

# ROOSEVELT SPEAKS FOR DIRECT VOTING

Wants People to Choose Senators  
and Would Also Abolish the  
Electoral College.

## FAVORS RECIPROCITY PLAN

Grand Rapids Crowds Greet Him as  
Candidate for 1912 and Dinner  
Guests Cheer Him Heartily.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Feb. 11.—The election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people but with National control, was favored by Col. Roosevelt in a Lincoln Day speech here tonight. He also declared himself in favor of abolishing the Electoral College in electing a President. He argued for the adoption of the reciprocity agreement with Canada.

Col. Roosevelt came here from New York to be the chief speaker at the Lincoln anniversary celebration of the Lincoln Club. His subject was, "Lincoln and Progressive Republicanism." The banquet hall, seating more than 2,000 people, was crowded. The cheering which greeted his appearance in the hall was a continuation of an ovation which began upon his arrival in the afternoon, when the crowds met him with cries of "Teddy for President in 1912." He said in part:

"There can be no real progress unless it is wise progress. In other words, the Republican Party must be not only progressive but sane. Abraham Lincoln won his place in history because he heeded the forces which overthrew the kind of conservatism which was typified by the followers of Buchanan and Fillmore. But he was able to overthrow these men because he declined to be led aside from the path of healthful progress to follow the extremists of the John Brown and Wendell Phillips type. These two men rendered at times good service. But if Abraham Lincoln had followed in their steps the result would have been death to the Nation. We must not be misled by mere names. As compared with Buchanan and Fillmore, Lincoln was a radical and extreme progressive. As compared with John Brown and Wendell Phillips he was a sane conservative, and he was right in both positions.

"One of the progressive policies upon which I think the great majority of progressives are agreed is that United States Senators should be elected by popular vote. The Constitution should in my judgment be so amended as to provide for this.

"The insistence upon the election of Senators in some way which shall not permit the people to pass directly upon them is merely a relic of the same feeling which made the founders of the Constitution trust the election of the President to the Electoral College instead of direct popular vote. The same fears of the people expressed now by those who are against choice of Senators by popular vote were expressed a century and a

quarter ago by the good and wise men who erroneously felt that it was not safe to trust the election of the President to direct popular vote.

"A comparatively short experience convinced the Nation that the President should be voted for directly by the people; and although the form of an Electoral College has been retained, the actual fact is that the vote for President is a direct vote, the electors having no function except formally to ratify the popular decree, and if it were possible even this slight function could with advantage be abolished.

"I feel that we are to be congratulated as a Nation upon the likelihood of obtaining a closer reciprocity of tariff and trade relations with Canada. Among all the powers of the earth there is none with which we should desire to be upon more intimate footing of equal rights, to which we should be more closely bound in relations of mutual helpfulness, esteem, and good will than in the case of our great neighbor to the north, whose prosperity and growth should be a matter of pride to all who dwell on the American continent. I welcome the proposed reciprocity treaty as marking a signal advance in bringing about the closest and most friendly relations between the two countries."

Referring again to election of Senators by direct vote, Col. Roosevelt said:

"I know there are many excellent gentlemen who fear great disaster to this country will result if we elect the members of the Senate, and they point to the wisdom of the founders of the Constitution. There probably never was a body of men who struck off at a single blow such a wise document as our Constitution. But in applying old principles to new methods we wish to treat the Constitution not as a straitjacket to prevent growth, but as a support to encourage us to grow lusty and erect. Principles remain the same, but conditions change the method of application. It is no disloyalty to our forefathers to ask that we now be allowed the same freedom in selecting our Senators as we are allowed in selecting our Presidents.

"Why do I insist that the Federal Government retain every particle of its present control over the selection of Senators? Because a Senator is a National official, and he must swear loyalty not to one State, but to all. Likewise, if he does wrong, every State, not one State alone, has the privilege to contest his right to remain in the Senate.

"What we progressive Republicans are striving for is to induce him that hath and him that hath not to come to a better understanding for the public good. New Nationalism is the application of old moralities to new conditions. I have been spoken of as being too extreme, too radical. Most of what I preach you can find in the Ten Commandments. When I attempt to apply the Eighth Commandment some of my Wall Street friends assert I am making a fresh assault on corporations. We have the power and we have the right with it. I say shame on the man who will not hold up his poorer brother, but if the poorer brother insists on lying down don't try to carry him.

"Now a word about corporations. Why is it necessary for the Government to step in and put certain restrictions upon the corporations? This is the reason: You individually and the corner grocer are equals. He is dependent upon you and you upon him to a certain extent. But when he extends his business into many States and becomes too big for you, so that you must buy his wares whether you wish or not, then he can find his equal only in Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam then must see whether he is charging too much.

"Uncle Sam is to the corporation as we individually are to the grocer. Uncle Sam must see to it that the corporation becomes a valuable servant rather than an irresponsible enemy. If the Government doesn't allow the corporation a fair profit then it is just as bad as though we refused to pay our grocer's bills. You or I alone could not compel a railroad to charge a just fare. That is why we have the Inter-State Commerce Commission to audit the bill and see to it that while the railroad gets fair play it does not ask too much of us."