New-York Tribune.

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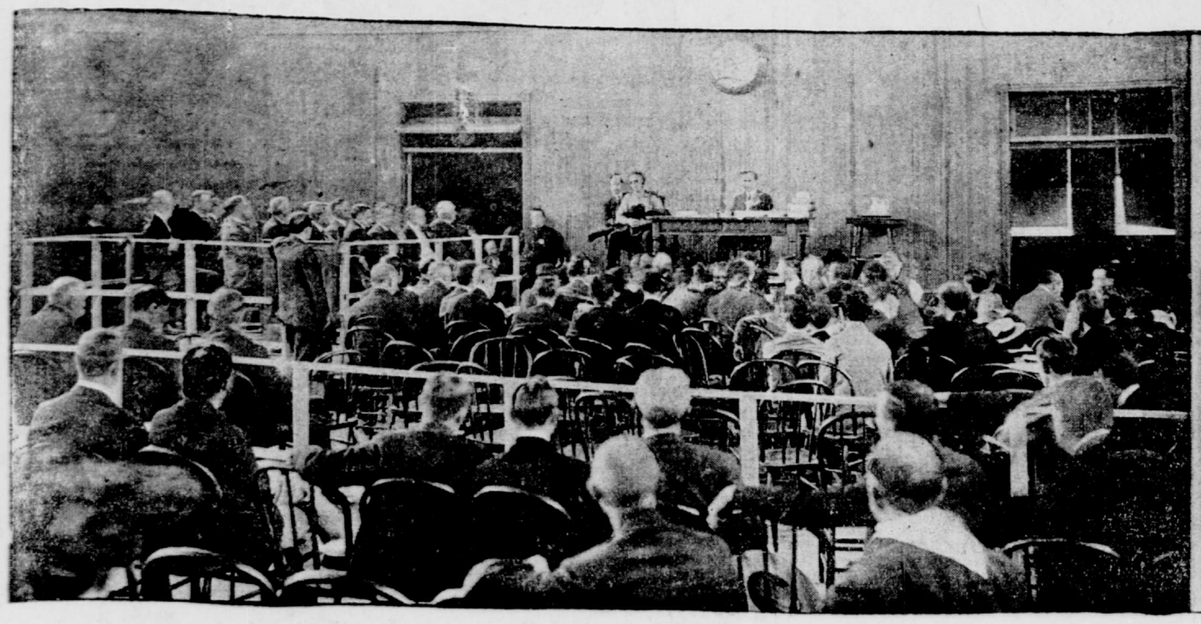
THE SLOCUM DISASTER INQUEST.



IMPROVISED COURTROOM (IN ARMORY)—JURY, CORONERS, REPORTERS, SPECTATORS AND WITNESSES.

NAMES OF JURYMEN AT CORONER'S INQUEST, SLOCUM DISASTER.

Second Battery armory, Bathgate-ave., near One-hundred-and-seventy-eighth-st.

Beginning from right to left: John H. Thorne, foreman; Dr. Felix Hirshman, John F. Steeves, Clarence A. Jones, Robert Jacobs, Theodor Chabot (of Lyon & Chabot), John B. Haskins, Frank C. Schaefler, John C. Heintz, M. A. Husson, Joseph A. Goulden (Congressman), Jacob Zimmerman, Daniel J. Higgins, James Dalton and Gerald C. Connor.

SLOCUM OWNERS ON THE RACK.

BANDAGED VICTIMS OF DISASTER HEAR TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF CORONER'S INQUEST.

Deckhands Say Fire Drills Were Unknown—Tell of Hose Marked "Inpected 1891" Through Which Water Had Never Passed.

Points in the testimony of witnesses at the beginning of the Coroner's inquest:

Certificate of United States inspectors May 7, 1904, certified steamer to be in good condition to carry 2,500 passengers.

Attempts made to obliterate "Grand Republic" and write in "General Slocum" on life preserver bills.

Captain John Pease, of the Grand Republic, had charge of the equipment of the Slocum.

No fire drill instruction.

Water never sent through fire hose.

No attempt to fight fire after first hose burst.

Barrel of oil in locker room with inflammable material.

Water pressure blew coupler from hose.

Fire hose not inspected, not even uncoiled, since season opened.

The first official investigation of the Slocum disaster was begun yesterday in the barnlike drill loft of the 2d Battery, Bathgate-ave., near One-hundred-and-seventy-seventh-st., when Coroner Berry, of The Bronx, opened the coroner's inquest. Involving, as it does, the fixing of the responsibility for the loss of between seven and eight hundred lives, this is the most important case that has been before a coroner's court. Not only the crew of the ill fated steamer are virtually on trial, but also the company which owned her and was responsible for her equipment. As acutely before the bar is the entire system of inspecting steam vessels in vogue in the United States Bureau of Inspection of Steamboats.

That there had never been a fire drill on the Slocum within the memory of the crew which manned her last Wednesday was one of the striking things brought out at the start. Other witnesses testified that barrels of oil and a barrel of glasses stuffed with salt grass were in the oil room, where the fire started. The crew told conflicting stories about their efforts to fight the fire, the breaking of hose and the launching of lifeboats. A number of questions as to the thoroughness of the last inspection of the steamer by federal inspectors was an indication of the broad scope which the inquest will cover.

Two score of those who escaped with their lives from the deathridden steamer were seated in front of the jury waiting to be called as witnesses. Many of them were women, and, while all were in deepest mourning for relatives lost in the disaster, several still wore bandages over the burns they received before they jumped from the burning steamer.

Every little while some one would come into the room who had news from North Brother Island, where Coroner William O'Gorman and a number of rescue crews were still searching for bodies.

"Thirty-five more bodies this morning," was the first report that passed in a whisper through the inquest room.

Then a little later: "They just brought in twenty more bodies." That, too, went the rounds of witnesses, spectators and jurymen. Nothing of this sort was needed to add to the seriousness of the assembly, but it had its effect and marked the faces of those who are concerned with the examination with the determination to get to the very bottom of the responsibility for the disaster.

Members of the crew, with the exception of the three who were lost and the captain, who is still in the hospital, were kept away from the crowd in the coroner's private room. When they were brought out, one by one, to give testimony, the survivors and mourners from the parish of St. Mark's glared at them.

Then there were the mute witnesses which divers obtained from the wreck, and the faulty life preservers taken from the bodies they had failed to save. There was the standpipe with its valve unturned, giving undisputable testimony that at least one part of the steamer's meagre fire fighting apparatus had not been used. There were a hose nozzle with the cap still on and sections of worthless hose.

The inquest was called for 10:30 o'clock, and all morning carpenters worked to turn the drill loft of the armory into something like a courtroom. A part was railed off for the attorneys and reporters, and raised platforms were built for the coroner and jury.

The jurors are John H. Thorne, foreman; Clarence A. Jones, M. A. Husson, Felix Hirshman, Robert Jacobs, John F. Steeves, John C. Heintz, Theodore Chalot, Gerald C. Connor, John B. Haskins, Frank G. Schaefler, James Dalton, Jacob Zimmerman, Daniel J. Higgins and Joseph A. Goulden.

Most of them are business men and, as a whole, appeared to surpass the average coroner's jury in intelligence. They were prompt in asking questions of witnesses when the examination was once under way, and every question was to the point. Several times prompings from the jury box sent the attorneys off on a tack which brought out important testimony.

The first stir was called by the exhibition of bills for life preservers in which an attempt had been made to rub out the name of the steamer Grand Republic. The bill was among those presented by Frank A. Barnaby, president of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, which owns the General Slocum, as evidence that the company had kept up the equipment of the steamer. He said in explanation that the erasure had probably been attempted by a bookkeeper.

Three members of the crew were put on the witness stand at the afternoon session. These were John J. Coakley and James Corcoran, deckhands, and Flanagan, the mate. They showed by their testimony that they were clearly on the defensive.

The questions of the examiners were particularly directed to finding out just what had been done toward fighting the flames after the alarm had been given; then, whether or not the life preservers appeared to be in good condition.

When one of the deckhands was testifying about the failure to have the fire drill which the regulations require, one of the women in black, who also wore bandages, muttered:

"Of course, they had no fire drill; they let us burn."

Coroner Berry presided at the inquest alone, as Coroner O'Gorman is still engaged in the work of recovering bodies at North Brother Island. The federal authorities were represented by Assistant United States District Attorney Henry A. Wise. Terrence McManus, of Black, Olcott, Gruber & Bonynge, represented the owners of the vessel, with ex-Judge Dittenhoefer as personal representative of President Barnaby. On behalf of the Children's Society, its president, J. D. Lindsay, watched the proceedings. Mr. Uhler, head of the United States Bureau of Steamboat Inspection, and his assistant, A. S. Rodie, were within the rail, but took no part in the inquest. They will hold a separate investigation for the government later. Deputy Commissioner T. W. Churchill and Fire Marshal Peter Seery represented the New-York Fire Department.

Mr. Barnaby was the first witness called:

MR. BARNABY'S EXAMINATION.

Q.—How old is the Grand Republic? A.—About twenty years; I cannot tell exactly. The General Slocum was built in Brooklyn. Captain John Pease, of the Grand Republic, had charge of the equipment of the Slocum. The actual operations of the Slocum were in charge of Captain Van Schaick. His instructions and the management of the steamer were under Captain Pease.

Q.—Did Captain Pease make reports of the money he expended? A.—He O. K.'d the bills which reached us by mail and we paid them.

Q.—Did any one but your company own any shares in the Slocum? A.—No.

Q.—Did Captain Van Schaick? A.—No.

Q.—Did Captain Pease. A.—I think he owned some bonds or stock in the Knickerbocker company.

Q.—Was any report made to you about the condition of the Slocum before she was put in commission this year? A.—An inspection was made by the United States authorities on application of Captain Pease for the company.

Q.—Was any specific report made to you about the life preservers or lifeboats? A.—It was reported to us that the Slocum was in thorough good order and working condition.

Q.—Did you make a personal inspection of the boat? A.—I did not, but I examined the report of our own inspection and of the United States Inspection officers.

Q.—I find here five bills for life preservers dated in different months of 1902, 1903 and 1904. Were all these life preservers for the Geneal Slocum? A.—I believe so.

Q.—Then why does this bill show the name Grand Republic scratched out? A.—I don't know. I suppose the bookkeeper must have done that. Our books where the accounts were kept separate will show what supplies went to the Slocum and what went to the Grand Republic.

Q.—Your ledgers will show how many life preservers were bought for the Slocum since she was built in 1891? A.—I don't know that we have the

Continued on fifth page.

WHEN YOU ARE SICK USE Dewey's Port Wine and Grape Juice. H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 138 Fulton-st., N. Y.—Advt.

TEWKSBURY'S BIG DEAL.

IT INVOLVES £2,000,000.

Promoter's Lawyer Expects Him to Pay Debts in Full.

B. Gerson Oppenheim, attorney for Lewis Greene Tewksbury, the cotton and grain broker and promoter, who left this city in 1900, owing between $400,000 and $500,000, has received a letter from Mr. Tewksbury, written from London, in which his client declares he has a business transaction now on in Paris involving some £2,000,000. In his letter Mr. Tewksbury expresses confidence that he will be able to complete the transaction six weeks after Mr. Oppenheim's arrival in Paris.

"I will, accordingly, leave here for Paris next month," Mr. Oppenheim told a Tribune reporter yesterday, "and no one need be surprised if I return in August to call a meeting of Mr. Tewksbury's creditors and arrange for the payment of 100 cents on every dollar of debt.

"Since Mr. Tewksbury's absence in Europe one of his creditors has offered to back with $250,000 a promise that Mr. Tewksbury, should he return, will not be arrested. This would mean that in the event of arrest Mr. Tewksbury would forthwith be bailed. Mr. Tewksbury has also been urged to take advantage of the Bankruptcy law, but he has positively scouted the idea, declaring he will pay in full. I believe he not only purposes to do the right thing by his creditors, but will do it. Five hundred thousand dollars will pay off every debt, and it is not unlikely that if the transaction he speaks of goes through he will clear at least a round $1,000,000.

"An expert accountant has been working on his books, which are in my possession, and I shall arrive in Paris with a complete inventory of his debts. I think the outlook for the creditors is distinctly hopeful."

Mr. Tewksbury's letter to Mr. Oppenheim, which is headed "Broad Street House, Old Broad-st., London, May 24," is in part as follows:

I have a large business transaction on in Paris, involving some £2,000,000, and I have every reason to believe that I can close the same in July next, if I have a competent American lawyer to represent me there to attend to all important details. I therefore ask you if you will be good enough to meet me in Paris the first week in July, in conjunction with the said business. With your assistance I feel sure of success. I think we will be able to clean the business up in, say, six weeks time. I do not care to go into details on paper, but will explain fully to you when I see you in Paris.

The announcement of Mr. Tewksbury's marriage in London to Miss Violet Aubrey Butler, of this city, was published exclusively in The Tribune of May 26. Nearly all of Mr. Tewksbury's creditors are New-Yorkers, the largest individual claim apparently being for $50,000.

BRIDGE JUMP FOR FUN.

Man Swims to Shore Unhurt After Long Drop.

Philip Krantz, an engineer, of No. 9 Morton-st., jumped from the middle of the south roadway of the Brooklyn Bridge late yesterday afternoon, and is now in the Hudson Street Hospital, a prisoner on the charge of attempted suicide. He seemed absolutely unhurt, save for a broken eardrum, and said he had no wish to kill himself, but desired to see how it would feel, as he had always believed he could make the drop safely.

Henry James, of Wayhome Place, Brooklyn, employed on the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad wharf at Pier 20, directly south of the Manhattan tower of the bridge, is apparently the only person who saw Krantz drop. He says he saw the engineer crawl between the steel girders on the side of the roadway at a point almost at the apex of the arch, hang by his hands for a moment and then drop, his body shooting straight, as if his shoes had been full of lead. He struck the water feet first, says James, disappeared in a column of spray, rose easily out of the ripples where he had sunk, looked about himself casually, and then struck out for the Manhattan shore. James ran to the Oak-st. station and told Acting Captain Fennelly what he had seen. The bridge police were called up, as well as the Hudson Street Hospital.

As Krantz swam for Pier 20, aided by the tide, he was cheered like a circus performer by the crowd that gathered on the bridge above, by the passengers and crews of passing boats and by the 'longshoremen who waited for him on land. The police were waiting for him with an ambulance. They arrested him, charged with attempted suicide, and sent him to Hudson Street Hospital, though he said he was just dropping to see if he could do it, and the doctors declared he was practically unhurt. At the hospital his case was diagnosed as "broken tympanum and submersion."

LANDMARK TO BE A TOMBSTONE.

A force of men are at work at Mount Kisco removing a huge bowlder which for many years has been one of the landmarks of Peach Lake, in northern Westchester County. The bowlder will be shipped to Camden, N. J., where it will serve as a tombstone for a Mr. Wood, of that place, who died last winter. For several seasons Mr. Wood had spent his summer vacations at Peach Lake. The stone, which weighs eighteen tons, attracted his attention, and it is said that he directed his relatives in case of his death to purchase it and have it placed over his grave. The contractors will have to cut it in two and draw it to the railroad station with a traction engine. It is a delicate task, especially as Mr. Wood left instructions that the moss on one side must be kept intact. It is said that the work will cost nearly $1,000.

BRYAN FLAYS PARKER.

TAMMANY EGGS HIM ON.

Nebraskan Abandons 16 to 1 and Imperialism for Plutocracy Issue.

To a mass of people who thronged Cooper Union to its uttermost—a crowd which cheered indiscriminately for Bryan and Hearst, with a few spare cheers for Roosevelt—William Jennings Bryan voiced last night the protest of radical Democrats, and a good many who are not radical, against the candidacy of Chief Judge Parker for President. He objected to Judge Parker on two general grounds, he said, because he would be a weak candidate, and because, if elected, he would be a great disappointment to the American people.

The campaign being waged for Parker was one of cowardice, deception, fraud and hypocrisy, he said. Judge Parker, while carefully concealing his views from the general public, had made them known to the trust manipulators and the political managers, and these views suited them, Mr. Bryan was sure, else would Parker never have assumed prominence as a candidate with their backing. In Parker's behalf, men had been openly bought in the Connecticut convention, Mr. Bryan charged, and in Illinois Hopkins, while in the minority in the convention, had deliberately dominated the affair, twisting it to his own schemes.

The issue in this campaign was not the money question, or the tariff, or imperialism, said Mr. Bryan, but a getting down to fundamental principles—whether this country should be a plutocracy or a democracy. No matter what the national platform should say—and if it said as little, and said it as ambiguously, as the Albany platform, Mr. Parker could stand on it with fair safety—this issue could not be obscured, declared the Nebraskan, and Judge Parker would be an unsafe man to intrust with any great part in the working out of this question. If his views could be judged at all, they could be taken from the Albany platform. If this platform meant anything at all in its plank relating to "trusts," it meant an opposition to the decision of the Supreme Court in the Northern Securities merger case.

HINRICHS PRAISES ROOSEVELT.

Frederick W. Hinrichs, who was defeated for Controller last fall, declared that the issue this year was that of the trusts against the workingman. Democracy should abandon its apparent course of abetting monopolies, he said, and get back to its work of aiding the plain citizen. Then, to the confusion of his audience, he built up an elaborate structure which showed that Theodore Roosevelt was a better Democrat, according to his definition, than most of those who had born that name in several years. He showed how the President had been honest and fearless. He recalled the part he took in the passage of the Special Franchise Tax law, the Coal Strike Inquiry Commission and the Northern Securities case.

Parker would not stand such scrutiny, said Mr. Hinrichs, and he quoted from the law reports several cases in which a leaning toward corporation interests arrayed against those of the people was manifested by Judge Parker.

An "anti-Parker convention mass meeting", the call for the meeting termed it. Resolutions were adopted, which will be presented at St. Louis, condemning Judge Parker, his managers, the Albany platform, trusts and the Republican party. But it was plain that every one who attended went to hear Bryan. When he appeared there was wild enthusiasm, and throughout his speech there were assurances from the audience that he was "all right" and "deserved another try at it." To these Mr. Bryan made no reply.

It was not a meeting to discuss one candidate; in fact, there was a diversity of interests. It was manifest, however, that a great distaste for anything pertaining to Judge Parker was afloat, while the mention of David B. Hill's name brought forth a tumult of groans, hisses, catcalls and various remarks about "peanuts" and "crooked ballot boxes." Tammany Hall, it had been whispered not too gently, was not slow to see the advantage of this meeting. While none of the Tammany men who would be recognized were there last night, many of those in the audience were faithful followers of Charles F. Murphy, and they were vigorous in aiding the attack on Parker and Hill last night.

Judge Seabury was chosen chairman of the meeting. This convention had been made necessary because the Albany convention misrepresented the Democrats of New-York, he said. He went on:

It adopted a platform of platitudes, designed to deceive the people, and pledged its delegates to support a colorless candidate, who, if he has any political principles, lacks the courage to declare them.

The Democracy of New-York is opposed to the policies of the Republican party, and it wants its party to oppose these policies, and frankly to define and express its attitude upon the great questions now before the country.

We make this protest not because of any personal animosity to Judge Parker, but because we believe that the action of the Albany convention threatens the integrity of the Democratic party, and because Judge Parker has shown his willingness to lend himself to a plan designed to bring about a dis-

Continued on ninth page.

"Daily service, except Sundays, to Block Island, Sag Harbor, Shelter Island, Greenport, and Orient, will commence June 23d."—Advt.

FAIRBANKS BY ACCLAMATION.

NEW-YORK INSTRUCTS FOR HIM, AND THAT PRACTICALLY SETTLES IT.

Other Booms for the Vice-Presidential Nomination Fading Away—Preparations for the National Convention Completed.

That Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana, will be nominated by acclamation for Vice-President by the Republican National Convention was the prediction of the party leaders in Chicago last night. Mr. Fairbanks told the Indiana delegates that he was not a candidate and was not seeking the nomination, but the sentiment for him increased rapidly throughout the day, and the booms for others died or made no progress.

The New-York delegation chose Senator Platt chairman, instructed him to cast the seventy-eight votes of the State for Roosevelt and Fairbanks, and elected William L. Ward a member of the national committee.

The convention will be called to order at noon to-day by Henry C. Payne, acting chairman of the national committee. The chief feature of the day's proceedings will be the speech of Elihu Root, the temporary chairman.

The platform, it is said, will declare emphatically for Protection, and will afford little comfort to the advocates of tariff revision.

Senator Spooner declared that there will be only one national ticket in Wisconsin. The "Stalwarts" are ready to sacrifice their ticket if necessary to carry the State for Roosevelt.

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME—YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Chicago, June 20.—The convention programme for to-morrow is as follows:

Convention formally called to order at noon by Henry C. Payne.
Prayer by the Rev. Timothy P. Frost.
Reading of convention call by Secretary Elmer Dover.
Elihu Root introduced as temporary chairman.
Speech of Mr. Root.
Appointment of committees.
Adjournment until Wednesday.

FAIRBANKS MAKES BIG GAINS.

Fairbanks by acclamation is the prediction of the leaders to-night. The Senator from Indiana has said to a number of his friends that he will accept if it is the untrammelled wish of the convention that he do so, although he is not a candidate in the ordinary sense of the term. That is, he will not work for the nomination and does not wish his friends to do so.

The solidification of the Fairbanks sentiment, which has been making steady progress to-day, appears to be largely the result of several efforts to promote booms for other men, all of which "died a-bornin'" when traced to their source and found to emanate from the New-England delegation. Senator Fairbanks will not be "smoked out." That may be said with assurance. The Indiana delegates met this afternoon for the express purpose of discussing the situation, they having held a meeting earlier in the day, at which they perfected their convention organization. Before the afternoon meeting Mr. Fairbanks and his friends became somewhat indignant at the determined effort to drive him into making a statement, and when the delegates assembled it was determined to take no action, and the meeting was promptly adjourned.

Nevertheless, it is the opinion of Senator Fairbanks's friends that he will be nominated by acclamation, and they are saying so.

"Fairbanks is not a candidate, but he will be nominated," said Representative Overstreet this afternoon, and Senator Scott, who overheard the remark, added: "It will be Fairbanks for Vice-President by acclamation, all right."

"It's too bad," said Senator Depew, "but our little Cannon boomlet exploded and blew us off the track. Yes, New-York will be in line for Fairbanks."

The New-York, Pennsylvania and Maryland delegations in caucus to-night instructed for Fairbanks for Vice-President.

Then the delegates went up to the Senator's rooms and told him about it. The Senator smiled sweetly and told them they were very kind. Iowa followed suit, and the Senator told them he did not know how to express his appreciation of their confidence in him. He added, however, that he was not a candidate.

TAFT BOOM SHORT LIVED.

A little boomlet for Secretary Taft went up like a rocket at noon with a great show of sparks and came down as rapidly. Suddenly men began to gather in little knots, and then the word went abroad that Taft was to be the man. Immediately the men who favored other candidates got busy. Within an hour the paternity of the boomlet was traced to ex-Governor W. Murray Crane, although ex-Secretary John D. Long was doing his best to mother the little stranger. Mr. Long talked enthusiastically of the Secretary's many admirable qualities. He said that, there being no war on at the present time, the Secretary could well be spared from his present post, and his solid qualities would well match those of the President. The ex-Governor of the Philippines would balance the ex-colonel of Rough Riders.

But it was all in vain. The Indiana men would not hear of Massachusetts picking a candidate, and the Ohio men, while speaking highly of Judge Taft, showed no particular desire to make him Vice-President. Some said they wanted to hold the popular Secretary in the background for 1908. Senator Foraker said he was more than half pledged to Fairbanks, and Senator Dick said he thought highly of Governor Taft, but believed the President wanted him to remain in the Cabinet.

HITT DROPS OUT OF IT.

When it became evident that there was nothing doing in the Taft line, the Massachusetts men reverted to Hitt, but with no success. The Illinois Representative's illness just at this time has served to emphasize in the minds of the delegates the fact that he is no longer young, and that his health is not robust. Senator Lodge was asked if his delegation was working hard for Hitt. The Senator screwed up one eye and replied: "I have not seen any of them hurting themselves." Further inquiry was made at the Illinois headquarters as to how the Hitt boom was doing.

"I do not know exactly," replied an ardent Hitt supporter. "I have been up for three nights, and I'm tired out." and with that he relapsed into a more or less somnolent condition.

It is now suggested that all the other candidates for second place withdraw, and permit the nomination to go to the Indiana Senator without opposition, but some of the Western men seem to cling to the idea that it would be nice to be mentioned in the national convention, even if their names never came up for a vote.

OTHERS STILL MENTIONED.

Wisconsin is still talking ex-Governor Schofield. Nebraskans are bravely booming John L. Webster, although they cannot disguise the fact that they are beginning to feel very lonesome about it. The Colorado crowd say they are confident that John W. Springer will be the nominee, and then protest when their auditors laugh in their faces, but it is doubtful if they are able to keep it up much longer.

The Western crowd had a little conference to-day. Some one had a brilliant idea, and suggested that if the Westerners could have a "round up," test the strength of their respective candidates and then place their brand on the man that had the largest showing of strength, they might be able to head off the charge of the Hoosier candidate.

The "round up" turned out, however, as might have been expected. Every Western can-

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