

Roosevelt for the Presidential Candidacy.

Eight Republican Governors and 70 other Republican leaders from 24 States met in secret conference at the Congress hotel, Chicago, on the 10th to plan a campaign for the nomination of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt for President of the United States by the Republican convention at Chicago next June. The Governors in attendance were Stubbs of Kansas, Osborn of Michigan, Hadley of Missouri, Aldrich of Nebraska, Bass of New Hampshire, Glasscock of West-Virginia, Carey of Wyoming and Vessey of South Dakota. In their formal address to the public the conference say:

Momentous questions are pressing for solution, questions which touch every phase of human life and industry. On the one hand they relate to the effective maintenance of the rights of men in the interest of all, and on the other to the effective control of capital in the interest of all. What the country is seeking is justice as between man and man. It wants equality of opportunity safeguarded by adequate law. It demands this justice and this equality of opportunity that the nation may live and, under God, endure.

A principle is of no avail without a man; a cause is lost without a leader. In Theodore Roosevelt we believe that principle has the man, the cause the leader. It is our opinion that this is the sentiment of the majority of the people of the United States.

Notwithstanding the fact that Theodore Roosevelt is not a candidate, we believe the people have decided to make him their candidate. It is for the people to determine who shall be their President, irrespective of the wishes of the citizen selected. . . .

We express our firm conviction that he will accept the nomination as a duty he owes to his country, and we wish to present his name in this united manner and urge that all who desire prosperity with progress shall join in the demand for his nomination and election.

**Senator La Follette as a Presidential Candidate.**

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Minnesota Progressive Republican League on the 10th, resolutions were adopted denouncing the attempts to have Senator La Follette withdraw as a Presidential candidate and pledging him the support of the League. The chairman of the committee, George S. Loftus, having telegraphed this action to Senator La Follette, who is ill at Washington, he received the following telegraphic reply:

Out of a full heart I thank you for your good telegram, which bespeaks, as always, your unwavering fidelity to the cause. I became a candidate when no one else would lead the Progressive movement. Though urged to do so, I have refused to make any combination or compromise that might confuse the issue or mislead the people. I ask only delegates who stand steadfast to principle. Your unswerving constancy in maintaining advanced ground will be an inspiration to all real Progressives in every State.

The Lorimer League of Illinois.

The Lincoln Protective League of Illinois, which is the organization of the Lorimer faction in Illinois politics, met in State convention at Springfield on the 12th. While it indorsed the administration of President Taft, it did not declare for his renomination. It did, however, declare for the re-election of United States Senator Cullom. No State ticket was indorsed. The resolutions adopted urge that "each of the three divisions of the government provided by our Constitution should be left untrammelled," and record "strongest disapprobation of the socialistic doctrine of the Initiative and Referendum." They denounce Gov. Deneen, and declaring in favor of a protective tariff indorse the record in public life of Senator Lorimer. Speeches were made by Charles Burris, Harry Atwood, William Hale Thompson, Dr. A. J. Carey, B. M. Davidson, Walter Kinzie, Len Small and Senator Lorimer. Cicero J. Lindley of Chicago called the convention to order. John L. Flannigan of East St. Louis was made temporary chairman and Ralph B. Holmes of Danville, permanent chairman. The secretaries were V. C. Rohm, Captain P. B. Coffin, Z. A. Landers and E. L. Lowenthal. [See current volume, page 133.]

**Direct Legislation in Illinois.**

Active work is now in progress in the State of Illinois by the Initiative and Referendum League for defeating for re-election members of the legislature who violated their pledges and instructions relative to this reform. The details of the work are under the management of George E. Lee of Springfield. All who voted against the resolution for an Initiative and Referendum amendment to the Constitution will be fought by the League without regard to politics. As upon the "little ballot" vote each of the 51 Senatorial districts of the State voted for the adoption of the resolution, the League assumes that all the members were instructed to vote that way; and the League holds that those who were absent or who declined to vote when the resolution was up are just as guilty as were those who voted against the resolution. The League has prepared the list of those who voted against the resolution, those who were absent or refused to vote, and those who violated their personal pledges. It will be distributed broadcast throughout the State. The defeat of all such men will be urged in the primaries, but if any escape there, then the fight will be continued, and the League will urge their defeat at the election next November.

**Direct Legislation in the Ohio Constitutional Convention.**

A sharp contest with a significant result regard-

ing the Initiative and Referendum occurred in the Constitutional Convention of Ohio on the 8th. [See current volume, pages 80, 150.]



Delegate Halfhill, who has taken leadership against the Initiative and Referendum, basing his opposition principally upon its possible uses to let the people of Ohio vote on the Singletax, offered a resolution censuring caucus methods. The point of his resolution was the fact that President Bigelow had secured concerted action by a majority of the delegates in support of their pledges to their constituencies to vote for an Initiative and Referendum clause in the Constitution they were elected to frame. Judge Peck of Cincinnati moved to lay Halfhill's resolution on the table, and it was upon this motion that what now appears to have been a decisive vote with reference to the Initiative and Referendum was subsequently taken by the Convention.



Just before the motion to table Halfhill's "anti-I-and-R" resolution, Governor Harmon appeared before the convention to advise against the Initiative and Referendum policy. In the course of his speech to the convention, as reported by the Cleveland Plain Dealer of the 9th, Governor Harmon said:

I am not convinced that the Initiative and Referendum, applied generally to subjects of legislation, would be an improvement on our system of government by representatives, which, while it has shortcomings like all human institutions, I do not believe has proved a failure. My attitude is like that of "the man from Missouri."

I believe that, in actual practice, this change would not fully justify either the fears of its opponents or the hopes of its advocates. If it will work well anywhere it ought to do so in our municipalities. So, to add to discussion of it, the argument of a test by our own citizens, I approved a bill at the last session to authorize it in them, though, I am told, it has not yet been resorted to anywhere. For myself, I think we should await the result of a fair trial in our cities and villages, before making Statewide the operation of so radical a change in our methods. But if the Convention should decide to submit the question to the people, as I understand many members wish to do, it should be done separately. The provision should be guarded so as to prevent its being lightly invoked. The very heavy expense of special elections should be avoided, except in cases of unusual and widespread and general demand. And, in view of its experimental character, resubmission to the people should be provided for, at the end of a reasonable period, without the formalities and delay generally required for amendments of the Constitution.



Governor Harmon's speech was followed by Delegate Halfhill's "anti-I-and-R" resolution, upon

which an acrimonious debate was closed by Judge Peck's motion to lay the resolution on the table. In this contest, says McKee's report for the Plain Dealer, "President Bigelow personally took charge of his forces and led them to victory." McKee's account of this battle and Bigelow's leadership speech, in the same Plain Dealer report, follows:

It was no boys' battle. Men who had been in many a bruising skirmish were there, standing shoulder to shoulder, giving and taking, for the battle was fought out in the open, with packed galleries. Started yesterday, the decisive engagement was delayed until today so the forces behind the Initiative and Referendum might reform their lines, take a careful poll of their number and know in advance the final test that the roll call would make public.

"The scenes on the floor today remind me of those the second day of the convention," President Bigelow said as he began to speak. "What has occurred since that time to arouse suspicion that I cannot handle this fairly? What it is these men have signed and who has signed, are secrets I decline to divulge. I do not intend any delegate should be intimidated from coming freely to my office for consultation at any time. Are we here open minded? No, I was sent here on a mission to obtain for the people of the State the Initiative and Referendum, and I will listen to no man or argument against it. Others who care to may do so. I will not. Over one-half of the delegates here have no moral right to listen to any arguments against that principle. They all made pledges, just as I did, to secure the new principle in law. Next week it is my intention to begin a campaign for completing the work and start it on its way through the Convention. I have the signed pledges of more than one-half of the delegates to abide by the caucus draft of the measure. We are going to hold these conferences and work out the idea and bring our conclusion before the convention. It is going to be a fight and I give notice that we are not going into the contest unprepared. We are not going to try conclusions with a trained opposition, skillfully managed and fully armed, and hope to beat them with untrained recruits. We have foreseen the contest and have prepared for it."



On Judge Peck's motion to table the Halfhill resolution against the Initiative and Referendum, Delegates Doty and Lampson demanded a roll call. The resolution was tabled by 60 to 45. Commenting upon the result, the Plain Dealer's report describes the supporters of the Initiative and Referendum as in high glee, and adds: "They are in control of the majority of the votes; they believe the principle for which they fought has been made certain of adoption; for the first time the convention appears to be under control."



Won't it be terrible if all those constituent Standard Oil companies get to indulging in ruinous competition with one another?—Chicago Record-Herald.