

ORGANIZE CLUBS.

Plan for Republican Clubs and Marching Companies.

Chairman Weaver Urges This Means of "Making Things Hum."

County Chairmen and Local Committeemen Made Responsible for Club Organization.

Marching Clubs, Both Mounted and Unmounted, with Uniforms Will Be Seen Everywhere.

Des Moines, Ia., July 30.—Chairman H. O. Weaver of the republican state committee has perfected arrangements for the organization of republican clubs in the state. He has been proceeding with great care in this matter and has taken the advice of many republicans before announcing the plan, which will be seen to be a peculiarly happy combination of the regular campaign club with the marching company, be it either mounted or unmounted. The plan agreed upon will unite the energy and working force directed by the county organization with the work of the state central committee, so that the entire organized force of the party in the state will be pulling together and there will be no occasion for conflict in arrangement at any point. It is understood that organizations already in existence will be recognized under the new regime. The League clubs that have done so much good work are to be continued the same as heretofore.

The club work will be a distinctive feature of the state campaign, having at its head an organizer of recognized ability, who will act as state president for club work and will have headquarters in the state committee rooms, with sufficient assistance to carry on the work of organizing clubs with the greatest possible efficiency throughout the state. Chairman Weaver is in correspondence with various manufacturers of uniforms and a low price will be secured on the uniform that will be recommended for use in the entire state. It will be very inexpensive, so that the cost will not deter anyone from joining the club.

The county chairman under this plan is made responsible for the county organization. He must see to it that clubs are organized in every township, and it is his duty to appoint the officers of the county organization of clubs which are to be known as regiments. This is the carrying out of the rough rider idea and will include a brigade organization for every congressional district, the officers of which will be appointed by the members of the state central committee from that district. All the usual campaign material will be supplied to clubs in profusion where it is well used. There will be nothing to waste, but plenty for those who know how to handle it. An Iowa song book will shortly be issued, which will combine the good features of campaign song books that have been used in other states. To this will be added a number of local songs especially adapted to Iowa. Literature, lithographic portraits of the candidates and in fact everything calculated to make the campaign lively will be distributed through the clubs.

Now that the plan is perfected Chairman Weaver urges the immediate organization of a republican club in every township in the state at least, and one in every voting precinct would be still better. The sooner the local organization is completed the sooner will that community begin to derive the benefit from the state organization. The state committee is powerless to do anything except through the effective agency of the local committeemen. Hence it is of the utmost importance that these become known to the state chairman at once and begin their active campaign work. The local committee and the club organizations will be in close touch with the state chairman throughout the campaign and they will be able to get an immediate reply to their correspondence.

The state headquarters will be open during the republican state convention this week and the delegates have all been invited to call at headquarters and make known their wants to Chairman Weaver and give him such information as they may have. These conferences with the party leaders in every county are of the utmost value to the man who is directing the campaign in the state. The conference of members of congress and other state leaders will be held in Des Moines about the middle of August. It was at first the intention to have this meeting on the day before the convention, but as many are unable to be here at that time and the excitement will be very intense, it is thought best not to attempt a conference on that day.

The form of club organization recommended by Chairman Weaver is as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE M'KINLEY AND ROOSEVELT CLUB OF.....

ARTICLE I.—Name and Object.

Section 1.—The name of this organization shall be the McKinley and Roosevelt Club of.....

Section 2.—The object and purpose of this club shall be to promote the success of the republican party.

ARTICLE II.—Membership.

Any person over 18 years of age, who believes in the principles of the repub-

lican party, shall be eligible to membership in this club.

ARTICLE III.—Officers.

The officers of this club shall be a president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and an executive committee of five, of which the president and secretary shall be members ex-officio. All officers shall be members of the club and shall be elected by ballot at such time as may be prescribed by the by-laws.

ARTICLE IV.—Meetings.

Section 1.—The regular meeting of this club shall be held at.....

Section 2.—Five members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or duly called meeting of the club.

ARTICLE V.—By-Laws and Resolutions.

Section 1.—All by-laws and resolutions of this club shall require a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting for their adoption.

ARTICLE VI.—Company Organization. The club may organize a McKinley and Roosevelt Marching Company by the election of a captain and other officers. All officers of the company shall be members of the club, and said company shall be known as Company..... of the McKinley and Roosevelt regiment of..... County, upon filing with the county chairman a complete roll of the officers and members of the same.

ARTICLE VII.—Organization.

The companies organized in each county shall constitute a regiment, and the county chairman shall appoint a colonel, lieutenant colonel and other regimental officers.

ARTICLE VIII.—Brigade Officers. The regiments of a congressional district shall constitute a brigade, and the members of the state central committee shall appoint its officers in their respective districts.

ARTICLE IX.

The president of the state club organization shall be appointed by the state central committee, and shall have charge of the work of organizing said clubs, and shall also be commander in chief of all marching organizations.

HONOR OR DISHONOR?

The Democratic New York Times Says Bryan's Election Would Be Dishonor.

New York, July 27.—The Democratic newspapers of this city are not supporting Bryan and will assist, most of them, in carrying the state for McKinley. The World, with the largest circulation, warned the democrats against taking up the "dead and four times rejected fallacy of 16 to 1, which even victory could not make right."

The Times, the oldest and ablest of the democratic papers in New York, rejected Bryan and Bryanism and announced its position in support of the McKinley administration in these strong words:

"The trumped-up issue of imperialism and the cardhouse structures of pretense erected by men seeking a decent occasion to oppose the reelection of President McKinley have been swept away and demolished by the triumph of pure Bryanism and unmitigated 16 to 1 at the Kansas City convention.

"Anti-imperialism, militarism and the trusts were altogether overshadowed and forgotten until the real work of the convention had been done, and the empty declaration that imperialism is the chief issue cannot make it so.

"The decision must be made, as it was made in 1896, between national honor and national dishonor, between ruin and safety. There is but one issue, and it is sharp and clear. We have full confidence that the American people will decide this question as they decided four years ago.

"For what he is and believes and for what he would do Bryan deserves and will encounter a terrible defeat.

"For his record and his achievements, for the qualities of character that make him an eminently safe president, for the prosperity of the nation, for its continued maintenance of the position it has taken among the nations of the earth during his administration, Mr. McKinley deserves and will receive a vote of renewed confidence and a reelection to the office he has well administered."

RE VOLT AGAINST 16 TO 1.

Burlington Democrats Will Not Support the Kansas City Ticket.

Burlington, Ia., July 20.—The action of the Kansas City convention in nominating W. J. Bryan and adopting his 16 to 1 plank has had a most decidedly wet-blanket effect on the German-American democrats of Burlington. The leaders among them are emphatic in their denunciation of the platform and ticket, and their attitude practically takes the form of a revolt against the democratic ticket. All of the men quoted below are leading German-Americans and prominent business men of Burlington and are only a few of the many who uttered the same sentiments:

E. Hagemann, president of the German-American savings bank—I am a democrat, but not a populist. I would have voted for almost any good democrat, on a democratic platform. I am opposed to free silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and I will not vote for any man or with any party that favors such a scheme.

P. G. Guenther, well-known cigar manufacturer—I have always been a democrat, but I don't like the way they did things at Kansas City. I want a good dollar, and the issue has been dead so long that it should be buried now.

H. A. Mathes, prominent business man—I believe in democracy, but I can't swallow the Kansas City platform or the nominees. I want a good and prosperous condition of affairs, and think it is folly to introduce new isms and new fads at this time. I can not and will not vote such a ticket.

J. A. Kleppisch, queensware dealer—I could have written a better platform myself. I will not vote for Bryan.

Bryan and Stevenson are going to Indianapolis for the purpose of being formally notified of their nomination. To be thoroughly consistent they should have a high fence built around themselves and charge admission.—Chicago Times-Herald.

CONGER'S VARIED LIFE.

Incidents in the Career of the American Minister to China.

GIFTED WITH A SPLENDID MEMORY

Disciplined Once in the Civil War by General Benjamin Harrison, Then His Ranking Army Officer. His Career in Congress and as a Diplomat—Home Life of the Congers.

The thought of the incredible tortures and the violent death suffered has stimulated interest in the personalities of Minister Conger, his wife and daughter, his niece, his guests and the devoted little band of Americans—70 all told—who took refuge in the British embassy at Peking when the American compound was no longer safe. A recent report from China had it that M. de Giers, the Russian minister, had been boiled to death after brutal ill usage. What, then, was the fate of Major Conger, and what manner of man was this chief of the company of American martyrs in China?

A man of many parts was Edwin H. Conger, says the New York World. Soldier, farmer, stock breeder, lawyer, banker, legislator, diplomat, he exhibited the versatile qualities of the typical American and was successful in his every undertaking. Without having ever won national prominence as a statesman, he was recognized as a man of fine ability, a solid man, a safe man. He was transferred to his present post from that of minister to Brazil, which is far less important. The change involved a curious bit of diplomatic history. President McKinley had nominated Colonel Page Bryan of Illinois, who was neither experienced nor able, but had rendered valuable campaign services, for the vital mission to China.

Serious developments in China, demanding the presence of an efficient American diplomat, made the nomination of Page Bryan a source of embarrassment to the administration. It was opposed by Senator Frye and other influential men. The difficulty was dispelled by a friendly arrangement under which Bryan consented to accept the Brazilian post, while Conger left Rio for Peking, where he was most needed. Each mission pays a salary of \$12,000 a year. Minister Conger received his first appointment to Brazil in 1890 from President Harrison. It was a compensation for severe discipline inflicted on him during the civil war by Harrison.

At the siege of Atlanta Conger was a captain in the One Hundred and Second Illinois volunteer infantry. Colonel Benjamin Harrison of the Seventieth Indiana was acting brigadier general of the brigade. After the evacuation of the city an order was issued by Colonel Harrison that no officers below the rank of colonel should visit the captured town. Captain Conger was of an adventurous turn of mind, and he yearned to obtain a view of Peach Tree street and the ruin that followed in the footsteps of war. His regiment was encamped four miles away, but with several junior officers he rode up the road toward Atlanta. On the way he met Acting Brigadier Harrison and staff. He saluted his superior officer, who returned the compliment. Captain Conger saw all that he desired of the late Confederate stronghold and returned to his regiment.

On his arrival he was informed that he might consider himself under arrest and that by direction of Colonel Harrison he must surrender his sword. For a number of weeks the captain remained in the seclusion of his tent. Finally, not hearing anything further in his case, he addressed a communication to the brigade commander requesting a court martial or relief from his ignominy. An order was returned restoring him to duty, and not long afterward he was brevetted major for "gallant and meritorious service in the field." The next time that Captain Conger met his old commander was when the latter was a senator at Washington. The episode of Sherman's campaign was discussed by the two, and a friendly understanding was reached.

In 1890 Conger asked the president for the Spanish mission. General Harrison could not grant this boon, but he said, "Why not Brazil?" Major Conger accepted the post at Rio rather than nothing at all. On the occasion of a call on the president to tender thanks for the appointment General Harrison laid one hand affectionately on the major's shoulder, and he observed that he was compensating him for his punishment during the war.

Minister Conger was 58 years old, having been born in Knox county, Ill., on March 7, 1843. He studied at Lombard university, in Galesburg. One of his fellow students there was Miss Sarah J. Pike, a beautiful and studious Illinois girl. He fell in love with her and she with him. They exchanged vows, but that did not prevent him when, in 1862, he was graduated from enlisting in the Union army. At the close of the civil war he studied law at the Albany Law school and in 1866 was graduated. Then he married Miss Pike and began the practice of law in Galesburg. Two years later the agricultural fever seized him, and he moved with his wife to Dexter, Dallas county, Ia., intent on becoming a farmer. It was a thinly settled country, but the Congers made many friends and prospered.

A neighbor who had known Major Conger in the war wrote a letter to the county newspaper suggesting that he be made a member of the county board. The editor adopted the suggestion, and he was elected. Becoming familiar with the county business

and pleasing the people in his relations with them, he was elected county treasurer. This was in 1880, and he held the office for two terms and would have held it longer but that in 1884 he was elected to the Forty-ninth congress by the Republicans of the Seventh district. He was twice re-elected and resigned in 1890 to become United States minister to Brazil.

This was Major Conger's opportunity to make use of the peculiar combination of business sagacity and diplomatic skill which he possessed. To him was assigned the new responsibility of negotiating the first of the reciprocity treaties, and the arrangements he made with the Brazilian government were so satisfactory to the business interests of the people of the United States and Brazil that a unanimous request was made for his return as minister to Brazil when the Republican party came back into power in 1897. He had fairly commenced his work when it was interrupted by Cleveland's second election, and he returned to Brazil early in the year 1897 to complete it.

During his congressional career Major Conger became a close friend of William McKinley. They sat together in the house and enjoyed each other's confidence in a high degree. When the president was having difficulty in finding a man big enough, trusty enough and sensible enough for the Chinese mission, he thought of Conger and sent for Senator Allen to know if he thought Conger would accept. "He is a soldier," replied the senator, "and if you cable him and request him to go to China he will consider it a command, and he will go." The president sent the cable message, inviting and urging Minister Conger to undertake what was considered the most important diplomatic post in the world at that time. Major Conger treated the request precisely as Senator Allison said he would. The position was not of his choosing, but he said, "I have nothing to do but obey orders," and he went.

Minister Conger was gifted with an extraordinary memory. If he saw a man once, he never forgot him and had a way of attaching men to him by being able to remember little things about them. This had helped him to success in business as well as in politics. He was heavily interested in the brick industry in Des Moines and a few years ago went to Minneapolis and brought about 25 representatives of that city to Des Moines to inspect the brick with a view to using them for paving. He barely met these men in Minneapolis before they took the sleeping car for Des Moines. Arrived there, the first thing they did was to be driven to the statehouse, where Major Conger introduced each man to the governor by his full right name.

Mr. Conger rarely met with opposition in politics. Things came to him almost unsolicited. He was one of the most popular men in the state. His congressional career was marked by several important acts. He was chairman of the committee on coinage, weights and measures and was a member of the conference committee that prepared the Sherman silver purchase act of 1890. He brought about the transfer of the United States weather bureau from the war department to the department of agriculture, so that it might be of more benefit to the farmers. The Conger pure lard bill, which passed the house in 1890 and was killed in the senate, was his work.

The home life of the Congers was an ideal one. They lived during recent years in a modest little frame house, not in the most fashionable part of Des Moines. All the members of the family were active in charities, and their home was a haven for many a weary soul. Four years ago Major Conger was offered a business opportunity in Brazil to represent a great New York mercantile house that would have brought him an income of \$20,000 a year. He found that it would require him to travel most of the time and that he could not expect to have his family with him. For this reason he declined the offer, although it was to him a tempting one. He said that he felt he had only a few years to live and he wanted to spend that time with his family. Some of his relatives and ancestors died of apoplexy, and he had feared the same fate.

Such was Edwin H. Conger. Of the gentle and lovable women of his family it is impossible to speak with too much admiration. Their friends in Des Moines, Washington and elsewhere feel the blood run cold in their veins at the thought of what these gently nurtured American women may have suffered at the hands of Prince Tuan's barbaric soldiery.

Mrs. Conger was eminently fitted to be the wife of a diplomat. She was a woman of splendid education, great natural gifts and unflinching tact. Her experience in Washington and Rio had rendered her equal to any social demand. It was part of her kindly nature that she never spoke ill of any one, and even the Chinese had earned her encomiums. When home on a visit with her daughter last winter, she spoke generously of the yellow race and said that they had been much misrepresented. She had naught but good words for the dowager empress, with whom she had spent a day in the Imperial City.

Miss Laura Conger, their daughter, was born in Dexter and was 28 years old. She was married when she was a young girl to George Londrum, but the marriage was not a happy one, and several years ago she secured a divorce and the restoration of her maiden name. Her husband enlisted in the army during the Spanish war and died in a southern hospital. She was an accomplished woman and was something of a mathematical prodigy. For several years she was head bookkeeper in the state treasurer's office. She and her mother accompanied the minister the last time he went to Brazil and went with him to China.

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