

# TAFT HAS A REAL BOOM WHILE OTHERS LAG

## Ohioan Gains in Every Section of the Country--Indications Point to Victory On First Ballot

Washington, Jan. 8.—(Special Correspondence.)—One of the century dictionary definitions of the boom is: "A sudden increase in activity; a rush—specifically in politics, a movement seeming spontaneous in favor of a candidate for office, or in behalf of some cause."

No definition more accurately describes the status of the Taft presidential candidacy today. It is a boom in the full sense of the word. The sudden increase in activity, the rush and the spontaneity are everywhere evident. It is the real thing and cannot be mistaken. If mathematics are needed to establish its identity, that is an easy matter.

Boom is the word which applies to the Taft movement only. Several weeks ago there was a Roosevelt boom, but the President put an end to it when he reaffirmed the declaration he made three years ago that under no circumstances would he be a candidate again or accept another nomination. There are other candidates for the Republican presidential nomination, notably Vice President Fairbanks, Speaker Cannon, Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, Senator Foraker of Ohio and possible Governor Hughes of New York. But none of them have yet seen the first signs of a boom. They may be waiting anxiously for the "spontaneous rush" in their favor, but it is mighty slow in materializing.

The Taft boom had its inception a month or two before the war secretary started for the Philippines. While he was in the Orient it ran counter to the Roosevelt boom and seemed to sag about in the doldrums. But it gained headway again immediately after the President squelched the so-called third term movement and a few days prior to the return of the secretary from abroad. It had been anticipated that a decided impetus would be imparted to the Taft movement at that time, and the expectations of his friends, likewise the apprehensions of his political opponents, have been fully realized. His boom is now healthy, vigorous and in athletic qualities is improving every day. The betting men who, while sometimes knowing nothing of political affairs, seem to be able instinctively to pick a winner in any kind of a race, are already beginning to lay wagers on the Ohio man as against the field.

Reports from various sections of the country indicate that while the other candidates are making no headway, the Taft forces are making material progress in almost every direction. The political mathematicians and forecasters are at work this early, figuring out how many delegates the secretary of war is assured of already. Scarcely any calculations are made which did not give him already more than 200 votes in the convention, which is still five and half months away. Although these computations are supposed to be impartial, they do not give the other candidates anything more than their own state delegations.

The Republican national convention will comprise 850 delegates, of whom 356 will represent the 48 states and 14 the territories and colonial possessions. A majority, or the number necessary to nominate, is 491. The following table shows approximately what strength the candidates now opposed to Secretary Taft are able to count upon at this time:

Fairbank, Indiana	30
Cannon, Illinois	54
Knox, Pennsylvania	48
La Follette, Wisconsin	26
Hughes, New York	78
Foraker, Ohio	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>

Placing Hughes in the foregoing table is not because it is anticipated he will get the entire New York delegation, for at this writing that is very much in doubt. But the 78 votes of the Empire state are placed in this list in order to show just how much the combined strength of the favorite sons, aside from Secretary Taft, would be able to muster if their states were solidly behind them. It is for the same reason that Wisconsin's 26 votes are placed in the credit of La Follette.

Although La Follette is strong in the Badger state, politicians do not expect him to secure a solid delegation. On the contrary they think Secretary Taft will have a number of

Wisconsin delegates pledged to vote for him. So far as New York is concerned, conditions today foreshadow a similar result there. Hughes' sentiment is unquestionably strong, but it is not overwhelming. Instead there is a decided opposition to the governor in certain parts of the state, and this does not come entirely from friends of the President, who is known to be doing his utmost in the interest of his favorite cabinet officer. But as stated, New York, with the other states mentioned, is eliminated for purposes which will be made obvious.

So far as has been disclosed, Fairbanks, Cannon and Knox, who are the avowed candidates, have been unable to corral any sentiment in other states than their own. It is different with Secretary Taft. The political leaders of many states, also state and county committees and conventions, have declared for him in sufficient number to make it possible to print a tentative list of the delegations of which he is already assured, not counting Ohio. This is the last, and it is quite impressive:

California, 20; Kansas, 20; Michigan, 28; Missouri, 36; Nebraska, 16; South Dakota, 8; Tennessee, 24; Texas, 26; Oklahoma, 14; Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippines, District of Columbia, Arizona and New Mexico, 2 each; total 216. Assuming that the secretary will get a solid delegation from Ohio, which will have 46 delegates, brings the number up to 262.

Then there is the fertile southern field, where evidences of a stampede to the Taft bandwagon are already apparent. Tennessee's Republican rival leaders are vying with one another to get there first. The Sanders-Evans faction, that pretended to be for the re-nomination of Roosevelt, have turned to Taft. The Brownlow faction has been shouting for the war secretary from the beginning, and with both going in the same direction the result of the election of delegates is a foregone conclusion. That is why Tennessee is included in the preceding list. Cecil A. Lyon, who controls the Republican situation in Texas, is for the President's choice.

The other southern states have 180 delegates at the convention, divided as follows: Alabama, 22; Arkansas, 18; Florida, 10; Georgia, 26; Louisiana, 18; Mississippi, 20; North Carolina, 24; South Carolina, 18; Virginia, 24.

History seems bound to repeat itself in the case of the southern states. When some of them break for a certain candidate, most of the others follow. The Taft managers are following his boom through that section and are very sanguine over what is going to happen. They do not profess that they will bag all the delegates, but they have every reason to expect a goodly number. If they get only one third, Taft would have over 200 delegates already; the reader can make further calculations for himself.

Much is heard these days about what New England is going to do in the way of influencing the presidential nomination. But even should that entire section go to other candidates than Secretary Taft, he would not lose much. The six states comprising that geographical division will have in the aggregate only 82 votes in the convention, distributed as follows: Maine, 12; New Hampshire, 8; Vermont, 8; Massachusetts, 32; Rhode Island, 8; Connecticut, 14. That is only four more than New York will have, or 14 more than Pennsylvania. Consequently the most that such a state as Rhode Island, Vermont or any of its neighbors could do, would be to bluster. Still Taft has a strong following up there, and is sure to get some of the delegates.

The states not yet mentioned have a local delegate strength of 214. Of these Minnesota, which will probably be for Taft, has 22 votes; Kentucky with 26 votes will give part of her delegation to the secretary. He will probably be remembered in Iowa, which has 26 votes, and so on down the list. At this stage of the campaign it looks like Taft on the first ballot.

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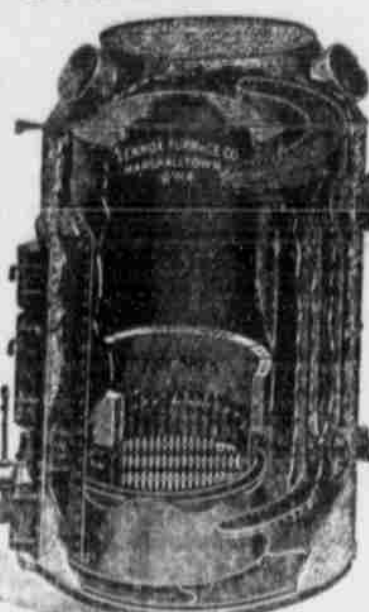
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