

THE NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Both Republicans and Democrats Will Soon Attend to the Serious Business of Selecting Candidates For a Four Year Tenancy of the White House.

THIS is national convention year, and already the atmosphere is charged with the political currents which have been accumulating in the great central reservoirs. Some of the lesser party organizations have already announced their tickets and platforms. The major contestants in the great game are about to commit themselves in a like manner—the Republicans at Chicago June 16, the Democrats at Denver July 7.

National conventions came into the fashion in 1832, and since that time candidates for president and vice president have been nominated in that way. The manner of conducting these great representative gatherings is practically the same for all parties except that the Republicans nominate by a majority vote, and the voting is done by districts, while the Democrats adopt the unit rule and require a vote of two-thirds to nominate.

One of the principal duties of the national convention and one which is never neglected is to appoint a national committee before it adjourns. This important body is made up of one member from each state and territory in the Union. This representative company of men has charge of the campaign and is in authority until superseded by the will of the next convention. These committees find plenty to do. They determine when and where the conventions are to be held, issue calls and really make all the necessary arrangements.

From the first there has been a great deal of rivalry among the larger cities as to the meeting place of conventions, and in recent years it amounts to actual competition. The national committee hears the arguments advanced by the representatives of the cities who aspire to the honor and decide in the matter. Recently it has become the practice for a bonus to be offered, and the city which can make itself most attractive in that way is quite apt to obtain the coveted distinction. Denver won the honor this year by offering the sum of \$100,000 to the Democratic committee for campaign expenses. The chosen city also provides the convention hall and pays the general expenses of the gathering. It has become the fashion nowadays to erect a building exclusively for convention purposes.

Courts Publicity.

The national committee usually issues the call for the convention months before the date of meeting. In fixing the day much judgment is re-

quired, and many things must be taken into consideration. It is now the practice of each national committee to make the convention a matter of paramount interest, and some of the methods employed to further this idea fall little short of the spectacular.

The number of delegates sent to the convention is double the number of members of the congress. Each state chooses four delegates at large, double the number of its senators, and each congressional district sends two delegates. Entirely as a matter of courtesy, it would appear, delegates are also admitted from the territories and from the District of Columbia, for they are not entitled to vote and do not unless the privilege is extended to them by the will of the convention.

Another of the numerous duties of the national committee is to select the temporary chairman of the convention. This, of course, is subject to the approval of the convention, which usually accepts the appointee of the committee without discussion. Occasionally, however, there is a contest over this appointment, and the man selected by the committee is rejected by a majority of the delegates. In 1884 the committee chose Powell Clayton of Arkansas for temporary chairman, but he was not acceptable to the opponents of Mr. Blaine in the convention, and the honor was transferred to a colored Republican, John R. Lynch of Mississippi. Mr. Clayton is still a national committeeman from his state.

For many years the nominating conventions were conducted with great simplicity, and few spectators were admitted to the assembly hall. The Republican convention of 1860, which nominated Lincoln, was first to admit a large number of spectators. A special hall, called the Wigwag, was erected by the city of Chicago. This great structure, which had a seating capacity of over 5,000, was filled at every session of the convention. Since that time the number in attendance at national conventions has been limited only by the capacity of the buildings in which they have been held. Admissions are nominally by ticket only. According to the present custom each delegate is supplied with a number of tickets for distribution among his friends; the committeemen have a larger number at their disposal, and the remainder are given to the local committee to use as is most expedient.

The national convention is the outcome of a demand more or less popular for a direct voice in the nomination of the chief executive. At first

the entire country was so unmistakably unanimous in its wish to have Washington for its executive head that no other candidate was suggested. When he retired to Mount Vernon there were already two well defined parties in existence, but their leaders were so clearly differentiated that no conven-

tion was followed for three terms. In 1824 the choice of the caucus was not popular, and its candidate came in third at the election. That put an end to the scheme.

The first national convention was called by the Anti-Masonic party in 1830 and was held at Philadelphia.

Some of the conventions of the past have not been love feasts. One memorable for its bitterness and the bad feeling left in its train was that held in Chicago in 1858. Although Benjamin Harrison was nominated on the eighth ballot, the convention was in session from June 19 to June 25. Some

timber. When the convention assembled no one seemed to know who stood the best chance. Among those who received votes on the first ballot were William B. Allison of Iowa, Walter Q. Gresham of Indiana, James G. Blaine of Maine, William McKimley of Ohio, two sons of former presidents, Robert

cured the coveted nomination, but led his party to its first defeat in twenty-eight years. Twice again was his name prominently before conventions; but, like Clay and Webster, he was not destined to see the ambition of twenty years realized. With the single exception of Clay, Mr. Blaine was a candidate for presidential honors a longer time than any other man who ever lived. The convention which nominated Blaine was not especially inharmonious, but the one which chose his victorious opponent, Grover Cleveland, was lively enough to restore the balance. The Tammany opposition to the governor of New York's candidacy was characterized by all the traditional parliamentary tactics employed by that organization. It tried to break the unit rule with an insistence that almost prevailed, but failed. Four years earlier Roscoe Conkling had made an equally heroic effort to force the unit rule on the Republican convention of that year. He failed also, and Garfield received the nomination. General Grant retired to private life, and the third term controversy was postponed to another century.

Never Held Office.

One of the most interesting facts connected with the personnel of the 111 men who make up the present Republican and Democratic national committees is that there is only one man among them all who asserts—proudly at that—that he has never held or tried to obtain a public office of any description. This unique politician is James M. Guffey, the largest independent producer of oil in America and a Democratic oracle in his state of Pennsylvania. On the Republican national committee there are now five national states senators—Denise, Heyburn, Scott, Ankeny and Crane. There are only two members of the lower house on this committee—Brownlow of Tennessee and Lowden of Illinois. The Democratic national committee can boast of only one senator, but he is a famous one—Tillman of South Carolina.

A recent estimate seems to establish the fact that about 90 per cent of the combined committeemen are state and county officers, elective and appointive. The highest elective office ever held by Harry S. New, the Republican chairman, was state senator. Thomas Taggart, the Democratic chairman, has been mayor of his home city of Indianapolis. There seem to be a good many mayors in the aggregation, among them Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, O., and James C. Dahlgren, mayor of Omaha, Neb. Of newspaper editors and publishers there is also a generous sprinkling. Both chairmen once conducted now defunct Indianapolis daily papers. Norman E. Mack, Democratic committeeman from New York, is one of Buffalo's most enterprising publishers. Daniel J. Campan is owner of a paper devoted to turf matters. Urey Woodson, secretary of the Democratic committee, conducts a newspaper in Paducah, Ky., and another in Owensboro.

E. J. BURTON.



CHAIRMAN THOMAS TAGGART.

CHAIRMAN HARRY S. NEW.

tions were needed. Subsequently, however, there was less harmony, and more political competition arose. It became the practice for small and select parties of congressmen to assemble rather secretly for the purpose of arranging a party nomination. This was the origin of the plan of nominating by congressional caucus, which

Next year the Whigs nominated Henry Clay for the presidency in a similar manner. It was not until 1832, however, that the friends of Andrew Jackson adopted the plan and called a national convention in Baltimore, and the first national committee was established in 1848 by the Democratic convention of that year.

of the political wounds inflicted at that time have never been healed. For seven ballots John Sherman was in the lead, and to his dying day the veteran Ohio statesman did not cease to assert that he had been the victim of political treachery. At no other national convention ever held has there been such a supply of excellent presidential

T. Lincoln and Frederick D. Grant; Joseph B. Foraker of Ohio, Frederick Douglass of the District of Columbia, Chauncey M. Depew of New York, John J. Ingalls of Kansas, and Jeremiah Rusk of Wisconsin.

This convention was the second which failed to accept Mr. Blaine as its candidate. At the third trial he se-

CONSULAR COMMERCIAL WORK

Consul James G. Kellogg writes that, in order to assist promoting trade at the port of Colon with the United States, he has carried out the following plan:

As far as commerce can be aided through catalogues and price lists, which are at best, poor substitutes for intelligent and up-to-date traveling salesmen, this office has fitted up a part of the record and file room, the latter measuring 12 by 12 feet, with divided shelves and a four-drawer file cabinet. At the present time there are indexed according to subject and kept on file 25 trade journals, 20 trade indexes, and numerous catalogues and price lists of American goods.

The local merchants and importers have been invited through the columns of the press and by personal invitation to visit the file room and examine the journals and catalogues, and to consult with the office on subjects relating to American goods which might be of interest to them. The addition and improvement in the file room has found favor with the Colon merchants, which is evidenced by their frequent calls at the office to examine the files.

The new arrangement of the record and file room is shown in the accompanying photograph, which also shows some of the representative importers of Colon examining American catalogues and price lists.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE ABROAD.

The European man thinks he knows the American girl, but he judges her by the girls of his own country and therefore entirely misunderstands her. He cannot comprehend the healthy unromantic friendship that exists in America between boys and girls, who see each other under all sorts of informal circumstances and yet have no need thought of love or marriage. He thinks the American girl has had long experience in the ways of men, and that she is as well versed in the manner of her lovers as the experienced married flirts of Parisian and Roman society. Used to men she is; but not to the sort of men she meets for the first time abroad. She is used to the type of boy "that she has known all her life." She can fathom what he thinks on pretty much any subject, and whether he is in love with her or not is it a matter that she can decide without much danger of mistake.

Above all, the American youth is outspoken and frank. He has no hidden ulterior motives; he spends little time in discussing what he thinks. He likes best to show his muscle and his skill in athletics, and the intimacy between boys and girls is founded on doing things together, riding, swimming, playing tennis or coasting and skating, not on talking of ideas.

Yet—and this is very important and also very difficult to express! In the minds of American young men love and marriage are synonymous. To the European love is love, and marriage is marriage; the two have not of any necessity and connection.—Everybody's

MONEY TROUBLES.

It is undoubtedly true that nothing causes as much unhappiness between husband and wife as difficulties over money. Money is so interwoven with happiness that happiness and money can rarely be dissociated.

But the keynote of avoiding money troubles can be found in just one word, honesty—honesty between husband and wife. Men are too apt before they are married, and after, to exaggerate their incomes. A man with \$1,000 a year is ashamed to tell his wife about it. As a bachelor he has been swelling around with the air of a man with several thousands.

Some women, it is true, are inclined to considerable extravagance, but it more frequently happens they are led into extravagance through ignorance of the size of their husband's incomes. The man who does not tell his wife the amount of his income is an unmitigated idiot—unless, of course, for prudential reasons he helittle it, and then, under some circumstances, he may be very wise. Best who, being wise, be a bit more extravagant than their wives, but they keep it to themselves.

This little dissertation enters to no extent into the question of what kind

of a girl or what kind of a man is necessary in such a case, or how much of that necessary but unknown quantity called love is essential. People who are congenial are congenial—that's all. And if they are uncongenial there's no hope for them.

It is said that men who have become great are great because their wives have made them so. And, therefore, the earlier a man starts on the high road to greatness the better.

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