

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

CHICAGO, July 7.—The day opened clear and cool. Early in the day down town callers had a repetition of the excitement and confusion of the last few days. Marching clubs with bands and shouters were awaiting a last convulsive demonstration before attention was directed to the serious work within the convention hall.

By 9 o'clock crowds were beginning to converge at the depot taking the suburban Illinois Central cars. The ride by rail is about twelve minutes from the heart of the city along the lake front. The scene in front of the convention hall was one of great animation. A steady line of trains emptied loads into the narrow street which leads into the hall. Through the narrow thoroughfare the crowds straggled, as dense in the middle of the street as on the sidewalk, extending a square on either side of the main entrance. Bunting was dropped above the lobby entrance of the Coliseum and flags were flying in all available points, but the structure is as vast as elaborate. It covers five and half acres and is said to be the largest permanent amusement and exhibition building in the world.

Sergeant-at-arms Martin was on hand early with a staff of assistants and were admitted to the building while the crowd clamored outside. At 10 o'clock the doors were opened and a wild rush for admission began. Instead of the coffin-like interior, such as former conventions have, the hall is square with seats on all sides, at the rear and above in equal distance from the presiding officer's desk. It is twice the size of Madison garden, the interior two galleries stretching 2,000 feet or almost half a mile each, and with 285,000 square feet floor room. Pictures of several Democratic Presidents: Jefferson, Jackson, Van Buren, Polk, Buchanan and Cleveland—done in heroic size, are arranged about the desk of the chairman looking down on the delegates. Above this arch is a representation of the American eagle, with the shield of the United States in its talons. The platform and presiding officer's desks are beautifully decorated with bunting on green ground with a backing of large palm trees. Flanking the chairman, on either side, run the press seats. The floor enclosing the front and sides are reserved for delegates. Back of the chairman were 400 comfortable chairs reserved for distinguished guests.

The gavel descended ten minutes to 1 o'clock. The appearance of Chairman Harrity, as he stepped forward to the desk, attired in a slate colored summer suit, provoked a round of applause from the eastern delegates. Harrity commended the convention to be in order. His voice was easily carried over the tumult to the furthest corner, testing the acoustic qualities of the hall with satisfactory results. The chairman faced the assemblage several minutes, while the ushers swept the hall clean of knots of conferring delegates.

"The gentlemen of the convention will rise for prayer," the chairman said, and there was a clatter of chairs. Chaplain Rev. Edward M. Stiles stepped forward and offered prayer.

The chaplain is hardly 30 years old with smooth-shaven, clear-cut face, wore a black coat, buttoned up to his chin. He held a role of type written manuscript which he laid on the desk and picked up slip by slip, reading the prayer, as he could do without notice.

As the convention seated itself, Chairman Harrity stepped forward, and with a sharp stroke of the gavel announced in ringing tones the selection of Senator David B. Hill for temporary chairman. The gold men leaped to their feet and with waving arms shouted applause. Among the spectators also there was a cheer of approbation. Somebody called three cheers for David B. Hill, and they were given with a will. S. P. Sheerin of Indiana, for secretary, and John Martin for sergeant-at-arms were also announced when the convention had quieted down.

"What is the pleasure of the convention?" asked Harrity calmly, as if he did not know the storm which was to follow.

Clayton, a member of the national committee from Arkansas arose. Every silver man in the hall knew the gauntlet was to be thrown down. They rose to a man and cheered. As soon as Clayton announced that his duty was to present the minority report the demonstration that followed the announcement of the selection of Hill was a breeze compared to a cyclone. Six hundred delegates mounted the chairs and cheered wildly. From 1,000 throats in the audience came a hoarse roar of applause that sounded like thunder. Over thirty minutes the demonstration continued and was renewed at several points as Clayton read the minority report nominating Senator Daniel.

The motion to substitute Daniels for Hill was carried. When Virginia was reached, Daniels voted no. Hill refrained from voting when New York was called.

The vote resulted in favor of substituting Daniels for Hill, 556 against 343. The official vote in favor of the motion was 556 against 349; not voting, 1.

CHICAGO, July 8.—The second day's convention opened bright and cool. The city has enjoyed ideal weather since the advance guards arrived last week and there are no indications of a change. The crowds down town and about the convention hall showed no diminution today, but there was less demonstration than there has been.

The crowds were moving toward Coliseum early, as the time for meeting was ten o'clock, and the experience of yesterday warned people that patience was required in gaining admission. Sergeant-at-arms Martin promised improvement on yesterday's arrangements.

The order of business adopted by the rules committee was such that after the introduction of the permanent presiding officer, Senator Stephen M. White of California, the first business would be the report of the credentials committee, embracing a bitter contest over Michigan. Then the report on platform; next speeches placing the candidates in nomination and finally balloting.

Senator White explained that the committee on credentials reported that it could not finish its work for three

hours and the convention could not adopt a platform without the titles to seats settled. So, although Finley of Ohio moved to proceed, adjournment was made at 1:37 p. m. till 5 p. m.

CHICAGO, July 8.—The New York delegation, after an exciting conference this morning decided not to bolt. There was no vote but the sentiment was strongly against it. Perry Belmont was in favor of immediate withdrawal as was Congressman Geo. B. McClellan.

CHICAGO, July 8.—Members of the credential committee say the Michigan gold delegation has proposed a compromise to the silverites to seat the district delegates and three delegates at large, a total of five out of eight contests. This, if accepted, will give the silverites seventeen out of twenty-three Michigan votes or the entire state delegation under the unit rule. The gold men, it is said, agreed to make no contest on the floor if the compromise suggested is agreed to.

CHICAGO, July 8.—At 5:30 o'clock the committee on resolutions filed into the inclosure. In the van was the stalwart form of Senator Hill. As the delegates and crowd caught sight of him they rose to their feet and wildly cheered the New York leader. Again and again they cried his name, but the senator quietly took his seat and conferred in subdued tones with those about him as if utterly unconscious of the tumult.

After a lengthy debate in which Judge Powers participated, amid loud cries of "Vote, vote," from the impatient crowds, Chairman Daniel put the question, first on the adoption of the minority report to confirm the sitting delegates in their title to the seats.

The vote was announced, 558 ayes, 368 ayes, 3 not voting, 1 absent. Its announcement sent the convention afire with another tremendous flame.

The report of the committee on permanent organization was called for and Delegate Finley of Ohio, its chairman, made his way to the stage and read the list of permanent officers selected, which was headed by Senator White of California for chairman and Thomas J. Cogan of Ohio for secretary.

CHICAGO, July 9.—Upon Mr. Hill's demand the vote was taken by states on the adoption of the platform. It was taken in almost total silence. As New York and Pennsylvania cast their big blocks of votes against the platform, however, there was considerable cheering.

A noticeable group of gold leaders attracted considerable attention down in the front of the seats occupied by the Massachusetts delegation while the vote on the platform was being taken. William C. Whitney of New York came up and leaned over young Gov. Russell, and they were soon joined by Ben Cable, the blonde young Illinois gold leader, by McDermott of New Jersey, Elliott G. Stevenson and lesser lights. Their heads were together in earnest conference and their faces wore a decidedly gloomy cast. It soon became whispered about that the subject of discussion was whether the gold men could consistently vote for a candidate on the platform which was to be adopted.

The result was announced, 628 to 301, with one absent, and the revised