

Roberts for governor on the 9th. Gov. Peabody was nominated on the 9th by the Republicans for reelection as governor of Colorado.

President Roosevelt published his formal letter of acceptance as the Republican candidate for President (p. 356) on the 12th. It is a document of about 13,000 words, and in substance as follows:

The letter begins with an extended and lively challenge to the Democratic party to join issue with the Republicans, coupled with a criticism of their strictures upon Republican administrations. It proceeds from this to a declaration in favor of the gold standard "and a sound monetary system as matters of principle" and not of "momentary political expediency," and refers to the "record of the last seven years" to prove "that the party now in power can be trusted to take the additional action necessary to improve and strengthen our monetary system." Reference is then made to the record as a guarantee of the Republican party's policy with reference to the organization of labor and of capital and to the question of trusts. Regarding human rights, Mr. Roosevelt says: "This government is based upon the fundamental idea that each man, no matter what his occupation, his race, or his religious belief, is entitled to be treated on his worth as a man, and neither favored nor discriminated against because of any accident in his position. Even here at home there is painful difficulty in the effort to realize this ideal; and the attempt to secure from other nations acknowledgment of it sometimes encounters obstacles that are well nigh insuperable; for there are many nations which in the slow procession of the ages have not yet reached that point where the principles which Americans regard as axiomatic obtain any recognition whatever." Some remarks upon the civil service law follow, and these are succeeded by a discussion of the tariff question. On that subject he says it is impossible to compare the platform of the Democrats "with their other and later official utterances and not create doubt as to their sincerity." While the platform describes protection as robbery, yet prominent Democrats assert that if their party comes into power it will adopt the Republican policy as to the tariff, while "others seem anxious to prove that it is safe to give them power because their power would be only partial and therefore they would not be able to do mischief." Advancing to a discussion of the bearing of protection on prosperity Mr. Roosevelt says: "It is only ten years since the last attempt was made, by means of lowering the tariff, to prevent some people from prospering too much. The attempt was entirely successful. The tariff law of

that year was among the causes which in that year and for some time afterward effectually prevented anybody from prospering too much and labor from prospering at all. Undoubtedly it would be possible at the present time to prevent any of the trusts from remaining prosperous by the simple expedient of making such a sweeping change in the tariff as to paralyze the industries of the country. The trusts would cease to prosper, but their smaller competitors would be ruined and the wage-workers would starve, while it would not pay the farmer to haul his produce to market." On the same general subject he adds: "From time to time schedules must undoubtedly be arranged and readjusted to meet the shifting needs of the country; but this can with safety be done only by those who are committed to the cause of the protective system. To uproot and destroy that system would be to insure the prostration of business, the closing of factories, the impoverishment of the farmer, the ruin of the capitalist, and the starvation of the wage-worker. Yet, if protection is indeed 'robbery,' and if our opponents really believe what they say, then it is precisely to the destruction and uprooting of the tariff, and therefore of our business and industry, that they are pledged." Mr. Roosevelt closes his extended discussion in behalf of the principle of protection with a favorable word for "including in some way the merchant marine within its benefits," though without specifying the way usually proposed, that of a ship subsidy. The army question is next taken up, and this is followed by an explanation of the treasury deficit. The next subject is the Philippine question, regarding which Mr. Roosevelt makes an argument too lengthy and closely linked to admit of fair condensation. Its spirit animates the closing paragraph: "This is as true now as four years ago. We did not take the Philippines at will, and we cannot put them aside at will. Any abandonment of the policy which we have steadily pursued in the Islands would be fraught with dishonor and disaster; and to such dishonor and disaster I do not believe the American people will consent."

Gov. Garvin's call for a special session of the legislature of Rhode Island (p. 54) has resulted in a refusal of the legislature to consider the subject matter of his call. He had directed their attention to three things neglected by them at the regular session, namely, (1) the constitutional initiative, which would allow 5,000 electors to propose specific amendments to the State constitution; (2) equal suffrage, which would confer upon registry voters in cities the right to vote in the election of city councils; (3) the veto power, which

would enable the governor to check hasty and vicious legislation. The legislature had buried these and other popular measures in committees, and with a mass of unfinished business before it had adjourned to a date succeeding the Fall elections. It was also because he believed that this adjournment had been taken to enable the present legislature to dispose of that business improperly after the election, and thereby obstruct the new legislature to be then elected, that Gov. Garvin called the special session. Upon assembling on the 13th, in accordance with this call, the legislature refused to consider the subject matter of the call, and, after passing a concurrent resolution condemning the governor for having ordered the special session, adjourned.

A new turn has occurred in the traction contest in Chicago (p. 357). On the 9th the Chicago Examiner made the following announcement:

A petition for a referendum on the Chicago City Railway ordinance must be made. Mayor Harrison has declared that such a petition is the only thing that will prevent the passage of the infamous street car franchise ordinance now pending in the council. The petition, therefore, should be made. It must be made. The Chicago Examiner and the Chicago American will undertake the herculean task, and ask the cooperation of the people of Chicago who believe in the rights of the people in their own streets and who believe in public honesty. An army of men must be had for the work. They must be such public spirited and patriotic citizens of Chicago as will volunteer their assistance and give their labor to help make this gigantic petition within the short space of time remaining for its completion.

The Examiner thereupon called for 2,504 volunteers pledged to secure 50 signatures each, and has ever since been urging on this work. Later in the day of the above announcement, the 9th, Mayor Harrison extended the time for holding back the proposed ordinance pending the filing of a referendum petition, from October 20th, the date named in his proclamation (p. 305), to November 15th. The Referendum League published informally on the 10th a refusal to prepare a petition "until the council has amended and mutilated to its heart's content the ordinance" in