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SCENE SHIFTS TO COOK

Contest for Delegates for the State Convention is Now Centered in Chicago.

COL. LOWDEN IS THE FAVORITE

Fight Will Be Between Him and Deenee—Notable Victory for Lowden in Jo Daviess County.

Springfield, Ill., March 29.—The meedie of the Republican political compass in Illinois has shifted toward Chicago and from now on until the May convention the magnetism of the campaign for governor will be centered in that city. While nearly twenty counties in the state outside of Chicago are still to hold their conventions, most of the work of the campaigners has been done in these districts and it is not expected that the result will materially affect the general situation in the contest for nomination.

As Cook county is entitled to 529 votes in the coming state convention—over one-third of the total of 1,515 to be cast, the results of the conventions in that district will have a decidedly important bearing upon the selection of the gubernatorial candidate. This is especially true in view of the fact that it is conceded none of the six aspirants for the party leadership will enter the convention with a sufficient number of delegates to insure his nomination.

The fact that the nomination is to be largely fought out in the convention has kept the heat of the contending elements at fever heat, and has made the present campaign one of the most memorable in the history of the state. The situation has induced some of the country candidates to consider the matter of inaugurating a campaign in the city of Chicago and it is probable that at least two of them will soon declare their intention to strive for some of the delegations from the big city.

Little Chance for Yates.

If any of the outside candidates do enter upon a campaign in the metropolis, it is likely that Governor Yates and Attorney General Hamlin will be the aggressors. The check administered to the Yates' campaign in the last couple of weeks has encouraged the other candidates in the conclusion that the renomination of the executive is out of the question. Their statements to this effect has served to arouse the ire of the followers of the governor and his lieutenants have counseled him to carry the war into the city of Chicago, where it is generally understood the opposition to his renomination is the greatest. The policy of the attorney general has been to contest every delegation where no other candidate makes a direct fight against Governor Yates, and if this rule is followed the attorney general's banner will quickly follow that of the governor in event the Cook county campaign is decided upon.

The campaign for outside candidates in Cook county, however, is looked upon by the Chicago politicians as a forlorn hope and the leaders of the party in the city predict that not fifty delegates can be secured from Cook county through the combined efforts of all the country candidates. The fight will be strictly between Lowden and Deenee in every section of the city, they say.

This week will see the opening of the Cook county campaign and the warfare will be conducted without quarter until the last delegation is chosen. At the opening of the struggle Lowden is in decidedly the best position. Both Cook county candidates have made fights for down-state delegations wherever there was a chance of victory, and the outcome has been favorable to Lowden in every instance, except where the Deenee forces formed a coalition with the Yates' supporters, and divided the delegation between themselves. In addition to this tangible advantage at the outset, the supporters of Colonel Lowden claim that he is the choice of more uninstructed delegates and the second choice of more instructed delegates than any other candidate in the field.

Governor's Stock Takes a Stump.

The last week's developments have been marked by a decided slump in Yates' stock and a corresponding boom for Lowden. Ten county conventions were held, representing a total of 130 delegates. Of this number Lowden secured thirty-two, Yates eight, Hamlin eleven, Deenee twelve, and Sherman eight. Of the remainder, thirty-seven are uninstructed and twenty-two are contested. The thirty-seven uninstructed delegates are in Knox county, where M. O. Williamson, candidate for secretary of state, is in control, and Champaign county, where State Auditor McCollough controls the delegation, will likely be divided among the candidates.

The thirty-two delegates for Lowden were secured as follows: Madison county, 7; St. Clair county, 12; Lake county, 13.

Governor Yates captured the five delegates from Cass county and three of the delegates from Warren county.

Hamlin's eleven delegates came from Madison county, where he secured seven, and St. Clair county, which gave him four.

The twelve Deenee delegates came from Madison and St. Clair counties, each giving him six.

Sherman's delegates consist of six from Warren county and two from St. Clair county.

The twenty-two delegates in contest are in Greene, Montgomery and Mason counties. In Greene county one convention named three delegates for Lowden and two for Yates, and a dele-

gation of five Yates' men will contest. The contest in Montgomery county is between the Yates and Hamlin forces. Each faction held a convention and named nine delegates for its respective candidate. The Marion county convention last Tuesday selected five Lowden delegates and three Hamlin delegates, after which the Yates forces held a second convention and named a Yates delegation.

What the Week's Developments Show.

A summary of the week's developments shows that Lowden claims a total of forty delegates, of which eight are in contest, leaving him thirty-two assured Yates claims a total of thirty delegates, of which twenty-two are contested, leaving him eight assured. Hamlin claims a total of twenty-three delegates, with twelve contested, leaving him eleven assured. Deenee claims twelve and Sherman claims eight, none of which are contested. These figures are exclusive of the Knox county and Champaign county delegations, which are universally expected to be divided equally among all the candidates.

The counties in which conventions had not been held up to the opening of the present week are Alexander, Boone, Adams, Christian, Cole, Cook, Cumberland, DeKalb, Edwards, Effingham, Franklin, Jo Daviess, Johnson, Kane, Mason, Pike and Wabash. The Yates' supporters in Sangamon county also will hold a convention May 2 and will name a delegation to contest the seating of the delegation named by the Hamlin supporters three weeks ago.

The number of contesting delegations continues to grow and is already without precedent in the history of the state. Already nine contesting delegations have been named from many counties, and as there yet remain nearly twenty conventions to be held, it is likely that several additional splits will develop, and that as many as 150 delegates will be in contest when the convention meets. The counties in which contesting delegations have been named up to the present time are as follows: Sangamon, 24; Rock Island, 21; Fulton, 15; Gallatin, 4; Greene, 5; Marion, 8; Montgomery, 8; Randolph, 8; Johnson, 5. Total, 100.

President Pleased Over Turn in Affairs.

Aside from the various conventions, political gossip of the last week has centered in the story that comes from Washington to the effect that President Roosevelt has expressed his pleasure over the turn of affairs in Illinois in the last few weeks. After the Madison and St. Clair county conventions Congressman Rodenberg called upon the president and, according to the story that has been circulated, the two went over the situation in this state in detail. After the alleged conference Congressman Rodenberg gave out a statement to the press in which he expressed the belief that Governor Yates cannot be renominated.

The statement of Congressman Rodenberg is represented by the supporters of some of the other candidates for governor as confirming the old story that the Illinois senators and congressmen are in an alliance to defeat Governor Yates. The story has been steadfastly denied by the governor and his friends and they are greatly incensed over the statement given out by Congressman Rodenberg. The Yates supporters contend that President Roosevelt has shown no disposition to antagonize them, but, on the contrary, has taken an absolutely neutral position regarding the campaign in this state.

Lowden Victory in Jo Daviess.

An important victory has been gained by the Lowden supporters in Jo Daviess county, in defeating the friends of Governor Yates in the preliminary skirmish preparatory to the county convention. The Lowden crowd outvoted their opponents and fixed April 7 as the date for the county convention. Delegates will be chosen according to the township caucus plan. It is claimed by the Yates contingent that they offered to hold a primary election and instruct the county according to the highest vote cast. The Lowden men remembered the experience of their candidate in Winnebago county, however, and declined the proposition. Lowden carried Winnebago county by a good plurality on the same basis, and when the county convention met the Yates-Deenee delegates joined forces and froze out Lowden without a delegate.

Contest That is Probable.

An interesting contest is expected to develop among the Republican women of Illinois over the selection of a candidate for trustee of the University of Illinois. As has been the practice in the past, the party will recognize the women's organization to the extent of accepting its selection of one woman for the university trusteeship. The two leading candidates in the present contest are Mrs. S. T. Busey of Urbana and Elmira Springer of Chicago. The Chicago Woman's club has endorsed Mrs. Busey and Mrs. Springer's candidacy has been endorsed by the state society. The official call for the convention, which will be held in Springfield May 11, has already been issued.

Rose's Candidacy for Renomination.

Considerable discussion is being indulged in regarding the probability of Secretary of State James A. Rose becoming a candidate for renomination. The secretary decided to withdraw from the race for governor because his health was seriously impaired and his physician insisted that he was not able to withstand the rigors of an active campaign. After a trip south the secretary's health improved rapidly and he is now in a fairly good condition physically. A number of politicians from various parts of the state have requested him to declare his candidacy for renomination.

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