

justment. That occurred during the past summer, and was reported in these columns at the time. After some weeks delay, during which the United States extended friendly offices, an arrangement was effected whereby Colombia promised to make a satisfactory settlement within eight months, whereupon the Italian fleet withdrew. This it was understood ended the trouble. But on the 22d advices came from Bogota, the capital of Colombia, announcing that amicable relations with Italy had been broken off; and on the next day it was reported that all Italian consulates in Colombia had been closed. No explanations came until the 24th, when it was reported in the vaguest way that the reason for the action of Colombia in severing relations was due to the extraordinary means employed by the Italian government to collect the Cerutti claim. Two days later advices from Colombia were to the effect that the government there had finally decided to decline to pay the Cerutti claim altogether. The ground for this is that the republic is now able to prove Cerutti's complicity in the political troubles of 1875-85, out of which his alleged damages grew. The president of Colombia has therefore been directed to ask Italy to re-submit the case to arbitration, and upon refusal to oppose force with force to the last extreme. Cerutti, in whose favor the award was made, is dead; and the claim is being pressed through the Italian government by his creditors.

In American politics the most important event of the week is the nomination by the republicans of New York of Col. Theodore Roosevelt for governor. He was nominated on the first ballot by 753 votes, against 218 cast for Gov. Black. Col. Roosevelt had been selected some weeks ago by Mr. Platt as his candidate; but Gov. Black, whom Mr. Platt brought out at the last gubernatorial election, obtained the support of Payne, Lauterbach and other lieutenants of Mr. Platt and made a contest, with the rather unsatisfactory result recorded above. In the course of their campaign against Roosevelt, Gov. Black's supporters made public what seemed at the time to be absolute proof of Roosevelt's ineligibility on account of non-residence. It was an affidavit which had been used last Spring to secure the remission of personal taxes levied on Roosevelt in the city of New York. In this affidavit Roosevelt

swore that he was not a resident of the city of New York, but resided in Washington, D. C. The question came up in the conversation, and Roosevelt's lawyer read letters which Roosevelt had written on the subject of his taxes at about the time of the affidavit. It appears that he had been taxed on personal property both in New York and in Washington, and his object, according to the letters, was to avoid paying in both places. In one of the letters he spoke of being then a voter at Oyster Bay, N. Y., and of paying his personal taxes there; while in another he said: "I don't want to lose my vote this fall, and therefore I will pay the penalty and pay those taxes in New York. Is it practical to alter matters so as to have me taxed at Oyster Bay? Would this be practical or not? If not, then I will pay in New York. Any way I don't want to seem to sneak out of anything, nor do I wish to lose my vote two years in succession." The first of these letters was dated Jan. 20, 1898, and the second March 25, 1898; the affidavit of residence in Washington was dated March 21st, 1898.

The Independent republicans had nominated Roosevelt for governor on their ticket, but he declined the nomination. The committee therefore decided on the 25th to run a candidate against him. They are organized in opposition to the management of the party by Mr. Platt.

Circumstances make the platform of the republican convention that nominated Roosevelt exceptionally important as possibly foreshadowing the administration policy. But it really throws little if any light upon the subject except in one particular. Referring to the Philippine question it declares that "wherever our flag has gone, there the liberty, the humanity and the civilization which that flag embodies and represents must remain and abide forever." Aside from this point, and an explicit declaration against free silver and free trade, the platform is perfunctory.

Ex-Gov. Altgeld opened the democratic campaign in Illinois at the Auditorium in Chicago, on the 24th, to an audience which packed the building; and the following week the republicans of Chicago announced that their campaign would be made on the lines of "sound money, protection and expansion." At the convention

on the 24th, the republicans of Montana abandoned the free silver doctrine and endorsed the St. Louis platform. Senator Foster W. Voorhees was nominated for governor of New Jersey on the 22d by the republicans of that state, after a speech from Attorney General Griggs, of President McKinley's cabinet, urging the importance of preparing our national government for the maintenance of a colonial system. In Ohio, Mayor McKisson, of Cleveland, the republican candidate for senator last winter against Mr. Hanna, has announced his intention of seeking the next republican nomination for governor on a platform of opposition to trusts and monopolies. The democrats of New Jersey have nominated Alvin W. Crane for governor, and in their platform they ignore the Chicago platform of 1896. A minority report of the committee on resolutions specifically endorsing the Chicago platform was voted down.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Richard Malcolm Johnston, the novelist, died on the 23d at his home in Baltimore.

—Miss Fanny Davenport, the famous actress, whose married name was Mrs. Melbourne MacDowell, died on the 26th, at Duxbury, Mass.

—Col. William J. Bryan, who has been in Washington for several days on business connected with his regiment, lies there sick with fever.

—A trust of the pressed glassware concerns of the United States was organized on the 28th at Pittsburgh, with A. H. McKee as president.

—Queen Louise of Denmark, mother of the prince of Wales' wife, of King George of Greece, and of the widow of the late czar of Russia, died on the 29th, aged 81 years.

—It has been discovered that Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., having been disinherited by his father, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Sr., is earning his own living as a civil engineer in connection with the Vanderbilt railroad system.

—The supreme court of Wyoming has decided that communications between free masons are not privileged, but that a witness must disclose any such communications whenever required to do so on the stand in court.

—Fires are raging along the Rocky mountains, from New Mexico to Wyoming. They are beyond control and must be left to burn out or be extinguished by the rains. The known losses are as yet confined to horses and timber.

—Chili and Argentina signed an agreement on the 22d for the submis-