

Having been asked, more or less authoritatively, whether he would accept the temporary chairmanship of the Republican convention of the State to be held this fall, Mr. Roosevelt indicated his willingness to do so, but with suggestions that prove to have been unacceptable to the managers—unless it may be that they had already set themselves against him, an inference which their recent defeat of a direct primary bill in the legislature (p. 636) in opposition to his request might confirm. When the State committee met at New York City on the 16th the nomination by Lloyd C. Griscom (chairman of the New York county committee) of Mr. Roosevelt for temporary chairman of the convention, to meet at Saratoga on the 27th of September, was defeated by 20 to 15. The majority of five, voted for Vice-President Sherman, who afterwards declared in newspaper interviews his intention to accept.

+

Upon being informed of the committee's action, Mr. Roosevelt gave out this statement for publication:

To the various persons who asked me whether I would accept the position of temporary chairman of the State convention I said that I would do so only if they were sure, after knowing my attitude, that they desired me, because my speech would be of such a character that it might help if the convention nominated the right kind of man on a clean cut progressive platform, but that it would hurt if neither the right kind of a man were nominated, nor the right kind of a platform adopted.

For a few days there was much newspaper excitement indicating a rupture between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft, in consequence of which the latter was induced by Mr. Griscom, as Mr. Roosevelt's political representative, to authorize publication of a statement. It is long and circumstantial and discloses an attitude of neutrality. "Whenever my advice or assistance in reaching a satisfactory adjustment of the difficulties arising has been sought," Mr. Taft concludes, "I have urged the necessity for the fullest conference with Mr. Roosevelt by the members of the organization." Part of the statement is regarded as involving Vice President Sherman ambiguously, but Mr. Sherman, when advised of the letter by President Taft, said he did not desire to see copies, and declined absolutely to make any comment or expression in reference to the matter. Mr. Roosevelt expressed his satisfaction with the President's statement.

+ +

The Indians' Lands Investigation.

J. F. McMurray, who holds contracts with Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians for the sale for them of certain oil and mining lands for \$30,000,000 (said to be worth \$160,000,000) with a contingent fee for himself of 10 per cent, and who

needs the assent of Congress to complete these sales, was before the Congressional investigating committee (p. 782) at Sulphur, Oklahoma, on the 18th and examined all day upon the charges of Senator Gore that he, McMurray, had, through one J. L. Hamon, offered Senator Gore a bribe of \$25,000 and then \$50,000 to withdraw his opposition in the Senate to the land sales in question. He denied the accusation categorically. He also denied having offered a bribe of \$25,000 to the Choctaw lawyer, D. C. McCurtain. He further denied that any member of Congress or any employe of the government had any interest in his contracts.

+

At the request of Senator Gore, the committee issued this statement on the 20th:

The committee has heard and carefully considered all the testimony submitted and is unanimous in the opinion that there is and was no warrant for any person to use the names of Vice-President Sherman and Senator Charles S. Curtis in connection with any improper relations with any Indian contract whatever.

Following is Senator Gore's formal request for the foregoing committee statement:

Neither the name of Vice-President Sherman nor of Senator Curtis was mentioned by me on the floor of the United States Senate. That the name of either of these persons was alluded to by Mr. Hamon was steadfastly withheld from the public until this investigation began. Their names are disclosed finally not with any view to inculpating them or with any view of suggesting guilt, but merely in order that the truth, and the whole truth, might be related with reference to the details of the conversation between Mr. Hamon and myself. While the public has had no reason to suspect any such improper connection, yet I would venture to request that the committee at the earliest practicable moment make an authoritative finding and statement to the effect that no evidence has been presented tending to establish any improper conduct on the part of either Vice-President Sherman or Senator Curtis respecting the subject of this investigation.

+ +

Work of the Peoria Conference.

A report of the Committee of Seven of the Peoria Conference (p. 770), issued on the 16th by the chairman, Walter S. Rogers, from the committee headquarters, 1308 Unity Building, Chicago, to the signers of the call for the Peoria Conference, explains the Committee's work as follows:

As a general statement the committee is planning: (1) To get in touch, with a view to co-operation, with existing good government organizations and public spirited citizens who are willing to do something in the present political crisis in Illinois; (2) to prepare and distribute printed matter relating to political conditions in Illinois and the great issues before the people of the State; (3) to ask candidates to