

President Roosevelt's Campaign Letter.

In view of the approaching Congressional campaign, President Roosevelt has written a campaign letter to Congressman James E. Watson of Indiana, which was given out by Mr. Roosevelt for publication on the 20th. It is a long document, evidently prepared with care as a campaign key note, and the subjects covered are numerous; it is in substance, however, a letter of approval of the course of conduct of the present Congress.

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Democratic Politics in Illinois.

The Democratic convention for Illinois (p. 464) met at Peoria on the 21st in great confusion. It was understood that a contest over the continued control of the party machinery of the State by Roger C. Sullivan, the head of the gas franchise interests in Chicago, would be brought to a test, Mr. Bryan having confirmed his previous declaration regarding Mr. Sullivan (p. 419) by cabling a request that the convention either repudiate Sullivan or refrain from endorsing himself for the Presidency.

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Mr. Sullivan's candidate for temporary chairman, Judge Carroll C. Boggs, was elected without opposition, Congressman Rainey having withdrawn as a candidate upon receiving assurances that a resolution asking Mr. Sullivan to resign as national committee man would be given a fair hearing and a roll call. Candidates, with Nicholas L. Piotrowski of Chicago for State treasurer at the head of the list, were nominated perfunctorily before recess. Among the candidates were Caroline Grote for superintendent of public instruction, the first nomination by either party of a woman for that office.

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After recess the chairman of the committee on resolutions, ex-Congressman Kern, reported the platform. On national matters it condemns the tariff for fostering trusts and extorting money from American workingmen, denounces the Republicans in Congress for surrendering to the railroads and the trusts, opposes the ship subsidy, favors postal savings banks, nationalization of telephones and telegraphs, and endorses Wm. J. Bryan for president. It also demands a direct primary law, an eight-hour work day, a rigid child labor law and strict factory and mine inspection.

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After presenting the platform Mr. Kern announced that the committee had rejected the resolution calling for Mr. Sullivan's resignation from the national committee, but had agreed to its presentation as a minority report. This presentation was made by Judge O. P. Thompson, though with great difficulty, for the Sullivan delegates and attendants drowned his voice with disorderly noises until at last Mr. Sullivan requested quiet and the noises subsided. Congressman Rainey also spoke for the resolution. Mr. Sullivan spoke against it. Mr. Kern moved to table the resolution, and Samuel Alschuler supported his motion on the ground that this was "not the time and place for this thing to be considered." When the Cook County vote was announced, 500 for tabling and

35 opposed, Western Starr and Charles H. Mitchell, delegates from Cook, challenged the vote and demanded a roll call of the county, whereupon they were assailed by a mob and violently thrust from the floor. The result as announced from the chair, a roll call of delegates having been denied and only a roll call of counties taken, was 1,038 for tabling the resolution, 570 opposed, and 51 not voting. The platform was then adopted and the convention adjourned.

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Republican Politics in Illinois.

While the Democratic convention of Illinois was in boisterous session at Peoria, the Republican convention (p. 458) was peaceably at work at Springfield. It remained in session only four hours, and every vote was unanimous. President Roosevelt was commended in the platform, which, on the tariff question, declared:

We do not hold that any particular schedule of tariff duties must be of endless duration, but, on the contrary, when changing business and industrial conditions shall be benefited by a modification of any existing tariff schedule the Republican party holds itself ready to make such needed changes. The necessity for such change, however, must not arise from any special interest, but must arise from a fair and candid consideration of all the business and industrial interests of the whole country.

The remainder of the platform is simply commendatory of Republican policies and officials. The convention nominated John F. Smulski of Chicago to head the ticket as candidate for State treasurer.

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Socialist Politics in Illinois.

The convention of the Socialist party for Illinois was held at Chicago on the 21st. Its nominee for State treasurer is W. E. McDermott and for superintendent of public instruction, May Wood Simons.

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Democratic Politics in Ohio.

In Ohio the Democratic convention met at Columbus on the 21st. Press dispatches tell of the defeat of Mayor Johnson by Harvey L. Garber, an old-fashioned machine politician, for control of the State committee. But Johnson was not a candidate for chairman, and Garber's election seems to have been expected. The only basis for referring to it as a defeat of Johnson rests upon Johnson's public notice of a few days before that he would not allow political crooks to manage the Democratic party of the State without a protest. He appears to have made a protest, but with full knowledge that Garber controlled a large majority of the delegates, secured through State patronage under the late Governor Pattison. Garber was consequently elected chairman of the State committee. Mayor Johnson had made a clean sweep of the Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) primaries and Mayor Dempsey had done the same (p. 467) at the Hamilton County (Cincinnati) primaries, both in a contest against corporations and machine politicians.

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Conventions in Other States.

The Democratic convention for Nebraska (p. 466) in session at Lincoln on the 15th, described Bryan