

**This Year's National Conventions Meet in Splendid Auditoriums.**

Final arrangements for the political national conventions which will signalize this year have been made. The Republicans will meet in Philadelphia on June 19th, the Democrats will gather at Kansas City on July 4th and



REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION HALL, PHILADELPHIA.

and staff arrangements. It will, at a comparatively small cost, be converted into a convention hall that will seat several thousand persons. The main Philadelphia Export Exposition Building, in which the Republican National Convention of 1900 will be held, is built of structural steel and brick, with plaster facing

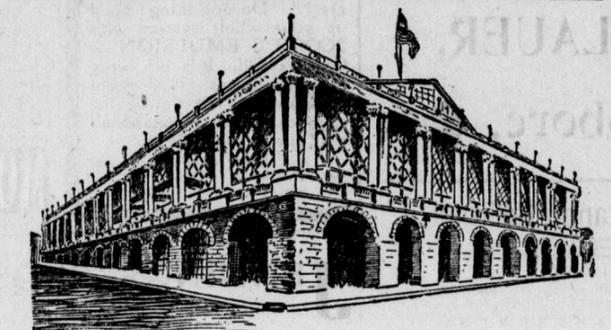
because a badge will admit the wearer to the floor of the hall. When he tries to fit 10,000 visitors and clamoring citizens into 500 seats he will find his office most uncomfortable. The organized bodies which attend national conventions will be bitterly disappointed in the Convention Hall arrangements at Philadelphia. Their favorite performance is to march into a hall headed by a brass band and with banners flying. There will be not room at Philadelphia for any brass band except the one hired to fill the pauses between the speeches.

George N. Wiswell, who has been appointed sergeant-at-arms of the Republican National Convention, is a man of acknowledged ability for organization and executive work. In the handling of political conventions he is already experienced, having

been assistant sergeant-at-arms of the Republican National Convention at Chicago in 1888, at Minneapolis in 1892 and in St. Louis in 1896. Mr. Wiswell is a Wisconsin man by birth, and is now forty-eight years old.



G. N. WISWELL, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.



HALL FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, KANSAS CITY.

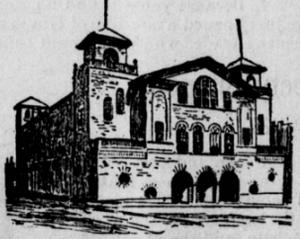
the purposes of large public gatherings. Maurice Grau, whose grand opera company sang there November last to record-breaking grand opera house audiences, said:

"It is a wonderful structure, complete in all its appointments, and has no equal in America," while Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, who a month later faced in this hall some of the largest crowds that he had ever addressed, said from the platform:

"I came one thousand miles to find the best hall I have ever spoken in." The leading hotels of the city are the Coates, the Baltimore, the Midland, the Savoy, the Victoria and the Washington, all of which are located from three to ten blocks distant from the hall. The Coates, which has always been Mr. Bryan's stopping place, will, it is said, be made the headquarters of the National Committee.

The accompanying illustration shows the Sioux Falls auditorium, which has a seating capacity of about 5000. Had it not been for this building, which is the largest of the kind in South Dakota, Sioux Falls would not have been able to capture the national convention of the Populist party, which will be held May 9. On May 23 the Republicans of South Dakota will also hold their State convention in Sioux Falls for the purpose of nominating a Congressional and State ticket and selecting delegates to the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia. The auditorium is a new building. Not until after a delegation of Sioux Falls rustlers, in the fall of 1898, succeeded in capturing the convention of the National Creamery-Buttermakers' Association was the construction of the building decided upon. The structure is well arranged and is complete in all its details.

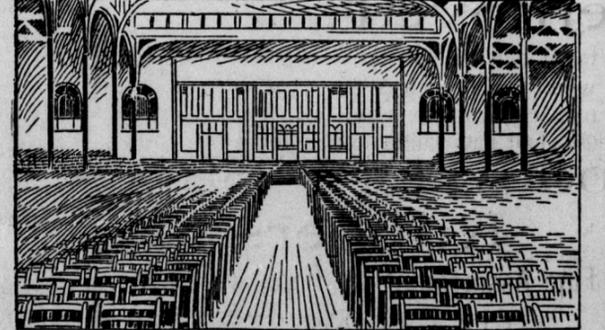
Convention Hall, Kansas City, where the National Democratic Convention will be held July 4th, is situated at Thirteenth and Central streets, four blocks from the retail district of



SIoux FALLS AUDITORIUM IN WHICH POPULISTS WILL MEET.

the city. It has been classed by travelers as one of the largest and most perfectly constructed auditoriums in existence.

The building was erected at a cost



INTERIOR OF HALL WHERE THE REPUBLICANS WILL MEET.

for tickets which he cannot fill, and every delegate is going to hold him responsible for his disappointment. The sergeant-at-arms will be overrun with applications for appointment,

of \$225,000, which was raised entirely by public subscription. It occupies a piece of ground 314 by 200 feet in extent, is two stories high and is built of native stone, cream brick and

terra cotta. The first story is of the Renaissance style of architecture, and the second story is of Peristyle form, with groups and columns. The building is of bridge construction, without a column, the roof being supported by great steel girders that span its 200 feet of breadth. Its general seating arrangement is modeled somewhat upon the plan of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. The floor space is divided into arena, arena balcony, balcony and roof garden, boxes skirting the arena and the arena balcony. The stage is situated in the center of the arena. The total seating capacity is nearly 20,000, and with standing room the building is capable of holding more than 22,000 people. The arena alone seats 4000. To each side of the arena and under the first balcony are numerous committee rooms, which have their separate street entrances. The building has no stairways, the upper seatings being reached by means of inclined planes. Separate exits are used for the balconies and roof garden, and it is estimated that the hall can be emptied at the rate of 5000 people a minute.

Convention Hall has, since its dedication, a year ago, housed some of the largest audiences that ever gathered under roof in this country. Its acoustic properties have received especial praise. Hon. William J. Bryan, who last June addressed the Head Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America in the hall, said later:

"It is hard to conceive how Convention Hall could be improved upon for

dark blue, having a red-lined hood. This is for the purpose of protecting the nurses against the extreme chilliness of the night when they have to run to and fro from the tents. For this reason the hood is made so that it can be quickly thrown over the head. A picture of this cloak is here shown.

This hospital is the largest civil hospital ever sent out of England by public subscription, and is due principally to the indefatigable work of the women of Great Britain. The wardrobe allowed to each nurse, aside from the cloak, comprises a dark blue bonnet, six pairs of strings, one serge dress, three gray zephyr washing dresses, three triangular caps, six linen collars, six pairs of cuffs, six pairs of linen sleeves and eight linen aprons.

The pay of a Yeomanry nurse is at the rate of about thirty cents a day, and begins on the day of embarkation for South Africa, ceasing on the day of arrival in England. If she survives the service the nurse receives a gratuity of \$100. The nurses sign a contract whereby they shall have no claim whatsoever on the Yeomanry Hospital Committee in case of death or injury by accident or otherwise.

A Beer Wedding Journey. The accompanying picture is of peculiar interest at the present time, showing as it does a typical Boer and his "vrouw" trekking back to the farm after having gone through the marriage ceremony at the Dutch Reform Church, in Barberton, De Kaap Valley. Our photo shows the happy pair sitting on the back seat of a wagon, which is drawn by a team of no fewer than sixteen oxen. During the long "trek" home to the lonely farm this crude conveyance is their dwelling by night and day—living-room, sleeping-room and kitchen all in one. Before reaching the happy consummation of his fond hopes, however, the young Boer has had many an arduous ride to see the lady of his choice. If his suit is approved of by the old folks, the father, before retiring for the night, hands the young gallant a lighted candle, in which he has cut a notch; the understanding being that when the candle has burned down to that mark the lover must saddle up and be off. Many tricks, of course, are played with the candle—a fresh one is substituted by the lover,

Cereals in Algeria. The growth of cereals has always been the staple industry in Algeria but of late it has become unremunerative, and the returns both of European and native culture are very small. Even among Europeans agriculture is in a very elementary condition. No forage is used save what grows spontaneously; no manure, or very little, is put on the land; no cattle are kept beyond what are required for plowing the land is impoverished, badly kept and full of weeds and noxious insects, which smother and devour the crops. Ninety-eight per cent. of the land sown every year is devoted to the growth of cereals, and too little of it to the rearing of cattle. The great obstacles to agriculture are the uncertainty of seasons and the impossibility of competing with such countries as America, Russia and India, where land is abundant, and, in the last two at least, labor is cheap.—Chambers' Journal.

Automobiles Used For Towing. The haulage of boats by automobile along the canal between Brussels and Charleroi has demonstrated, after a long trial, that the new method of towing is three times quicker than horse traction. The automobile derives its energy from a railway composed of six lines, three of high tension (6000 volts) and three of low tension, on which the trolleys run. The electricity is furnished by three dynamos, each of 120-horse power.—Philadelphia Record.

More than 20,000 Parisians earn their living as fortune-tellers.

**WOMEN AND WAR WORK.**

Uniform Cloaks Designed For the Red Cross Nurses.

The Red Cross nurses who were sent to South Africa for the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital were provided by the authorities with a uniform cloak of



REGULATION RED CROSS CLOAK.

When thus expanded it also has the extraordinary power to sway itself over so as to present an edge to the observer, thus greatly adding to its means of concealment. As is well known the least excitement, as in handling, will cause a change in the color. In its normal state it is of a light pea green. When excited the groundwork remains the same, but transverse stripes, about 30 in number, appear on the body. These stripes, which are of a very dark green to begin with, soon change to inky blackness. The prevailing idea that the chameleon takes upon himself the peculiar hues of whatever he is placed upon is as curious and widespread as it is erroneous. Placed in boxes lined with red or blue silk, they retain their pea green color with no leaning toward the brighter hues of the surroundings.

Youthful Telegraph Operator. Perhaps the youngest telegraph operator in the country, holding a regular office in a courthouse town is "Willie" Barr, manager of the office at Kingstree, the largest town on the Atlantic coast line between Florence and Charleston, S. C. There is just business enough for one good operator at Kingstree, and "Little Willie" does it all. He is in sole and entire charge, and has been for the last four months. The boy is now just eleven years and one month old, and he has been able to do some work on the wire for two and a half years. When he was eight years old an operator who took a fancy to "Willie" came to Kingstree, and the boy spent hours each day in the telegraph office, fascinated by the strangeness of the thing. Gradually he learned the calls of the different stations on the road by ear, then was able to catch short words when a message was going through. All this time the ambitious little fellow was practising "sending" on a dummy, and finally was permitted to "talk" to operators on the line. When the boy was ten and a half years old and it became known that there would be a vacancy in the Kingstree office he applied for the place. The authorities were not disposed to put a boy in charge, but "Willie" got on a train, went to division headquarters, and stood a rigid examination in a satisfactory manner, and he got the place. The boy will tackle with perfect unconcern a thousand word press dispatch, and will send it faultlessly, more than can be said for many adult operators outside the cities.—New York Tribune.

Grandpa's Snuffbox. "Oh, dear!" sighed Dilly Burton to her brother Joe, "as they were trudging home from school one day. 'It is so hot! Let's go into grandma's and rest.' 'And get a ginger cake, may be,' said Joe, wiping his sweaty little face. 'O Joe, you are always wanting ginger cakes! Now don't you ask grandma for a single one! It isn't polite.' And Dilly looked very wise as she shut her mite of a blue silk parasol and tapped lightly on grandma's door. Grandma was not in the kitchen, but the children went in and sat down on the wide lounge to rest and wait for her. Joe's eyes were very bright and always very restless, and he had no sooner sat down than he spied a small box, black and shiny, standing on a table beside grandma's workbasket. In a moment it was in his hand.



A TYPICAL BOER FARMER HAS JUST MARRIED THE GIRL OF HIS HEART, AND IS NOW OFF HOME AGAIN DRAWS BY SIXTEEN OXEN.

or the thing is snuffed out at judicious intervals in order to prolong the even ing.

Fully Equipped. Sir Robert Peel was once going through a picture collection with a friend where there was a portrait of a prominent Englishman who was famous for saying sharp things. "How wonderfully like!" said the friend. "You can see the quiver on his lips." "Yes," replied Sir Robert, "and the arrows coming out of it."

The output of coal in the United States last year was 244,000,000 tons, or about one-third of the total product of the world.

**CHILDREN'S COLUMN.**

The Four Big Brooms. "O mother, why does the big wind blow And rattle the window-pane? If I close my eyes to sleep just so, It wakes me up again; If I hide my head beneath the spread, You speak so soft and low That I cannot hear what you have said, Oh, why does the big wind blow."

"Let us play, my darling, a merry play, The winds are four big brooms That sweep the world on a windy day As Mary sweeps our rooms. The south wind is the parlor brush That sweeps in a quiet way But the north wind comes with roar and rush On the world-wide sweeping day."

"Like Mary sweeping the halls and stairs Is the work of the good west broom, And the sweetest odors, the softest airs, Float over the world's wide room. But tonight the broom from the east is here, And with it comes the rain, Like John when he brushes the porch, my dear, And hoses the window-pane."

The little boy laughed and nodded close In his warm and downy bed. "I hear the broom and I hear the hose, And I like them both," he said. And so, though the rain may pelt away, And the big wind loudly roar, He remembers the wide world's sweeping day, And thinks of the big brooms four. —Mary Balling Street, in Youth's Companion.

A Most Wonderful Creature. The chameleon has for ages been an object of curiosity, not only on account of its ability to change its color at will, as one might suppose who had read accounts which mentioned only that one characteristic, but also on account of a remarkable power which admits of the creature instantly changing its form. At times it takes upon itself almost the exact form of a mouse; again, with back curved and tail erect, it is the exact counterpart of a miniature crouching lion, which no doubt gave origin to its name, chamel-leon, which clearly means "ground lion." By inflating its sides and flattening back and belly it takes upon itself the form of an ovate leaf, the tail acting as the petiole, the white line over the belly being the midrib.

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When I marched up the aisle, holding the foot stove in my mitted hand, and sat down by myself in one corner of the family pew. "The backs of the pews were all so high that I could not see any except the minister, 'way over my head, in the pulpit. He was a very wise man, and used long words that I could not understand at all, and I soon grew tired of watching his breath make little clouds of vapor in the cold air while he was speaking. "Then I thought how nice it would be to curl up on the seat and take a little nap. Nobody was in sight but the minister, and he had taken off his glasses and laid them in the hymn-book; and I knew without them he never could see me when he was out on his morning walk, and passed me on my way to school. So I tucked my big muff of gray squirrel's fur under my head, and put the foot stove to my feet, and felt so comfortable that I fell asleep in one wink. "When I awoke I was surprised to see the pulpit empty, and the sunset sparkling through the frosty west windows. I was astonished to find that I must have slept a long while; the people had all gone away without noticing me, and I was locked up alone in the church!" "O grandma! Weren't you afraid?" said little Patty. "Yes, for I knew it would be quite dark before evening service, when the church would be unlocked again. It was stinging cold, too; and I put my little numb fingers on the foot stove, and tried to get the tingle out of them. "Pretty soon I heard some one unlock the door. I thought it was the sexton, and stood up on the seat to see, peeping over the back of the pew. O Patty and Jack, how I felt when I saw it was the dignified old minister himself! He left his glasses on the hymn-book, and came back to get them. How I wished that I had never taken that naughty nap! "However, I told him just how rude I had been, and how I went to sleep in the middle of his sermon. I cried pretty hard as I told the disgraceful story, for I thought he would scold me, and all in dreadfully long words, too; but he never said a thing except "The poor little pussy!" and then he picked me up in his arms, foot stove and all, and carried me safe home. "But what an ashamed little girl he set down on our doorstep!"—Youth's Companion.

Caught the Czar. Peter the Great was once very neatly caught in a trap by a jester attached to the court. The jester was noted for his cleverness in getting himself and his friends out of difficulties. It happened one day that a cousin of his had incurred the czar's displeasure, and was about to be executed. The jester, therefore, presented himself before his imperial master to beg for a reprieve. On seeing him approach, the czar, divining his errand, cried: "It is no good to come here; I swear I will not grant what you are going to ask." Immediately the jester went down on his knees, saying: "I beseech your imperial highness to put that scamp cousin of mine to death." The czar thus caught in his own trap, could only laugh and pardon the condemned man.—Columbian.