

SUPERB HALL FOR DEMOCRATS IN BALTIMORE

Building to House National Convention Is Well Adapted for Large Gatherings

SEATS FOR 15,000 PEOPLE PROVIDED

Arrangements for Safety and Comfort Complete—Beautifully Decorated for Meeting

BALTIMORE, June 10.—The democratic candidate for President of the United States will be nominated in a huge National General assembly situated in the residence portion of Baltimore. When this city sent its representatives before the democratic national committee to bring the national convention here the possession of an ideal convention hall was one of the strongest advantages Baltimore had to offer. Since that time, at the expense of many thousands of dollars the hall has been made to answer every requirement of the delegates who assemble here on June 25 and the Bronx that rather to watch their deliberations.

The democratic national convention will meet in the Fifth regiment armory, which occupies nearly a whole city square on the Mount Vernon district fronting on Hoffman street, and bounded by Preston street in the rear. At the top end of the square are Park and Linden avenues, both of which carry trolley lines connecting with the business center. Two squares distant is the main station of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and only a little farther, Paris's five minutes walk, is the Union station, where passengers arrive on the other railroads entering the city. Close at hand within easy walking distance, is the city's largest hotel.

It is Adapted for Conventions. When the state spent \$450,000 for this drill hall to house Baltimore's campaign, realizing the "Buckley Hall," the building was situated and designed with reference to accommodating such accommodations. Exterior embellishment was a secondary consideration. The Fifth regiment armory is surrounded by massive walls of gray granite, two stories high from which rise twelve steel trusses that carry the arched roof to a height of 85 feet. It is lighted by windows in the side walls and by a skylight that runs the whole length of the apex of the roof. From the outside the appearance of the structure is not particularly impressive, probably because the principal dimensions are lateral, and too extensive for the eye to appreciate unless the beholder could look down on the building from an elevation. The armory extends 64 feet in width on Hoffman and Preston streets and is 2 1/2 feet deep. The great drill hall inside where the convention will assemble, is 300x200 feet.

To tempt this building further to convention purposes the state appropriated \$35,000. The greater part of this sum has been spent to increase the seating capacity by putting in temporary balconies at the two ends of the drill hall decorations, which include the construction of a false ceiling to improve the acoustic properties, cost \$7,000. Several thousand dollars has been spent in the construction of the speakers' platform, on seats, and on remodeling the military company quarters at the sides and ends of the building for use as committee rooms.

As one enters the hall through the main gateway on Hoffman street the eye first is impressed by the magnificent distances and the seemingly endless vistas of seats. Under the hands of the decorators the place has lost its military, utilitarian look, transformed by the more than 40,000 yards of bunting that hides the roof beams, drapes the walls and covers practically every foot of the interior except the windows and floor space. The background is a soft effect of cream, gold and white, which makes an effective setting for the national colors displayed in countless arrangements, and the insignia and colors of the various states.

Will Seat 15,000.

The seating arrangements here are the result of long study on the architect's part, aided by the practical experience of men versed in the practical problems of great conventions. This hall will seat comfortably 15,000 persons, and those in charge of its preparation believe they have worked out their problem so that every member of this great audience can command a view of the speakers' stand and understand what is being said. To bring this about the location of the speakers' platform was the matter of first importance.

In the Baltimore hall the speakers will stand well out toward the middle of the auditorium, directly opposite the main central entrance, midway between the ends of the hall and about 50 feet, or more than one-third the distance, from the rear wall of the interior. This rostrum, the heart of the convention hall, is not large enough to permit much jacting about on the orator's part. It measures about 15 feet long by ten feet deep. It is elevated six feet above the main floor.

Arrangements for the Press. Back of the rostrum, two feet above it and communicating by steps, is another platform of the same size for the use of the secretaries of the convention. Back of this are 600 seats banked at the rear to a height of

PRETTY SOON NOW



The Roosevelt campaign song has made its appearance. It is called "Today's Bulldog," and is in the tone of "Casey Jones." Here are the opening stanzas:
Today's gotta dawg, but he ain't no bound,
He's a square jawed lunk, and his face is round,
His legs is short, and his nose is to the ground,
And you can bet they ain't afraid of his howl around.

15 feet, which are reserved for the actors of the national organization. Grouped about the speakers' platform, at both sides and in front, are 435 seats for the press. These communicate through the passageways under the balcony seats behind with the company rooms outside the drill hall which have been fitted up for the use of the newspapers and press associations and telegraph and telephone companies. From these offices, within sound of the speaker's voice and the secretary's as he announces the results of each ballot, run wires that will carry the news of the convention to the world.

In front of the platform, separated only by the narrow row of press seats and an aisle are the places for the delegates who come to Baltimore to register the presidential choice of the party in the various states and territories of the union. Although the number of votes these states and territories may cast aggregate 1994, the architects have provided seats for 1,200 delegates, because some of the states, Maryland among them, send to Baltimore twice as many delegates as they have votes, each delegate being for the casting of half a vote. Back of the delegates sit an equal number of alternates, and these 2,400 seats occupy the center of the floor between the platform and the entrance. These four blocks of seats will hold much of the life and motion of the convention.

The location of the representatives of each state will be shown by an elevated sign. For convenience in handling the crowds, the convention hall seats have been divided into 76 sections, of which 49 are on the floor and the rest in the balconies. The floor will seat 10,000 and the balconies 4,000. Delecting the seats on the floor reserved for officials, delegates and alternates and the press leaves 7,220 for the public. These with the balconies make room for 11,628 seats for the accommodation of Baltimoreans and visitor who are expected by the tent-thousands from all parts of the country.

The public seats on the main floor occupy the two ends of the hall and run at right angles to the delegates' seats, so that when a speaker on the rostrum is facing the delegates the greater part of the audience will get side views of him. The great balconies thus have been added temporarily to the armory project from the ends and overhanging nearly half these end seats on the floor. These two balconies are 200 feet long by 22 feet deep. At the front and back of the hall the narrow permanent balconies have been equipped with three rows of seats that will accommodate between four and five hundred. The balconies are 12 feet above the ground floor in front and securely supported by beams of wood and steel. The two at the ends of the hall are banked so that the view from the rear seats will be unobstructed.

Plenty of Exits

To facilitate quick emptying of the building, 13 new doors have been cut in the granite walls making a total of 18. Twelve of these are for the use of those who hold tickets to the balconies, and enable the balconies to empty directly with the street. The extra doors on the ground floor are for use mainly as exits, since no difficulty is anticipated in handling all who enter through the wide entrance in the front and center of the building.

Seats for the public are reserved only by sections, which are designated by numbers and letters. The larger blocks of seats are numbered and each numbered block is divided into three sub-sections, lettered respectively "A," "B" and "C." A ticketholder who has his piece of pasteboard stamped, for instance, "35-B" will find his seat among the 132 chairs

arranged under that sub-division. These sub-divisions include from 42 to 217 seats each and the most desirable chairs in each division will go to the earliest comers.

The convention hall band will be installed on the main entrance. Space has been given for 200 music stoves. A telephone with an electric signal light connects the leader's stand with the desk of the chairman at the opposite side of the hall, so that the latter may signal his wishes. The chairman's section is connected by telephone also with the six committee rooms, which have been fitted up in the vacant company quarters at the two ends of the building.

Elaborate Decorations. No expense has been spared to beautify the interior of the hall. The principal task of the remodelers was the construction of a false ceiling which would improve the acoustic properties by preventing the 72,000 sq. ft. of ceiling from being lost among the lofty steel trusses of the curved roof. This has been accomplished by suspending from the roof beams arched ribs of wood, 1 1/2 feet apart, which have been covered with burlap. The space between these ribs is filled in with burlap so as to present an unbroken cloth ceiling which at a distance looks more permanent than its temporary use demanded. The ceiling is cream colored and paneled with gold.

The construction of the false ceiling and draping of the walls and ceilings and the installation of the "flour" pictures and party slogans which make up the interior decorations occupied 14 men for four months and cost \$7,900. Thirty-four thousand yards of cream, gold and white bunting have been used and 6,000 yards of red, white and blue. To run these stripes of cloth together six seamstresses drove their sewing machines eight hours a day for two weeks. Three hundred flags have been used.

The balcony railings are festooned with national colors and at the base of each arch descending from the roof is the insignia of some state or territory. The speaker's stand is covered with red, white and blue, with the colors and arms of the state of Maryland banded in front. Most conspicuous of the portraits that adorn the walls are paintings of Washington and Jefferson, each eight feet square and executed especially for this purpose.

A feature of these decorations which the committee in charge is particularly proud of is that every yard of bunting used has been fireproofed. The fireproofing preparation was mixed with the dye and has not changed the appearance of the cloth subjected to this process. Although the cotton cloth used in its natural state is very inflammable the fire-proofed bunting will not blaze even when thrown into the fire. The cloth will char, but only in places to which a flame is directly applied.

FREDERICTON GREET'S METHODIST DELEGATES

FREDERICTON, N. B., June 10.—Fredericton welcomed the many delegates who arrived today for the annual meeting of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Methodist conference. Committee and ministerial sessions will be held tomorrow and Wednesday. The regular conference sessions will begin Thursday and continue until next Monday.

GENERAL PLANS FOR GOOD ROADS

All Parts of the Country Are Interested in Subject and Doing Much Work

REPORTS TO A. A. A.

EL PASO, Texas, June 10.—Work will be done on 1,000,000 miles of road in different parts of the United States this year, George C. Diehl, chairman of the A. A. A. national good roads board, makes this statement, and believes it is a conservative one, for there are now 2,000,000 miles of roads in our country, one-half of which comes in for a certain amount of daily travel. In the spring report which the good roads board receives from all parts of the country, comes an unusual amount of information, indicating positive progress.

The Texas Good Roads association and the Texas State Automobile association are combining in what will be known as the farmers' run. Conditions provide that each entrant must live on a farm or ranch, own his own automobile and drive it himself. In that state the percentage of cars sold to farmers has more than doubled during the past six months.

The Nebraska State Automobile association in preparing a measure to be presented at the next session of its legislature, Ore is a provision for a highway commission, and says that there must be state aid in construction and maintenance. Another will be one permitting convicts to work on the roads, a plan which is successfully followed in some of the southern states. The Nebraskans have started their work early and say they will only support these legislative candidates who believe in up to date highways.

Arizona, through the efforts of T. G. Norris, president of the Arizona Good Roads association, is trying for an appropriation of funds to be used for improving the roads of Arizona. New Mexico is seeking a similar action. New Jersey, through the efforts of the association, has had passed through the last legislature measures which were providing for good roads. The state now assists in the building and maintenance of public highways, and by spending \$2,000,000 of the automobile money for sign-posting roads, the state commission will probably mark the truck line from Jersey City to Camden.

At a recent meeting the Idaho State Automobile association pledged the raising of a sufficient amount of money to complete the Ross/Fraser road. This will give a graded highway from Salt Lake City to Island Park and thence on to Yellowstone Park. Idaho enthusiasts now declare that the ride from Salt Lake City to Yellowstone Park is a pleasure. They are alive to the good roads movement and will continue looking for good roads.

The state of Illinois has in its treasury \$325,000 credited to the road improvement fund, which has been accumulating since 1907, \$253,000 of it having been collected since last July.

Warren Ladies Aid society will give a social at the park Wednesday evening. Ice cream and cake will be served. Music by the C. and A. band. 196

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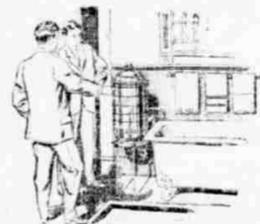
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