WHAT THE FIGHT REALLY MEANS

LA FOLLETTE BATTLING FOR QUARLES' SEAT IN SENATE.

Feud so Bitter the Majority in the Legislature May Be Slender—Excitement in the Convention City at Fever Heat—Delegates Behind a Wire Trocha.

From a Staff Correspondent.

Madison, Wis., May 18.—Every delegate to the convention to-day realizes that R. M. La Follette's contest for a third term governorship nomination is really a battle for the senatorial seat now held by J. V. Quarles. "Fighting Bob" has had all he wants of the governorship, but he must stay "in the saddle," so as to keep control of the machinery next winter. The fight is going on right now. Many legislative nominations have been made, and the issue between the "stalwarts" and "halfbreeds" is being drawn in nearly every case. Many are yet to be made, and the state convention outcome will have considerable influence on these legislative results.

Naturally, Senator Quarles does not want a bolt. It would put him in bad odor to be identified with a party split. He is advising peace, and in this he is joined by Senator Spooner and by both the stalwart candidates for governor. Judge Baensch does not want to make a vain fight at the polls at the head of a bolting ticket, and S. A. Cook has nothing to gain by a bolt.

One thing bearing with some effect against La Follette's senatorial ambition is the fact that he lives in Madison, which is also the home of Senator Spooner. The same thing would work against Spooner four years from now, if La Follette should defeat Quarles. This senatorial fight is so bitter that it may result in a slender republican majority in the legislature. Where stalwart candidates have been nominated they will be cut by La Follette men, and the stalwarts will retaliate on the "half breed" candidates.

Delegates Behind a Grating.

The La Follette forces have managed the preliminaries to suit themselves, and the precautions they have taken foreshadow the way they will handle the convention. The delegates are to be inclosed within a grating. The seats for the public, behind that grating, have been given almost entirely to La Follette partizans. Judge Baensch, one of the leading candidates for governor, has received one stage seat for himself, and none of the stalwarts fare any better. The doorkeepers will all be trusted La Follette men, many of them state house employees, including the husky Lerum of football fame, and other gridiron heroes, well known to Minnesota university fans. The telegraph operators who will have keys inside the building have been compelled to give a pledge that they will keep their door locked and let no one else in. No loop hole is to be left for stalwart delegates or rooters to crawl in by.

Excitement was at fever heat last night in the city, with the state central committee in secret session deciding the fate of the convention, and the stalwart forces in a mass meeting at the opera-house. Early in the evening cards were distributed all over the city, reading as follows:

> 200,000
>
> Anti-Third-Term Republicans
>
> Of Wisconsin Demand Fair Play from the State Central Committee.

Changes in Central Committee.

Two changes in the personnel of the state central committee were announced yesterday. O. J. Van Cleve of Marinette was appointed by Chairman Bryant to succeed Warren J. Davis of the same place, who resigned. David Harlowe, one of the representatives of the fourth district, Milwaukee, also sent his resignation. His place was filled by the appointment of Theodore Kronseig of Milwaukee. Both the outgoing and incoming members are La Follette men. The members of the committee holding the memorable session yesterday are as follows:

Chairman—General George E. Bryant, Madison.

First District—C. C. Gittings, Racine; Perry C. Wilder, Evansville.

Second District—John M. Nelson, Madison; J. C. McKenzie, Portage.

Third District—James A. Stone, Reedsburg; Dwight T. Parker, Fennimore.

Fourth District—George A. West, Theodore Kronseig, Milwaukee.

Fifth District—S. E. Gernon, Waukesha; August Buchholz, Milwaukee.

Sixth District—John R. Dennett, Port Washington; Frank M. Lawrence, Mayville.

Seventh District—Dr. W. T. Sarles, Sparta; W. A. Smith, Mondovi.

Eighth District—Eber L. Simpson, Oshkosh; Walter D. Corrigan, Plainfield.

Ninth District—O. J. Van Cleve, Marinette; John P. Dousman, De Pere.

Tenth District—M. E. Dillon, Ashland; M. B. Rosenberry, Wausau.

Eleventh District—Currie G. Bell, Bayfield; Samuel J. Bradford.

This committee was elected two years ago by congressional districts, when the convention was about nine-tenths La Follette. If the same plan is followed this year the "stalwarts" will capture the committee, as they have a clear majority in seven of the eleven districts. However, the choice of each district must be ratified by the convention, and the La Follette majority may turn down the selections made by the districts.

St. Croix County Row.

The only case before the state central committee in which the "stalwarts" appeared as contestants, and the La Follette delegates had the certificates from the county committee, was that of St. Croix county, which lies nearest to the twin cities. There is very bitter feeling over the result in this county. The "stalwart" delegation, including W. H. Phipps and Spencer Haven of Hudson, and Senator O. W. Mosher of New Richmond, claims that the "halfbreeds" conducted their convention without any regard for decency. The gathering met at Baldwin, and when called to order by Thomas Walby, chairman of the county committee and a La Follette man, the "stalwarts" failed to get recognition. They claim that the chairman and secretary passed on the credentials and arbitrarily shut out part of their delegates, and that they were refused a vote by ballot on the temporary organization. Then, without making the temporary organization permanent, the chairman appointed a committee to select delegates. A recess was given to make up the list, and during that recess the "stalwarts" organized a convention of their own in the same hall. The La Follette men reconvened, and in the wild din carried their committee report without reading it. They then left the hall and the "stalwarts" went ahead and selected their own list of delegates.

The "stalwarts" submitted a case to the state committee, including a statement from thirty-seven delegates out of sixty-nine. The "halfbreeds" claimed thirty-seven delegates, but said three were stolen away from them, and they only had thirty-four out of sixty-six accredited, or a majority of two. They presented an affidavit signed by the thirty-four.

The La Follette men charge their opponents with corruption, and the "stalwarts," in turn, accuse them of a "rule or ruin" policy. This is only a sample of similar incidents in a dozen county conventions.

—Charles B. Cheney.

MILLIONAIRE BROKER'S WIFE WANTS TO WORK

New York Sun Special Service.

New York, May 18.—Mrs. Herman Leroy Jones, a relative of the Astors, Leroys and Fishes and the wife of a millionaire broker, has disappeared.

Mrs. Jones is 34. Fifteen years ago she was married to Archibald Kennedy Kearney Mackay. After two years she secured a South Dakota divorce. The decree was granted one afternoon and the next she married Paul Wilkes, whose acquaintance she had made at Sioux Falls.

Two years later she procured another divorce. In 1896 Mrs. Jones went on the stage under the name of Virginia Pell. Mr. Jones married Mrs. Wilkes in his mother's home, where they since have lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones were last together at the Morris Park race track. She then disappeared and a boy brought a note to the Jones home, written in Mrs. Jones' handwriting, saying: "I am going to work for my living; please don't search.—Rita."

LIKE CAT AND DOG

Disgraceful Encounter at Webster City Between Prominent Educators.

Special to The Journal.

Webster City, Iowa, May 18.—L. N. Gerber, county superintendent, and Professor L. H. Ford, superintendent of the city schools, had a fierce personal encounter in Professor Ford's office in the high school building. Altho two physicians worked over Professor Ford, he did not regain consciousness until several hours later. Owing to his condition he cannot discuss the affair.

Professor Gerber said the trouble arose over the arbitrary manner in which Professor Ford expelled his son Ralph from school.

Low Homeseekers' Rates.

Via Soo Line, North Dakota and Canadian Northwest. Dates of sale every Tuesday, May to October. Ticket office, 119 So. 3rd St.

GOVERNOR LOSES A BOAT

Scheckle, Consort of the Ben Hershey, Collides with a Pier.

Special to The Journal.

La Crosse, Wis., May 18.—Word has been received here of the sinking at the Fort Madison bridge of the bowboat Phil. Scheckle, one of the boats of the fleet of Governor Van Sant. She was passing thru the Fort Madison bridge with a tow of logs, in charge of the rafter Ben Hershey, when she struck the stone pier and stove a hole in her side. None of the crew was injured, but several had a narrow escape from drowning. The Hershey was twisted and her raft was broken, the logs escaping. The Sheckle will be raised as soon as possible.