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DEMOCRATS AT CHICAGO.

Gossip of the Seventeenth National Convention.

EXCITING TIME EXPECTED.

Face to Face With the Great Money Problem.

THE CHANCES OF A COMPROMISE.

History of the "Two-thirds Rule," Which Some of the Delegates Propose to Attack—The "Unit Rule" and Its Effect. Fight Over the Temporary Roll in the National Committee—Where the Contest Will Come—Will the Majority Make Concessions on the Currency Question? Familiar Figures on the Floor—Other Conventions and Their Nominees—How Cleveland Was Nominated—This Time It Is Likely the Man Will Fit the Platform and Not the Platform the Man.

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There have been 16 national Democratic conventions and none of them since the war has been fraught with such serious possibilities as the one which will assemble in Chicago on the 7th of July.

The memorable Charleston convention which adjourned to meet in Baltimore was more important. On its decision might have rested the stability of the Union. The crisis which the Democratic party faces in 1896 is a question less of government than of commercial prosperity. The silver problem whose decision has been postponed for nearly a quarter of a century confronts the Democratic party and demands a final settlement. And the bitterness which the currency campaign of the last two months has aroused seems to threaten the integrity of the party.

The lines of the great political parties have been changing gradually for a good many years. A sectional sentiment almost as strong as that which once separated north and south has come into being. The tariff reform Republican has become a Mugwump and then a Democrat, and in many instances a free trader. The free trade Democrat has been converted to "incidental protection." The currency question has split the country on sectional rather than political lines. To be sure there are "sound money" men in the west and advocates



WILLIAM F. HARKITT.

of free coinage in the east. But as a rule the people of the west and south favor the free coinage of silver and the people of the east are committed to the gold standard.

There are no very distinct party principles today. Parties are political machines, held together by self interest. There are free coinage Democrats and sound money Democrats; free coinage Republicans and Republicans who believe in the gold standard. There are Democrats who want incidental protection and Democrats who favor free trade; and there are Republicans whose wild views on the tariff question will match those of their Democratic brethren.

It is a singular condition of affairs when the Democratic party, with the government at Washington in its hands and committed to the gold standard of currency, should be assembling apparently for the purpose of declaring for the free coinage of silver.

These things sometimes straighten themselves out in convention. The two wings of a party often find an acceptable compromise on a great political question—something which appeases if it does not satisfy both factions.

If they do not? Then one of the wings flaps all by itself perhaps while the other goes to serve another party. Blaine's nomination cost the Republicans not only the floating, changeable vote, but the adherence of a great many widely known members of their organization.

It is no easy thing for a man to accept a party platform which does not

agree with his convictions. That is what a great many men have had to do, though, ever since parties came into existence. Some men never can find a party whose principles are entirely satisfactory to them. The best they can do is to take the most satisfactory of them and condone its faults.

Several conditions assist in making the Chicago convention remarkable. The Republican convention threatened to be overloaded with presidential material, and for a year before it met half a dozen active candidates were canvassing the country for support. The Democratic party was almost without a candidate until six months ago, when Governor Matthews of Indiana was endorsed. Most of the "favorite sons" who had been discussed were holding off to see what the Democratic state conventions had to say on the currency question. Some of them could not run on a free silver platform, and some of them would not. Some of them were pledged to silver without recourse. Some wanted to see what way the currency cat would jump before they declared their principles.

Just as soon as there came an intimation that the convention would probably declare for silver, candidates began to grow on the bushes. Some are ardent silver men, some are compromisers and some might be willing to run on any platform that will suit the party.

Such growth of presidential timber in so short a time is phenomenal. And not satisfied with the great opportunities offered in their own party, Democrats in some places are discussing even the possibility of finding a Republican bolter from St. Louis to lead the party to vic-



HORACE BOIES.

tory. They think a Republican from a silver state might carry the west and south and hold enough of his own party in the east, if the Populists endorse him, to assure his election.

And if the silver Democrats do not control—if the administration influence is strong enough finally to hold the convention to the administration currency standard, Mr. Cleveland is always a possibility, even though the Democrats of Virginia have declared the third term idea to be un-American.

It is a very pretty situation. Who could have foretold it? Six months ago the Hon. J. Sterling Morton, head of the agricultural department at Washington, said to me: "There will be two chief candidates for the presidency—a sound money candidate and a rotten money candidate—and the Republicans will have the rotten money candidate."

It is hardly necessary to say that Secretary Morton's idea of "rotten money" is silver, coined at the option of the owner, at the ratio of 16 to 1.

Six months before that time Senator Jones of Arkansas told me the Democratic national convention would declare for the free coinage of silver, and that Mr. Cleveland was not a possible candidate.

Who was the prophet? Not Secretary Morton, certainly.

The Two-thirds Rule.

It is safe to say the Democratic party approaches the Chicago convention with greater trepidation than any other in its history except the memorable convention at Charleston. The party is older than the convention, because national conventions were not known to the Democracy till Andrew Jackson was nominated. The Jackson convention was held at Baltimore May 21, 1832, and it followed the indorsement of Jackson by the legislatures of New York and Pennsylvania. In fact, the convention merely ratified the popular choice for the presidency. But over the vice presidency there was a contest, and in this originated the famous two-thirds rule which has had so much weight in determining the action of many conventions since. It is a Democratic institution this two-thirds rule. No other party has adopted it, but the Democratic party has clung to it for 64 years.

No one knows who was the author of the rule. Mr. Saunders of North Carolina reported it from the committee on rules in 1832 in the following resolution:

Resolved, That each state be entitled in the nomination to be made for the vice presidency to a number of votes equal to the number they be entitled to in the electoral college under the new apportionment in voting for president and vice president and that two-thirds of the whole number of votes in convention shall be necessary to constitute a choice.

This rule ex-Senator Martin of Kansas says must be changed in the coming convention. It has been attacked in many conventions by the friends of men and measures which seemed to have the

favor of a majority of the delegates. But it has withstood every attack. It was voted down in the second convention of the party, but the vote was reconsidered, and it was adopted again. In 1844 it was attacked, but though there was a majority of Van Buren's friends in the convention some of them held the two-thirds rule to be above partisanship, and its adoption by the aid of their votes defeated their candidate. In 1848 the rule was indorsed by a vote of 175 to 78, and in 1852 by 273 to 13.

The rule does not apply to the adoption of the platform, but controls the nomination of the party's candidate. So there can be no issue on it between the friends of silver and the friends of gold. For that reason the opposition to it may fail, as it has failed in the past.

Former Conventions.

The Democratic conventions since 1832 have been held as follows:

May 20, 1832	Baltimore	Van Buren
May 5, 1840	Baltimore	Van Buren
May 27, 1844	Baltimore	Polk
May 22, 1848	Baltimore	Cass
June 1, 1852	Baltimore	Pierce
June 2, 1856	Cincinnati	Buchanan
April 23, 1860	Charleston	Adjourning May 8 to meet
June 18, 1860	Baltimore	Douglas
Aug. 23, 1864	Chicago	McClellan
July 4, 1868	New York	Reynolds
July 9, 1872	Baltimore	Greely
June 28, 1876	St. Louis	Tilden
June 23, 1880	Cincinnati	Hancock
July 8, 1884	Chicago	Cleveland
June 5, 1888	St. Louis	Cleveland
June 21, 1892	Chicago	Cleveland
July 7, 1896	Chicago	?

In the convention which nominated Jackson and created the two-thirds rule was made also the unit rule which has been a rule of every convention since and which until 1880 was a rule of Republican conventions as well. Under this rule where a state has given instructions individual votes are of no value except in the conference of a delegation. The vote of a majority of the delegation controls the vote of the entire delegation. And this rule has resulted more than once in the defeat of a candidate who might have commanded the individual support of two-thirds of the delegates to a convention.

The Unit Rule.

The first formal expression of this principle, which had been recognized informally in prior conventions, was had in the convention of 1848. It was contained in the following resolution:

Resolved, That in voting upon any question which may arise in the proceedings of this convention, the vote shall be taken by states at the request of any one state, each state to be entitled to the number of votes to which such state is entitled in the electoral college without regard to the number of delegates in attendance, the member in which said vote is to be cast to be decided by the delegation of each state for itself.

But this rule was modified by the convention of 1860 and the modification has stood to this day. The amendment (which was in the form of an additional rule) provided:

That in any state, which has not provided or directed by its state convention how its vote may be given, the convention will recognize the right of each delegate to cast his individual vote.

This is the form in which the unit rule will likely be adopted by the convention which meets in Chicago on the 7th of July. It is more than likely that the convention will adopt the rules of the last convention as a whole, though possibly not without some contest and a sharp discussion.

Chicago Hotels.

One singular thing about national conventions is the unexpectedness with which they assume importance or become comparatively commonplace. Four years ago it was predicted confidently that the Republican convention at Minneapolis would be uninteresting and that the Democratic convention at Chicago would be exciting. The reverse was true. The Republican convention was one of the most exciting in the history of the party and the convention of the Democrats was out and dried. So it was predicted six months ago that the Democratic convention this year would be commonplace and the convention at St. Louis, with its half dozen candidates running on even terms, would be exciting. Long before the Republican convention assembled its work was out for it, while the interest of the whole country has centered for many weeks in the convention at Chicago and its candidate. The hotel keepers of Chicago will be the beneficiaries of this condition of affairs, for, where they looked forward a few months ago to vacant rooms during convention week, they have now the prospect of overcrowded houses. Still the rates at the principal hotels have not been advanced, and at the best of them single rooms with meals have been rented for \$5 each. Chicago has many hotels—too many for ordinary occasions. The big houses which were built for World's fair business stand half empty during a great part of the year, and one of the oldest and best of the big hotels of other convention years—the Grand Pacific—has been closed. But the Palmer House is still headquarters for many of the delegations, and the Auditorium hotel, with its big annex, will be crowded to the doors during convention week. In these two the largest crowds will gather, and the streets about them will be packed thick with horse, ribbed, broad eyed men. Bands will stand beneath their windows serenading state delegations, and clubs of men in long skirted coats with canes in their hands will tramp in and out of their corridors, filling the air with shouts for their candidates. There will be hospitality of a liquid character at the headquarters of

the silver states, and music everywhere. And while the crowds rend the air with their shouts below the leaders of the convention will get together in the quiet of their rooms up stairs and map out the business and determine how it will be done.

The Wigwam.

The last convention held in Chicago met in a wigwam erected on the lake shore—a great deal larger than the wigwam in which the Lincoln convention met 36 years ago. The news of that convention was sent to the world by the hand of a single telegraph operator. The convention of eight years ago was held in the Auditorium. Both these were



GEORGE C. VEST.

within easy access of the hotels and business places. The Coliseum, in which the convention of 1896 will be held, is more than half an hour's ride from the center of the city and is reached by several lines of street cars. It is a huge building, constructed with a view to just such gatherings as the national conventions. It is 787 feet long by 300 feet wide. The outer walls are 45 feet high and the roof rises in terraces to a height of 165 feet. Twelve steel trusses, each 230 feet wide, support the roof. Exclusive of the vestibule, the interior of the building is 676 feet long.

Twenty-five feet above the main floor of the hall is a balcony. It is 40 feet wide and it runs around the four sides of the building. Forty feet above the main floor is another gallery. The second is 12 feet wide. The whole floor space of the building is 285,000 square feet. It will accommodate 15,000 people during the convention, though the capacity of the building for show purposes can be increased to 50,000 people. The exits are on all sides and the facilities for emptying the hall quickly are ample. The lighting of the hall will be done by 100 arc lights provided with powerful reflectors.

The Democratic national committee will meet in Chicago the week before the convention assembles, and its deliberations will be watched even more closely than those of the Republican national committee at St. Louis. Interest in the contests was keyed up to a high point when Chairman Harkitt was quoted in a New York paper as saying that no man who announced in advance that he would bolt the convention under certain conditions should be admitted as a delegate. Mr. Harkitt has denied since that he had any idea the gold men would attempt to control the convention by shutting out on contests those who had threatened to bolt in the interest of the free coinage of silver. But the friends of silver have their eyes on the national committee and they will not be satisfied until they know that their friends are to be seated. They, too, have hinted at an advantage to be gained in the recognition of contesting delegations. They are said to be considering the possibility of shutting out the Michigan state delegation on the ground that the delegates and alternates to the state convention did not vote according to their instructions, which in a majority of cases were for the free coinage of silver. This question is not likely to figure seriously before the national committee, and if it is raised at all, it will be in the convention, where ex-Postmaster General Dickinson will have a chance to explain how he elected administration delegates from what was claimed to be an anti-administration state.

The Temporary Chairman.

The national committee, besides deciding the contests of delegations to be placed on the temporary roll of the convention, will choose candidates for temporary officers of the convention, but if the national committee chooses a "gold" man for temporary chairman and the "silver" men are in the majority in the convention, as is now expected, it is quite probable that the choice of the national committee will be ignored, and that the temporary chairman of the convention will be chosen from the list of western or southern delegates. It is not unlikely that the honor of the temporary or permanent chairmanship will be conferred on the senator from Kentucky, Mr. Blackburn, who has routed the administration forces in his state so recently, and who has been indorsed by his state convention as a candidate for the presidency. Vest of Missouri may be one of the officers of the convention if he is not engaged in preparing "Silver Dollar" Bland for nomination. Possibly Missouri's other presidential possibility, Governor Stone, or the man who has routed the administration army in Illinois, Governor Algeid, will receive honors at the hands of the convention.

Many seats will be vacant, as I have said, because the opening proceedings

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

We devote an entire basement to the display of trunks, telescopes and traveling bags.

Some People Pay

Whatever merchants choose to ask. Others haggle over prices. Shrewd buyers do neither; they read advertisements and know the market price. They come here and invariably buy because values at this store are standard for first class goods, the only kind we sell. The men's and boy's suits that we sell for \$5.00, \$7.50, \$9.00 and \$10.00 should not be confused with the many quoted at same figures. Our's are exceptional. They're goods that belong to higher priced families but are reduced because sizes cannot be matched and we're preparing to do our fall buying.

Straw hats, all reduced. Serge, mohair, linen, crash, alpaca and duck coats and vests, bicycle suits, bicycle pants, caps, belts, hose, &c.



THOMAS V. VANNATTA.

Thomas V. Vannatta died at his home on Iron street on Tuesday morning at half past four, aged sixty-nine years, eleven months and twenty-four days. He was a man of quiet disposition, a good citizen and a kind husband and father. His surviving family consists of his wife and eight children, the latter being Mrs. John L. Woods, Sadie, Lillie, Sophia, Wallace and Benjamin, who reside here, Mrs. James Lewis, of Hollidaysburg, and John, of Lewistown.

The funeral will be held on Friday afternoon at two o'clock, services conducted by Rev. D. N. Kirkby. Mr. Vannatta was born in Bloomsburg, July 6, 1827. In his boyhood he was employed at the furnaces. For many years past he followed the business of well-digging. In April 1861, when the first troops left here for the seat of war, he and Enos Jacoby fired a salute with an improvised cannon. The gun burst, and Mr. Vannatta lost one of his eyes. In the fall of 1861 he joined the army as a teamster, and subsequently was a member of Capt. R. F. Clark's emergency men. In all the relations of life he was an honest and true man.

Y. M. C. A. SERVICES.

The Y. M. C. A. services in the tent last Sunday afternoon were unusually interesting and largely attended. The address was delivered by Yeatory O'Kano, a native of Japan and a graduate of the Law Department of Cumberland University, Tenn. It was interesting and he gave some facts in relation to his native country hitherto unknown. In the morning he spoke in the Presbyterian church, and in the Methodist tabernacle in the evening.

Since his coming to this country he has embraced the Christian religion, and it is his intention to return to his country and do Evangelistic work.

That our curb market is growing in popularity is evidenced by the number of wagons in attendance. The supply of vegetables, fruits, &c. is fresh, and our people instead of waiting for a wagon to come around to their doors should patronize it. This is the only way to make it a success.

CRUSHED BENEATH WHEELS.

Owen McDonough, a young man of Centralia, aged twenty-two years, was killed at 4:15 o'clock last Friday morning. He was in search of work and went as far as Shenandoah, but was unable to secure employment, and decided to return home, and for this purpose boarded an empty engine and secured a seat on the pilot of the engine. Everything went well until the engine reached Raven Run at which place a Coal and Iron officer was waiting for a train he saw McDonough, and flagged the train for the purpose of arresting him. The engineer applied the brakes, and when its speed was somewhat reduced, the officer boarded the engine. In his frantic efforts to escape from the officer and avoid arrest McDonough became so excited that he actually did not know what he was doing. He made a wild jump from the pilot of the engine and landed almost in the center of the track in front of the engine. It passed over him mangleing him in a most horrible manner and severing his body at the waist. The engine was stopped and the mangled remains placed in the tender and taken to Centralia where they were identified.

THAT RATIFICATION MEETING.

In accordance with an announcement a large number of Republicans congregated in the Opera House last Thursday evening to ratify the nominations made by the St. Louis convention. The meeting was called to order by H. A. McKillip, Esq., and after a spirited address nominated J. C. Brown as permanent chairman, which motion was unanimously carried. The address of the evening was delivered by him and as a result a club numbering about two hundred was formed. The list of vice presidents numbered twenty-five, and the secretaries were A. W. Duy, John Scott and Samuel Pursell.

The following letters are advertised June 30, 1896: Susan Crawford Miss Lillian Cleaver, Mrs. Fred Heller Miss Jennie Hiner, Mr. Thomas McHale, Mrs. Lavina Melick, F. A. Silliman. Will be sent to the dead letter office July 14, 1896. JAMES H. MERRICK, P. M.