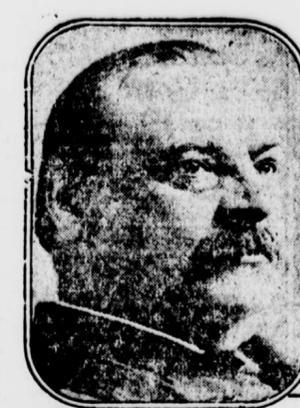


TURMOIL MARKS THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVASS

Features of the Contest in the Two Parties and the Outlook at the National Conventions—Points of Resemblance Between Col. Roosevelt and Col. Bryan—Lessons of Former Presidential Battles



GROVER CLEVELAND.



WILLIAM MCKINLEY.



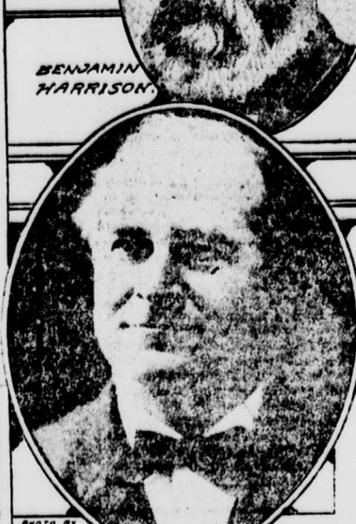
ALTON B. PARKER



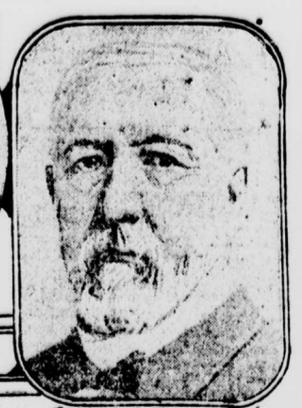
PRESIDENT TAFT



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



WILLIAM J. BRYAN



JAMES G. BLAINE.

THE most thoughtful politicians one meets in travelling about the country, especially in Washington, incline to the conviction that the approaching national conventions are to mark a crisis in the political history of both parties.

In many respects the old order is passing away. The calm that followed the result of a national election twenty-five years ago has given place to continued political agitation.

With the advent of William J. Bryan in 1896 the political turmoil began. It was continued with renewed vigor after Theodore Roosevelt was elected President in 1904.

But the country has proceeded right on its way to greater development and greater wealth, for wherever you will in any State and it is the opinion of business men that notwithstanding any crisis that may develop in the political history of the two parties at Chicago and Baltimore the country will proceed on its way to still greater development and still vaster wealth.

Speaking specifically, not a few Republicans believe that Col. Roosevelt has started on a career which in effect and purpose is to resemble Col. Bryan's career in the Democratic national party.

Col. Roosevelt has also grown fat and wealthy from his connection with the Republican party. His party has given him numerous offices besides nominations and elections as Governor of New York State, Vice-President and President of the United States.

In any event the careers of Bryan and Roosevelt are essentially analogous, especially at the present time. No two men of either party from the organization of the Democratic and Republican parties until now have been more honored by their parties than Bryan and Roosevelt, and both are now pursuing a course which, in the opinion of experienced statesmen, can produce no good result for either party.

There is every promise that the conventions at Chicago and Baltimore are to be record breakers in turmoil, friction, misunderstandings, assertions of treachery and disputes of the most violent nature. All these preliminaries will appear first in the meetings of the national committees which determine the contestants and make up the temporary rolls of the conventions.

Should Col. Roosevelt fail to gain control of the Republican national committee at Chicago, Col. Bryan himself cannot capture the Democratic national committee at Baltimore. That fact is already known. But by combinations among the delegates he may be able to prevent any Democrat to whom he is personally opposed from securing the necessary two-thirds vote in the convention to nominate a candidate for the Presidency.

largely attended as those of former years. In the old days, twenty-five and more years ago, an audience, or rather an attendance in the convention city of 50,000 was not considered surprising.

As time goes on it is the opinion that the national conventions of the two parties will in point of numbers be practically made up of the delegates and alternates. They will resemble, the political prophets declare, the first conventions of the Republican party and the Democratic party which nominated candidates in civil war days.

Passing over the first conventions of the Republican party which nominated John C. Fremont and Abraham Lincoln, and passing also over those which nominated Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes and James A. Garfield, a few incidents of particular moment which occurred in later conventions may not be uninteresting at this time.

As a preliminary consideration of the Tilden-Hayes election in 1876 will disclose how quickly parties may be revived in the estimation of the people. In that year Tilden came within an ace of being elected by the Democrats. This was practically only ten years after the civil war closed.

Tilden conducted his campaign on a tariff for revenue issue, the same issue on which Cleveland failed to oppose himself in 1884 and in 1892, and it is this same issue upon which the Democratic national party now proposes to go before the country.

The mighty struggle in 1884 between James G. Blaine, the Republican candidate for President, and Grover Cleveland, the Democratic candidate, is still remembered by many of the present generation. Blaine had been the idol of his party. He was one of its foremost orators. He had been Speaker of the House of Representatives and a Senator for Maine.

For years and years he had been on the most intimate terms with the great men of his party like Edwin D. Morgan, William M. Everts, George William Curtis, William H. Seward, Simon Cameron, Emory A. Sterrs, John W. Forney, Joseph Benson Fomker, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Thomas C. Platt, Dwight M. Sabin, William Pitt Kelllogg, George F. Hoar, Gen. James S. Clarkson, Preston B. Plumb and William Walter Phelps. His long experience in public life had been marked by many violent quarrels.

In the closing days of the campaign the late Rev. Dr. Burchard visited Mr. Blaine at the Fifth Avenue Hotel with a delegation of clergymen. In addressing Mr. Blaine he said in effect that the party opposed to him represented the party of "rum, Romanism and rebellion."

A representative of the Democratic national committee was present and heard Dr. Burchard's remark. It was quickly flashed over the country and aroused bitter antagonism, especially on the part of many Republicans who hitherto had been wavering.

Cleveland carried New York State by 1,018 votes. The Empire State was the pivotal State in that campaign. That little plurality, which has been explained from a dozen different standpoints, gave Cleveland 210 votes in the Electoral College to Blaine's 182.

President Cleveland brought upon himself the bitter enmity of many politicians of his party by demonstrating to the people that he believed in the Democratic party was on trial in the nation and that it should devote itself to policies which would in the end prove that the Democratic party could be trusted with the nation's affairs and because he subordinated patronage to the higher purpose.

President Cleveland on the eve of the national campaign of 1888 insisted on the Mills tariff law. The late William C. Whitney, the late Arthur Pue Gorman, both of whom had taken an energetic and intelligent interest in the campaign of 1884, endeavored to dissuade President Cleveland from forcing that tariff law at the time, believing that it should go over until after the national election.

In due time Benjamin Harrison was nominated by the Republicans to oppose Cleveland. The late Senator John Sherman of Ohio at the start was Harrison's most formidable rival. The delegations were much split between half a dozen other candidates. The purpose of this arrangement, it has been frequently

declared, covered a lingering hope that James G. Blaine, then in Scotland, would consent to become a candidate. Mr. McKinley's Appeal. Day after day the delegates awaited word from Blaine. During the voting an incident occurred which was referred to only yesterday by way of calling attention to the contrast between the present attitude of Col. Roosevelt toward President Taft.

It is known that on several occasions a number of leading Democrats have repeated Mr. Blaine's remark to Col. Bryan, but the response was not what they desired. President Harrison behaved to the leading politicians of his party very much as President Cleveland had treated the Democrats on the patronage question.

Some of the delegates in this convention have been pleased to give me their votes. I am not insensible of the honor which they would do me or of the confidence which their action implies, but I cannot with honor longer remain silent. I cannot, gentlemen of this convention, consistently with the credit of the State, whose credentials I bear and which has trusted me—I cannot consistently, with honorable fidelity to John Sherman, who has trusted me in his cause with his confidence; and above all I cannot with my sense of personal integrity permit my name to be used in this convention.

of a silver heresy. This took possession of a good part of the Democratic as well as the Republican party. There had been rumblings of it for several years. Then Cleveland was confronted with a bold issue, a legacy from the Harrison administration, and this was followed by the Wilson tariff law, which President Cleveland described as perfidious and dishonorable, but which he allowed to become a law without his signature.

It was during Cleveland's first administration that William J. Bryan became a Congressman from Nebraska. Bryan was first elected on a tariff reform issue. He was reelected principally on the silver issue. By the time, in 1893, when the national conventions were to be held, the silver issue had become practically dominant in the Democratic party.

The fight put up by eminent Republicans, especially those from New York State led by the late Thomas C. Platt, for the gold standard in the Republican national convention of that year is too familiar to require repetition here. They won and McKinley was nominated, even though a hundred delegates who advocated silver, led by Henry M. Teller of Colorado, Fred T. Dubois of Idaho, Frank J. Cannon of Utah, Charles A. Hartman of Montana, Richard E. Pettigrew of South Dakota and A. C. Cleveland of Nevada and others, left the convention.

The late Gov. Altgeld of Illinois and other Democrats who believed in silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 had been grooming Bryan as the Democratic Presidential candidate. But J. Sterling Morton, Secretary of the Interior in Cleveland's Cabinet, captured the Nebraska delegation. Bryan turned up in the convention city at the head of a contesting delegation.

The national committee recommended the late David B. Hill of New York as temporary chairman of the convention. A minority of that committee recommended the late John W. Daniel of Virginia and took the fight to the floor of the convention and Hill was unseated. By that victory the silver men gained control of the committee on credentials and Bryan and his contestants from Nebraska were seated.

By the time the convention opened with the electrical but borrowed phrase, "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns [a gold standard]; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold," practically won him the nomination. The author of this famous remark was Representative Samuel W. McCall, Republican of Massachusetts.

Bryan traversed the country. McKinley remained at his home in Canton. The country became alarmed over Bryan's activities and oratory. Thousands of Democrats deserted Bryan on the 16 to 1 issue. They declared that they objected to the ratio as it did not represent the commercial ratio between the two metals at the time. Many of the deserters of that day have not rejoined the Democratic party, and will not rejoin it, they assert, if Bryan is to continue to sway its destinies.

As in 1884 the Republicans helped the Democrats to win the Presidency, so in 1896 the Democrats aided in bringing about the election of McKinley. The Spanish war was the first great problem confronting McKinley. He made Bryan a Colonel of Volunteers, and Col. Bryan served in Florida. The Republican party adopted the gold standard and the Dingley Tariff law, and McKinley was renominated in 1900 without the slightest opposition.

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carried out McKinley's policies, although he took no steps to put into effect McKinley's dying utterance concerning the tariff. Neither did he do this after his election in 1904.

So far as the Democrats were concerned in their convention that year, Col. Bryan said he would step aside and not oppose the Eastern or conservative wing of his party in nominating a candidate for the Presidency. Alton B. Parker resigned his place as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of New York State to take the nomination. Although Col. Bryan has frequently declared his fidelity to the candidate of his party that year, the election returns, which overwhelmingly defeated Parker, disclosed remarkable discrepancies in Democratic territories which had been very favorable to Bryan in his two campaigns.

President Roosevelt in the Republican national convention of 1908 was responsible for the nomination of President Taft. The two men had been on most intimate terms for many years. President Roosevelt on all occasions spoke of Taft's capabilities for the office and extolled Candidate Taft to the skies. All this is too recent history to call for further repetition.

Col. Roosevelt by easy stages became antagonistic to President Taft and has bitterly assailed the President. This has in a recent publication given a number of the causes for the differences between them. Col. Roosevelt's friends now assert that in that article one cause for Roosevelt's criticisms of Taft was overlooked. It concerns the suit of Attorney-General Wickersham against the United States Steel Corporation.

In the papers filed at Trenton by Special Attorney Dickinson, who had been Secretary of War in Taft's Cabinet, there are references to the taking over of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company by the Steel Corporation in the panic days of 1907, which was done after representatives of the Steel Corporation had conferred with President Roosevelt in the White House. President Roosevelt gave his consent to that transaction, and has since remarked that if he were confronted with a similar situation he would repeat his conduct, and he has added: "I assume full responsibility for that act." The papers filed at Trenton, Col. Roosevelt's friends assert, attempt to belittle him and to apologize for him as little short of an ignoramus.

As a matter of fact Gen. Dickinson's brief has been severely criticized by all classes of Republicans, who have asserted that it is little short of a political stump speech faintly disguised as a legal document. When President Taft learned that Col. Roosevelt was aggrieved over Gen. Dickinson's utterances he informed his intimates in Washington that he was in Chicago at the time the papers were filed at Trenton and had no knowledge of their contents. Col. Roosevelt's friends, replying to this disclaimer, aver that the President of the United States was in duty bound to be familiar with the contents of legal documents of such importance and that Attorney-General Wickersham and his special attorney, Mr. Dickinson, should have presented those papers to President Taft before they were filed.

At the Democratic national convention of 1908 the Eastern or conservative wing of the Democratic national party decided to be as gracious to Bryan as the latter was to them in the convention of 1904. There was the completest and profoundest harmony on both the candidate and the platform. No policy of Col. Bryan's was too drastic for the Eastern Democrats to accept. They decided to let Col. Bryan have his own way in everything and to unite in every effort to bring about his election, and there has been no hint of dereliction on their part. But Bryan went down to inglorious defeat for the third time. He has since frequently remarked in personal conversations: "I am convinced now that I cannot get enough votes to elect me President." He has declared over and over again that he is not a candidate for a renomination in the approaching convention at Baltimore. But he is busily engaged in putting the crossness on Democrats to whom he is personally opposed and assigning reasons for his opposition to their nomination which are resented by many Democrats.

Most Democratic authorities with whom you speak do not fail to express the opinion that Col. Bryan in view of his own three defeats is not particularly complacent over the prospect of the election of a Democrat for President other than himself.

In the approaching Presidential battle the national committees of the two contending parties will not have by now, the campaign funds of previous years. National legislation will prevent the great campaign funds of 1892, 1896, 1904 and 1908. Many Republicans in different parts of the country who are considered experts in political matters do not believe that President Taft can be reelected, and they add that if Col. Roosevelt wrests the nomination from Taft he will be overwhelmingly defeated; that is, if Gov. Harmon of Ohio is nominated by the Democrats, for it is Republican testimony of the moment that if Harmon is nominated by the Democrats and Roosevelt is nominated by the Republicans the national campaign will resemble that of 1884, when the Republicans helped to elect Cleveland over Blaine.

CHANCES OF WRITER OF PHOTO PLAY PLOTS

According to one authority there are five men in the United States who are making both ends meet by writing photo plays. This is in addition to the regular writers who are employed on salary in the various studios.

The market of the writer of photo plays is somewhat limited. There are only about thirty photo play studios which offer the open market to the writer who can invent new plots and there are only about seventy-five photo plays released every week. Of these plays the majority are manufactured by the studio writers, who know better than the outsider the requirements of their particular studio.

And yet the plots come in. Nobody knows the number of ambitious writers who are inventing weird and wonderful dramas and wasting time and postage upon plots without a chance of being accepted. Magazine editors estimate that 90 per cent. of the manuscripts offered are absolutely unavailable. The proportion is probably equalled in the photo play industry. The editor of one studio receiving an average of 400 manuscripts a week said recently that in two weeks he had read six photo plays that fulfilled the requirements of his studio. The rest were not worth the time wasted in opening the envelopes. And yet the plots come in and yet the same editor is advertising everywhere that his studio is ready and anxious to receive photo plots and to pay well for those accepted.

To the writer who can produce the goods there is a future in the moving pictures. The amateur is attracted into the craft by advertisements saying that "from \$10 to \$100" is paid for photo play dramas. If he is lucky enough to have a manuscript accepted he may receive a check for \$15. If he is wise he will accept the \$15. The average paid to the beginner is seldom higher, and \$15 is generally three times as much as the plot is worth to the producer.

In many instances it is merely a retainer for the future. If the beginner persists long enough to learn the technical tricks of photo play writing, and shows imagination and an instinct for plot and dramatic values of the type needed in "canned drama," he has served his apprenticeship and his name will be found on the list kept by many studios of writers whose work merits a reading. His manuscripts will receive more consideration, and his checks will be more frequent and of the chief of mine.

But competition is changing conditions, both for the better and the worse. Many studios call for certain requirements in plot and action which do not meet the needs of other studios. A writer who can fulfill these requirements may get \$40 and more for his stories, and may see his name printed upon the film besides. This sounds alluring on paper, but there are drawbacks. Stories made to fit certain studios are unavailable elsewhere except by revising them from the beginning, and revising a photo play drama is often as difficult as inventing a new one.

Then a picture producer may be buying comedy-to-day and declining drama and "Western stuff." To-morrow his comedy director may be overstocked with stories, and the manager of the Western branch studio at Los Angeles may telegraph frantically to headquarters for cowboy stories. The photoplay writer gets no warning of the change, and by the time he finds it out conditions may have changed again.

Not long ago one writer was invited to send "cowboy stuff" to a California studio making a specialty of that brand of photoplay with the promise of manifest reward. The first experiment submitted there was but one-fitted the specifications so neatly, according to the editor of the company, that he had passed it on to the studio directors with

emphatic approval. Several weeks later the manuscript came back with an apologetic letter stating that the concern was only in the market for "two reel" dramas requiring different treatment altogether.

The trade papers are curing this evil. One weekly has a page filled each week with news of the needs of the studios. If a certain studio is temporarily out of the market or stories, the writer has an opportunity to find it out without waiting for his next experiment to come back with a printed note giving the information.

It may be asserted that a good photo play plot will always sell. The story must be reasonably novel, with swift and logical action and a natural and forceful climax. A strong motif and the ever popular heart interest are essential preliminaries to a check and something must happen from start to climax. The locale may be anywhere. Nine-tenths of the cowboy pictures produced are made in the real West and not along the Palisades. There are exceptions, but the average Western play is made within fifty miles of Los Angeles. Most manufacturers have several companies in the field. One New York concern has five: two in the East, two in California and one enacting stories of the Bible in Palestine. Making means the ability to work out a new and interesting succession of events in the life of an imaginary character and of submitting the story to a check and something must happen from start to climax. The locale may be anywhere. 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