

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

been issued by the war department for two regiments of infantry, with field battery equipment, to hold themselves in readiness to proceed immediately to Nicaragua. [See current volume, page 829].



Charges are being made by various newspaper writers to the effect that the successive revolutionary movements in Nicaragua during the last few years have been aided or thwarted by the United States government in the interest of American concessionaries. The present revolution is anti-American in character; nevertheless it has been charged that American interests, dissatisfied with the government in power, have financed it in the hope of precipitating American intervention and forcing the ratification of the agreement for the fiscal administration of Nicaragua entered into by the American secretary of state and the Nicaraguan government.



Subcommittees of the United States Senate committee on foreign relations are to visit Nicaragua, Honduras and Mexico during the next few weeks for the purpose of determining, according to John Callan O'Laughlin in the Chicago Tribune—

Whether the American government or American citizens are behind the unrest prevailing in the Republics named.

Whether this government should enter into the agreements negotiated by Secretary of State Knox, establishing financial protectorates over Nicaragua and Honduras.

Whether the policy observed by the Taft administration toward Mexico is in the interest of the good relations of the United States and its sister Republic.

What kind of broad policy shall be observed toward the countries between the Rio Grande and the canal zone which will assure peace and stability, adequately protect American interests and prevent foreign complications.

The subcommittee to visit Nicaragua consists of Senators Lodge of Massachusetts, Sutherland of Utah, Burton of Ohio, Bacon of Georgia, and Clark of Arkansas. Mexico is to be investigated by a subcommittee comprising Senators Smith of Michigan, McCumber of North Dakota, Borah of Idaho, Shively of Indiana, and Hitchcock of Nebraska. None of the senators named have ever been in Mexico or Central America, which is regarded as likely to promote an unbiased investigation. The same correspondent states further that—

The Senate has not looked kindly upon the policy of the state department with reference to Nicaragua and Honduras. A year and a half ago Mr. Knox signed a treaty with the minister of Honduras, and six months later a treaty with the minister of Nicaragua, under which this government agreed to aid the countries named in making a loan for the re-

funding of their debts, those countries consenting to an administration of their customs like that which has been conducted so successfully in the Republic of Santo Domingo. Unfortunately, the treaties were so drawn as to be open to charges that the state department was serving as the agent of Wall street. A contract was made between the Honduras government and a group of New York bankers, headed by J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., which, it was alleged, was less in the interest of the Central American Republic than in that of the American financiers. Moreover, the treaty with Honduras placed in the hands of these financiers the selection of the collector-general of customs and practically bound the United States to back him up. The same consideration was shown whatever bankers undertook the Nicaraguan loan. Several members of the Senate foreign relations committee promptly announced they would not permit the ratification of such treaties. The result was that the consideration of these instruments has been indefinitely postponed. The investigation by the Senate subcommittee may result in a decision to modify the treaties, and if the modification be acceptable to Nicaragua and Honduras, to ratify them. But what the Senate wants above everything is to develop a broad policy under which Mexico and Central America may have peace and orderly development. This is essential to the United States, because foreign governments look to this country to protect their interests.

[See current volume, pages 63, 804.]



Land Value Taxation Propaganda in China.

In a late issue of the Peking Daily News appeared the following letter from Dr. W. E. Macklin of Nanking:

One of the most urgent things to be done in China now is the prevention of famine. To prevent the floods of the Hwai River valley will cost maybe 100,000,000 taels.

Where is this money to come from? It is a good rule to go by, not to borrow unless there are resources with which to pay back the debt. Lands in the Hwai Valley are worth from \$2 to \$40 a mow. Lands in which there is no danger of floods are worth, say, \$40 a mow. Lands subject every year or two to floods may be worth from \$2 to \$10 a mow. If we borrow capital and dig a canal to the sea we make this \$2 to \$10 land worth maybe \$40. This will be a gift to the land owners. We should, therefore, take a list of sales of land before and after the digging of the canal. The increase in value will show how much advantage the land owners have received. By taxing this unearned increment the landlords will not be hurt, and yet there will be an abundant revenue to pay back the debt.

Famine relief is very much improved in method in the past few years.

First, great sums of money were collected from Chinese and foreigners and doled out to the famine sufferers. This was a great source of profit to the rice dealers, as the increased demand for rice raised the price. Then food stuffs were sent up to the famine region. This, of course, lowered the price of