

DEMOCRATS ROAR AS CONVENTION NAMES AL SMITH

New York Governor Made the Party's Standard Bearer—Robinson His Teammate.

President—**ALFRED E. SMITH**
New York
Vice President—**JOSEPH T. ROBINSON**
Arkansas

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
Sam Houston Hall, Houston, Texas.
—With Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York as its standard bearer, and Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas in second place on the national ticket and a reasonable amount of harmony within its ranks, the untried Democratic party is all set to give the Hoover-led Republicans a hot battle that will last until the polls close in the November election.

In this huge convention hall a wild cheering throng of delegates made Al their Presidential nominee on the first ballot, and then pandemonium reigned. State standards were torn from their places, big lithographs of Smith appeared on every hand and the delegations began their joyous march through the aisles, while the alternates and the thousands of spectators stood up yelling at the tops of their voices and the bands, playing—one guess what—were drowned out by the shouting and singing multitude. Hysterical women threw their arms around one another or around the men nearest to them and wept for joy. Mrs. Al Smith and Mrs. Walker, wife of Mayor Jimmy Walker of New York, sitting together in a box, made no attempt to restrain their triumphant delight.

It was an emotional demonstration that needed no artificial coaching and pushing, and lasted a long, long time. The cockles of the hearts of every Democrat there were warmed and when order was restored every one of them resumed his seat glowing with serene confidence that the convention had picked the man who would be inaugurated President of the United States on March 4, 1929.

Platform Built for Harmony.
The reasonable harmony mentioned above was brought about by the smart work of the committee on resolutions, always the most important body in a national convention. It was no easy task this committee had, for the dry South was arrayed against the wet East, and apparently each was determined to have its own way about the enforcement plank to be inserted in the platform. The formulation of this resolution required infinite tact and patience, for though the Smith forces knew they could nominate their man, they could by no means afford to alienate the bone-dry states of the South and West.

Farm organization leaders from the corn belt, who failed to obtain from the Republicans in Kansas City what they wanted, also demanded the attention of the resolutions committee, and though the Democratic party naturally could not afford to put itself on record in favor of the equalization fee in the McNary-Haugen bill, pledges of aid to the farmers were made which, it was hoped, would capture many rural votes that otherwise would go to the Republican ticket.

Planning to make "corruption" the dominant issue of the campaign, the platform builders constructed a plank that vigorously attacked the record of the Republican administrations of Presidents Harding and Coolidge, reviewed at length the oil lease scandals and other instances of alleged misbehavior in office, and pledged the Democratic party to give the nation a clean and honest government. Campaign contributions and expenditures also came in for lively comment.

The platform roundly assailed the Republican administration's foreign policy, especially as to intervention in other American republics. The Fordney-McCumber tariff law, now in effect, was denounced as inequitable and tending to foster the growth of monopolies, but no sweeping downward revision of tariff rates was proposed. The Mellon taxation program was attacked as not based upon the fundamental principle of ability to pay.

Altogether, the platform was vigorous, snappy and notably short.

Couldn't Stop Smith.
Opponents of Al Smith, both those who wanted the nomination for themselves and those who just didn't want Smith, had less chance to stop the idol of New York than the "allies" at Kansas City had of stopping Herbert Hoover. In the first place, they were not nearly so numerous as were the allies; and in the second place, there was no such outstanding opposition possibility as was Senator Curtis among the Republicans. Senator Jim Reed of Missouri made such play for the honor as he could, insisting to the last that he could at least stop Al, even if he could not himself secure the nomination. But as he was credited with being as wet as Smith the dry southerners could scarcely be expected to stand by him in large numbers. Reed's headquar- ters were busy places and his boosters, many of whom were women, kept on distributing documents and oral argu-

ALFRED E. SMITH



ments. And early in the convention proceedings Senator Jim found opportunity to make one of the fiery speeches for which he is famed, assailing the Republican administration record and demanding a platform free from evasion and indirection.

Evans Woolen of Indiana, Jesse Jones of Texas, and other favorite sons, received the complimentary votes of their state delegations, but nearly all the delegates were ready to jump into the Smith band wagon when the appointed time came, and jump they did with the utmost enthusiasm.

Opening the Convention.
Conforming to the official call, the convention was called to order by National Chairman Clem Shaver at noon on Tuesday, and the preliminaries, including the naming of the committees, were gone through with. Then, in accordance with the decision of the national committee, adjournment was taken until 7 o'clock in the evening, when Claude G. Bowers of New York city, temporary chairman, delivered the keynote address. This change of hours was made partly to avoid the daytime heat and more especially so that Mr. Bowers' speech might have better distribution over the country by radio. The address of the editor, historian and scholar was well worth hearing, being breezy and lively and remarkably free from the heavy platitudes that ordinarily characterize such productions. It was what was expected from the man who created such a stir in the circles of his party by his speech at the Jackson day dinner in Washington last January.

Riddling the Enemy.
Chairman Bowers gave little time to telling in detail what the Democratic party had done in the past or what it proposes to do in the future. Opening with a ringing call to the party to arm itself for a war of extermination against "privilege and pillage," he went on to a contrasting of Jeffersonian democracy with Hamiltonian republicanism, and of the latter with Lincoln's republicanism, which he accused the Republican party of having abandoned. It now, he said, is openly following the Hamiltonian theory of government for the benefit of the wealthy and powerful.

In incisive language, full of epigram and invective, he attacked the Republican administrations of Harding and Coolidge, describing with bitter irony their alleged shortcomings and misconduct. Of course, the Tenpot Dome oil scandal and allied affairs came in for a full measure of denunciation. Winding up a brief summary of what the eight years of Democratic rule from 1912 to 1920 did with an eloquent eulogy of Woodrow Wilson, he brought his great audience to its feet with ringing cheers.

Demonstration for the Farmer.
Turning to the farmer, Mr. Bowers said his portion had become one of thorns and thistles and that in seven years the Republican party had utterly failed to do anything for him. Closing this portion of his speech, he thundered: "We do not propose that the most basic of all our industries shall longer be a doormat for all the others to wipe their feet upon as they enter the Temple of Privilege." Responding with a mighty shout, the delegates and alternates sprang to their feet and, as the two bands played their loudest, pulled up the state standards and marched around the aisles for about fifteen minutes. Skeptical ones in the audience believed a demonstration at that point in the address was prearranged to impress the corn belt. Anyhow, it was impressive at the time.

The speaker directed a hail of verbal bullets at the Republican claims of having protected business from Democratic enemies and of having brought about prosperity and economy. Said he: "Mythical prosperity, mythical economy, mythical facts, mythical figures and mythical men.

The last eight years may well be treated by the historian of the far future as the mythical age of American history."

speeches were resumed. Governor Ritchie of Maryland, who withdrew in favor of Al, was first on the list and was followed by former Mayor Peters of Boston and Andrew Nelson of Minnesota. Mississippi did not put Senator Pat Harrison in nomination, though he was scheduled to get a complimentary vote. Then Charles M. Howell took the platform and offered to the convention the name of Missouri's fighting senator, James A. Reed. This man, he said, was made to order as a candidate for the Presidency against Herbert Hoover.

Howell described at length Reed's career in congress, his defense of constitutional privileges and his lifelong fight for democracy.

Demonstration for Reed.
When Howell closed, the Missouri, Florida, Oklahoma and Philippines delegations started a demonstration that was extraordinarily noisy and long continued, considering their scanty numbers. Banners, lithographs and standards were carried around the hall, and the uproar was out of all proportion to the number of Reed votes. Next to be put in nomination for the honor none of them could hope to attain were Huston Thompson of Colorado, Atlee Pomerene of Ohio, Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, and Cordell Hull of Tennessee and then the audience was given something a little more lively in the nomination of Jesse E. Jones, pride of Houston, and the man whose efforts brought the convention to this city. Not one of his excellent qualities was overlooked, and the galleries cheered him wildly. Huge paper bags full of toy balloons had been suspended from the grids of the hall and these were torn open at the proper moment, filling the air with the gay little spheres. Houstonians are very proud of Jesse Jones and rejoiced at the opportunity to evidence that. Then, too, he is financial director of the Democratic National committee and as such has made himself popular among the delegates. So, all in all, Mr. Jones may feel satisfied with the demonstration that followed the presentation of his name. Before it quieted down the cowboy band marched in, led by a pretty cowgirl mounted on a gray mare. Chairman Robinson enjoyed this as much as anyone else but was finally compelled to ask that the "Cavalry be now removed."

Platform Committee's Labors.
The platform committee had been laboring for two days and nights and for a time serious discord was threatened over the law-enforcement plank. Gov. Dan Moody stood out to the last for an extremely dry plank, but the harmony workers won out and adopted the resolution drafted by Carter Glass, pledging the party to honest effort to enforce the Eighteenth amendment and all other laws as well. When the platform was submitted to the convention Thursday evening this plank was mildly applauded. Moody, as a minority of one on the committee, explained his stand. Governor Ritchie of Maryland, outstanding wet, told why he was that way, but neither offered a minority report. Senator Glass explained the compromise for the sake of harmony, and the platform was adopted by an almost unanimous vote. Then came the roll call of states for the selection of the Presidential candidate.

Georgia's Favorite Son.
United States Senator Walter F. George of Georgia was placed in nomination by Judge Charles R. Crisp in a long speech in which he attacked Smith without naming him. The George demonstration was participated in by Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Nebraska, and was fairly satisfactory to his admirers. W. H. O'Brien presented the name of Evans Woolen, favorite son of Indiana; Congressman William Ayres of Kansas was put in nomination by George McGill of that state; there were several seconding speeches for Smith, the most notable being by Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, former governor of Wyoming, and the convention adjourned to Thursday morning.

Smith's Victory Too Easy.
Governor Smith's name was presented to the convention by Franklin Roosevelt, who performed the same service for him four years ago in Madison Square garden. Still vigorous despite his long illness, Mr. Roosevelt made an eloquent and spirited speech that often aroused the audience to loud applause, and at its close there was a wild and uproarious demonstration that could not be quelled by the chairman for many minutes.

Nearly every state standard was in the parade within a minute, New York modestly giving the lead to others. Missourians sat pat and so did the delegates of several other states. In the Mississippi delegation there were several lively fights between the anti-Smith and pro-Smith groups. The standard was broken in the struggle and some seats were smashed before two squads of Houston policemen could quell the row. Governor Moody refused to permit the Lone Star flag of Texas to be taken into the demonstration, so Mrs. Laura Burleson Negley, daughter of former Postmaster General Burleson, found a small Texas flag and, waving it, led a small group of Texans who were for Smith. At one time most of the standards were grouped in front of the box wherein sat Mrs. Smith, and she arose to acknowledge the compliment. After 35 minutes of uproar tactful Mayor Walker ordered the New York standard withdrawn, and so order was restored.

On the first ballot Smith lacked but ten votes of the requisite two-thirds. Before the totals could be announced a dozen delegations were on their feet, each seeking to be the one to put Al

When the delegates assembled Thursday the Smith seconding

JOSEPH T. ROBINSON



across the mark. Amid increasing disorder Chairman Robinson first recognized the Ohioans, who gave their entire vote of 45 to Smith. The deed was done.

Music in Profusion.
Bandsmen of Houston had set themselves the task of learning to play the state tune of every state in the Union, and the pleasing result was that each delegation, as it arrived in the city, was greeted with the air most familiar and grateful to its ears, rendered by the band assigned to escort it to its hotel.

The bands made music throughout much of the day and night during the week, parading the streets and invading the lobbies of the hotels, already crowded almost to suffocation. Among the most industrious of them—and incidentally among the best rewarded—was a "one-man band" who quite delighted the throngs and who rather haunted the extensive Smith headquarters in the Rice hotel.

Then there was a cowboy band which was a part of a rodeo outfit that was giving performances at the Rice institute, and a competent Boy Scout band.

Receiving Jimmy Walker.
What the local press called the largest and most enthusiastic crowd that ever assembled at a Houston railroad station gathered to meet the special train that brought Mayor Jimmy Walker of New York and a host of other residents of the metropolis. Jimmy, who is noted for his attire, was clad in a neat sports suit of purple. The throngs at the station and the Rice hotel fairly mobbed him, and as he already was under the weather he soon retired to his room. About the same time another group of New Yorkers, numbering several hundred, arrived at Galveston by boat, completing a sea voyage around Florida and up through the Gulf.

Ample accommodations for all the visitors had been arranged by the Houston committees, but even so, some of the hotels were rather swamped. The Rice was the center of most of the activity and it was almost impossible to force one's way through its lobby. As for the elevators in this hotel, they proved utterly inadequate and the language used about them wouldn't get through the mails. One wild-eyed gentleman from western Texas waited so long for an elevator that his patience gave out. Pulling out his pistol, he deliberately put a bullet through the center of each pane in the door of the shaft. No one was hit and no one was arrested. The authorities looked upon the incident as just a case of pleasure shooting, like that of another westerner who was moved to step out on the balcony and put a bullet through a window of a hotel down the street.

Women Many and Active.
Women's organizations, that got something of what they wanted from the Republicans in Kansas City, came to Houston also in full force and presented the same demands for planks in the Democratic platform. The two especially active and vocal groups were the National Woman's party, whose plank for equal rights between men and women throughout the United States and its possessions was presented to the resolutions committee by Miss Sue White, practicing attorney of Jackson, Tenn., and those who demanded a prohibition plank equal in strength and definiteness to that adopted by the Republicans. Another earnest group was the Women's Committee for the Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, which worked in conjunction with the Constitutional Liberty league to a certain extent but had its own plank. As one of their leaders explained, the women of this committee "are for temperance as Jesus Christ was for temperance, and as the greatest prophets and leaders of civilization have been for temperance. Prohibition has proved the most colossal failure in the world to-

day. We want to work with something that won't fail." This anti-dry group gained importance by its mere personnel, which included many of the social and political leaders and writers of the country. Elizabeth Marbury, national committeewoman from New York, is honorary chairman and Mrs. Chauncey Olcott is a vice chairman. Others are Mrs. Douglas Robinson, sister of Theodore Roosevelt; Mrs. Marius de Brabant, daughter of the late Senator Clark of Montana; Mrs. Kenneth O'Brien, daughter of Clarence H. Mackey; Mrs. Frederick Nathan, head of the National Housewives' league; Mrs. Herbert Satterlee, sister of J. Pierpont Morgan; Anna Katherine Green, Mrs. Arthur Curtis James, Mrs. Alice Foote MacDonnell, Miss Elizabeth Stokes, Mrs. Frederick Allen, and others of almost equal note. Their plank pledged the Democratic party to resubmit the question of national prohibition to the people in their state conventions or the equivalent of a referendum in every state.

Woman membership in the convention was smaller than in 1924. There were 146 women delegates with an aggregate total of 78% votes, and 272 women alternates. No women at all were sent by Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon and Wisconsin. From Alabama, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina and Vermont there came women alternates but no women delegates.

Colonel Bell Was There.
There were few more spectacular figures in the convention throngs than Col. Nicholas M. Bell of St. Louis, who accompanied the Missouri delegation. Colonel Bell attended his first Democratic national convention in 1862, and he had the honor of nominating Seymour when that candidate ran against Blair. Then, in 1884, he nominated Grover Cleveland, and to the Houston convention he brought the chair which he occupied on that momentous day. His white hair and beard bristling and his eye flashing with old time fire, the pioneer Missourian stamped his hickory cane down upon the concrete with a bang when reporters sounded him as his favorite candidate.

"In other words, whom are you going to vote for?" they asked.
"You can tell the cockeyed world that I'm not going to vote for any damned Englishman," snapped the fiery veteran as he was whisked away to his hotel.

One Pessimist Found.
Roy L. Fernal, the youthful national committeeman from Maine, he is only twenty-six years old—was the outstanding pessimist. Before the opening of the convention he asserted that this is not a Democratic year, and added that if Al Smith were nominated he would not have a chance to defeat Hoover. For the first time the Maine delegation was instructed—for Smith. "That killed Democracy in Maine," declared Mr. Fernal. He is himself a candidate for the United States senatorship, but said he did not see how he could win in what he considered the deplorable circumstances.

Dedicating Sam Houston Hall.
Fifteen thousand Houstonians gathered Sunday in the big structure they had built and given to the Democrats, and with dignified ceremony it was christened Sam Houston hall. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, widow of the last Democrat to sit in the White House, was the guest of honor. Handsome and gracious as ever, garbed in black and white chiffon and a blue felt hat, she sat in the box of Jesse H. Jones together with Governor and Mrs. Moody, Clem Shaver and Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

Jesse Jones was, despite himself, the hero of the occasion, for no one in the vast audience was ignorant of the part he had played in securing the convention for their city. So he was compelled to make an impromptu speech, which was greeted with vociferous acclaim. Mayor Oscar E. Holcomb displayed the gavel which the Sam Houston State Teachers' college was to present on Tuesday to National Chairman Shaver to call the convention to order. It was made from cedar of a tree that Sam Houston planted at his home in Huntsville. During the progress of the ceremonies Bishop Hay led to the front of the platform a small, thin, baldheaded, gray roustabout man and presented him as "Col. Andrew Jackson Houston, son of our great hero, Gen. Sam Houston, for whom this hall is named."

After all the speeches and prayers the people were given an opportunity to look over the hall. Having the outward aspect of a gay exposition building, its interior was arranged to provide convenience and cooler for the convention throngs. Its seating facilities were better than in most such structures and the acoustics, with the aid of numerous amplifiers, were excellent. Decorations, while not lavish, were in good taste. Open slides, huge electric fans and plenty of ice water served well to offset the heat.

Provisions for Comfort.
Houstonites suffer from no illusions as to the heat that prevails there in summer time. They know it is going to be hot—and it is hot. But the local committees took whatever measures they might to mitigate the torridity of the days and insure the comfort of the city's guests. One of the most efficient of these measures was the erection, close to Sam Houston hall, of "Hospitality House." An entire city block was roofed over and filled with comfortable benches above which innumerable electric fans whirled unceasingly, and through the open sides of the structure, such breezes as there might be passed freely.