

CHOOSING A PRESIDENT

EARLY METHODS THAT PAVED THE WAY TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

History records that George Washington was chosen president of the United States without first having been nominated and even without an opposing candidate. So was his successor in office, John Adams. In the language of the street the presidency was in the case of each of these distinguished patriots "handed to him on a silver platter." The presidency went, as it were, by common consent to the founders of the republic, to whom a grateful people looked for continued service and guidance.

In the early days president choosing, according to the primitive way, was as simple compared to modern methods as a kindergarten exercise beside a course in four dimension mathematics. Since then the changes, though gradual, have been marked and have led up to our present complicated convention nominations that make the electoral college but a mechanical device for registering the popular decision as between rival party organizations.

Originally members of the electoral college were to vote for two persons, the one receiving the highest number of votes to be president and the next highest to be vice president. The danger of a succession that would pull the political lever each time from one side to the other made imperative the change by which the electors should vote for only one person for president and for another for vice president. Two or three objects lessons, too, of irresponsible and haphazard action by the electoral college, throwing the choice of president to the house or of vice president to the senate, because no one had a majority of the votes cast, showed the necessity of centering the efforts of the newly aligned presidential ticket and of imposing on the members of the electoral college a moral obligation to cast their ballots uniformly for the nominees for the party which had elected them.

The forerunner of our national nominating convention was the caucus or conference of members of congress of the same political faith who got together on their own initiative and without any mandate from their constituents assumed to advise as to who, in their judgment, was entitled to be recognized as the party standard bearer.

NEW ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

Will Run Through Manchester and Hampstead.

That a project on which John Pierce Burns and Howard Tebbis, both prominent local lawyers and business men, have been working for over two years will be successfully consummated, so far as the necessary financing goes, before the first of the year now appears assured.

At the last session of the Maryland Legislature a charter was granted to the gentlemen mentioned and associated to build and operate an electric railway with Reisterstown as its Southern terminal, where connection would be made with the United Railways and Electric Company's tracks to a northern terminal on the Pennsylvania State line, 6 miles from the town of Hanover, in that State.

Following the incorporation of the company, which was named the Baltimore and Pennsylvania Railway Company, the work of procuring franchises from the Carroll county authorities and the officials in control of the several municipalities through which the road was to run was prosecuted vigorously and with a fair degree of success.

There followed some little trouble in financing the construction and equipping of the road, which resulted in considerable delay; this difficulty has just been overcome; as the placing on record yesterday in the clerk's office at Towson, of a mortgage deed of trust from the Baltimore and Pennsylvania Railway Company to the Baltimore Trust Company, substantiates.

CURRENT NEWS.

Automobile fire engines are now in use in a few cities. Almost four-fifths of the Panama Canal has been excavated. Constantinople is soon to be supplied with electric light and power from waterfalls eighty miles away.

A man in Lawrence, Mass., wagered \$5 that he could drink a pint of alcohol in two cups of coffee. He won the bet, but the alcohol killed him.

New York City expects within five years to replace with motor fire apparatus the 1,500 horses that now pull the fire-engines. The change will cost \$3,000,000.

A "5 and 10-cent store trust" has been organized, with a capital stock of \$65,000,000. It includes not only American but Canadian and English stores of the same class.

On October 22 Fanny Crosby, the wonderful blind hymn-writer, 91 years old, spoke interestingly for more than half an hour to a large audience in Springfield, Mass.

An annual rat-killing day is observed in Gibson County, Indiana, every June. On the last occasion 4,000 rats were slaughtered, thus making a saving to the county of nearly \$30,000 a year.

Chicago, which has just prohibited the public drinking-cup, has gone a step farther in forbidding the use of common public towels—that is, towels in any public lavatory which are used by more than one person.

Louisiana has embarked upon an enormous enterprise, nothing less than the drainage and reclamation of the Mississippi delta. Nine million acres will thus be recovered, at a total cost of perhaps \$200,000,000.

King George and Queen Mary embark this week for India, to be crowned there as Emperor and Empress. It is the first time a British sovereign has gone there for the ceremony, and it was King George's own idea.

Wooden shoes are now coming to this country in large numbers, according to a report from the American Vice-Consul at Amsterdam, Holland. They are worn mainly by Dutch immigrants in Michigan, Iowa and Missouri.

A cable dispatch from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, says that a new island has suddenly appeared between Trinidad and the Venezuelan coast. The island appeared after there had been a tremendous up-heaval of the sea, with boiling water and clouds of steam. The island was hot, and gave out smoke and flame.

The United States Biological Survey keeps record of the hunters who are accidentally shot, being mistaken for deer or other animals. It finds that 47 have been killed in that way this year. Michigan had the largest number of such accidents—fifteen. New York had nine, Washington and New Jersey three each.

To combine all the young people's religious societies in the U. S. to oppose the liquor traffic and to fight dishonesty in public life, is the object of "America's Young People," an organization just formed at Chicago. The chief means by which these things are to be attacked is through a campaign to induce young people to enter politics; not for personal ambition but as a matter of patriotic duty.

Though the Dead Sea is so famous little is really known about it. The last scientific explorations were made by an American officer, Lieutenant Lynch, in 1848, and by the Duc de Laynes in 1864. Now a German expedition, under Dr. Ludwig Bruhl, is to investigate the temperature, density, animals, fish and vegetable growths, depth, etc., of the famous lake of brine into which the Jordan flows.

Attempts to revive lacrosse at Columbia University are meeting with little success.

Only one college, Swarthmore, now recognizes this game as a major sport. At a few others it is played occasionally as a minor sport. Yet, forty or fifty years ago, lacrosse almost rivaled baseball as a national game.

The game was invented by American Indians and borrowed from them by the white men.

The meanest people have been discovered in Chicago. Some of them are rich, others in comfortable circumstances, but they have been receiving food and money from the charity funds. More than 5,000 people have lately been dropped from the lists in Cook county because they have been receiving charity and didn't need it. Fifteen of these people had bank accounts, some of them as high as \$7,000. Hundreds had salaries of \$50 to \$180 a month, and 274 were found to be owners of real estate.

One of the United States consuls in Holland reports that milk is now sterilized there, and perfectly, by exposing it to ultraviolet rays of light. And germs are instantly killed. The milk is allowed to flow in a thin stream past a mercury incandescent electric lamp. Such lamps produce the ultra-violet rays in abundance. The temperature of the milk is not raised to any noticeable extent. This, therefore, is believed to be a much better way than heating the milk, which changes its quality and flavor.

Peach Tree 72 Years Old. To pass the age of 72 years is a pretty good attainment for any person, but when it comes to a peach tree, that's "going some." Mr. Aldridge Buxton, of Frederick, said last week that there was a tree on the farm of Mr. Henry Mussetter, near Iamsville, which has this distinction. It still bears fruit, he says. It is an old-fashioned, open-seed peach and it is said that these trees are longer-lived than any other kind.

Where Advertising Costs. A single page in a single issue of the Century Magazine taken for advertising purposes costs \$500; in Harper's \$400; in other prominent magazines from \$350 down to \$100. A yearly advertisement of one column in the Chicago Tribune costs \$26,000; in the New York Tribune \$29,000; for the lowest rate in the New Herald the cost is \$36,000, and \$394,000 for the highest priced column.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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AN EDITOR'S DUTY.

A Sample of the Contributions Which Must be Edited.

Here are a few of the interesting bits of news which pile up on the editor's desk:—

"Mrs. Jones of Cactus Creek let a can opener slip last week and cut herself in the pantry." "A mischievous lad of Piketown threw a stone and struck Mr. Pike in the alley last Tuesday." "John Doe climbed on the roof of his house last week looking for a leak and fell, striking himself on the back porch." "While Harold Green was escorting Miss Violet Wise from the church social last Saturday night a savage dog attacked them and bit Mr. Green several times on the public square." "Isaiah Trimmer of Running Creek was playing with a cat Friday when it scratched him on the veranda." "Mr. Fong while harnessing a broncho last Saturday was kicked just south of his corn patch."

The Don't-Believers.

The new fangled churches that don't believe things Aren't the churches that satisfy me, I'm firm in my notion that angels wear wings An' heaven is a place we shall see, I'm an old fashioned man, full of old fashioned ways, An' these up to date doubtings seem odd; What they don't believe folks talk about nowadays, But I'm still believing in God.

Some don't believe this, an' some don't believe that, Some don't believe heaven is a place; They don't believe sermons they're preaching are flat, For of old fashioned faith there's no trace. What men don't believe doesn't interest me, I'd far rather learn what they do; They've torn up the Bible an' proved it's not so, They doubt man was made from a clod, What they don't believe seems to be all that they know, But I'm still believing in God.

There isn't much left of religions today, The thinkers have busily swept Most of all the faiths that we once had away, An' few of us know what they've kept. It's "don't believe this," an' it's "don't believe that," An' blinded they'd leave us to plod; An' old fashioned man hardly knows where he's at, But I'm still believing in God.

I believe in the green of the grass an' the tree, I believe in the sunshine an' dew, I believe in the love that makes living worth while, I believe we shall rise from the sod To a mansion in heaven where our dear ones shall smile, And I'm believing in God.

Ten Lodgemen.

Ten little lodgemen went out to dine, A cocktail killed a Mason, Then there were nine.

Nine little lodgemen drinking to their fate, Down went an Odd Fellow, Then there were eight.

Eight little lodgemen thinking of Heaven, A small bottle fixed a Forester, Then there were seven.

Seven little lodgement playing funny tricks, Another tork, a Red Man, Then there were six.

Six little lodgemen, trying to booze and thrive, The next round fixed a Chapten Man, Then there were five.

Five little lodgemen, the others on the floor, A Sir Knight gave up the ghost, Then there were four.

Four little lodgemen on a lonely spree, A Buffalo got his habit on, Then there were three.

Three little lodgemen left in a stew, A highball rolled a Pythian, Then there were two.

Two little lodgemen pretty nearly done, An Elk couldn't stand the pace, Then there was one.

One little lodgeman drinking all alone, He was a Shriner, And he took the bunch home.

THE Superior Drills and the Dairy Mead Separators sold by P. T. Bennett, of Sykesville, are the best now made on the market.

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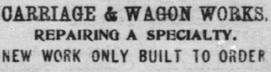
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