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Personal

November 23, 1915.

Hon. Edward E. Smith,
813 New York Life Bldg.,
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mr. Smith:

I have been delayed in replying to your letter of November 15th by a short absence. So far as I know, there has been no organization established to promote Senator's Root's nomination. A number of men have spoken about it and even offered to contribute money for the purpose but, as far as I know, no steps have been taken nor has the foundation of any such movement met with encouragement from Mr. Root. Although I, perhaps, know him as well as anyone in the country, I cannot myself say what action he would take if a widespread movement should develop in his favor for the Presidency. Under these circumstances, although I myself feel that he is by far the best equipped man for the Presidency in the United States, it is a little difficult to know exactly what to do, particularly as I imagine that he himself would feel that the recent defeat of the new Constitution would be likely to be taken as a blow to any promotion of his nomination.

If you could give me some idea as to how large a proposition it would be to furnish you with the requisite number of copies of Senator Davenport's speech, I might talk the matter over with

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some of the gentlemen who have spoken to me about Mr. Root and see whether any of them would care to undertake it.

I am sorry not to be able to give you more definite and helpful answers to your letter but I am not in politics myself and I have a very strong feeling that Mr. Root's own personal wish is to keep out of the arena, although I cannot state ^{whether} ~~that~~ that wish is strong enough to keep him out in case there was sufficient widespread demand for his nomination. I feel quite confident that he would not go into any active canvass for it.

Yours very truly,


Henry L. Stevenson

HLS/C