

theater. They will rise up on four sides of the square pit which forms the ground floor and which is occupied by the delegates and the alternates. This pit will be about one-half an acre in size. In the middle, in three great blocks or rows of chairs with aisles running through them, will sit the 924 delegates, those from each state being together. The states will be allotted seats in alphabetical order, beginning with Alabama and Arkansas to the right of the speaker, and ending with the states beginning with W, the place of each state being marked by a pole with a little flag bearing its name. On the right and left of the delegates in the pit will be the seats for the alternates, and on the four sides of the pit, rising to the back walls of the building, in two great banks of seats, will sit the spectators. The floor and the lower bank will seat about 8,000 people. The upper bank, which is a gallery forty feet wide, running around the hall and extending back up to the roof, will seat 6,000. At the time of the convention the delegates will be thus surrounded by banks of gaily-dressed humanity. They will be inclosed, as it were, in hanging gardens of fashionable women and distinguished men—gardens more wonderful than the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

In front of the delegates and alternates, on a platform about as high as a table, will sit the chairman or president of the convention, with the secretaries and tally clerks on each side of him. Back of them will be the national committee and the distinguished men of the party, while on each side of the president, and a little lower down, will be the tables for the workmen of the press. Each press table will accommodate several men. Each table will have a pneumatic tube connected with it, running to the telegraph offices, which will be located under the seats at the front of the building, and as the reporters write their dispatches they can send them to the wires sheet by sheet, as they finish them. There are to be 400 seats for the press. There will probably be 1,000 newspaper men at the convention, but these seats are for those who are doing telegraphic work, and not for drones and fancy writers. Arrangements are being made with the telegraphic companies to handle a large amount of matter. Estimating that 400 papers of the United States will take an average of three columns, or 5,000 words a day from the convention, the wires will be loaded down with at least 2,000,000 words daily. One of the volumes of Blaine's book contains, I judge, about 300,000 words. The matter sent out from this convention daily would, if published, make about ten volumes of that size.

I have spent some time at St. Louis with the Hon. T. M. Byrnes of Minneapolis. Mr. Byrnes was the sergeant-at-arms at the Minneapolis convention. He has been chosen the sergeant-at-arms of this convention, and he is by all odds the most important man just now connected with it. He has to do with the seating of the crowd and has entire charge of the tickets. All press men must make their application to him, and they will be forwarded to a press committee here. Mr. Byrnes will have the custody of the tickets as soon as they are printed, and through his kindness I was able to get a sight of the wash drawings from which the tickets will be engraved. These drawings have been kept a secret. No

tickets will be given out for fear they may be counterfeited. Tickets to a convention like this are worth money. Good seats to the Minneapolis convention sold for \$700 and upward some bringing \$125, and there will be a large number for sale at St. Louis. Mr. Byrnes will have an immense vault in the convention hall for the storing of the tickets. He is responsible for them to the national committee, and has to account for every one of them. There will be a big army of police on hand at the time, and only those having tickets will get in.

Two hundred thousand tickets will be printed. This will make a bulk big enough to fill a good-sized cart. This number is estimated on the ground that there might possibly be three sessions each day and that the convention may last five days. One ticket is printed for each session, and 14,000 tickets a day for fifteen sessions would require 210,000 tickets. There will not be this many sessions a day, but the convention may last longer than five days. The contract for printing the tickets is an important one, and is worth considerable money. The big engraving companies of New York and St. Louis competed for it, but a St. Louis company got the job, having underbid the New York companies, I understand, more than \$1,000. The tickets are being engraved by Woodward & Tiernan of this city, who were able to underbid the eastern companies by being the owners and inventors of a new printing press, which will print the finest of steel plate engravings by machinery.

Heretofore all such work has been done by hand. The tickets to the convention will, I think, be the most beautiful ones ever made for a convention. The engravings upon them will be as fine as that of a bank note, and, as there is a ticket to each session with a single coupon upon it, ever man who goes into the convention will be able to keep his ticket as a souvenir. The ticket, the artist's drawing of which I saw is about the width of a column of a newspaper and about the length of a postal card. On the back of it is a picture of the convention hall. On the front, the left half of the card has a beautiful engraving of St. Louis showing the bridge over the Mississippi, while on the lower right-hand corner there is a little engraving of the log cabin in which General Grant lived on his farm in St. Louis when he was poor and unknown and hauled wood into St. Louis for sale. On the face of the ticket will be engraved the words "Republican National Convention, 1896, Joseph Manley, chairman," and also the words "Guest's ticket," or "Delegate's ticket," or "Press ticket," as the case may be.

Three thousand five hundred of these tickets are to be given to the Business Men's League of St. Louis, through whom the money for building the hall was secured. Each of the 924 delegates will have three tickets, and each of the alternates will have, I think—though I am not sure—only one. The best way for visitors to the convention to get tickets will be through their delegates or, if they have friends in the southern states, by writing to them and asking them to try to work the matter through southern delegates whom they know, as the southern visitors will be comparatively few. Five hundred tickets are to be given to the Grand Army of the Republic. In addition to these there will be a number of

people who will be admitted as employees of the convention. Orders have been given for the printing of 4,000 badges, about one-half of which go to the delegates, alternates and national committeemen. Nine hundred press badges are being made, and there will be a lot of badges for distinguished guests and other notables. All tickets will be issued Monday, June 15, at the convention hall, but application should be made at once for those who wish to get them. There will be a band of 1,500 pieces in the hall, and these will also have badges and tickets.

Every indication points to an immense crowd here at the convention. Col. Richard C. Kerens of the national committee, and Senator Tom Carrier each estimate that there will be at least 150,000 strangers in St. Louis at that time and there is a probability that the number will be exceeded. There will be at least 50,000 from Missouri. Col. Hahn tells me that there will be from twenty to twenty-five thousand here from Ohio, and that Cleveland will send a delegation for McKinley of at least 3,000. From 15,000 to 20,000 people are expected from Iowa to shout for Allison, and among these will be 1,000 men who will ride into the city on white horses. The question of taking care of these 1,000 white horses will not be a great one for St. Louis, for people say that this is the largest horse and mule market in the world, and they could stable 10,000 such animals. There will be 10,000 men from Indianapolis and its surroundings. Col. Manley tells me there will be a large delegation from Maine, and there will be thousands of Republicans here from New England to shout for Thomas B. Reed. About 5,000 men are expected from Chicago. New York, it is said, will send 5,000, and I am told that in all the states special cars and trains are being engaged by the different clubs and by private parties.

St. Louis is peculiarly favored as to railroad facilities. The country surrounding her is thickly populated. Twenty-six great railroads center here, and the Union depot is said to be the largest in the world. It is certainly the finest depot in the United States and the roads running into it have it is said, a mileage greater than that of all the railroads of England and France combined. The cars are all backed into the depot in such a way as to leave the engines outside, and the smoke of the ordinary station is thus avoided. There is a big corps of messengers about the station. It has a barber shop and a hotel connected with it. It is, in fact a little city in itself, having a postoffice a book store, dining and lunch rooms, and more other side establishments than any other depot I have ever entered. The street cars come right to the depot and the visitors for a day can go directly to the convention hall. The railroads will, it is thought, charge only one fare for the round trip to St. Louis and return.

In addition to the railroads there will be a large number of steamers to bring visitors from up and down the river. It is estimated that there will be five hundred passenger trains going in and out of the depot daily during the time of the convention, and it is safe to say that there will be no trouble in landing the 150,000 people expected.

A more important consideration, however will be the taking care of them. How St. Louis will do this, what it will