

WOODROW WILSON MAY BE NOMINATED

Princeton's President Sprung as
a Surprise on Eve of Jersey
Democratic Convention.

NOT KNOWN IF HE'D ACCEPT

The Katzenbach Boom Meets a Sudden Check—Fight Over the Sunday Plank in Platform.

Special to The New York Times.

TRENTON, Sept. 16.—To-night, on the eve of the Democratic State Convention, the Governorship situation is very much clouded. The Mercer delegation is pushing the candidacy of Frank I. Katzenbach, Jr., but something appears to be wrong. The expected Katzenbach enthusiasm has not come from the delegates as they arrived.

Where does ex-United States Senator James Smith, Jr., stand? is the question asked on every side. About 9 o'clock it came out that Smith, James Ugenst, Howard Carrow, and "Duke" Thompson were over in New York City for a conference on the problem of defeating Katzenbach for the nomination to-morrow. When it was whispered that Woodrow Wilson, President of Princeton University, was the dark horse with which Smith was to defeat Katzenbach's nomination it was said in well-informed quarters that Smith had obtained the consent of the President of Princeton to use his name before the convention and that Smith would come here to-morrow at 11 o'clock and place Wilson's candidacy before the Essex Democrats in their caucus.

Well informed Democrats to-night stated that the mission of Smith in New York City was to get Thompson and Carrow in line to support Wilson in the convention to-morrow and that Ugenst was rounding up delegates by telephone and telegraph. It is known that Passaic is against the candidacy of Katzenbach and willing to follow Smith's lead.

Where Hudson will be if Smith offers Wilson's name to-morrow, is a problem. Robert S. Hudspeth of Hudson, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, was unable to answer to-night. He said that Hudson would be for Katzenbach, but some few of the Hudson delegates here did not know for whom they would vote.

When the story about Smith's activity for Woodrow Wilson became noised about, the Katzenbach boomers went wild with excitement. They denounced all attempts to take the nomination from their candidate and said that nothing could be done by Smith or any one else to take the nomination from Mercer now.

Robert S. Hudspeth will likely be the convention's Chairman. He is an old hand at this business, and will be an efficient officer. Confirmation was gotten from a well-informed source that if Katzenbach is nominated he will be cut by the Essex Democrats.

While there is no one here to-night to speak authoritatively for the Essex Democrats, it was learned that they favored a plain "open Sunday" plank in the party platform under the name of personal liberty. Hudson does not want any such plank. They say that the saloons are open now anyway, and favor leaving the situation alone, only putting in a plank modifying the Bishops' law.

Passaic is opposed to this and quite favorable to the Essex open Sunday idea. An open Sunday plank would kill all hopes of Katzenbach landing votes here or in South Jersey, and naturally such a proposition is not acceptable here.

At 10 o'clock Judge Howard Carrow arrived. He admitted being at a conference with Smith and Thompson, but would neither affirm nor deny the alleged plan of Smith to defeat Katzenbach with Woodrow Wilson. President Wilson has repeatedly declared that nothing could induce him to accept the nomination. Some of the Katzenbach people to-night said that if they were positive that Smith and Davis had given up hope of landing the Governorship this year, because of harmony between the Republican regulars and the Colbyites, and were planning to sacrifice a South Jersey man, he would get out of the race at once.

The situation is very much mixed, and the convention to-morrow promises to be a very hot one.

An effort will be made to-morrow to commit the convention to an indorsement of William J. Bryan as Presidential nominee in 1908. Bryan boomers are to-night working with the delegates. They are members of the Progressive Democratic League of New Jersey, just formed in Newark. The President of the league is Congressman William Hughes of Essex.

Several New York Bryan boomers are here aiding the plan. The scheme has taken most of the delegates by surprise, and the fate of the scheme is in doubt.

On the eve of the State Democratic Convention the Newark leaders were still hopeful of success last night. Ex-United States Senator James Smith, Jr., who insists that he is out of politics, beyond having a keen interest in Democratic success, expressed deep regrets at the retirement of ex-Judge Child from the race, but said that any one of several of those mentioned by the Democrats would win.

Asked who would be the possible candidate, ex-Senator Smith said he felt kindly toward the candidacy of Tom Martine of Union, ex-Mayor Katzenbach of Trenton, Henry S. Terhune, Howard Carrow, and Thomas Ferrall, all of whom seem to be strong candidates. He also thought that President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton would appeal to every section of the State.

There is considerable doubt as to whether President Wilson would accept the nomination on the strong "wide-open" Sunday platform that may be adopted by the convention. Otherwise, it is thought by many that he would accept if the nomination were tendered to him.