

CURRENT TOPICS

THE ARIZONA constitutional convention completed its work December 9. Among the provisions of the documents are: Initiative and referendum; amendment to the constitution by a majority vote of the people upon the initiative of fifteen per cent of the voters; recall of all elective officers; direct primaries, direct advisory primary for United States senators, anti-lobbying clause; non-partisan election of the judiciary; juvenile court, with the age of criminal responsibility fixed at eighteen; rigid corporation regulation with a provision designed to abolish wildcatting; physical valuation of railroads as a basis for rate regulation; corporation commission with wide powers; employers liability provision abrogating the fellow servant doctrine; elimination of probate courts. The people will vote upon it February 9.

A SPECIAL DISPATCH to the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal under date of Washington, December 10, follows: "Representative Latta was the Nebraska representative at a luncheon given at the Metropolitan club today by Representative Francis Burton Harrison in honor of Governor Harmon. On the surface the luncheon was for the purpose of making members of the house acquainted with the man who twice carried the president's home state despite the efforts of the administration. As a matter of fact, politicians in Washington are confident tonight that the luncheon was the beginning of a definite plan on the part of Tammany hall to bring about the nomination of Governor Harmon as the democratic candidate for the presidency in 1912. Mr. Harrison launched the boom for the Ohio governor at the Jefferson day banquet in Washington nearly a year ago. Since that time he and a number of other conservative democrats have been working industriously with a view to furthering the chances of nominating Harmon for the presidency. Harmon is generally recognized in Washington as the candidate of the ultra conservative wing of the democratic party, of Tammany hall and of Wall Street. For more than a year he has been in close touch with the men representing these institutions. Mr. Harrison is a Tammany man, who is close to Charles F. Murphy, leader of democracy in New York City."

A PARTICULARLY important senatorial campaign is on in New Jersey. Former Senator James Smith, Jr., desires the position, although a majority of the democrats declared in favor of James E. Martine. A writer in the Philadelphia North American tells the story in this way: "James E. Martine, of Plainfield, known as the 'farmer orator,' a leader of forlorn hopes and a democrat holding the most advanced progressive views, went into the primaries at a time when it was thought that there was no chance of the democrats carrying the legislature. He received about 40,000 votes out of the 70,000 votes cast at the primary by his party. That seemingly empty honor became a vastly different matter, however, when the democrats gained a majority of the legislature. Smith, along with Davis, of Hudson, and other local democratic bosses, usually enemies, but united—as are their political twins in the republican party—whenever the control of New Jersey by the corporations is threatened, suddenly discovered that the primary law of March 17, 1908, is meaningless and valueless, and that the choice of Martine by the democratic voters in the primary should be ignored by the legislature. It is true that the law is imperfect. It does not bind any democratic legislator to do more than consider the desire of the people. It is not a complete and effective method of direct nomination. It provides for no prevention by the courts of an overthrow of the expressed will of the people by the old, foul methods of intrigue, barter and purchase by the bosses and their corporate backers in the caucus and the joint session."

THIS SAME WRITER adds: "From sources close to the New Jersey bosses comes the scarcely veiled threat that Mr. Wilson's attitude on the senatorship may cost him the nomination for the presidency in 1912, 'or at least Mr.

Smith's assistance.' The New York Sun gives Wall Street's warning that: 'The sentiment, such as it is, clamoring for the election of James E. Martine by the legislature as the constitution requires is, therefore, largely artificial and forced, and considering his qualifications, or rather lack of qualifications, it seems ridiculous. He really has no claim on the legislature, and if he were to obtain the senatorship on the case he presents, supported, as it is, by foolish friends and bad logicians, it would go to him by default.' And the most notorious of the press agents of Big Business serves this notice upon him: 'As college president, he was, of course, something of an autocrat. He will find, when governor, that he must consult with men, speedily learning that if he does not do that he will be in grave danger of committing serious administrative blunders. Already there are intimations of some friction, and it is for this reason, that Woodrow Wilson's service as governor will be more carefully and curiously watched than that of any of the others who have been chosen democratic governors in republican states.'"

UNDER DATE of Trenton, N. J., December 8, the Associated Press carried the following telegram: "Woodrow Wilson, governor-elect of New Jersey, gave out a signed statement tonight positively declaring himself in favor of the election of James E. Martine, democrat, of Union county, to the United States senate to succeed John Kean, Jr. Dr. Wilson, in equally positive terms, declared himself opposed to the election of ex-United States Senator James Smith, Jr. For some time the governor-elect has been conferring with democratic members of the legislature and urging upon them the wisdom of electing Mr. Martine. Dr. Wilson refrained from making any public statement until now, hoping Mr. Smith would announce his retirement from the field. He called upon Mr. Smith at his home in Newark Tuesday night, and urged him to retire, but it is understood Mr. Smith declined to do so. Dr. Wilson's statement says: 'The question who should be chosen by the incoming legislature of this state to occupy the seat in the senate of the United States, which will presently be made vacant by the expiration of the term of Mr. Kean, is of such vital importance to the people of the state, both as a question of political good faith and as a question of genuine representation in the senate, that I feel constrained to express my opinion with regard to it in terms which cannot be misunderstood. I realize the delicacy of taking any part in the discussion of the matter. As governor of New Jersey I shall have no part in the choice of a senator. Legally speaking, it is not my duty even to give advice with regard to the choice. But there are other duties besides legal duties. The recent campaign has put me in an unusual position. It afforded me, if elected, to be political spokesman and adviser of the people. It is my duty to say with a full sense of the peculiar responsibility of my position what I deem it to be the obligation of legislation to do in this gravely important matter. I know that the people of the state don't desire Mr. James Smith to be sent again to the senate. If he should be he will not go as their representative. The only means I have of knowing whom they do desire to represent them is the vote at the recent primaries, where 48,000 democratic voters, a majority of the whole number who voted at the primaries, declared their preference for Mr. Martine. For me that vote is conclusive. I think it should be for every member of the legislature. Absolute good faith in dealing with the people and unhesitating fidelity to every principle involved is the highest law of political morality under a constitutional government.'"

FORMER SENATOR James Smith, Jr., has made a public statement in answer to Woodrow Wilson's letter urging Mr. Martine's election to the United States senate: Mr. Smith says in part: "I have read Governor-elect Wilson's statement on the United States senatorial situation. It is a gratuitous attack on one who has befriended him, but whose candidacy has

not been announced, and it is an unwarranted attack to coerce the legislature. The statement purports to give the views of the people. Mr. Wilson claims to be their spokesman. He is apparently too modest as yet to claim leadership. He says he had no means of knowing what the people want, except as they expressed themselves at the primary. This great body of voters asked no pledge of the candidates. They received none. Three-fourths of the legislative supporters expressed no will. Dr. Wilson would have the men thus elected recognize a law which seeks to evade the constitution. He would have them disregard the interest of the vast body of voters because one-fourth have expressed preference."

A TRENTON, N. J., dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, says: "Governor-elect Woodrow Wilson said that he had no comment to make on the statement issued by Former United States Senator James Smith, Jr., bearing upon the United States senatorial situation in New Jersey. Mr. Smith's statement was due to an article issued by Mr. Wilson, in which the latter came out openly for the election of James E. Martine for United States senator from New Jersey. James B. Nugent, chairman of the New Jersey state democratic committee, in regard to the senatorship, said: 'Governor-elect Wilson's statement has amazed me. The duty of our party embraces many issues. The choice of a United States senator is one, but not the most important. We are pledged to a rate-making law, to a reorganization of state expenses, equalization of taxes and other matters. Dr. Wilson was elected upon this platform. So were the members of the legislature. Every well-wisher of the party will deplore dissension that may weaken us. Dr. Wilson's act is certainly ill-advised.'"

SECRETARY BALLINGER has been "vindicated." An Associated Press dispatch under date of December 7, says: "Vindicating Secretary of the Interior Ballinger upon all the charges brought against him, and condemning his accusers as having been inspired by a deep feeling of animosity built upon a supposed difference in policy respecting conservatism, a majority of the congressional committee which investigated the so-called Ballinger-Pinchot case, today submitted its report to congress. After stating that the evidence presented related in the main to charges of various kinds against Mr. Ballinger and that these came chiefly from two sources—L. R. Glavis and Gifford Pinchot—the majority of the committee announced the following conclusion: 'The evidence has wholly failed to make out a case. Neither any fact proved nor all the facts put together exhibit Mr. Ballinger as being anything but a competent and honorable gentleman, honestly and faithfully performing the duties of his high office with an eye single to the public interest.' The report was signed by Senators Knute Nelson, chairman; Frank P. Flint, George Sutherland, and Elihu Root, and Representatives Samuel McCall of Massachusetts, vice chairman; Martin E. Olmstead of Pennsylvania and Edwin Denby of Michigan, all republicans. A few months ago the democratic members, Senators D. U. Fletcher and William E. Purcell and Representatives Ollie James of Kentucky, and James M. Graham of Illinois, together with Representative H. Madison of Kansas, progressive republican, put out a report, which they maintain to be the majority opinion, condemning the conduct of Mr. Ballinger as secretary of the interior. This report was made public following a meeting of the committee in Minneapolis last September which was not attended by some of the republicans who have now exonerated Mr. Ballinger, and therefore the actual minority became a majority and the republicans who were present, with the exception of Mr. Madison, withdrew and broke the quorum. The members who now sign the second report formulated their conclusions at a recent series of meetings. In speaking of the 'animosity' created by differences respecting the conservation of natural resources, the majority of the committee said that the ac-