

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

AMONG the advantages of living in the United States, the politicians say, must be included the chance of being elected a delegate to one of the great national conventions. There are doubtless many in the land who look forward to becoming either president or delegate, believing it to be for the well being of their country and the benefit of posterity. The president, as every one knows, is the foremost citizen of the republic, and a delegate to a national convention, though "clothed with a little brief authority," is a man of no mean importance before and during a great session of possible president makers.

This time the great quadrennial event, the twelfth in the history of the

other average citizen of the last century was when General Grant's Washington's farewell of his army to be his last appearance in the arena of public affairs. With all due respect for the politicians, it may be stated as an axiom that no national convention can exist and fulfill its proper functions without a mighty attendant noise and commotion. Another is that it must be waited upon by the best citizens of the city in which it is held, who are supposed to welcome with joy this self imposed obligation and to humbly bow the knee before his highness the politician and carry out his behests.

The late lamented Petroloum V. Nasby once advised President Andrew Johnson, when he had under contemplation the bestowal of a postmastership at the

was rejected by the people at the polls, yet in 1872, when General Grant was nominated for re-election, he was returned to the presidential chair. At the time of Fremont's nomination conditions were not favorable for a pronounced antislavery man, and in the election that ensued the intrepid "Pathfinder" was beaten by James Buchanan, with 1,890,000 votes opposed to his 874,000.

But when the second Republican convention met at Chicago, May 16-18, 1850, Abraham Lincoln was nominated and later elected on a platform which "denied the authority of congress, of a territorial legislature or of any individuals to give legal existence to slavery in any territory of the United States." Fremont had been nominated on the first

When two delegates were sent to notify Lincoln of his nomination, he thanked them in a few words and then said, looking at one of them, "Kelley, you're a pretty tall fellow; you must be as tall as I am; let's measure." From his manner it seemed that he was better satisfied to find he was two inches taller than Kelley than to learn of his nomination.

The third national Republican convention, at which Lincoln was renominated, with Andrew Johnson as his running mate instead of Hannibal Hamlin, was held at Baltimore, June 7 and 8, 1854.

Four years later, at Chicago, May 20, 21, 1858, Grant was unanimously nominated on the first ballot.

In 1872, June 5, 6, Philadelphia a sec-

ination, polling 234½ votes on the first ballot, his chief competitors being President Arthur and Senators Edmunds and Logan. On the second ballot the Blaine vote rose to 249, on the third to 375 and on the fourth to 541, when the nomination was, as usual, made unanimous, with John A. Logan as nominee for the vice presidency.

In 1858, June 19-23, the Republican convention was again held in the city of Chicago, with 14 candidates in the field. On the first ballot the votes stood: Sherman, 225; Gresham, 111; Depew, 93; Alger, 84; Harrison, 83. On the eighth ballot, John Sherman had 118, Alger, 109; Benjamin Harrison 54, and accordingly the last named became the party's candidate.

At Minneapolis, in 1892, June 7-10, Benjamin Harrison was renominated, with Whitelaw Reid as nominee for the vice presidency.

Just four years ago, June 15-19, 1896, the last previous national Republican convention met in St. Louis, that city having been a successful bidder for the honor, and nominated William McKinley of Ohio, who received a majority on the first ballot.

As the most recent of the national Republican conventions and as eminently typical of them all, the schedule of the proceedings in St. Louis may be taken as a precedent for what will occur in Philadelphia. First of all, there are the national and local organizations, which are expected to work together in harmony, though, as has been said by an old stager, while organization is the life of any political party, the grandest feature of a national convention is that it runs itself. Still there is a temporary chairman,

waukee. He has already taken possession and set his little army at work, and from his previous experience as assistant sergeant-at-arms in the conventions of 1888, 1892 and 1896 it is predicted that the best results may be expected. Not that this statement means that everybody applying for tickets to the convention will succeed in getting them, nor that there will be no disgruntled members, for it is a matter of record that the position of sergeant-at-arms is one of the most difficult to fill in the long category of offices whose rewards are purely honorary and sought for some reason known only to the incumbents. But they are supposed to result in an increment of political experience which will lead up to other and better things later on or raise them in the estimation of the party. Yet from whatever motive the position is accepted, there is no doubt at all that it is most onerous and that the incumbent is entitled to whatever he may gain in future rewards.

One of the problems of the sergeant-at-arms and his men, headed by the veteran Colonel Swords of New York, will be to accommodate some 10,000 visitors with only 2,000 seats at command. The city in which the convention is held has the first claim, and at the last one St. Louis modestly preferred a request for 3,500, while the state of Ohio alone wanted 23,000. It is the necessary "horizontal reduction" of claims from party men that will cause pain to the sergeant-at-arms and his adjutants, while the opinion in which they will be held by the disappointed ones will not be large enough to be worth mentioning. There is always a big discrepancy between the seating capacity of

rooms of prominent politicians, managers, candidates and their influential friends. With the wires all loaded with the pens of private secretaries scribbling and important officials dictating messages for which an anxious country is supposed to be aghast, it may be for a brief period an important center of business.

Perhaps it may be said of this convention, as it was declared of another and undervalued by the Republicans and was accepted by the Democrats and was assured as any thing well could be. Last year the presidential possibilities were McKinley, Reed, Allison, Martin and Harney; but this year, while there may be "favorite sons" and "dark horses," political fences to mend and eminent leaders to placate, the successful candidates will without doubt be the one or two mentioned above. This fact has only almost superficially to mention it.

As a fair criterion for what will occur at Philadelphia, the transactions of St. Louis in 1896 may be cited in evidence. The hour at last had arrived when the chairman uttered the momentous words, "Gentlemen, the order of the states for the roll call candidates for nomination." The secretary then proceeded to call the roll alphabetically, and the first to respond was Mr. Baldwin of Iowa, who placed in nomination a favorite son, Senator Allison, in an impassioned speech, concluding thus: "Nominate him, and he will not let you down. He will lead you over, his name will fall like millstones upon your ears. He will lead you west to the east, carrying on his back the songs of our countrymen, only to be lost in the roar of our factories. Nominate him, and when our corn grows gold in the fields, our flocks teeming and our herds full, every spindle will be turning day and night upon the Meridian." The singer, he was not nominated, nevertheless.

It stands for Maine, at the mention of which stood forth Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, who after a lengthy eulogy of the man he was about to nominate, continued: "He is the leader of our people. We know it because we have seen him lead. . . I have the honor, the very great honor, to present to you as a candidate for your nomination the speaker of the house of representatives, Thomas B. Reed of Maine." (Resounding applause.) Now, perhaps, Mr. Reed, private citizen, can appreciate with a "resounding applause" ringing in his ears the humor, if not the irony, of the situation.

It availed not that the genial Democrat with persuasive eloquence and made an implied threat that if he were ignored the Empire State might not be found solidly in the Republican column. The delegates were awaiting the next letter to N, and when Ohio was called eagerly assented to the proposition of Senator Foraker, who told them the people want a good Republican; they want something more than a wise, patriotic statesman. . . and I stand here to present to the convention such a man. His name is William McKinley.

The tremendous uproar that then ensued, showing the approval of the delegates, the chairman was unable to check, and at last gave up in despair while the volumes of cheers swelled to a hurricane of sound that drowned out even the music of the band, the vast multitude joining in with stamping of feet to the rhythm of the tune. Endeavor as they may, the delegates of 1900 cannot raise a bigger rouser than did those of 1888 when McKinley's name was mentioned as a presidential probability. In seconding the nomination Senator Thurston indulged himself in prophecy, which he may now proudly point to. "This is the year of the people," he said. "From ocean to ocean from lake to gulf, they are united as never before." It is possible that he might like to say now, as confidently as he did then: "We know their wishes and are to register their will. This is the year of the people. In their second second the nomination of their great champion, William McKinley, not the favorite son of any state, but the favorite son of the United States, not as a concession to Ohio, but as an added honor to the nation."

And then: "The next order of business is the call of the roll of states for nomination of a candidate for president. The sergeant-at-arms will call the states and the gentlemen will please take their seats." After this had been done and the confusion had somewhat subsided the chair announced: "The following votes have been cast: For William McKinley, 461½." He got further then, for the cheers and yells that followed were supplemented by the roars of a hundred gun salutes which drowned his voice completely.

The perfunctory, cut and dried conventionalism which always goes with a convention doubtless will be present in Philadelphia, for vast numbers will always carry and begot enthusiasm and present; all the hotels are filled to overflowing, even to coits in the corridors. The morning of the first day, Tuesday, June 15, will be devoted to excursions to points of interest, and the afternoon to the appointment of committees, settling of details, etc., preliminary to the transfer of authority from the temporary to the permanent chairman. On Wednesday the convention will go into regular session, and the platform will be enunciated and perhaps the candidates presented, much depending upon the character of the proceedings.

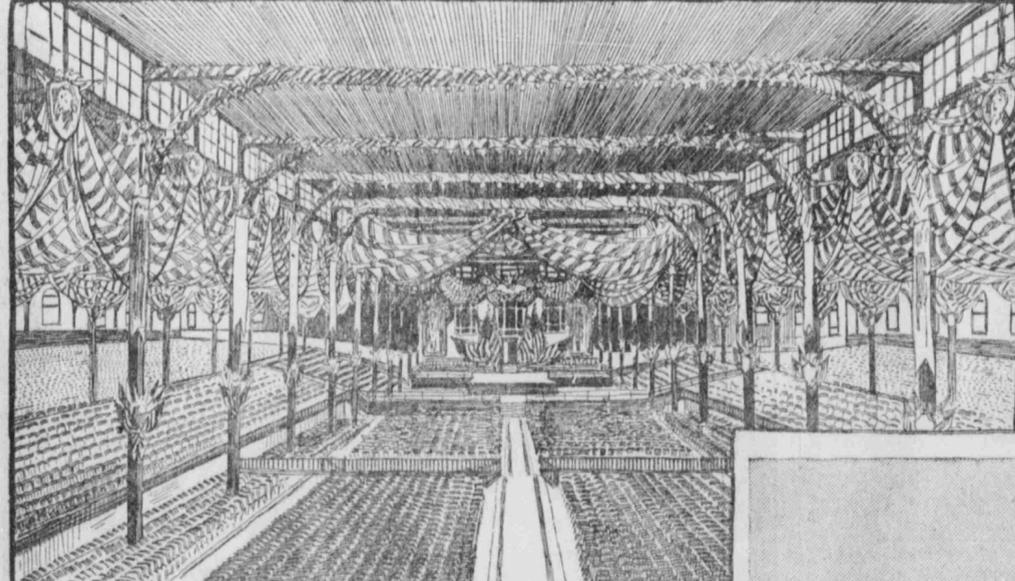
But all are agreed that from every point of view the Republican national committee has been "singularly happy" in its selection of Philadelphia for the convention, which, it is believed, will be one of the most memorable in the party's history.

TRUMAN L. ELTON

THE ARMY MARCHING STEP.
An interesting statement has been published by a French army doctor to the effect that the regularity of the marching step in the army has a deleterious effect upon the health, even the strongest soldiers. Indecisive regularity causes the indigestion which occurs in the ordinary irregular march. As a preventive of this shock he suggested the attachment of a rubber heel to all military boots, made in the experience of a now being made in the French army, to the undoubted relief of the soldiers.

his home in Harpswell, Me., recently. He is in excellent health and is able to read without glasses, but is very hard of hearing. He attends to his farm chores daily and preaches two sermons every Sunday.

Joaquin Miller, the poet, is down at the San Francisco directory as "Miller, Joaquin, fruit farmer," which he really is by way of amusement.



The Convention Hall



Photo by Rice.
HENRY CABOT LODGE, PERMANENT CHAIRMAN.

Republican party, begins officially June 19 in the city of Philadelphia, which, true to political traditions that all national political conventions must be provided for in the most magnificent manner and be housed accordingly, has bestirred itself to eclipse every other of like character within the memory of man.

In the first place, it pledged itself, through its public spirited citizens, to raise \$100,000, and this it has done. It promised to furnish a building amply sufficient to accommodate the delegates and their alternates—more than 1,800 in number—together with floor and gallery space for 10,000 more; and this also it has done. The last stroke of the hammer and the last dab of the painter's brush have already been applied, and the great "Expo exposition building," an object of space and beauty, awaits the coming of the crowds.

Twelve thousand persons in the aggregate, and this including "rooters," reporters, artists, telegraph operators, messengers and hangers on in general. There is a stage to accommodate 1,000 eminent visitors, with a platform in front of it for 1,200 newspaper men, an auditorium for seating the 1,300 and odd delegates and alternates, with space around and galleries above for the remainder, consisting mainly of spectators.

If the average citizen for a moment imagines that a national convention, be it Republican or Democratic, is going to hide its head under a bushel, he will find himself as greatly mistaken as that

Confederate X roads, to withhold the priceless gift as long as possible. For then, said he, "assuming that you have 100 applicants for the position, you still have 100 friends; but after giving away the office you have only one—that is the postmaster." So it has been with the selection of a city for convention honors, and the fortunate recipient of political favor is envied by hundreds of others that do not draw the prize. And yet this enviable distinction comes rather high, for the original \$100,000 toward a building is only a beginning, and the total expenditure will probably not fall far short of \$250,000. But what is that, when to this city as a focal point will converge the most eminent men in Republican politics, who will not come empty handed nor without the wherewithal for providing lodging and sustenance? Not only will the thrifty business men of Philadelphia receive back a goodly portion, if not all, of what they contributed, but they will conjointly fall heirs to the valuable prestige attaching to a metropolis that has now been thrice honored as a convention city.

Philadelphia, indeed, can boast a distinction peculiarly its own, for it was in this city 41 years ago this month—June 17-19, 1859—that the first national Republican convention was held, and the party may be said to have then begun its career. If omens are to be consulted, the choosing of this city for the meeting may be looked upon as prophetic or the reverse, for while its first candidate, General John C. Fremont,

formal ballot, but Lincoln had as an opponent W. H. Seward, who received 17½ votes on the first ballot, against which were only 102 for the Rail splitter. On the second vote, however, the latter gained 79, and on the third his nomination was assured by a change of four votes of the Ohio delegation in his favor.

The Whigs had asked, "If not Seward, who then?" and Lincoln, pitting his "instinctive and ingenious politics" against Seward's trained tactics, had answered them. A few minutes after the result was announced the cannon outside the hall began to boom, and Chicago went wild—as it has done several times since on similar occasions. But Lincoln, when he received the news by wire, read the telegram in silence, then folded it up and put it in his pocket, quietly remarking, "There's a little woman down at our house who would like to hear this, and I'll run over and tell her."

reads: "From the state of New Hampshire to the battleship Kearsarge. Dedicated to justice, honor and freedom in the service of a reunited people." J. Addison Porter, who recently on account of ill health resigned as secretary to President McKinley and for several weeks has been in a sanitarium in New York, was reported to be much improved. It will be some time, however, before Mr. Porter will be able to return to active work.

President Roca of the Argentine Republic, President Erasizir of Chile, President Campos-Salles of Brazil and President Diaz of Mexico have all promised to attend the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo in 1901.

Some time ago, when it was erroneously announced that Senator Hanna

had a fibrous growth on his knee, people all over the country sent him lemons to cure the supposed trouble. Later a New York paper started a report that the Ohio boss was drinking mineral water to cure rheumatic gout, and now he is receiving water in flasks, bottles, demijohns, kegs and barrels.

Professor Albert A. Michelson of the University of Chicago is one of the few scientists who are sailors as well. The latter quality has just won him the place of commander in the Illinois naval militia and the former membership to the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Rev. Elijah Kellogg, the author of "The Elm Island" and of other widely read stories for boys, celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday anniversary at

the auditorium and the demands made, and if those who are entitled to favors get half of what they desire they should consider themselves fortunate.

The official mentioned is responsible in a measure for the expenses attendant upon the regular business, which is no small item, and besides these there will be much that is incidental, but unavoidable, as, for instance, the expense of newspaper correspondents, every journal of importance having from two to ten writers on its staff, whose salaries constitute but one item of bills, which include cash, messengers, typewriters, liquid refreshment for the ever faithful but ever thirsty hanger on who has valuable tidbits of information, and, lastly, the long columns of news to be wired regardless of expense. During the press of business it is calculated the telegraphic-dispatch of news matter will average anywhere from 500,000 to 1,000,000 words daily. A network of wires has been strung to the various

and the management of it to the national sergeant-at-arms, who on this occasion is Mr. G. N. Wiswell of Milwaukee.

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SOME WELL KNOWN NAMES.
Mr. William Claflin, who celebrated his eighty-second birthday recently, had, while governor of Massachusetts, the unusual honor of placing his signature to the charters of Wellesley college and Boston university. He has been a trustee of each since that date. He is an alumnus of Brown, has re-

ceived an LL. D. degree from Harvard and has also been a trustee of Holyoke college.

The inscription prepared by President William J. Tucker of Dartmouth college and accepted by the state committee for the tablet to be presented to the United States battleship Kearsarge



PRESIDENT M'KINLEY, WHO WILL BE RENOMINATED.