

their own candidate—Governor McGovern—and may therefore lose their place as a party on the election ballots.



#### Roosevelt's Campaign-Fund Explanation.

In an 18,000-word letter to Senator Clapp, published on the 2d, Theodore Roosevelt replies to the charges of corruption in connection with campaign contributions from corporations in the Presidential election of 1904. The letter consists chiefly of letters offered by Mr. Roosevelt in support of the following declaration which he makes in it:

What I can testify to is that if any request for funds was made from the Standard Oil Company, or if any funds were received from the Standard Oil Company by Mr. Bliss or any one else connected with the national committee in 1904, it was not merely done without my knowledge, but was done against my expressed direction and prohibition and in spite of the fact that I was assured that no such request had been made and that no such contribution had been or would be received.



#### Michigan Primaries.

At the Michigan primaries on the 27th the Democrats polled their normal vote, nominating W. H. Ferris for Governor and J. W. Helme for Lieutenant Governor without opposition. For United States Senator, Alfred Lucking was nominated over George P. Hummer by a small majority. [See current volume, page 772.]



The contest for Governor in the Republican Party lay between Amos Musselman and Frederick C. Martindale. Musselman was nominated by 2,018 majority, having polled 74,307 to 72,289 for Martindale—a Republican total of 146,596.



In the Progressive Party the contest was over the nomination of Congressman-at-Large, there being only one candidate for Governor. The vote was small, W. A. Hill getting the nomination for Congressman-at-Large with 3,132 votes to 2,491 for J. B. Kirby—a total of 5,623.



Mayor Thompson was renominated by the Democrats for Mayor of Detroit.



#### Municipal Progress in Canada.

At the twelfth meeting of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, which opened on the 28th at Windsor, there were present prominent municipal officials from all parts of Canada. "The Mayor

of Halifax, N. S., shook hands with the Mayor of Victoria, B. C.," says the London (Ont.) Free Press on the 28th, which proceeds with its report as follows:

President J. W. McCready, city clerk of Fredericton, N. B., outlined some of the problems that are confronting the Union in his address, referring to the question of government by commission, agitation for revision of the assessment laws, town planning and the movement for good roads. One of these questions, that of revision in assessment laws, was brought before the convention at an evening session by papers on municipal taxation by Ald. Joseph Clarke, of Edmonton, Alta., and Ald. W. Hepburn, of Vancouver, B. C. In both cities the system of exempting improvements from taxation has been adopted. The papers and the discussion which followed indicated that the system of assessing land values is favored by representatives of Western cities, while those of the older cities in Eastern Canada are, in many cases, opposed to it. "The triumph of our land tax in Edmonton is shown by the fact that in 1906 we had building permits to the value of \$1,563,000, while in 1912, the first year all taxes other than land taxes are taken off, they were \$15,500,000," said Ald. Clarke of that city. "If the previous ratio had been continued, it would have required 80,000 population to justify this expenditure, while our population is approximately 53,000. The land tax in Vancouver is the principal cause of the growth of the city in recent years," said Ald. Hepburn. "The difficulty of making owners of buildings keep them in sanitary condition has been greatly lessened and the tax on land has also had the effect of causing owners of vacant property to improve it." "No one will attempt to dispute that the land tax in Victoria has been most beneficial," said Mayor J. L. Beckwith, of the Western city. "The system of taxing buildings is simply a system of fining a man for improving his property." "Cities of Saskatchewan are moving toward the land tax," said Deputy Minister J. N. Bayne. "Under the new law the limit of assessment is fixed at 60 per cent and cities have the right to reduce this 15 per cent a year. Within two or three years it is believed that the cities will entirely remove the tax on improvements."



#### Nicaragua, Honduras and Mexico.

Rear Admiral W. H. H. Southerland, commander-in-chief of the American Pacific fleet, is now in supreme command of the Nicaraguan situation as far as the United States is involved in it. Admiral Southerland arrived at Corinto on the California on the 28th, and remained there while the California proceeded to Panama to embark the marines brought to Colon on the Prairie, as reported last week. Reopening of full communication between Corinto and Managua will be the first task of the Americans. The reinforcements to arrive on the California will bring the total of American marines and sailors in Nicaragua up to nearly 2,000, with several hundred more available from the neighboring warships. Dispatches from Washington on the 29th stated that orders had