? Is it not democracy? Can you consistently claim to stand for government by the people and refuse to submit to the people a matter which so vitally affects them? A vote for legislative candidates pledged to work and vote for a county option law is a vote for government by the people. Are you for government by the people or by the special interests?—Crete (Neb.) Democrat.

THE SITUATION

They say that Bryan's "down and out"—
That Teddy's "on the bum"—
But Bryan keeps on "gettin' in"
And Teddy's "goin' some."

Poor Uncle Joe will rant and roar
And at insurgents scoff,
While Taft has got so anxious that
His smile may soon come off.
August 20, 1910. SILE SMYTHE.

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