



NAMED BY PRESIDENT. SLOCUM INQUIRY BOARD.

Cortelyou Tells Mayor He Has Ordered Reinspection—The Inquest.

Bodies recovered yesterday 112 Total number recovered 846 Bodies identified yesterday 76 Still missing (approximately) 308

The President appointed a commission, under Secretary Cortelyou, to investigate the Slocum disaster.

Secretary Cortelyou replied to Mayor McClellan's letter, saying that he had already ordered a reinspection of vessels carrying passengers in waters adjacent to New-York.

In the testimony of witnesses in the inquest it was brought out yesterday: That Assistant Inspector Lundberg, who refused absolutely to testify, apparently had something to conceal regarding his inspection of the General Slocum.

That the only new hose on the Slocum cost 16 cents a foot, while good hose, according to Mr. Garvan, costs \$1 50 a foot.

That no new life preservers were put in last spring.

That members of the crew did not see inspectors examine life preservers.

That, in the opinion of the assistant pilot, there was no other place to beach the steamer than North Brother Island.

That, according to the bookkeeper, the name "Grand Republic" had been erased from bills and "General Slocum" substituted only to keep the accounts separate.

DISCUSSED BY CABINET.

Army and Navy Represented on Investigating Commission.

(FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.) Washington, June 21.—The President has designated a commission under Secretary Cortelyou, consisting of Assistant Secretary Murray of the Department of Commerce and Labor, General John M. Wilson, U. S. A. (retired), Commander Cameron McR, Winslow, U. S. N., Herbert Knox Smith, deputy commissioner of corporations, and George Uhler, supervising inspector general of the steamboat inspection service, to make a thorough and exhaustive investigation of the disaster to the General Slocum.

The high character of the faithful performance of its duties and of a comprehensive and impartial report at the end of its task.

The investigation will be conducted independently of the one soon to be made by the local board of inspectors, in compliance with Section 4459 of the Revised Statutes, and directed solely at the question of the revocation of the license of the vessel's officers. The impression that the investigation by the local board was not only authorized by Secretary Cortelyou, but was intended to cover the whole subject, is erroneous, and the department desires its correction, because it might convey the idea of a limited scope to the investigation.

Secretary Cortelyou wrote to Mayor McClellan of New-York, saying that he had already ordered a reinspection of the New-York excursion boats.

Practically all of the session of the Cabinet today was devoted to steamboat inspection incidental to the Slocum inquiry.

Secretary Cortelyou's letter to Mayor McClellan, in reply to one asking for the reinspection of vessels in New-York waters, was in part as follows:

As the head of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to which the steamboat inspection service is assigned, I beg to assure you that the investigation which has been for several days in progress—or which will be in progress—will be thorough and exhaustive. It would be unfair to assume that the report already made was inadequate, or that the reasons such as those you mention, had already ordered a reinspection.

Secretary Cortelyou calls the Mayor's attention to the following telegram to L. O. Murray, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor:

Last evening I had a conference with Supervising Inspector General Uhler to come here at the earliest possible moment. I desire that you leave Washington. There must be a vigorous prosecution of the investigation already begun into the features of the General Slocum disaster. Deputy Commissioner Smith to assist you and Mr. Uhler in the work of investigation.

The letter continues: The tender of the services of certain officials of various departments is appreciated, and will be availed of in such manner as may seem best after a full conference between representatives of your city and of this department. The investigation is to be so conducted as to disclose all the facts, and in pursuance of this object it will be necessary to rely upon the co-operation of yourself and other officials of the city of New-York.

SHOTS BRING UP BODIES.

Not to Hold Corpses for Identification—Hulk Nearly Righted.

In command of Sergeant Mulholland, the 2d Battery was sent to North Brother Island yesterday to the valleys over the river, and, by the concussion, to bring bodies still at the bottom of the river to the surface. Stationed on a float, they cruised about the island and wreck, firing repeated volleys. Within three minutes of the first shot seven bodies rose to the surface. In all, twenty-three bodies were recovered as a result of the firing.

Despite the preparations for the raising of bodies, the body was employed yesterday for the raising of bodies. Captain Tucker, of the Merritt-Chapman company, experts, however, to use dynamite this morning. He will place heavy charges three feet under water in the channel below North Brother Island.

Inspector General Uhler accompanied Coroner O'Gorman and Inspector Albertson on a visit to the wreck yesterday afternoon on a tug, on what they said was a tour of general observation and investigation. No reporters were allowed to observe or investigate with them, however.

The Merritt-Chapman Company, which is engaged in raising the bulk of the Slocum, reported bodies 40 feet deep. Information, 355 Broadway, N. Y.—Adv.

NEW-CHWANG HEARS GUNS FIRING NEAR HAI-CHENG.

Russian Staff's Denial—Japanese Still Moving West.

Reports of fighting at Kai-Ping, Hai-Cheng and Liao-Yang lacked definite confirmation, but the Russian general staff, although denying a general engagement, admitted that the Japanese advance from Sin-Yen continued. New-Chwang reported sounds of firing in the direction of Hai-Cheng.

A conservative Russian official estimate places the losses sustained by General Stakelberg in the battle of Wafang-Kao at 4,000 men, but it is said on good authority that they will not be less than 6,500.

Admiral Skrydloff sent a detailed report of the operations of the Vladivostok squadron. A Japanese cruiser was in touch with the Russian warships, but her wireless messages were intercepted. There were about a thousand troops on the Hitachi, some of whom escaped. Most of those on the Sado were drowned.

A LIAO-YANG SKIRMISH.

Cavalry Attacks Outpost—Russian Losses Increasing.

New-Chwang, June 20 (delayed in transmission)—According to an American missionary, who says he has received the information from a native source, a force of Japanese cavalry attacked the Russian outposts at Liao-Yang last Saturday, and the fighting continued on Sunday.

Faint sounds of firing were heard for several hours this afternoon in the direction of Hai-Cheng. Frequent flashes, believed to have been from artillery fire, were seen in that direction to-night.

St. Petersburg, June 21.—The reports of heavy fighting at Hai-Cheng are denied by the general staff. The Japanese are continuing to advance from Sin-Yen, and there are continuous skirmishes between outposts, but no further advance of General Oku's army has been reported.

The Russian losses at the battle of Wafang-Kao are turning out to be heavier as the reports of the various regiments come in. They are now placed by a conservative official estimate at 4,000, but a usually well informed authority expects the total to be not less than 6,500.

According to an unconfirmed report the Russian battleships Retvizin and Pobleda went out of Port Arthur on June 18 and returned to port the same day.

BEZOBRAZOFF'S RAID.

Lone Japanese Cruiser Watched Squadron's Operations.

Vladivostok, June 21.—Lying in the harbor are the three Russian cruisers which have just returned from their successful raid in the Sea of Japan and Strait of Corea.

Vice-Admiral Bezobrazoff took the squadron out of June 12. The first day the warships were fog-bound. They reached the Korean Strait on June 15, and were sighted and watched by a fast three-masted Japanese cruiser. Off Tau Island the Russians pursued a vessel resembling a yacht, which escaped inshore. They sank the Japanese transport Izumi off Kotsu Island. The Izumi was bringing back invalided soldiers from Port Dalny, 105 of whom were rescued by one of the Russian cruisers.

The Japanese transports Hitachi and Sado were next sighted, and soon after the Hitachi, which was filled with troops, disregarded the signal to stop, and put on full steam. The Russian cruisers then opened fire on her, crippling her engines and setting her decks aflame. Still the Japanese refused to haul down their flag. The vessel was then seen to heel over, and hundreds of the Japanese jumped into the sea. They were all drowned. The Hitachi was then sunk by a torpedo.

The Sado obeyed the summons to stop. She carried 1,350 coals for railroad work in Corea, 1,200 tons of coal, 1,000 tons of rice, railroad and telegraph equipment, a hundred horses and a large amount of specie. The specie was thrown overboard by the pursuer. Besides ten boats, the Sado carried twelve rafts, each capable of carrying one hundred men. As soon as the crew was ordered to leave the ship the coolies rushed on deck, filled the boats and headed them for the coast.

Admiral Bezobrazoff sent boats to the Sado to take off the captain and officers. Captain Oguro, twelve military officers and three Englishmen in the Japanese service came. The others refused to leave the ship. The Russians, having done everything possible to save the lives of those on board, discharged two torpedoes against the vessel. A heavy squall broke at that time and hid the sinking transport from view.

A three-masted Japanese cruiser, which the Russians vainly tried to catch, witnessed the whole affair. The Russians caught her wireless messages. The apparatus on the enemy's cruiser worked incessantly, and messages were recorded on board the Russian cruisers and were translated by some of the Japanese prisoners. One message read: "The Russians are in the strait. Run for safety."

The prize court is certain to condemn the British collier Atlantica, captured by the Russian squadron. She came out at the beginning of the war, went around the Cape of Good Hope and then engaged in carrying Japanese coal from Muroran to Sascho. The cargoes were nominally consigned in each case to British firms at Hong Kong and Singapore.

SKRYDLOFF'S REPORT.

A Thousand Men on the Hitachi—Many Japanese Drowned.

St. Petersburg, June 21.—Emperor Nicholas has received the following dispatch from Vice-Admiral Skrydloff, dated June 21: On June 21 our squadron, consisting of the cruiser Rossia, flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Bezobrazoff, and the cruisers Gromobol and Rurik, started to assume the offensive against the maritime communications of the Japanese.

Continued on ninth page.

RUTLAND R. R. FOR MONTREAL. Brandon, Burlington, across the Islands of Lake Champlain, Ottawa, Quebec, four trains. Illustrated book, 4c postage. Information, 355 Broadway, N. Y.—Adv.

VASE AND PEDESTAL PRESENTED TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE BY THE CZAR. (The story of the presentation yesterday will be found on Page 8.)



PLAN TO BEAT PARKER.

BRYAN TELLS HIS WAY.

To Fight for a Platform on Which Judge Can't Run.

The New-York Democratic factions which are opposed to the candidacy of Judge Alton B. Parker for the Presidential nomination spent a day of rejoicing yesterday. The rousing turnout at the "protest convention" at Cooper Union on Monday night would in itself have been enough to put the protesters in great good humor, but the morning brought further developments.

Before leaving the city, William Jennings Bryan confided to his New-York supporters that he intended to submit a platform at the St. Louis convention and that he would probably make a fight for it. This means the liveliest kind of a battle in the committee on resolutions, for the Parker people are now at work on a platform of their own. There is a possibility of concessions being made to Bryan, it was said yesterday, which will put a platform before the convention on which Judge Parker could not run.

There was still another cause for joy when it came out that a delegation of from fifty to seventy-five prominent New-York Democrats would go to St. Louis and protest against the nomination of a man who, in their opinion, could not carry his own State. The names of the members of this delegation will probably be announced by Judge Samuel Seabury.

It is the matter of the Bryan platform that is most interesting. Mr. Bryan, as head of the delegation from Nebraska, will be a member of the committee which will have the delicate job of drawing up the Democratic platform for the convention's consideration. David B. Hill will undoubtedly represent New-York, and go into the committee meeting with the Parker platform in his pocket. The going will sound almost immediately, and when time is called it is possible that the bitterest fight of the convention will be over.

The great possibilities of a fight over the platform, from the anti-Parker point of view, lie in the fact that while many delegations are instructed for Parker, they are not instructed as to platform.

BIG EXPLOSION IN BAY.

Loss of Life on Wrecked Sloop Indicated by a Shoc.

Residents of the neighborhood about Thirty-fourth-st. and the Bay were aroused this morning shortly after midnight by a terrific explosion that shook buildings for half a mile along the shore and sent everyone to the streets to investigate. Soon reports came to the Fourth Police Precinct from the shore that the accident had occurred off shore, apparently on a craft anchored in the bay.

Roundsman Roland and Patrolman Hyland rowed out for about half a mile, when they came on the wreck of an auxiliary sloop about 45 feet long. She was split in halves, and the parts were floating. A short distance away was a partly full gasoline tank. There had evidently been another tank that had caused the explosion.

At least one person must have been lost in the disaster. Near the wreck was found floating a No. 10 shoe and a brown derby hat, size 6 1/2. A little further away was a green derby, with two seats overturned. There was no clew to the name of the boat or the occupant. It was feared that others were lost, as there were accommodations aboard for several, and it was not thought likely that one man would be alone on a boat of that size.

Hans Lizzie B., employed on the sloop Johnson B., anchored nearby, was sleeping on deck when the explosion came, and was so startled that he jumped into the bay. He was rescued, however.

A PATERSON MILL BURNS.

Early Fire Destroys Property Valued at \$200,000.

Paterston, N. J., June 22.—A large fire broke out here shortly after 1 o'clock this morning in the mill of I. A. Hall, in Fulton-st. In a short time the fire had spread to the Van Kirk lumber yard, near by.

The mill was completely destroyed and the lumber yard will also be a total loss. The fire was caused by men smoking in the mill. The loss will reach nearly \$200,000. Several hundred men will be thrown out of employment.

HOPES FOR AN HEIR IN RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, June 21.—The Empress did not attend the burial of General Bobrikoff to-day, although she intended to accompany the Emperor. The birth of a child is understood to be near.

HOT WISCONSIN FIGHT.

LA FOLLETTE MEN OUT.

Refuse to Make Contest, and Accuse Credentials Committee.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Chicago, June 21.—The busiest committee here to-day is that on credentials. As soon as the convention adjourned the committee met in the annex of the Coliseum and organized by electing Senator McComas, of Maryland, chairman.

The most sensational incident of the day was the action of Governor La Follette of Wisconsin and his followers. When La Follette was left of the temporary roll of the convention it was taken as an indication that he would have little success in a contest before the committee on credentials. The statement which Senator Spooner made to The Tribune last night, that the "Stalwarts" would under no circumstances permit two electoral tickets, robbed La Follette of the chief issue on which he hoped to appeal this morning, and he and his followers were in an ugly mood.

When the committee on credentials assembled, La Follette did not appear to make a contest, but instead sent the committee a sinister letter. He said in effect that he would not present his evidence or try his case before the committee; that he had evidence that the committee was packed against him; that members had been approached, and that he could not get justice. He added that he was going back to Wisconsin, and would leave his case to the people. What the nature of the "approach" might be, or by whom made, the La Follette people declined to state. They entered into no particulars, simply making the broad and general charge of an "approach," and withdrew.

The Wisconsin case was one of the earliest called when the credentials committee went into session at 4 o'clock. The contestants were not present when the sergeant-at-arms announced that the committee was ready to hear the Wisconsin fight, and the case was passed until a contest in the IVth Alabama District had been heard. In this case the contestants withdrew, and the action of the national committee in seating B. E. Aldrich was allowed to stand by default.

THE LA FOLLETTE STATEMENT.

The Wisconsin case was then called for the second time, and both parties fled into the committee room. The La Follette people were represented by W. G. Connor, of Marshfield, Wis.; Gilbert E. Roe, of New-York, and Henry F. Coehms, of Milwaukee. The burden of proof was on the contestants, and they opened and closed their case with a single statement by Mr. Roe, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee: Several members of the committee on credentials, before which we are now asked to present our case, are members of the national committee, which passed on this case before. We do not, therefore, consider this an unprejudiced committee. We understand, moreover, that several members of this committee have been approached, and we therefore decline to present our case, preferring to submit it to the people of Wisconsin at the election next November. I will file with the committee this paper, containing the statement I have just made.

A dead silence followed the speech of Mr. Roe. Some members of the committee scowled at him, and others smiled sarcastically, but not a word was said in reply. Mr. Roe advanced to the clerk's desk and handed in his paper, and then, in company with Mr. Connor and Mr. Coehms, left the committee room. As they were going, Senator McComas rose and said:

I have grave doubts as to whether we should permit that paper to be filed at all. No further comment was made, however, and the paper went in.

The La Follette people declined to make any statement as they left the committee room, but marched straight across the anteroom, down the stairway, and left the building.

The "Stalwart" faction, on leaving the committee room, received the statement turned in by Mr. Roe, and retired to the office of the sergeant-at-arms to formulate a reply. Senator Quarles said:

They were simply afraid to meet us on the floor of the convention or before the committee on credentials. Then they insulted every member of the national committee and every member of the credentials committee and went away.

ALLEGED GRIEVANCES STATED.

The statement submitted to the committee by Mr. Roe recited at length the history of the struggle between the factions in Wisconsin, and charged that the grievances of the La Follette faction are found in the following statements:

That said committee did not examine said record, or appoint any sub-committee to do so, but at the close of the argument immediately decided said contest upon the conflicting and wholly contradictory oral statements of counsel for the respective parties.

That an examination of such records and such

Continued on second page.

ALL IN LINE FOR ROOSEVELT.

THE PRESIDENT'S NAME AROUSES ENTHUSIASM AT CHICAGO

Republican National Convention Opens and Is Addressed by Elihu Root—Surprise in Wisconsin Fight—Work on the Platform.

The Republican National Convention met in Chicago yesterday, the chief feature of the proceedings being the speech of Elihu Root, the temporary chairman. Mr. Root's presentation of the campaign issues aroused much enthusiasm, and there was a great demonstration when he mentioned the name of President Roosevelt.

The most sensational incident of the day was the action of the La Follette delegates from Wisconsin. They refused to make a contest before the committee on credentials, charging that the committee was prejudiced against them, and that some of its members had been "approached." They declared that they would appeal their case to the people of Wisconsin.

There was no change in the situation regarding the Vice-Presidency, the nomination of Senator Fairbanks being regarded as assured.

The committee on resolutions began the work of framing the platform, taking as a basis the draft presented by Senator Lodge. The tariff plank will say that duties should be readjusted only by the friends of protection and when warranted by changed conditions of business.

SUMMARY FOR YESTERDAY.

Convention called to order by Henry C. Payne. Speech by the temporary chairman, Elihu Root.

Appointment of committees. Credentials and resolutions committees busy all the afternoon and evening.

Gossip about possible effort to finish convention business to-day.

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME.

Called to order at noon by Chairman Root. Reports from committees on credentials and organization.

Introduction of Speaker Cannon as permanent chairman, and speech by him.

Reading of platform as presented by resolutions committee.

STORY OF CONVENTION.

Root's Speech the Feature—Great Enthusiasm for Roosevelt.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) Chicago, June 21.—The story of to-day's session of the Republican National Convention is a plain and simple one. There was neither fireworks nor frenzy. Nothing had occurred to work up preliminary excitement among the delegates, and consequently they were sober and un-hysterical. But it would be doing violence to the truth to say that they were indifferent or perfunctory in their manner. The contrary was shown all through Elihu Root's speech.

When he touched on the attitude of the administration toward the trusts there was an immediate manifestation of interest all over the big hall, and applause deep, emphatic and significant, followed his declaration: No investment in lawful business has been jeopardized, no fair and honest enterprise has been injured; but it is certain that wherever the constitutional power of the national government reaches, trusts are being practically regulated and curbed within lawful bounds as they never have been before, and the men of small capital are finding in the efficiency and skill of the National Department of Justice a protection they never had before against the crushing effect of unlawful combinations.

There was more applause when Mr. Root, after reviewing the Republican record, asked in solemn and bell voiced tones whether the American people proposed to reverse the policies which had injured to the glory and benefit of the country or transfer their guardianship to unknown and, perchance, feeble hands. The mention of the names of McKinley and Hanna evoked a spontaneous outburst of cheering from both delegates and spectators, and there was a magnificent tribute given to both President Roosevelt and Mr. Root when the latter closed his eloquent peroration with these words:

Come what may here, come what may in November, God grant that those qualities of brave, true manhood shall have honor throughout America, shall be held for an example in every home, and that the youth of generations to come may grow up to feel that it is better than wealth or office or power to have the honesty, the purity and the courage of Theodore Roosevelt.

There was only one opinion about Mr. Root's speech. Everywhere there was praise for it, and the words of eulogistic comment were un-stinted. The weather indications this morning were disturbing. There was a suggestion of rain in the air and the sun had a struggle with clouds banked up over the lake. Fresh breezes from the northeast cooled the temperature, but indoors, out of reach of the breeze, the day was hot.

EARLY SCENES IN THE HALL.

The five acres of seats under the arches of the Coliseum began to fill by 10:30 o'clock. Black dots appeared in the emptiness, the advance guard of that huge assemblage which presently shaped into the convention. The interest that had for two days eddied around fifty State or Territorial headquarters centered on those five steel covered acres, or, rather, on that fragment in front of a crimson carpeted rostrum set with Flemish oak furniture. The table was a solid piece, fit to stand heavy blows.

As thin lines of delegates and other ticket-holders entered through many doors the watchers outside grew into a multitude, and some hearts burned over fruitless plans for admission. But most of those outside were satisfied with the mild thrill of being in the neighborhood of where large things were to be done, for the first session of the national convention was an imposing fact.

The Coliseum is not yet historic. It has a place for roller skating, balls and the circus, yet old convention hands thought it the best proportioned and arranged convention hall in the United States. The outside walls are of stone, with castellated turrets, so the first impression was that of a city armory. Inside, the wide concaves of steel, if black, would make the place look like a railway station; but, as they are white, relieved by stands of flags, the effect was pleasing. The first mental effort after looking at the immensity of seats was to estimate the total. It turned out to be about 8,500 numbered places, including the bank of 250 rising behind the chairman. Above this terrace of seats hung the colossal portrait of Senator Hanna on a

canvas 20 by 17 feet. Portraits of the President, with flags about them, were placed at regular intervals around the amphitheatre. A banner of the Home Market Club, of Boston, swung near the roof opposite the chairman.

Underneath the rostrum and stretching the whole length of the basement was one of the most curious sights of the convention—the paraphernalia and the workers who communicated to the millions what the thousands saw. In this space were hundreds of wires connecting directly with the principal newspapers of the country and the agencies that transmit news over the sea. More than a hundred telephones and upward of four hundred telegraph instruments were working. A thousand reporters, operators and messengers manned this intelligence machine. For hours before and during the session of the convention the hotels were vacant. The large rooms occupied by State headquarters, decorated with tricolored cloth and the pictures of "distinguished sons," both living and dead, had been empty since the early morning conferences.

At 11 o'clock few delegates and alternates and practically none of the prominent men of the Republican party had appeared in the hall. An army of doorknobs was on guard at the various entrances, and inside many sergeants-at-arms were stationed in the aisles to guide the delegates to their seats.

THE DECORATIONS.

The last touches to the hall had been made in the night and early morning. A large number of palms and potted plants were placed around the sides of the hall on the first floor, and fresh oak boughs, which were fastened to the girders just above the upper balcony, relieving the long stretch of saffron colored roofing. It had been announced that the only picture which would be seen in the convention hall would be the enormous portrait of Senator Hanna, which hung just above the speakers' platform, but yesterday large engravings of President Roosevelt were placed at every alternate fold in the draped bunting that stretched around the ceiling. Below each picture of the President and beneath the folds in the draped streamers of red, white and blue where the picture was not hung were baskets of ferns, while the under side of the great steel trusses, from the bunting to the backs of the seats, was covered with tastefully arranged palms.

The first applause to the incoming delegates was a ripple of handclaps from the gallery given to Senator Allison, of Iowa. Senator Dooliver, of Iowa, came strolling down the centre aisle shortly after Senator Allison had taken his seat, and the men from Iowa in the gallery broke out into applause a second time. Senator Allison acknowledged his reception with a smile and a bow, but the junior Senator apparently did not realize that he was being honored, for he turned his back on his friends in the gallery while they were still applauding him and walked slowly back to the seats in the Iowa section. Throughout the time between the opening of the doors and that set for the formal opening of the convention an orchestra in a stand raised high above the gallery at the south end of the hall played patriotic music and popular airs of the day.

Chauncey M. Depew received a hearty welcome as he came through the main entrance on the west side of the building. Close behind the New-York Senator came the senior Senator from Illinois, Shelby M. Cullom. The men from Illinois who were in the balcony did not see him, and, although efforts were made to attract their attention, they were not successful, and, save for a slight handclapping from those on the main floor who knew him, Senator Cullom sought the seats of the Illinois delegation without greeting.

SPEAKER CANNON WELCOMED.

Following closely behind Senator Cullom and Senator Depew came Speaker Cannon, a black felt hat jammed down on his head. He wandered back and forth in the broad aisle in front of the platform without attracting attention, except for a few handshakes from Washington friends. When he removed his hat the recognition by the galleries was instantaneous, and the Speaker was warmly greeted by the people in the balconies and the delegates.

By 11:45 each entrance to the floor of the great hall was pouring in a stream of delegates. They came quietly, few delegations arriving in a body. Mingling with the strains of the band was a great hum of conversation, but there was no disorder. The floor filled rapidly, but the spectators were slower, and ten minutes before the hour set for the presiding officer's gavel to fall there was a wilderness of vacant chairs in the great balconies.

A few minutes before 12 o'clock the Coliseum resounded with a burst of applause. It was the greeting to Henry C. Payne and Elihu Root, the temporary chairman. They proceeded at once to the platform.

APPLAUSE FOR FAIRBANKS.

When Senator Fairbanks entered the hall at the head of the Indiana delegation there was loud applause. A smile lit up the face of the Senator as, amid round-around of applause and the first cheers to be heard, he worked his way to the seats of the Indiana delegation, near the platform.

When the hands of the big clock over the main entrance marked 12 o'clock the floor was filled, but the galleries held not more than half their capacity. Another prominent arrival at this moment was ex-Governor Black of New-York. The Alaska delegation, carrying totem poles mounted with American eagles, attracted attention and were greeted with applause.

Some difficulty was experienced in seating the