

Democratic National Convention at Baltimore on June 25

HARMON. UNDERWOOD. CLARK.



Photo of Underwood © by Harris & Ewing. Photos of Harmon, Clark and Wilson © by American Press Association.

Fifth Regiment Army in City Famous for Conventions of the Past Will Seat Twenty Thousand People—The Leading Candidates—William Jennings Bryan a Delegate.

By WALTON WILLIAMS.
FOR the first time in forty years a national convention of one of the leading parties is to be held in Baltimore. In the old days the Maryland metropolis was the convention city of the country, even more so than Chicago is now. But with the movement of population westward the big town at the head of the Chesapeake lost her political primacy.

Almost from the day that the convention system came into vogue in American politics Baltimore forged to the front as the leading national convention town. Perhaps one reason was that she was situated midway between the north and the south. Another was that she was one of the largest cities in the country. A third was her proximity to the national capital, Baltimoreans even now speaking of Washington as a suburb. A fourth was her hospitality. She makes every guest feel that he is one of her "own folks" and that she is at his service to entertain and make him feel at home. No trouble is too great for her to take in his behalf. Subtly, but without flattery, she gives him the delightful impression that he has a distinguished place in her regard. With a fine old southern courtesy about which there is no stiffness or formality and with a graciousness about which there is no pretense, she lends a new meaning to the word "welcome."

President Jackson was nominated in Baltimore in 1822, as was Van Buren, not only for the campaign of 1836, when he was elected, but for that of 1840, when he was defeated by William Henry Harrison. In 1844 both conventions met in the Maryland metropolis, that of the Whigs naming Henry Clay and that of the Democrats choosing James K. Polk. Four years later the Democrats again assembled in Baltimore, nominating Lewis Cass.

Split on Slavery.
Both the Whig and Democratic conventions of 1852 were held in Baltimore, the respective candidates there chosen being General Winfield Scott and General Franklin Pierce. In 1860 the Democratic convention met in Charleston, but split on the slavery question, and both wings later assembled in Baltimore, placing two tickets in the field, one headed by Stephen A. Douglas and the other by John C. Breckinridge. This split marked the end of Democratic ascendancy in the government for a period of twenty-four years. President Lincoln was re-nominated in Baltimore in 1864, and in 1872 the Democratic convention in the same city endorsed Horace Greeley, who had previously been named by the Liberal Republicans. That was the last great national convention held in Baltimore until this year.

It would be a strange coincidence if the city that saw the division of the Democratic party in 1860, a division that drove it from power practically for fifty years, should this year witness it completely reunited and ready to return to power for an indefinite period because of the division of the Republicans. Yet this very result is among the possibilities.

The Democratic convention will be held in the Fifth regiment armory,

which is Baltimore's largest auditorium. The vaulted roof of this great building is more than 100 feet above the main floor. The drill room, in which the convention will be held, is capable of seating 12,000 persons without crowding. Its dimensions are 200 by 300 feet, giving 60,000 square feet of floor space. There are already two balconies, and by building raised platforms at the ends of the hall it is expected that 20,000 persons can be accommodated at the sessions of the convention. There are twenty-one smaller rooms about the building that can be used for committee and press rooms. The armory is situated in the northern part of the city near the Pennsylvania and Ohio stations and within fifteen minutes' ride from the business section where most of the hotels are situated.

It will be an inspiring scene when at high noon of June 25 the gavel falls calling to order the Democratic national convention of 1912—inspiring because of the rosy prospects of victory for the first time in twenty years, inspiring because at last Democratic principles are coming into general acceptance even by its political foes and inspiring because of the historic associations. Casting its eyes at Washington—if a convention has eyes to cast—it will behold the house of representatives overwhelmingly Democratic and only a narrow margin in the way of controlling the senate. Looking farther afield, it will see Democratic governors of twenty-seven states, fourteen of them being northern states. As there are only forty-eight states altogether, that is quite a healthy majority. It will see a section of the Republicans more favorable to Democratic principles than to the other wing of their own party. It will behold a vast majority of the people favorable to tariff reduction and other Democratic planks.

Four Presidents Named in Baltimore.
National conventions did not come into vogue until about 1832, and since that time the Democratic party has held twenty. This year it will meet in the city where at least eight of these twenty have convened and where four Democratic presidents, Jackson, Van Buren, Polk and Pierce, were nominated. Thus the Baltimore meeting will suggest a great past, a harmonious present and a bright future. That sort of a happy combination has not been so frequent in recent Democratic history as to have become monotonous.

The convention will be called to order by Norman E. Mack, chairman of the Democratic national committee, likewise chairman of the committee on arrangements. Mr. Mack has had an embarrassment of jobs lately, having also been chairman of the New York state committee. Each one of these places is a man's job, and, not being able to be three men at one time, Mack resigned the New York state chairmanship, which went to George M. Palmer of Schenectady.

The committee on arrangements has charge of all details for the convention, including the selection of a temporary chairman, settling contests for making up the temporary roll, decorating, furnishing and seating the hall, printing and distributing the tickets and badges

providing for music, appointing door-keepers and sergeants-at-arms, looking out for the press, getting a first aid corps of nurses and physicians and doing the thousand and one other things preliminary to the holding of a national convention.

The music of the Republican and Democratic gatherings will not be largely different, except that "Dixie" will figure more prominently at Baltimore than at Chicago and "Marching Through Georgia" decidedly not. If Champ Clark is nominated the "Houn' Dawg" song will also be a musical favorite at Baltimore. Just as "Old Nassau" will be Governor Woodrow Wilson gets the upper hand. "Maryland, My Maryland," will be torn into ribbons by the bands at Baltimore whoever the nominee may be.

Historical Background.

"The Star Spangled Banner" should also come in for a turn at the Democratic gathering since it was at Baltimore the song was written. It happened during the war of 1812, the centenary of whose beginning occurs just



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JOHN BURKE, WHO HAS NORTH DAKOTA'S DELEGATES.

one week before the assembling of the Democratic cohorts. That war was prosecuted by a Democratic administration headed by James Madison, and its chief hero was General Andrew Jackson, for whom many Democrats have continued voting to this day. Opposition to that war killed the Federalist party, which was in a sense a progenitor of the modern Republican party. There is plenty of historic background for the Baltimore convention.

Delegates and visitors will see a very different city from that which greeted those attending conventions of old. While Baltimore has not gone up by the leaps and bounds marking the progress of many other American cities, her growth has been healthy and steady. The great fire brought a complete change in the appearance of the business portion of the Maryland metropolis. As fearful as the catastrophe was, it has proved in many ways a blessing in disguise. The portion of the city that has been rebuilt is more modern in appearance, with wider, lighter and better paved streets, better and more up to date construction and, as a result of the spirit engendered to recover from the shock, a more determined and progressive business community. The spirit of the new Baltimore was exemplified by the men who made the successful bid for this gathering. They had such competitors as Chicago and St. Louis, with New York and Denver also in the running. It was a certified check for \$100,000 with a promise of a supplementary sum of \$15,000 to take care of convention expenses which won for the Maryland city.

Great Attendance Expected.

The Baltimore committee having the fight in charge frankly admitted that their chief reason for desiring the convention was the advertising it would give to Baltimore. That argues a public spirit which will go far toward building a bigger and better city. As already suggested, the citizens generally share this spirit and have thrown open their homes in order that the great crowds attending the gathering may have ample accommodations. Baltimore is in the midst of a most populous section, and multiplied thousands are expected from New York, Philadelphia, the Eastern Shore and the south. With her reputation for hospitality as a pledge, Baltimore promises to take care of them all.

As for the convention itself, that is another story. It is yet too early to make an intelligent prediction as to the standard bearer it will choose. The Democrats are frank in saying that this will depend in some measure on the action of the Republicans. Even with the opposition ticket named the Baltimore convention will have to go through an elimination contest, as no candidate yet has the two-thirds majority necessary to nominate. The basis of representation is the same as that of the Republicans, with the exception that each of the dependencies is allowed six delegates in place of two. This will make sixteen more delegates or 1,092, if New Mexico is allowed but six, or 1,094 if she has eight. In the last named event 730 will be required to nominate.

Of instructed and pledged delegates no one will have that number or even a majority on the first ballot. Not until the favorite sons are eliminated and the uninstructed delegates settle on their choice will the winner be known.

As matters now stand Champ Clark is in the lead, with Governor Woodrow Wilson in second place. In a break-up it is generally believed that the votes of Oscar Underwood and possibly of some of the other minor candidates would go to Clark. The other avowed candidates are Governors Harmon of Ohio, Marshall of Indiana, Baldwin of Connecticut and Burke of North Dakota.

One factor must not be lost sight of. William Jennings Bryan is a delegate at Baltimore, and there is no telling what another "cross of gold" speech might do

OVER THE COUNTY.

Mrs. Elizabeth Alter and daughter, Mrs. Sarah Bellman, left Millheim last week for St. Joseph, Mich., where they expect to spend the summer with Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Keiner.

Thomas Patton, of Port Matilda, the well-known huckster, who has for years been making regular weekly trips to Philipsburg, has placed an order for a half-ton auto truck.

Some fellow from Philipsburg passed through here last evening in an auto that was blowing a whistle so big that every time the whistle-blown machine stopped, it's whistle had to be wet several times.

With a fifty thousand dollar Presbyterian church, a twenty thousand dollar Catholic chapel and twenty large residences, State College has a building boom that will not be equaled by any other town in this section.

A valuable brood mare, belonging to W. P. Catherman, of Penn township, dropped over and was dead while hitched to a plow last week. The mare had a colt about ten days old, and had showed no signs of being sick.

Several sheep and a cow belonging to C. W. Slack, east of Old Fort, were suffering from eating poison of some kind, and two of the sheep died, while the remainder recovered. The animals came in from pasture as usual, and in the morning six of the sheep were sick, and the next day a cow showed the same symptoms. It is presumed the animals ate some poisonous weed while pasturing in a clearing.

The Board of Directors of the Philipsburg Public Schools held its elected superintendent for the ensuing year last week. J. S. F. Ruthrauff was elected superintendent for the ensuing term, Prof. B. I. Myers, who has served in that capacity for several years past, having tendered his resignation. Mr. Myers goes to Philadelphia, where it is understood, he will become sales agent for a school supply house. Mr. Ruthrauff has been with the school as a high school principal for several previous terms. The principals have not yet been named. The teachers elected are all residents of Philipsburg, and well known. They are: Miss Jennie Morrison, Miss Violet Swift, Miss Emma Knapp, Miss Leah McLarron, Miss Bella Swift, Miss Hilda Thomas, Miss Emily Cook, Miss Nelle Goldthorp, Miss Frances Wythes, Miss Henrietta Kirk, Miss Priscilla Files, Miss Mary E. Ward, Miss Jeanne Robertson, Miss Bessie Glover, Miss Lillian Streamer, Miss Helen Forshey.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Lizzie Sobie to The Buderger Co., three tracts of land in Snow Shoe twp.; \$710.

Jennie L. Wells et al to Albert L. Peters et al, 6 acres of land in Union twp.; \$550.

Clara A. Kunes et al to H. O. Fletcher, 80 acres of land in Liberty twp.; \$425.

Laurelton Lumber Co. to W. E. Mining et al, three tracts of land in Miles twp.; \$496.48.

Wm. L. Foster et al to Wm. H. & J. A. Noll, lot in State College; \$330.

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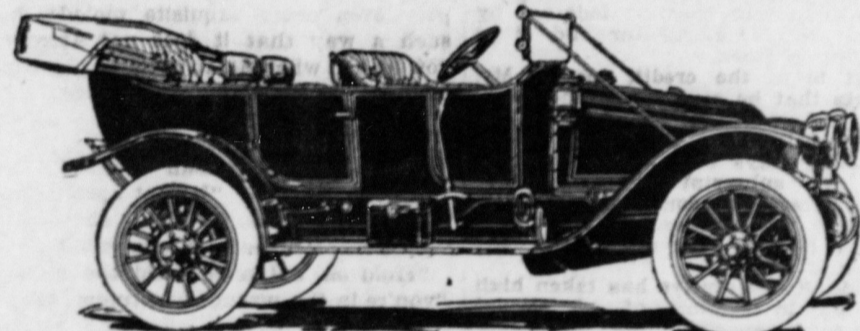
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