

# THE PEOPLES TRIBUTE TO PROSPERITY'S ADVANCE AGENT.

The remarkable interest excited among the people by the admirable front porch speeches delivered by Major McKinley to delegations from all parts of the country who are daily visiting the home of the Republican presidential candidate at Canton, O., has during the past few weeks called forth in this city and its vicinity a desire on the part of many to see the Lackawanna and Wyoming valleys represented among these delegations. Probably not less than 100 Scrantonians have recently been heard to express a wish to make the pilgrimage to Canton, and the same interest is doubtless general throughout the valleys. It is now proposed by the Republican press of the two counties to afford to these people an exceptional opportunity to gratify this inclination.

The daily sound money press of Carbondale, Scranton, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton has secured from the Pennsylvania and Delaware and Hudson railroad companies an excursion rate to Canton and return which brings the privilege of a trip to that now important Ohio city within the reach of all. The distance from Scranton to Canton is 426 miles, or 852 miles for the round trip—just about three-fourths of a cent a mile.

### OUTLINE OF PLANS.

Major McKinley has consented to receive and speak to a dele-

gation from the twin valleys of Northeastern Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 10. A special train will leave Carbondale, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre via the Delaware and Hudson and Pennsylvania railroads for Canton this evening, October 9, late enough to enable prospective passengers to complete their day's labors today and secure supper before the train's departure. This train will have sleepers as well as day coaches, and will also have attached to it a lunch car in charge of a competent caterer. Passengers can therefore secure food and lodgings without leaving the train. Berths for the whole journey to and fro will cost \$5 additional to the regular train fare, if occupied by one person; if occupied by two persons, the cost will be \$3 apiece. Meals in the lunch car will cost ordinary restaurant rates.

The train will arrive in Canton Saturday forenoon and leave Canton Saturday night. The return trip has been planned so as to enable the excursionists to take the picturesque ride over the Alleghenies by daylight. This ride is one of the most celebrated in America and the scenery visible along it is of almost incomparable grandeur. The train will reach Wilkes-Barre Sunday afternoon and Scranton and points up the valley a few minutes later. The entire journey will involve the loss of only one business day (Saturday) and if we count out the legal holiday, the actual loss of time from business will be only half a day. The train will be in personal charge of Traveling Passenger Agent Timmons of the Pennsylvania railroad.

### THE TRIP'S SIGNIFICANCE.

This popular excursion to Canton has been arranged for solely by the newspapers of the two counties, as an accommodation for the public sentiment which has been urging that this part of the great Republican stronghold of the nation should not fail of suitable representation at Canton. The politicians have no identification with it. If any of them want to go, they will be welcome, but they must pay their own fare and take chances with the rest. Nobody will be allowed on the train who is unwilling to buy his own ticket. Nobody will be asked to help the excursion further than to honor it with his presence at \$6.75 for the round trip, berth and meals extra. The newspapers themselves make no money on the transaction. Tickets will be sold directly to excursionists at the principal Delaware and Hudson offices between Carbondale and Wilkes-Barre, and at the Pennsylvania office in Wilkes-Barre. The price from points above Scranton will be \$6.85. Berths will be reserved upon application at the ticket offices, first come first served.

It is desired that all who wish to take advantage of this exceedingly low offer will as soon as possible let the ticket agents know, so that suitable accommodations may be secured in advance. The invitation is open to all—Democrats and Prohibitionists as well as Republicans, free silverites, as well as sound moneyites. It is a ride worth double the money, and all who take it will be repaid many fold.

## REMEMBER,

# THE COST IS ONLY \$6.75

JUST THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENT A MILE.

### CANTON HAS GONE MCKINLEY MAD

The Town Swamped by Its Visitors and Its Enthusiasm.

### HOW DELEGATIONS ARE RECEIVED

Devastations Wrought by Admirers About the McKinley Home--Side-walk Debates--Odd Features of the Campaign That Has Had No Parallel in Its Outpouring of the People Into the Home of the Leading Nominee.

From the New York Sun.

Canton, Oct. 3.—Canton has discovered that it is no picnic to be the home of a presidential candidate. It was fun at first, and every one wanted a part in it. In the words of a rural visitor, "every day is the Fourth of July." To his mind the fliz of rockets, the glare of red fires, the long processions of gayly uniformed marching men, the unceasing music of bands, and a covering of American flags and tri-colored bunting could only be associated with the celebration of a national anniversary. And to the average resident of Canton at first the holiday qualities of which business was more or less suspended or neglected. But as the novelty wore off and the demonstrations continued with uninterrupted regularity, the local end of them became a matter of work. To do the work organization became imperative, and when once it was commenced it was done thoroughly. First of all there was formed a large citizens' committee having general supervision of the work. The duty of one sub-committee is to see that the city is kept properly decorated, to look after the public displays, and to urge renewals upon citizens when flags and festoons and draperies become weather-stained and tattered. Another branch of the committee assumed for the whole campaign the duty of providing suitable halls, headquarters for the various delegations, and accommodations for the visiting delegations. Another sub-committee looks after finances, still another after the programmes for red-letter days. But the hard work and long-continued services fall upon the escorts and receiving members. They are divided into two branches—the Citizens' Reception committee and the Canton Escort of Horsemen.

### RECEPTION PLANS.

The Citizens' Reception committee is a numerous and representative body, made up of business men, professional men, and men from all walks of life. For the ordinary day the chairman details half a dozen or more men for duty. They ride to the railroad stations in carriages, meet the speakers and committees or the visitors, and find them seats in the carriages. Then the local committee takes a position ahead of the delegation and walks to the McKinley home. As the nearest station is half a mile and the furthest a mile and a quarter from Major McKinley's residence, the committee men are a pretty tired lot by the time several delegations have been received. When the lawn is reached the local committee ushers the visiting committees into the library. Then, except to give such information as may be desired and now and then to send a notable in a carriage to some place he may desire to visit, the committee's work is done. On days of big demonstrations, or when a number of delegations are expected at about the same time, the whole committee is ordered out and divided into details in circumstances make necessary.

The other branch of the reception service was finally named the Canton Troop, after the Canton Cavalry, the Mounted Escort, and numerous military titles had been experimented with for several weeks. It is composed of a hundred or more men who ride horseback and wear broad rimmed slouch hats and high-topped boots. They are organized on military lines, the officers ranging from major down. Like the reception committee the troop is assigned in details for different days. But there is a standing order that while a certain number shall do duty for each delegation all who can so arrange are to swell the column. From six to fifty horsemen head each delegation. It is the duty of the troop to meet all visiting delegations at the station, seek out the chief marshal and line officers and organize a parade, and then ride at its head to the McKinley home. The orderly for the day, usually a vigorous young man in full military uniform, is sent on ahead at a gallop with a card giving information about the delegation, the name of the spokesman, and such other matters as may be necessary to make proper arrangements at the house and on the lawn. Then the orderly rides back, and says whether or not the lawn is vacant and Major McKinley is ready to receive the callers.

### OTHER ALLIES.

Aside from the regular and general escorts there are a number of special organizations for special visitors. For instance, the native Pennsylvanians now in Canton have an escort for delegations from the Keystone state. The Swedish-Americans have organized to receive their fellow countrymen; the resident commercial travelers play the parts host to all delegations from their craft; railroad men furnish a committee to look after railroads, and bicycle riders pilot wheelmen. On Saturday the regular works usually found at the head of industrial bodies.

At the McKinley home a special diary is kept for the engagements with delegations, and application for them is made as it is promptly accepted unless the date is crowded with previous engagements, when a change is suggested, and usually made unless arrangements are too far advanced. Restrictions, however, are seldom placed on Saturday, so general is the demand for that day, and it is accepted as a fixture for the campaign. The McKinley shall give his Saturdays wholly over to dooryard receptions. When a delegation reaches the city, its arrival is reported at the house. The porch, so far as possible, is cleared for the newspaper correspondents and the committees. One part of the lawn is assigned to the bands. The banners and flags are arranged along the side of the house so that they may be read by the crowd. Major McKinley sits in his library until the spokesman and committee of the visitors come in, usually escorted by one of his secretaries. The introductions and the little conversation accompanying them serve to give Major McKinley the necessary pointers as to whom he is to address, so that he can incorporate in his response a sentiment appropriate to each interest represented before him. By this time Mrs. McKinley and a few friends are seated in the little hall with a full view of the porch, and the path made as the party comes out of the library is kept clear that the ladies may view the whole reception. This is at times an herculean task, but the ushers so far have succeeded admirably. The speaking is done from a plain wooden chair. Several of these chairs have already been disposed of, one breaking down under the weight of corpulent speakers and another fallen prey to a relic hunter. After the speaking, if the crowd is not too large, an opportunity is given to each of the visitors to shake hands with the candidate. This is accomplished by forming a line across the porch. The chairman of the delegation frequently presents each man by name.

When the weather is too bad to permit standing on the lawn the visitors for McKinley goes to receive their share of the attention in the parlors. This Tabernacle has probably resounded with the oratory of as many noted men as any place in the country outside of Washington. It is in this structure that Major McKinley has for years closed the campaigns, speaking to his fellow townsmen in the night preceding election. Mr. Bryan has been heard with its walls as a lecturer. James G. Blaine addressed in it a crowd so far beyond its capacity that the sills gave way and a panic was only averted by cool heads in the audience. Presidents and governors and senators and congressmen have propounded political gospel from its stage, times without number. Doctors and ministers and journalists and men of letters fill engagements in it every year. It is a plain square structure, altogether uninviting without, but through good lighting and suitable decoration by the committees this year, pleasing to the eye and comfortable within. A box-like gallery extends around three sides, and this, with the ground floor, affords seating capacity for nearly 2,000 people, though double the number are often crowded through the doors.

As to where you will about the city you will find some evidence that this is the home of a presidential candidate, and that extraordinary demonstrations occur here. But nowhere is this more apparent than about the McKinley home. The house is a modest little frame structure of nine or ten rooms, two stories in height, and of the plainest architectural design. The front door, through which all pass, opens into a small reception hall. To the right is what was originally Major McKinley's study, library and office. To the left is Mrs. McKinley's suite of rooms, neatly, but not elaborately, furnished, and provided with easy couches and soft pillows, so necessary to the comfort of the invalid wife of the candidate—seldom so ill as to be obliged to take to her bed and never so well as to be bustling about the house, as the natural instinct of an American wife prompts. To the rear of the library is the dining room and back of that the kitchen. Up stairs the little hall on the first floor is duplicated. Just now it is an impromptu telegraph office. One of the rooms is reserved for writing and the overflow of the office work. Several bed chambers complete the apartments in the much-visited home. The house stands well back from the street, leaving a spacious lawn filled with shade and ornamental trees. Up to the day the people of Canton invaded it with congratulations on the St. Louis result, the lawn was covered with as pretty turf as can be grown. It was dotted with shrubbery and flower beds and the branches of trees hung low, half-concealing the house. The porch was overgrown with luxuriant vines, and everything was as neat and cozy as could be. But what a change! Today there is not a blade of grass in the yard; there is not a flower, nor a flower plant, nor a trace of where once were the flower beds. Of the vine on the porch only the strong mother stem remains, the leaves and tendrils having been torn down in front eager to improve their view. The trees have been wrenched from their places by the wrenmen of telegraph and telephone companies, and by those having more concern for the vision of visitors than for the preservation of the beauties of nature.

### HOME PRIVACY GONE.

In the house the transformation has been almost as complete. Mrs. McKinley's apartments alone remain practically undisturbed, and with the bright, colored, sweet-scented roses, with which they are always supplied, constitute the one homelike spot left about the place. Major McKinley's room has lost all semblance of library or study. It is filled with desks and the apparatus of the secretaries, with newspapers replenished almost faster

than they can be carried out, with baskets of letters, and with mementoes brought or sent by friends. It is seldom vacant except on Sundays, when work is avoided to the greatest extent possible. Here callers are received. Canton people have not lost interest in the demonstrations on the lawn. They follow delegations to the house by hundreds and by thousands, according to the number of cars reached by the music of the bands and the ability of people to leave work in hand. Many big day's housework consults the papers to see if it is to be a day of big delegations. There have been complaints that the home people take possession of the vantage ground to the exclusion of visitors. But that has been pretty well corrected by the escorts, who now go ahead of the line of visitors, open a path, and then work backwards in all directions till room is made for strangers.

One of the first things which the campaign settled had been debated for years. The city had been running along with a small and amiable political division in the department and the force became short in numbers and remained so. The first week of the campaign found but a handful of officers to protect the crowds. Pockets were picked by the score, and when one morning twenty-six wadded purses were found on the lawn the two factions dropped their political row and provided an adequate police force, besides arranging for experienced showmen to guard the crowd. Since then escorts have been well protected and few complaints have been made of lawlessness.

### EATING HOUSES.

As a maker of hotels the campaign in Canton excels the Baines law in New York, and if one may judge by the complaints heard now and then, some of the meals served to the army of showmen are no more elaborate than those which go with a mug of amber fluid on the Bowery. But such places are the exception rather than the rule. The churches have taken a hand in feeding the hungry crowds. Two or three of them have lunch stands run by ladies' aid societies. One restaurant serves coffee and sandwiches from a tent. A third, on a business thoroughfare, keeps a regular picnic dinner table spread on its lawn on delegation days. Boarding houses announce regular meals at all hours, and regular hotels and restaurants have crowded dining tables together to make room for new ones.

All manner of devices are used to attract trade. When delegations are passing there is a din of bells, accompanied by voices calling out the wares to be had. Boys and banners mingle in the parade telling people where to eat. One can scarcely walk a block without noting some such placard as "Here is the official eating house," or "Home dinners like your mother used to cook." One restaurant keeper says that his receipts in the past three months have been about \$3 to one during the same period of last year. During the past two weeks they have been a little more than six to one. If the campaign has produced a more prolific crop of anything than of eating houses, it is of fakirs. Such vaudeville shows as are now occupied by lunch counters are filled with museums, or relic sales, or other catch-penny devices. The streets are overrun by vendors of badges and buttons, each claiming to have the official design, or the one which "Major McKinley personally approves." They go about the city with their coats covered with the emblems and with words and essels bearing them by the thousands. Then there is the photograph man with the "before and after" views of the lawn, portraits of Major McKinley,

of his family, and of every person or thing likely to command a customer. McKinleyism has invaded the city's commerce. There is scarcely an article of general use that cannot be purchased in the McKinley brand. At the tobacco stands you find the McKinley cigar, at the notion store the McKinley handkerchief, at the jewelry store the McKinley spoon, at every store the McKinley cane. Spirits in all qualities are sold in bottles bearing McKinley labels, and one window shows a large display of little tin boxes presumed to contain individual lunches. Recognizing the tendency of people to gather up souvenirs, business men make conspicuous their McKinley wares, and scarcely a window or street display can be found without some McKinley article, either for sale or as a present to accompany some other sale.

Not nearly all of the souvenirs taken from Canton are purchased in the stores. Most of the flowers and plants that once graced the McKinley lawn were carried away leaf by leaf by relic seekers, with also now and then take a pocket from the wicker fence enclosing the lawn, and pick up a sprig of golden rod placed in McKinley's lapel by a visiting committee, all displaced by a vigorous gesture, or anything else found on the lawn that can be easily handled. One day this week an old gray-haired man called to shake hands. He was too bashful to enter the house and was disposed to wait about the porch until the major came out. Major McKinley, hearing of his caller, went out and greeted him graciously. The old man was moved almost to tears. As he was leaving the yard he scooped up a small handful of soft earth, wrapped it in his paper, and reverently placed it in his pocket.

At the McKinley house, from early morning till late at night, the latch string is always out. There are no special hours for receiving miscellaneous callers and no reservations for those standing high at court. Major McKinley may not always be able to receive them at once. Since the demands upon him have become so heavy he frequently takes a little nap during the day, and during these he is disturbed only in case of great urgency. But the callers have the privilege of waiting. First the office room is filled up and then the porch. When the major appears he can talk to half a dozen or more at a time and give to each the impression that it is a personal interview. If the caller is a friend and they have common friends, inquiries are made concerning the absent ones. If the caller is a stranger the greeting is accompanied with some questions about his home and its interests. Major McKinley possesses the happy faculty of putting those about him at his ease.

What Sarah Bernhard says

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