

Many Republicans Resentful Of Coolidge Wing's Tactics

Tendency to Take Incumbent's Nomination for Granted May Seriously Affect Financial Support of Next Campaign and Force Free-for-All Declaration

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, Sept. 27.—Republican leaders grouped together in what is known as the "ways and means committee" are meeting here today and tomorrow to discuss plans for the financing of the Republican party in the forthcoming presidential campaign.

Money raised now is not supposed to be used in the interest of any particular candidate but in order to give the party a momentum on the day the Republican national convention chooses the candidate for the presidency.

Murmurs of discontent are heard with reference to the alleged tendency of the Coolidge people to close the race against any other contenders. One of the leaders here has told Fred W. Upham, treasurer of the Republican national committee, that he believes it a mistake to have the present administration receive commitments for delegates at this stage of the proceedings and give the impression that it is unethical for any one else to announce a candidacy.

It is a fact that the would-be candidates are holding back in deference to President Coolidge because the latter has not yet had an opportunity of addressing Congress and announcing his legislative program, which of course, is his platform for the nominating campaign. Some of the friends of the rival candidates are crying out that the race is being closed against them and that a nomination "dictated by the White House" is not an expression of the free will of the Republican party.

Those who are in a position to speak for President Coolidge's cause insist that they too would feel it a mistake if anything were done to bring about what could be called a "dictated" nomination and that more prestige and value would inure to a nomination received after every one had had a chance to make a campaign than under the opposite kind of circumstances.

The difficulty however, from the viewpoint of candidates other than President Coolidge, is that the situation is largely psychological. Politicians in various parts of the country who are able to influence the naming of delegates think they see the "old guard" flocking to Coolidge and they get on the band wagon. Others who are not so numerous and a great deal more cautious do not commit themselves at all at such an early date but wait to see how political affairs shape themselves.

For one thing, Mr. Coolidge has not yet expressed enough views on anything to enable opponents to judge whether he has sensed the true trend of public opinion or whether there is a chance by differing with him to bring public opinion to their side.

The value of commitments and pledges given by politicians early in the game is appreciated on every side and it is rumored that friends of former Governor Frank Lowden of Illinois, are going around asking for second choice votes in case the convention should become deadlocked on Coolidge. Mr. Lowden himself was in town a few days ago and disclaimed all connection with presidential politics and, so far as the White House is concerned, it has not heard of any Lowden movement as yet. There is talk of activity on the part of friends of Senator Hiram Johnson of California, though he too has not announced himself as a candidate. Governor Pinchot's political lieutenants are said to be active but it is unquestionably true that until a formal announcement of candidacy comes from some rival of President Coolidge the ice will not be broken for the other candidates. It is an advantage for the incumbent to have the opposing candidates delay their announcements as long as possible and, while the cry of closing the doors against other candidates is being heard, Coolidge supporters continue to make the most of this delay.

Before many weeks, an announcement that the race is free for all may have to be made by some prominent

was \$521,860,000, an amount equal to the total cost of the Panama Canal. This represents an average per capita loss of \$4.75, which is a figure greater than ever recorded previously—including 1906, the year of the San Francisco conflagration.

North Carolina's per capita loss of \$2.43, or half the national average, is a tribute to our efforts in fire prevention, but it is still nearly four times greater than the per capita loss in Great Britain.

"The total monetary loss, including the fire loss, cost of fire protection, loss of business due to fire, etc., is over \$1,000,000,000 annually.

"There were 4,505 fires in 1922, causing a loss of over \$10,000 each, as compared with 4,058 in 1921 and 3,457 in 1920. There were 43 fires in the "million-dollar-or-above" class—an average of almost one each week.

"The average per capita fire loss in Great Britain last year was 72 cents, which is a reduction from previous figures. In France, Germany and Italy losses are still lower. Some reasons for our high loss figure are traditional natural carelessness, poorer construction and lack of personal liability, under the law, for negligence in causing fires.

"Fire losses in cities over 20,000 population where chambers of commerce have permanent fire prevention committees averaged \$3.27 per capita in 1922, as compared with the national average of \$4.75.

"Fires kill 15,000 of our citizens annually, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters."

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS COMING

Commissioner Wade Calls Attention to Observance of Safety First Methods Throughout the State.

Raleigh, Sept. 28.—Following the proclamation by Governor Cameron Morrison last week, calling on the people of North Carolina to observe Tuesday, October 9, anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871, in which 200 persons lost their lives and 17,000 buildings were destroyed at a loss of \$190,000,000, as Fire Prevention Day, State Insurance Commissioner Stacey Wade announced Wednesday some interesting statistics concerning fire losses.

Mr. Wade has asked that not only the day of October 9, but the week of October 8-13, as well, be set aside for an anti-fire prevention campaign.

"The object of Fire Prevention Week," he said, "is to impress upon the community at large the necessity of conserving the resources of the nation by preventing fires. The campaign is national in scope, and it is hoped will be the means whereby permanent fire prevention campaigns will be inaugurated in all municipalities."

The following statistics concerning fire losses were given by Mr. Wade:

"The national fire loss last year

inent Republican leader in order to attract the necessary financial support for the party as a whole and to insure the right kind of spirit before the national convention is held. The rumor of discontent may vanish but for the moment they are working in the direction of opening the race, something some of the Coolidge friends say they would welcome.

UNUSUAL CLIMAX IN "THE KINGDOM WITHIN"

Many of the advanced thinkers of the day are of the firm belief that miracles are still performed. These have taken various forms. The blind have been made to see, cripples to walk, and invalids, restored the use of their limbs. Scientists have said and endeavored to prove that there is a logical and scientific reason for all these happenings. Many, however, are inclined to the belief that there is some unaccountable force or power within each one of us which enters into the question. For example, a man who has been a cripple all of his life suddenly is placed in a position of great mental stress, and without warning finds that he can walk.

What is the power behind us? What force or power within each one gives help in distress? A vivid portrayal of a modern miracle is seen in the picture, "The Kingdom Within", which is appearing at the Alkrama today. Amos Deming's right arm has been paralyzed from birth. How he regains the use of his arm and the circumstances surrounding it is one of the dramatic episodes of the picture.

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