

# The Big Fight in the Republican Party

Following are Associated Press dispatches: Washington, May 24.—The bitterness of the fight that is to rage about the republican national committee when it begins consideration of the contest cases in Chicago on June 6 was emphasized today by a statement from Representative William B. McKinley, head of the Taft organization forces. Mr. McKinley declared it was becoming apparent that Colonel Roosevelt and his followers will resort to every known means to terrorize the Chicago convention.

"That the time has come when the moral stamina of the leaders of the republican party is to be tested as it has not been since the civil war is certain," Mr. McKinley continued.

"It is within the power of the national committee to make or break the republican party for many years to come. The party is strong enough to withstand the shock of any attack from within or without, but no party can survive a compromise with principle or an abandonment of all principles."

Jersey City, N. J., May 24.—"I have enough delegates to renominate me at the Chicago convention." That was President Taft's declaration today to a score or more republicans who met him at the luncheon given in his honor by State Senator Freelinghuysen, of New Jersey, at Somerville.

Plainfield, N. J., May 24.—In his speech here Mr. Taft said: "It is a very unwise and dangerous thing to depart from that wise tradition that limits a president to two terms. It is especially unwise with a man of Mr. Roosevelt's type, with his capacity for appealing to the public, his ability to arouse the elements that are disturbing the community, preaching the doctrine of discontent with his power and personality and his unsound constitutional views and with his impatience of legal restraint."

"It would be a calamity to put him in the White house again.

"He has that power of centering upon himself the thought that he is equal to anything. It developed Saturday night in Cleveland in the statement that he proposes to be nominated at Chicago, and he did not propose to have anybody take the nomination away from him, and if they did and if they prevented his nomination, though he left the convention, those remaining would be bolters. And why? Because, he said, 'I am the republican party organization.'

"My friends, I do not cite that by way of ridicule. I only cite it to show the character of the man and to what he has developed in recent years, how little restraint he has upon his expression and upon his purpose, and I say to you in all sad conviction that were he allowed to hold a third term in violation of that wise tradition, intoxicated as he would be with the sense of power coming from the conferring upon him of an office and an honor that has been denied to all the most illustrious presidents of the country, it would not be safe to have him there and under these conditions, those who love the republic must see to it that no such risk occurs to it."

Camden, N. J., May 24.—"We are going to beat the politicians right out in New Jersey next Tuesday," said Colonel Roosevelt at the close of his second day's campaign in this state. "When we got through with them in Pennsylvania, there was not enough of them left to put in a coal scuttle. It will be about the same thing here."

## J. PIERPONT MORGAN'S GREAT POWER

News report in the New York World. The casual way in which the steel trust has absorbed one of the biggest of the outside companies was revealed in the hearing of the federal suit to dissolve the United States Steel corporation.

Cool and precise in speech, Percival Roberts, jr., a member of the finance committee of the trust and formerly president of the American Bridge company, told how his company had become a subsidiary of United States Steel corporation.

The hearing was in the custom house before Henry P. Brown, the special examiner. Judge Jacob M. Dickinson, the former secretary of war, who is representing the government in the investigation, asked the witness who it was that

Washington, D. C., May 24.—Mr. McHarg said that he would have charge of all Roosevelt contests to be taken before the republican national committee this year, as he did four years ago for President Taft.

"When the convention meets," said McHarg, "The Roosevelt strength will be such that we will control absolutely. We propose to organize that convention along lines that will not be at all comfortable for Senator Root to preside. That convention must have as chairman a man who is in accord with Colonel Roosevelt's views and policies, and that means it must be some one other than Senator Root. It is obviously impossible to have a chairman delivering a keynote speech who is out of sympathy with Colonel Roosevelt and the progressive cause. There is no other side to that question."

In discussing the subject of the contests to be brought before the national committee, McHarg said there would be at least 260 or 270 contested seats, as against 229 contested seats at the 1908 national convention. He will return to Chicago June 3 to take up the active work of presenting contests to the committee on June 6.

June 3, it was said tonight, will signalize the opening activities in Chicago for the final pre-convention struggle between the Taft and Roosevelt forces. On that date Taft and the Roosevelt national headquarters will be moved from Washington, D. C., to Chicago. Congressman William B. McKinley of Illinois will be in charge of the Taft headquarters, and United States Senator Dixon of Montana will direct the work of the Roosevelt bureau.

Special dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer: New York, May 22.—A Washington dispatch to the New York Times says:

Senator Root today visited several of his colleagues on the conservative side of the senate and sounded them about the prospects of running a third ticket in case Colonel Roosevelt is nominated for president at Chicago.

Those whom he saw regarded the nomination of Colonel Roosevelt as inevitable. Nothing definite was arrived at in these conferences, and Mr. Root himself did not seem certain whether the nomination of a third ticket would be advisable or not.

Mr. Root and those with whom he talked seemed to regard it as certain that the delegation would split in half; that Roosevelt would carry New Jersey, and that a number of the states now nominally for Taft, such as Michigan and Indiana, would swing loose and vote for Roosevelt.

In the apparently certain event of the colonel's nomination the question of running a third ticket has come decidedly to the front. There has been some talk about nominating a sort of Palmer and Buckner ticket, with a republican at the head and a democrat at the foot, but the prevailing sentiment has been in favor of running a straight republican ticket.

Should this be done there is a possibility of three republican tickets in the field, for friends of Senator La Follette tonight said that he would carry the fight against Roosevelt beyond the convention and up to the election.

Whether he does or not, the bolt by the conservatives seems imminently probable. No Taft man could be found today who seriously questioned the certainty of Roosevelt's nomination, and the talk was all about what should be done after the convention.

had conducted the negotiations between the steel trust and the bridge company.

"There were no negotiations," Mr. Roberts calmly replied.

"Do you mean to sit there and tell me that in a merger of this importance there was no correspondence, no negotiations between J. P. Morgan & Co. and the American Bridge company?"

"That is exactly what I mean. J. P. Morgan & Co. issued a circular to the shareholders of our company saying that they would exchange stock of the United States Steel corporation for that of the American Bridge company. All of the Bridge stockholders who felt disposed to exchange their stock did so; those that did not didn't have to."

"Do you mean to say that there were no nego-

tiations preceding this proposal; no discussion about the basis of the exchange?"

"Absolutely none. The Bridge company took no corporate action whatever in the matter. I was its president at the time and heard of no negotiations."

"Then the first knowledge you had of the desire of the steel corporation to exchange its securities for yours was through the circular?"

"No, I had had an interview with Robert Bacon of the J. P. Morgan company. At that interview he told me the United States Steel corporation was proposing to exchange its stock for that of the American Bridge company. Then he asked me if I would become a director of the steel corporation. I said I would. That was all."

"Do you mean that you agreed to become a director of the steel corporation before you knew what you would get for your stock?"

"I do."

"Was anything said in the interview about the details of the sale?"

"There was not."

Judge Dickinson asked if the witness had any knowledge of a contract between the American Bridge company and the Carnegie Steel company by which it had been provided that by the Carnegie company was not to build any steel bridges, viaducts, etc., for a period of ten years, in consideration of which the American Bridge company agreed to purchase from the steel company the material which it needed for the construction of bridges, elevated railroads, viaducts, etc., and that during this period the steel company would refrain from manufacturing or selling any bridge material. The witness admitted knowing of the contract. Judge Dickinson read it in full and had it inserted in the record.

On cross-examination by the attorneys representing the steel interests, Mr. Roberts said that the output of the American Bridge company today is about 33 per cent of the total output of the country, and that before the formation of the steel trust, the bridge company had controlled as high as 38 per cent of the trade.

Mr. Roberts was asked if there had been any pools or agreements on prices between structural manufacturers prior to the year 1900. He said there had been.

John C. Langan, who had previously been commissioner of various steel pools, testified that it had been his duty to receive reports from members of the various pools bearing on shipments, tonnage and sales, and that from these he would send out a monthly statement to the members. "Those who shipped over their allotment," the witness explained, "had to pay into the pool, and this amount was divided among those who fell under their allotted share. The association fixed the prices."

"How long did these agreements last?"

"Sometimes only till the members got out of the room."

### THE COST OF LIVING

Figures compiled by Bradstreets show that the cost of living has advanced ten per cent the past year.

When have the democrats had such an issue on which to go before the people in a national election? What does a ten per cent advance in the life cost in one year mean but an empty market basket for thousands upon thousands of American families?

The tariff is doing all it can to give the democrats a live issue. The trusts are doing all they can to give the democrats a live issue. Mr. Roosevelt by his failure to enforce the Sherman law, by which failure the trusts were given enormous power to add to the life cost, has done all he can to give the democrats a live issue.

By his vetoes of the bills by which the democratic house sought to reduce the cost of food and clothing, Mr. Taft has done all he can to give the democrats a live issue. In their great struggle for the republican nomination, and in which neither Mr. Roosevelt nor Mr. Taft is demanding a reduction in the taxes on life necessities but each is hurling epithet and invective at the other, the present and the former titular heads of the republican party are doing all they can to give the democrats a live issue.

Never before did so many influences combine to give the democrats an issue on which to fight a national campaign.

Will the Baltimore convention have the intelligence to grasp the significance of the empty market basket?

Will the Baltimore convention name a candidate who will be a pledge against further increase in the cost of living?—Portland (Oregon) Journal.