

## WAITERS WILLING TO PLAY FAIR BEFORE STRIKING.

Rumors of a waiters' strike in the big hotels, which have been flying around for the past few days, were discredited yesterday by Ben Parker, head of the Waiters' union. Parker says he has been having a hard time lately to keep out of the traps set for him by the big hotels, and he prophesied trouble in the near future.

"The bosses would like to have a strike during convention week," said Pres. Parker. "But we are going to await the result of a conference between the officials of the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Hotel and Restaurant Keepers' ass'n before we take any action.

"They have deliberately tried to run us into a strike. They know a strike at this time would not be successful because public sympathy would be on their side. They are making money, but so are the waiters, and by the time the two conventions are over Chicago waiters will be able to stand a long, hard strike."

Recently two hotels have granted the requests of the union. They are the Morrison and the Planters, and, while both have been prevented from signing the agreement because of their membership with the Hotel Keepers' ass'n, they have granted wage increases and remedied many conditions. Harry Moir, Hotel Morrison, told the waiters he'd give them anything in reason they wanted. After they had completely organized the hotel they protested against having to pay 5 cents for a cup of coffee whenever they wanted it.

"Just to show you how fair he was to us," said Parker, "he now gives us free coffee and whipped cream on it. We brought Moir around to us by having Pres. Gompers move over to the Hotel Planters."

The coming conference will decide whether or not Chicago is to see a gigantic waiters' strike this fall. The waiters' union is now one of the

strongest organizations in the city and has clubrooms and headquarters occupying four floors of a building at Madison and Clark sts. The union now has 1,500 members. Sixty-seven dry restaurants have been signed up during the past three weeks and now the officials of the organization are determined to make the wet restaurants and loop saloon-keepers grant union conditions and union wages.

## CONVENTION BITS

The Bull Moosers always shut their mouths and listen when Victor Murdock starts to talk. His hair is red and curly. So is everything he says.

T. R.'s sec'y, John McGrath, has a mop of short, scared hair, which gives him the appearance of being in a state of perpetual astonishment.

Henry Ford's boys from Michigan got out of the trenches and into the Hughes bandwagon after the first ballot.

During the epidemic of Fairbanks boomers on candidates' row last night there were so many red lanterns about that one "under-the-weather" man wanted to know when they started laying gas mains on Michigan blvd.

Republican convention got up today feeling like it had been slept with by wildcats.

Nomination day only comes once every four years, but it's worse than a general offensive while it lasts. And the aftermath is worse than a souse headache.

It is an awful strain on the American flag and the English language. Every adjective, superlative, exclamation point, colon, dash and period used was sent to the emergency hospital. This morning they were reported out of danger, but suffering horribly from shock.

Chairman Harding got up early to smooth off his voice and disposition with a rat-tail file.