

# TAFT CAN COUNT 552 VOTES NOW

### Nomination on First Ballot Assured, Says Manager Frank H. Hitchcock.

### ONLY 491 VOTES REQUIRED

### War Secretary Thus Has 61 More Than Is Necessary—Statement Based on Figures Secured From Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—(Special.) The Taft will be nominated for President on the first ballot taken by the Republican National Convention at Chicago in June is the claim made tonight by Frank H. Hitchcock, in charge of the Washington Taft headquarters. The positive Taft strength is placed at 552 votes out of a total of 980 in the convention, 491 votes being required to nominate. The figures compiled by Mr. Hitchcock are based on reports from every Congressional district in the United States. Furthermore, the figures are declared to include a considerable number of persons who have been keeping close watch upon the succeeding developments since state and district and county committees began to meet and pass resolutions, and since State and District Conventions began to elect delegates to Chicago, agree with Mr. Hitchcock in this statement.

The present strength of the Taft candidacy, according to the statement authorized tonight, may be summarized as follows:

Delegates	
Northern states, east of Mississippi River	32
New England	32
Ohio	32
Other northern and eastern states	32
Southern states east of Mississippi River	128
States and Territories west of Mississippi River	270
Outlying Territories	4
Total	552

These are the first figures of a comprehensive character, taking into consideration the whole country, that have been given out by a campaign manager since the political pot began to boil. There have been many predictions and tentative tables, based on surmises. These are founded on correspondence had directly with reasons on the ground in every district, and the opposition, it is declared, has been given the benefit of doubt in every case.

### Strong Gains in the West.

"The most important gains in the Taft movement during the past month occurred west of the Mississippi River," said Mr. Hitchcock in his report. "The states and territories of that region are entitled to 304 votes in the Republican National Convention. Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma have already held their conventions and instructed for Taft, giving him more than 100 votes. New Mexico will hold its convention tomorrow and instruct for Taft. The state committees of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Washington, Arkansas and Louisiana have adopted resolutions endorsing his candidacy.

"Recent reports from Western states that have not had an opportunity thus far to express their preference as regards Presidential candidates indicate such a preponderance of Taft sentiment as to warrant the prediction that practically the entire region west of the Mississippi River will be found in the Taft column by the time the National convention meets. According to the judgment of party leaders familiar with local conditions, it is safe to count for Taft at the present time from the region west of the Mississippi 70 delegates, leaving only 23 in doubt.

### New England Also in Line.

"In the New England states also distinct gains have been made for the Taft candidacy. A careful canvass of the situation in those states warrants the claim today for Taft of 32 of their 82 delegates, leaving 50 still in doubt.

"The Southern states east of the Mississippi River, from Virginia and Kentucky southward, are entitled to 194 votes. Of this number 123 can be safely counted in the Taft column, leaving 71 still in doubt. While it is expected that contests will be made in the case of certain delegations from the South, the Taft delegates here counted will be regularly elected and will bear credentials entitling them to be seated in the convention.

"The so-called 'favorite son' states—New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin—continued to be counted as 'together entitled to 254 votes in the convention. It is generally assumed that these votes will be cast on the first ballot for the respective candidates of these states. Aside from these states and the state of Ohio, which will send to the convention 46 Taft delegates, there are at present 90 unpledged votes in the East and North, as follows:

Southern Pacific	70
San Jose	24
Dis. of Columbia	2
Maryland	16
Michigan	28

"Of these 90 votes, 52 can be now placed in the Taft column, leaving 38 in doubt.

"Under the call of the Republican National committee the outgoing Secretary of War on the telephone this afternoon to inform him that the report was a deliberate falsehood.

Representative Albert Douglas, who was renominated for Congress by the same convention that elected the two Eleventh district delegates, characterized the report as "absolute balderdash."

"I like myself," he explained, "the gentlemen chosen, F. L. Posten and Vane Hurley, are personal friends of Senator Foraker. But before they were chosen as delegates—and the selection was made with the consent of Manager A. L. Vorse and myself—they pledged themselves to vote for Secretary Taft until nominated. There is no more doubt about their voting for Taft than there is of Vorse voting for him."

and then it was declared that conventions would refuse to instruct delegates, and now when delegates are elected and instructed, they try to make it appear that the delegates are not loyal."

### VICTORY FOR THE TORIES Win Seat in Parliament by Huge Majority on Liquor Issue.

LONDON, March 24.—The most keenly fought bye-election for the present Parliament, which was necessitated by the death of Charles Edward Clarke, member for Peckham, a district in London south of the Thames, resulted in a victory for the Unionists, whose candidate, Seagrave, was elected by a majority of 2494. The Liberals carried the district in 1906 by a majority of 2329.

The contest today centered largely on the government licensing bill and the conversion of a large Liberal majority into a still greater Conservative majority in a striking demonstration against that measure.

### MUCH OF CARGO IS SAVED Investigation Into Wrecked of Pomona Will Be Started.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—Captain Swenson, who was in command of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's steamer Pomona when that vessel was wrecked on the Monterey Reef, off Fort Ross, a week ago, arrived from the scene of the wreck tonight. An official investigation of the cause of the disaster will be begun before United States inspectors of Hulls and Boilers Bolles and Bulger tomorrow morning.

### MORE THAN SCORE HURT Interurban Car Runs Off Track Near Detroit, Mich.

DETROIT, Mich., March 24.—Over a score of persons were injured this afternoon when an interurban car on the Ann Arbor branch of the Detroit United Railway, bound into the city from Jackson, Mich., was derailed by defective rails near the city and dived across the brick pavement into a store building. The car was wrecked and demolished. Twenty people were taken to the hospitals for treatment and nearly another score received minor injuries which were dressed at the scene of the accident. Two of the injured persons are reported to be in serious condition.

### JAPAN KEEPS OFF RUSSIA Leaves Northern Manchuria Alone.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 24.—The bill presented by Foreign Minister Iswolsky raising the Russian legation at Tokio to an embassy brought out considerable opposition in the Duma today when it came up for its second reading. M. Uvarov, an Octobrist member, declared that to make the legation an embassy was no more an adequate guarantee of a policy of peace in the Far East than the recently concluded Russo-Japanese treaties.

### FAVORABLE REPORT FILED Fulton's Land Grant Resolution Comes Back to House.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 24.—Representative Montague, chairman of the public lands committee, today filed a favorable report on Senator Fulton's land grant resolution. No arrangement has yet been made for its consideration in the House.

### Senate Passes Bourne's Bill. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., March 24.—The Senate today passed Senator Bourne's bill authorizing the sale at public auction or sealed bids of lands on the Siletz reservation reserved under the act of Congress August 15, 1894. The proceeds of the sale are to be devoted to the support of the Siletz Indians. An appropriation of \$3000 is provided for carrying the act into effect.

### FISHERS' STRIKE AVERTED Agreement With Packers Reached.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—Representatives of the Alaska Packers' Association and members of the Fishermen's Union were in conference again this morning and the rate of wages for the season was definitely fixed and a strike of the fishermen, which has been threatened, was averted.

### REPORT MURDERER IS FOUND Webb's Slayer Thought to Be in Coulee—Possé Surrounds Him.

BUTTE, Mont., March 24.—A special to the Miner from Billings says: At 8 o'clock tonight a report reached Billings to the effect that Rickford, the murderer of Sheriff Webb, has been located in a coulee near Horse Creek and that a large posse has the place surrounded.

# BLACK HAND PLOT Wrecks Bank in Pursuance of Revenge.

### STARTS DEPOSITORS' RUN Banker Who Coolly Shot Down Blackmailer and Was Acquitted by Coroner's Jury Is Persecuted Further by Italian Villains.

NEW YORK, March 24.—A malevolent plot, relentlessly worked out by members of the Black Hand, decimated the police, in defiance of the authorities, pressing hard upon their track, ended dramatically today in a run of depositors and the suspension of the bank of Pasquale Patti, an Italian banker on Elizabeth street, and his flight from the city in fear of death, threatened by the Black Hand because he recently shot and killed Francesco Pelletro, one of their alleged members, who had demanded money under threat of killing the banker and his family.

Three hundred depositors clamored loudly at the bank today for their savings, and in the excitement a run was started on the bank of F. Accitelli & Son, across the street from the suspended institution, and caused it to shut its doors. The two banks were small private institutions.

A small run on the Patti bank was started yesterday when rumors began to circulate about Patti. There were 30 depositors in line when the bank opened today and within an hour the line of depositors grew to 2000. Patti's relatives quickly decided upon suspension and the doors were closed and the notice of suspension posted. The whereabouts of Patti are not known.

### BOYCOTT OFF IN REICHSTAG MEMBER APOLOGIZES TO JOURNALISTS FOR CALLING SWINE.

BERLIN, March 24.—The strike of the Reichstag journalists, which began on Thursday, was settling this evening. Under pressure from the various party leaders, Herr Groeber, the central leader, who had called the journalists "swine," because they jeered at a statement issued by the government, apologized to the journalists at the end of the day's sitting, expressing apologies for the language he used and promising to resign from the Reichstag. At the conclusion of the statement a meeting of the journalists was called and they voted to return to work on Thursday.

### SWIFTS BUYING IN SEATTLE Deal on for Establishment of \$1,000,000 Plant in Sound City.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 24.—(Special.) Swift & Co. are negotiating for the purchase of a big block of tide lands. Should the sale go through, and it is said on the very best authority that negotiations have proceeded almost to the point of a sale, Seattle will be made the Pacific Coast headquarters of Swift & Co. and a \$1,000,000 packing plant will be erected at once.

### HUGHES IN THE WEST Citizen Declares He Has Neglected This District.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 19.—Conflicting reports reach Washington in regard to the strength of Governor Hughes in the West. According to some, Hughes is a prime favorite; according to others he will command little Western support in the convention. All seem to admit that the people endorse the manner in which Hughes has conducted himself as Governor of New York, but many question whether he has had sufficient experience to qualify him for the Presidency. An interesting statement was made the other day by an experienced political observer who came to Washington after a trip which carried him into nearly every state West of the Mississippi.

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### PARDON BOARD IS SILENT RICHARD LIKELY, HOWEVER, TO ESCAPE GALLOWES.

BOISE, Idaho, March 24.—(Special.)—What action the State Pardon Board will take when it meets April 1 in regard to the recommendation of Judge Fremont Wood to commute the sentence of death to life imprisonment in the case of Harry Orchard, self-confessed murderer of Frank Steinhilber, cannot even be surmised. Members of the board are not talking. It is the general impression, however, that the action recommended by Judge Wood will be followed. Contrary action, Judge Wood intimated in his remarkable address made before sentencing Orchard, on the part of the board would be unprecedented. He states his confidence that the sentence will be commuted.

### JUDGE WOOD INSISTS HE WILL BE SILENT IN FUTURE TRIALS—Perhaps That of Jack Simpkins.

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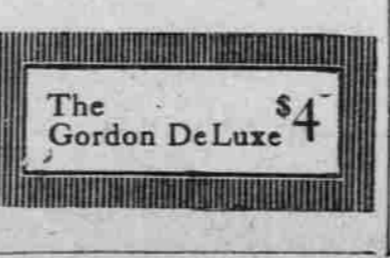
### CHARGE WORK OF LOBBY Race Track Gambling Bills Provoke Many Rumors.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 24.—Not since the days when the New York City news legislation was under consideration before the Senate in 906 have there been so many rumors about the capital of the so-called lobby work as there are now with reference to the bills designed to prohibit gambling at race-tracks. Certain conspicuous opposition of the legislation today declared all but publicly that they were assured of at least 50 votes in the Senate against the bills.

### Second Illinois Uninstructed. CHICAGO, March 24.—The Republicans of the Second Congressional District tonight elected two uninstructed delegates to the National convention—Roy O. West, chairman of the party's state central

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### committee, and John R. Thompson, Treasurer of Cook County.

### Diligent investigation, however, fails to locate any definite foundation for the rumors and careful plots of the list of the Senators make it seem most unlikely that any such vote can be rallied against the bills. It is beyond question, nevertheless, that the bills are now in a precarious situation so far as the Senate is concerned and that their passage is anything but assured.

### It is considered doubtful that the bills can be reached before next week. They are expected to be discussed on final passage in the assembly on Thursday.

### U'Ren to Talk at La Grande.

LA GRANDE, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—W. S. U'Ren will address an open meeting here Saturday evening, restricting his address to Statement No. 1. He is brought here by champions of Statement No. 1 who wish more light thrown

### on the subject for the benefit of the voters.

### Taft in Seventh Tennessee.

DICKINSON, Tenn., March 24.—The Seventh District Republican Congressional Convention here today instructed for Taft for President.

### Democrats at Roanoke.

RICHMOND, Va., March 24.—The State Democratic Committee at a meeting here today decided to hold the state convention in Roanoke June 11.

### Crime to Smoke Cigarettes.

OKLAHOMA, March 24.—The House today in reconsideration passed the bill making it a crime, punishable by a fine of from \$5 to \$25, to smoke cigarettes.