

J. W. GERARD ENTERS PRESIDENTIAL RACE

**Former Ambassador to Germany
Files Petition at Pierre, S. D.,
for Democratic Nomination.**

SLOGAN, 'TRUE DEMOCRACY'

**Politicians Here Are Surprised,
but See Possible Indorsement
of Him by New York.**

Special to The New York Times.

PIERRE, S. D., Dec. 15.—James W. Gerard of New York, former Ambassador to Germany, has signed a minority Democratic nominating petition together with six proposal men, as a candidate for the indorsement of this State for the Presidency. The petition was filed with the Secretary of State this evening.

The National summary of his principles is to "make and keep the country safe for democracy," and the State summary, "true democracy."

Under the State law Gerard's name would go on the ballot as an independent Democratic candidate inasmuch as the State Republican proposal meeting indorsed Major Gen. Leonard Wood as their candidate and the Democratic meeting favored Woodrow Wilson.

The announcement from Pierre, S. D., that James W. Gerard had entered the race for the Democratic nomination for President came as a surprise to Democratic politicians in this city. In all the Democratic pre-convention political gossip in this city there had been nothing to indicate that Mr. Gerard would throw his hat into the ring.

The prospect of Mr. Gerard receiving a "favorite son" indorsement from his own State was regarded as promising among some Democratic politicians who learned that he was seeking an indorsement from the Democrats of South Dakota. It is believed that Tammany Hall would be only too happy to throw its strength to Mr. Gerard, who, before he became a Justice of the Supreme Court, was Chairman of the Finance Committee of Tammany Hall.

From another point of view, also, the appearance of Mr. Gerard as a candidate would be welcomed by Tammany. A Gerard boom in this State—and Tammany politicians regard the filing of the Gerard petition in South Dakota as the forerunner of a local campaign for delegates—might divert strength from ex-Secretary of the Treasury William G. McAdoo, whose candidacy for the Presidential nomination has been viewed with apprehension and dislike in Tammany circles.

It was said last night by a prominent Tammany man that while at present the relations between William R. Hearst and Tammany Hall are strained the fact that Mr. Gerard has been on a friendly footing with the former would not necessarily react to his disadvantage with the organization in the event that he should make a bid for Tammany support as a candidate for the nomination for President.

The lack of a "favorite son" boom has been a matter of regret, openly expressed in Tammany circles. Aside from Secretary McAdoo, the only prominent New York man mentioned in connection with the Presidential nomination until the name of Mr. Gerard appeared, is Secretary of State Robert Lansing, who, while regarded as a good candidate, has never had any particular following either in Tammany or in the Democratic organizations up-State.

Mr. Gerard could not be reached last night after the dispatch from Pierre arrived. At the Hotel Ritz-Carlton, where he resides, it was said that Mr. Gerard was out.

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