

DEMOCRATS GATHERING AT KANSAS CITY. THREE OCEAN GEORGS BURNED; BELIEVED 200 LIVES ARE LOST.

Arrangements for the National Convention Are Being Rapidly Completed.

Harmonious Feeling, With the Customary Differences of Opinion—Delegates Will Settle the Vice Presidential Problem.

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.
Kansas City, Mo., June 30.—In Kansas City to-day there are few delegations but a number of representative leaders. Mr. Bryan's nomination being settled, the two points of platform and the vice presidential nomination attract the chief attention.

The general sentiment is to give New York the vice presidency if that State can unite on a suitable man. Tammany persists in opposing Hill and shows no disposition to press a candidate. The New York leaders say unhesitatingly that they care more for the platform than for the vice presidency.

All the New York Democracy asks, they say, is a platform upon which the party can harmonize. They will be satisfied to accept an affirmation of the Chicago platform.

Nearly all the Western and Southern leaders now at Kansas City are willing to make such a platform. Many of them assert that they prefer that course on all grounds, holding it unwise to rewrite and again debate the Chicago platform.

Mr. Bryan's intentions on this point have not authoritatively declared. Unless he peremptorily interposes, the prevailing sentiment will control the platform.

Governor Stone is being talked of as chairman of the Committee on Resolutions. The demand for tickets of admission is immense, and the attendance next week promises to be something enormous. Kansas and Missouri will turn out in crowds.

New Yorkers say that the Sulzer boom is merely an affair of himself and a few personal friends. The vice presidency is a very open contest. No New Yorker has yet developed enough strength to be counted as the man. In other States delegates seem to be waiting on New York.

Silver Republicans do not absolutely insist on Towne and will accept any nominee that is loyal to the Chicago platform. Notwithstanding rumors to the contrary, the regular order will be preserved at the convention. The platform will be adopted before the nominations. The convention will almost certainly last three days.

MR. BRYAN'S VIEWS ON THE PLATFORM.

His Position on the Great Questions of the Coming Campaign Stated—Trusts, Bimetallism and Imperialism the Issues.

THE IDEAS THAT ALL THE work of war must be done by professional soldiers. Our example has already been an inspiration to millions. Because our forefathers fought for liberty, others have fought for liberty. Because our Declaration of Independence was promulgated, other declarations of independence have been promulgated. Because our Constitution was established, other constitutions have been established.

Not only have we set an example, but in the establishment of the Monroe Doctrine we have been able to give to smaller Republics the protection of this, the greatest Republic of history. As the nation's population, wealth and influence increase, its power to do good will increase, but to accomplish its ends it must remain true to its principles and not descend to the level of empires and monarchies.

Necessity of an Income Tax.
At present the Government can draft the citizen, but cannot draft the pocketbook. Slowly, but surely, the dollar is being exalted and the man debased. Justice in taxation must be restored.

The money question is still an issue. It is often suggested by Gold Democrats, by Republicans who oppose imperialism, and by Democrats who oppose imperialism that the Democratic party should drop the money question and make fight upon a new issue. That the money question will not be dropped is now apparent to every careful observer. How can the Democratic party fight for free and unlimited coinage, the gold standard to be destroyed?

It cannot drop the money question without turning the people over to the tender mercies of the bank presidents, who will control business conditions by controlling the money supply.

After the advocates of bimetallism had been deceived again and again by pretended friends of the dollar's standard, they found it necessary to support an honest, explicit platform, and this they did when 6,500,000 voters united in supporting a declaration for free and unlimited coinage to be put into effect without waiting for the consent of any other nation.

The Chicago platform will be reaffirmed at Kansas City. No change will be made to conciliate the Democrats who are coming back to the party.

They must not expect a single departure from the position taken by the party in 1896. First, because the position taken then was right; second, it would not be wise to alienate those who were with us in 1896 in order to please those who were then against us.

MR. METCALFE'S POSITION.

Favors a New Free Silver Plank in Platform.

Omaha, Neb., June 30.—Richard L. Metcalfe, editor of the World-Herald, who will be the Nebraska member of the Resolutions Committee at the Kansas City convention, will leave for that city Sunday night. Mr. Lincoln this afternoon, and on his return to Omaha was asked what position he would take relative to the money plank of the platform. He replied:

"I am in favor of reaffirming the Chicago platform in general; also the adoption of a plank explicitly renewing the pledge for free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1, independent of any other nation may do. Some urge that a more explicit plank relating to bimetallism be omitted. Why not omit an explicit plank relating to trusts? The Chicago platform contained an anti-trust plank. Why should the convention of 1900 be content with a mere reaffirmation of the Chicago platform so far as bimetallism is concerned, and yet adopt a specific plank relating to trusts? Some will say that because of a growth of trusts under this administration a specific anti-trust plank is necessary. That is true. It is equally true in the case of the currency."

Doubt Rather Than Disagreement About the Platform to Be Framed.

Original Free Silver Men Think It Sufficient to Reaffirm the Chicago Platform—Bryan's Wishes to Be Considered.

BY R. F. COMBS.
STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.
Kansas City, Mo., June 30.—There is doubt rather than disagreement about the platform to be adopted by the National Democratic Convention next week. Among the leaders here, as well as the rank and file, there is no disagreement worth counting. The sentiment is almost universally for a plain affirmation of the Chicago platform without repetition of the 16 to 1 plank.

The published statements of former Governor Stone of Missouri and Senator Jones of Arkansas represent the general opinion. The few Silver Republicans on the ground are the only organized dissenters, and even they are now saying that if Towne or any other advanced 16 to 1 man is nominated for the vice presidency there will be no need for a literal repetition of the Chicago plank.

While there is substantially no disagreement, there is doubt, and the doubt concerns the attitude of Mr. Bryan. It is admitted that if he positively and unambiguously insists on a specific 16 to 1 plank the convention will be disposed to follow his wishes.

So far Mr. Bryan has no spokesman here. There is nobody who can state with authority what is the presidential candidate's ultimatum, if he has one.

Both kinds of stories have come from Lincoln. Mr. Bryan is quoted by visitors as having taken the position that while he would prefer the 16 to 1 plank, he will not usurp the functions of the convention and will be satisfied as long as the Chicago platform is unequivocally affirmed. Others say that he will consent to nothing short of literal repetition.

Mr. Sulzer of New York is here hotfoot from Lincoln, and he would have it appear that the 16 to 1 plank must be repeated. But Mr. Sulzer's chief business is to make good an impossible vice presidential candidate. His statement is not necessarily with authority.

Various grounds are assigned for the wish simply to affirm the Chicago platform.

Mr. Atwood's Views.
One of the most forcible statements was made to-day by John H. Atwood of Kansas. It should be noted that Mr. Atwood is one of Bryan's closest friends and one of the most ardent of his supporters.

At Chicago, in 1896, he was working for Bryan before the convention organized. In fact he made a fight to get on the Kansas delegation especially to work for his Nebraska friend. He does not pretend to speak with authority from Bryan but from warm interest in Bryan's success.

"I prefer," said he to-day, "a simple affirmation of the Chicago platform, for the reason that it is not necessary to review the various planks of that historic declaration. There are several planks over which debate may arise. If the entire platform is to be rewritten mistakes may be made in more than one instance. I am satisfied with that platform as it stands, and would not have it debated, revised or amended."

"I and all Democrats of my kind are free silver Democrats, whose fealty has never been questioned. I am from one of the strongest free silver States in the Union. It is ridiculous to assert that a plain reaffirmation is a weakening, when such a course is advised by the original free silver men and objected to chiefly by those of later conversion who seem to fear that their fidelity may be questioned."

"Who can challenge the free silver loyalty of Senator Jones, Governor Stone, Governor Altgeld or of the many original leaders of the free silver movement, who have expressed satisfaction with a plank affirming the Chicago platform in its entirety?"

For Simple Reaffirmation.
Most of the silver Democrats of Kansas are with Mr. Atwood. Senator Harris, elected by Populist votes to the United States Senate, takes the same position. J. G. Johnson, secretary of the National Committee, views the matter as they do.

Another good example of the same sentiment is John G. Breathitt, who now lives in Arizona and is to be National Committeeman from that Territory. Mr. Breathitt was formerly Railroad Commissioner in Missouri.

"Our Democrats in the Territory," he said, "are for free silver, but they do not wish to see the Chicago platform rewritten. I will declare the ratio every day. If it will please the Democrats of any State to affirm the Chicago platform and then pass on to strong resolutions on trusts, imperialism and militarism, we Arizona Democrats will be glad to satisfy them. It is free silver victory enough to have the Chicago platform accepted as the doctrine of the whole party."

"I have heard that the Democrats of Eastern and other doubtful States believe there are better chances of success in their sections by that course. I want the party to succeed everywhere. I want Bryan to be elected. Affirmation of the whole platform is the best way to get the party together, and if it will make the party stronger in any State where victory is possible I am for it."

Lincoln. It was a common phrase among the repetition of the 16 to 1 plank will satisfy the party. He fears that anything else will result in a desire to subordinate the money question.

Old silver war horses from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas are rather nervous about the new platform. Each man like Sulzer and George Fred Williams all at once becoming the peculiar champions of silver and the hottest of platters to Lincoln. It was a common phrase among the repetition of the 16 to 1 plank will satisfy the party. He fears that anything else will result in a desire to subordinate the money question.

Another common phrase was that if all the silver States elect a little politician, they ought to have it, since the West and South have all the substance in platform and campaign. It is assumed that, unless Mr. Bryan peremptorily interposes, the platform will consist of a review of Democratic achievements and the danger men in Republican rule, with a strong affirmation of the Chicago platform and vigorous declarations on trusts and militarism.

It is the fact, however, that most of Mr. Bryan's faithful friends are either men of high party who have been rushing to see him lately may have made him apprehensive that he will be regarded by the public as a candidate for vice president. Each man like Sulzer and George Fred Williams all at once becoming the peculiar champions of silver and the hottest of platters to Lincoln. It was a common phrase among the repetition of the 16 to 1 plank will satisfy the party. He fears that anything else will result in a desire to subordinate the money question.

The situation is, therefore, that the convention will be held in a city where Mr. Bryan will force them to another.

Fire Not Extinguished.
At 2:30 o'clock this (Sunday) morning the fire is still burning brightly, and viewed from the New York side presents a brilliant spectacle. No estimate of the loss of life falls below 100.

The bodies on the dock and in the hold of the Saale will probably be recovered by divers at once, but of the dozens who jumped into the North River some will never be found at all.

During all the time the steamship Main lay at the burning docks sixteen men lived on board of her. When she was hoisted out to sea, the bodies of the men were still alive. One of them is blinded by the heat they underwent, but the rest are alive and as well as can be expected.

These sixteen were all coal passers. To-night it was announced that the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse is only scorched on the starboard side, and that she will sail on her regular schedule at 10 a. m. Tuesday.

The fire began at 2:45 p. m. At that time the pier was crowded with employees. There were at least 60 longshoremen at work on the pier and in the holds of the North German Lloyd steamers, and fully 30 other persons.

THREE OCEAN GEORGS BURNED; BELIEVED 200 LIVES ARE LOST.

Steamships Bremen, Main and Saale Were Destroyed at Their New York Piers.

Visitors, Crews and Longshoremen Pinned In by Walls of Flames and Forced to Death by Drowning—No Christian Endeavorers Were on Main and Saale, Chartered for Their Trip to Europe.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
New York, June 30.—Hundreds of persons perished by fire and water, scores more were injured, three great ocean liners were destroyed and millions of dollars in property lost in an awful fire which broke out at the greatest holocaust New York has ever known.

The fire started shortly before 4 o'clock in one of the piers of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company in Hoboken. Before those on the spot fairly realized it, five acres of piers were in flames, and the destruction of three steamships was begun.

The Saale, survivor of many misfortunes, freed from her berth at the North German Lloyd pier, drifted down the Hudson to a fiery end, carrying with her scores of helpless men, trapped in her hull.

The Bremen, built only three years ago, is now a hopeless wreck, with seventeen men, who were compelled to man the pumps and themselves from drowning, held prisoners in her hold.

It was impossible to save the new freighter Main, and she was burned at her pier. Late to-night pounding was heard on the inside of the Main. The sound came from the vessel's afterbulk, where, it is supposed, some poor fellows of her crew were cut off by the flames and left to die in this fiery furnace. There is no possible way to rescue these unfortunates to-night, as the ship is a mass of glowing steel, and so hot that the rescuers cannot approach close enough to render aid.

Flames leaped the big Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, also of the North German Lloyd Line, but she was dragged away by tugs and the fire extinguished after considerable damage had been done.

None of these vessels was insured, the company assuming all risk. At least sixty bodies are believed to be in the Saale, and many more are presumably still in the river. At the Bremen the ship's carpenter, who escaped, counted more than 100 dead.

Tugs and other craft hastened to rescue the several hundred persons imprisoned on the burning ships, but in many cases the heat drove them back, and, helpless, they saw scores of men perish before their eyes.

Hospitals in Hoboken and New York are filled with the injured, and the bodies of some of the dead are piled up in two box cars in Hoboken. Twenty-five bodies have been recovered.

The fire razed the buildings on the water front of Hoboken, adjoining the steamship piers, and the property damage is placed at \$2,000,000. As to the loss of life, estimates differ, but it is thought that not more than 200 persons perished.

The fire provided a striking spectacle, and was witnessed by half a million persons from the water front and on passing steamers.

Thirty-Seven Rescued.
Captain J. Mirou of the Saale is reported to have been burned to death in his ship, and his chief officer is also missing. Thirty-seven men were rescued from the Saale, but the boat was too great to continue the work, and the ship sank with men and women calling for help.

The chief officer of the Bremen is believed to have perished.

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The fire began at 2:45 p. m. At that time the pier was crowded with employees. There were at least 60 longshoremen at work on the pier and in the holds of the North German Lloyd steamers, and fully 30 other persons.

How many of these escaped is problematical. How many lost their lives by fire and water is mere guesswork.

The steamship officials say that at least thirty men were killed, and that three times that number. Two hundred is a fair estimate of the number of those that perished between the double decks of fire and water.

The cotton in which the fire started was piled up swathing shipment. Adjoining it was a pyramid of whisky in barrels. A pay clerk first saw the blaze and screamed a warning. Almost as if an echo to his words, the whisky exploded, casting jets of fire in all directions. With incredible rapidity the blazing spirits flooded down the piers, igniting all in its train. Horses and trucks were abandoned in the mad haste to escape.

Wild Flight for Life.
In every direction screaming men and women scampered for their lives.

On board the ships the uproar was terrific. Rushing up the sides of the pier shrouded the flames in the way outward.

The great steamers lay at the mercy of the fire. Nearly every port in their banks was opened to the onslaught of the flames. They tumbled rigging, their canvas awnings were tinder in the path. Their opened hatches yawned for the burning brands and a following explosion blew these blazing fragments into the vessels' very decks.

LEADING TOPICS

TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missouri—Partly cloudy Sunday, with warmer in central and eastern portions; probably thunderstorms Sunday night and Monday; south to east winds and squalls.
For Illinois—Partly cloudy Sunday, with showers in southern and western portions; fresh to brisk easterly winds; Monday showers.
For Arkansas—Fair and warmer Sunday; showers Monday; southerly winds.

CONVENTION FEATURES.

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PART III.

BIG BLAZE AT SIOUX FALLS.

Hotel, Bank and Business Block Were Destroyed.

Sioux Falls, S. D., June 30.—The Cataract House, the leading hotel of this city, and valued at \$60,000, was destroyed by fire to-night, together with the Hollister block, the Sioux Falls Savings Bank, Western Union Telegraph and American Express offices, Hollister's Bank and several stores. The rest of the business portion of the city was saved with difficulty. The total loss amounts to \$29,000, partially insured.

Hamilton-Brown Shoe Company's Shipments.
Shipments for June, 1900.....\$ 92,772.12
Shipments for June, 1899..... 69,552.19

Gain.....\$ 11,219.93
Shipments for 1900 up to July 1.....\$ 2,617,202.02
Shipments for 1899 up to July 1..... 2,505,982.09
Gain.....\$ 111,219.93