

CANDIDATES GALORE.

HOT TIMES PROMISED AT THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

Chances of Eastern Men for the Presidential Nomination Not Considered Good—Boies of Iowa a Slight Favorite Over the Others.

A Wide Open Race.

From present indications there will be more excitement to the square inch jammed into the Democratic convention at Chicago than ever before in the history of the party. It will be a mighty clash between the silver soldiers of the West and South against the golden warriors of the East. This will be one feature of the combat. Astute leaders on the other side of the fence acknowledge that the fight will be short and bitter, and that the silver legion will rule the roost. Statisticians have figured that the silver delegates will outnumber the others two to one.

The feature of the combat which will attract the gaze of the nation, and which will bring out every ounce of fighting stuff in each and every delegate, will be the free for all struggle for the nomination. No presidential convention in the history of the country was ever such an open affair as this promises to be. There are more candidates in the field than ever before, and the chance of one man is as good as the next. It would not be a surprising thing to those skilled in the way of politics if some man, the blackest kind of a dark horse, bobbed up at the eleventh hour and swept the convention like a cyclone. Many people expect this to happen. Chairman Harrity, of the national committee, is one of them.

That a Western man will gather in the nomination is practically conceded. The South has some hope, but the cooler heads among the Southern leaders say the time is not ripe for a man south of the Mason and Dixon line to head the Democratic ticket, particularly one who wears the Confederate button. But a sturdy fight will be put up for the second place on the

form. Harrity is for gold, but believes in standing by the platform first, last and all the time. His chances are believed to be better than those of any other Eastern man, but few of the leaders are betting on the East these days.

Campbell of Ohio, Boies of Iowa, Matthews of Indiana, Morrison of Illinois and Bland of Missouri are considered to have the best chance, with Boies a slight favorite over the others. Campbell says he is not out for the nomination, but, of course, will accept, if it comes his way. Bland, Matthews, Boies and Morrison acknowledge they are out for it and their adherents are preparing to make a gallant fight. These four are singularly alike in many ways, representing the sturdy, independent, aggressive, Western type of manhood.

SILVER AT CHICAGO.

Table Showing the Relative Strength of the Two Forces.

All the Democratic State conventions having been held, it is possible now to construct a table showing the relative strength of the two factions of the party at the Chicago convention. It is as follows:

State	Free Silver	Gold
Alabama	22	22
Arkansas	16	16
California	16	16
Colorado	8	8
Connecticut	12	12
Delaware	6	6
Florida	26	26
Georgia	26	26
Idaho	6	6
Illinois	48	48
Indiana	30	30
Iowa	26	26
Kansas	20	20
Kentucky	26	26
Louisiana	16	16
Maine	12	12
Maryland	16	16
Massachusetts	30	30
Michigan	28	28
Minnesota	18	18
Mississippi	18	18
Missouri	34	34
Montana	6	6
Nebraska	16	16
Nevada	6	6
New Hampshire	8	8
New Jersey	20	20
New York	72	72
North Carolina	22	22
North Dakota	6	6
Ohio	46	46
Oregon	8	8
Pennsylvania	64	64
Rhode Island	8	8

HOPE FOR FARMERS.

PROSPERITY IS IN STORE FOR TILLERS OF THE SOIL.

Wheat to Yield Heavily—Total Larger than the Average for Sixteen Years—West Chiefly Affected—Outlook Particularly Good in Mississippi Valley.

Comparison of Crop Values.

There is hope for the farmers. The year 1896 promises to bring them rather better returns for their labor than last year and better than the year before. The wheat crop of the country is sure to be the largest since 1892, and larger than the average of the last sixteen years. This year's wheat crop is unofficially estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 475,000,000 bushels. This has been exceeded only six times since 1880. In millions of bushels the crop was as follows for the years named:

1880	408,189,000	409
1881	388,189,000	390
1882	504,189,000	511
1883	401,189,000	515
1884	512,189,000	396
1885	357,189,000	402
1886	471,189,000	467
1887	456,189,000	475
1888	415,189,000	415

The importance of the wheat crop to the farmer is not so much in the total yield as in its market value. According to the present outlook, the value of this year's wheat crop will greatly exceed that of the last three years. The Department of Agriculture does not presume to estimate the prices of any commodities in advance of the market, but unofficial information is to the effect that the average value of wheat this year is likely to be about 57 cents, against 51 cents last year, 49 cents in 1894, 54 cents in 1893 and 62 cents in 1892. If the estimate of 57 cents for this year's crop be borne out by the market quotations during the remainder of the year, the total value of the 1896 wheat crop will be \$270,000,000.

The value of the wheat crops of recent years, as given by the Department of Agriculture, is as follows:

1892	\$222,000,000	1895	\$228,000,000
1893	213,000,000	1896	270,000,000
1894	226,000,000		

These figures seem rather small compared to those of 1891, when the total value of the wheat crop was \$513,000,000, and when the value of the corn crop rose to the enormous total of \$836,000,000, the greatest value ever known for that crop in this country. Though 1896 cannot be any possibility be such a "boom" year as 1891 was, nor yet quite as good as 1892, it promises to yield much better results for the farmers than '93, '94 and '95. The wheat outlook is particularly good in the Western States, taking them as a whole.

Encouraging Harvest Reports. Reports from the winter wheat harvest, now in progress, are very encouraging. The wheat acreage is given by the Department of Agriculture as follows:

WINTER STATES.

California	3,011,000
Kansas	2,684,000
Ohio	2,222,000
Indiana	2,284,000
Illinois	1,906,000
Missouri	1,418,000
Pennsylvania	1,229,000
Michigan	1,292,000
Other States	6,618,000

Total winter area.....22,794,000

Total last year.....22,699,000

SPRING STATES.

Minnesota	3,299,000
North Dakota	2,530,000
South Dakota	2,463,000
Nebraska	1,224,000
Other States	2,408,000

Total spring area.....11,825,000

Total last year.....11,438,000

The net increase in the combined acreage is 572,000 acres, or the total of 34,619,000 for 1896, against 34,047,000 last year.

The condition of spring wheat indicates a prospective yield that closely approximates a full or normal crop, the average for the country being 99.9 per cent. The average for the year 1895 was 97.8. Averages for the principal spring wheat States are as follows:

Minnesota	92	South Dakota	111
Wisconsin	110	North Dakota	103
Iowa	103	Washington	96
Nebraska	105	Oregon	95

The percentage of the combined winter and spring wheat acreage is 101.7, and the condition of all wheat is 87.6.

As yet the Department of Agriculture has no official returns on the corn crop, but unofficial advice indicate a normal crop, probably equal to last year's large yield of 2,151,000,000 bushels. Prices are stiffening up a trifle, and the outlook for a greater total value than last year is considered good. The outlook for oats, rye and barley is good, and in the Southern States there is a renewal of confidence in the future on account of the fine outlook for cotton.

STOLE TO GRATIFY THEIR VANITY

Two Girls Who Have Brought Disgrace Upon Their Family.

Georgiana and Florence Brock, aged respectively 20 and 12, are the extremely handsome and innocent-looking daughters of Henry Brock, the head of a New York commercial agency. They have been arrested for stealing \$4,000 worth of

WINTER WHEAT HARVEST ABOUT ENDED

and Corn Looking Well.

Reports as to the condition of the crops throughout the country and the general effect of the weather on the growth, cultivation and harvest of the same were received at Chicago as follows:

The favorable weather conditions of the previous week have continued, under which rapid progress has been made in the cultivation of crops, especially corn, and the harvesting of winter wheat, which is now well advanced in the more northerly districts, and is practically finished in southern sections. Corn has made good progress during the week, and the general condition of this crop is very satisfactory. It is now being laid by as far north as Missouri and Central Illinois.

In the States of the Central Mississippi and Lower Mississippi Valleys, where during the first half of May cultivation was much delayed and the crop very grassy, the fields are now mostly free from weeds. In Texas, Louisiana, and portions of Arkansas and Mississippi corn has suffered from drought, particularly in Texas, where much of the crop is too far advanced to be relieved by rain. In Texas and Louisiana cotton continues to suffer from drought and complaints of injury from lice are numerous from the eastern portion of the cotton belt. A marked improvement is reported from Florida. In Arkansas the crop is making slow growth, but is clean and well cultivated. In Missouri it is looking well, but fields are very foul. Cotton is now in bloom over the northern portion of the cotton region. Tobacco planting is about completed and the reports indicate that this crop is in very satisfactory condition. Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio report good growth during the week. In Southern Virginia tobacco is in bloom and some has been topped in North Carolina.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS.

Totals 564 342

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A Vancouver syndicate has just completed negotiations for the purchase of ten rich claims accidentally discovered in Gayuse Creek, in the Lillooet district, by a half-breed while hunting mountain sheep a few days ago.

SAVED BY A FAITHFUL DOG.

Henry Hohlt May Thank His Bulldog for Driving Off the Buffalo.

The next time that Henry Hohlt goes out to interview his herd of buffaloes at Lincoln Park he will probably gaze at it through the cracks of the fence and not run the risk of having his epidermis perforated by a pair of bovine horns. The other afternoon he donned a suit of cowboy clothes cut by a pattern approved by Texas Jack Crawford when he was here. Then he mounted a fiery mustang and entered the inclosure where his buffaloes are kept to drive them into a corral. They objected vigorously, but Henry was not to be bluffed. One old bull was particularly pugnacious and insisted upon making life a burden for the mustang. Several vigorous lunges at the mustang were avoided by the sensible animal with a splash.

A bullock belonging to Mr. Hohlt had been viewing the trouble from afar. Finally he seemed to have decided to take a hand, so, with a run only paralleled by that celebrated spurt made by Salisbury last fall at the same park, he caught the bull by the nose and performed a few revolutions around his head as the old fellow gave it a twirl or two for luck. Having shaken the dog loose, the animal made a wild dive for him. He missed his prey, and then started for the horse. The latter stumbled and fell, precipitating his rider to the ground and rendering him unconscious. The bull then attacked the horse and killed him.

The dog appeared to realize the position occupied by his unconscious master. He attacked the bull in front and rear so persistently that the animal turned his attention from the horse to the dog. A wild chase followed, in which the dog gave one of the prettiest exhibitions of racing ever witnessed. While the bull was engaged in following his little tormentor some assistants of Mr. Hohlt saw his predicament and hastened to his rescue. He was still unconscious, and they were compelled to pick him up and carry him to the park house. After restoratives had been applied he was brought to the city. He is at his home on South Eleventh street under the care of a physician. Fortunately no bones were broken, but he has some large and painful bruises on his person which will keep him in bed for several days. He was so sore last night that he was unable to lift a cup of coffee to his lips.

Mr. Hohlt attributes his escape to the fidelity of his dog, which made it so interesting for the buffalo that he was unable to dispatch his master when he had him down.—Nebraska State Journal.

Modes of Warfare Prohibited.

The "laws of war" as at present formulated by civilized nations forbid the use of poison against the enemy; murder by treachery, such as assuming the uniform or displaying the flag of a foe; the murder of those who have surrendered, whether upon conditions or at discretion; declarations that no quarter will be given to an enemy; the use of such arms or projectiles as will cause unnecessary pain or suffering to an enemy; the abuse of a flag of truce to gain information concerning an enemy's position; all unnecessary destruction of property, whether public or private.

They also declare that only fortified places shall be besieged, open cities, villages not to be subject to siege or bombardment; that public buildings of whatever character, whether belonging to the church or state, shall be spared; that plundering by private soldiers or their officers shall be considered inadmissible; that prisoners shall be treated with common humanity; that the personal effects and private property of prisoners, excepting their arms and ammunition, shall be respected; that the population of the enemy's country shall be considered as exempt from participation in the war unless by hostile acts they provoke the ill-will of the enemy; that personal and family honor, and the religious convictions of an invaded people shall be respected by the invaders, and that all pillage by regular troops or their followers shall be strictly forbidden.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Conkling Agreed with the Butcher.

Gen. Grant, while walking out in the suburbs of Washington, frequently met a butcher driving a horse, to which he took a strong liking. After much negotiation, he bought the animal and had it taken to his stable, where one day Senators Conkling and Jones were invited to look at the new purchase.

"Well, gentlemen, how do you like the horse?" asked Grant, after the animal had been inspected.

"How much did you give for him, Mr. President?" asked Conkling.

"Four hundred dollars."

"I'd rather have the \$400 than the horse," rejoined Conkling.

"That's what the butcher thought," coolly remarked Grant, puffing out a cloud of smoke; "put him back into the stall, John."

Refused to Cut His Hair.

Occasionally even a pauper has justice done him under the laws of the British empire. A dependent pauper, one Ferris, was recently sentenced by a Downpatrick, Ireland, magistrate to imprisonment for a month at hard labor without the formality of a public trial. Ferris' offense was a refusal to cut another pauper's hair. Upon his release Ferris brought suit against the magistrate for damages for false imprisonment, and a jury awarded him a verdict of \$300.

Men Are Curious.

"It is queer," said Mrs. Blocher, "that a man can take enough interest in his wife's letters to open them, but not enough to mail them."

Men never become too old to act like boys when half a dozen of them get together in idleness.

Topical Times

Polo on tricycles is the latest Paris novelty in sports.

The hardest precious stone, after the diamond, is the ruby.

The Carlton Club, London, has about 4,000 members, and is the richest in the world.

Boston has just discovered that it has streets to the number of 550 with names duplicated.

Princess Helene, the Duchess of Sparta's baby, is Queen Victoria's twenty-second great-grandchild.

Negus Menelik's queen has turned an Italian private who can sing Neapolitan songs into a court favorite.

The smallest bird known to the ornithologists is the West Indian hummingbird. It weighs but twenty grains.

Three steamers arrived at Juneau, Alaska, during one week in April, carrying 404 passengers for the gold diggings.

The exact distance from the equator to either the north or south pole is 6,000 miles when measured along the surface.

History tells us that Galileo's first telescope was an old piece of lead water pipe with spectacle lenses glued in each end.

Gold can be beaten 1,200 times thinner than common writing paper. One ounce of that kind of gold leaf will cover 1,400 square feet.

Spiders always come out of their holes shortly before a rain, being advised by their instinct that insects then fly low and are most easily taken.

The people of New York drink 5,000,000 gallons of whisky a year. The consumption of beer in New York City in a single year is 100,000,000 gallons.

In the St. Petersburg aquarium there are fishes that are known to have been there 140 years, and, according to Prof. Baird, a pike can live four centuries.

A chemist advises that canned fruit be opened an hour or two before it is used. It becomes richer after the oxygen of the air has been restored to it.

The veddars, or wild hunters of Ceylon, mingle the pounded fibers of soft and decayed wood with the honey on which they feed when meat is not to be obtained.

Once more the proposal is to be made in Parliament for the abolition of the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the establishment of a royal residence in Dublin.

Goldthwaite's Geographical Magazine is authority for the statement that the temperature of the earth 200 miles beneath the surface is probably 18,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

On a farm twelve miles from Lititz, Pa., the custom still prevails of carrying grain to the mill *stone* over the right shoulder of a horse, with a big stone on the left side to balance it.

According to official returns, the poor male population in the Transvaal is 25,000, while the male outlander population is calculated by those acquainted with the country to number 40,000.

It is stated on good authority that about 200 gamblers and all-around toughs have recently arrived in Astoria, Ore., from Portland and other cities from which they have been shut out.

Mrs. Martha Beers, a clever stenographer, has invented a collapsible theater hat, which can be folded into a small and almost invisible compass while on the head by simply pulling a string.

The "loving cup" of spiced wine, which is sometimes handed around at mansion house entertainments, had its origin in the custom of Saxon forefathers to drink each other's health in a wassail bowl.

A duplex electric car has been invented, and the agent of the affair wants to locate the factory at Nashua, N. H. The car is made so that on fine days it is open, while on wet days it can be converted into a closed car.

A London court recently condemned to three months' imprisonment a man who had supported himself fifteen years by means of begging letters. Over 500 of these were found in his room. He had squandered his wife's property, worth \$75,000.

A trade union which blacklisted the men employed by a London firm of builders during last year's strike has been permanently enjoined by the court of appeal from continuing the practice and ordered to pay £500 damages to the employers.

Coal mining is paying one party of miners in the Yukon country better than gold mining paid them. A find of excellent coal was made recently in the Forty-Mile Creek district, and with wood at \$12 and \$14 a cord the coal mine is an excellent pay streak.

Enormous tracts of Africa, especially the region between the Congo and Suari basins, and much of the area enclosed by the great northern curve of the Niger, remain unexplored. There is also unappropriated territory to the extent of 1,584,398 square miles.

A gray African parrot owned by a family in Providence, R. I., has a vocabulary of 140 words, and can imitate the sound of a clanging bell with astonishing clearness. It is believed to be at least sixty years old, and has been in the possession of one owner for twenty-seven years.

New X-rays possibilities were suggested by the President of the London Camera Club, who in his address "anticipated that announcements of engagements in the morning papers would one of these days conclude with an intimation that the photographs of the skeletons had been mutually exchanged. Surely it was desirable that

everybody should be tested as to whether they were sound in limb before entering the married state."

At the first London levee of the season the company were nearly stifled by the intolerable heat of the state apartments at St. James' palace, and the atmosphere of the throne room was so oppressive that a member of the royal household, who was in waiting, actually fainted.

Interesting catacombs with well preserved mural paintings have been discovered at Kertch, in the Crimea, the ancient Panticapaeum. Although the vaulting shows that they must have been built after the Christian era, the subjects of the paintings are pagan, representing Pluto, Demeter and Heracles.

The position of the Clyde ship-building industry is most satisfactory, work sufficient to keep the yards engaged to the end of the year having been booked. Since December seventy-three vessels of 142,000 tons have been launched. All trade difficulties have been adjusted and steel-makers are running double shifts.

Mrs. L. A. McGrath, of South Woodstock, Vt., is the owner of a singing canary 21 years old, which has sung all his life, and now, though so infirm from age that it cannot reach its perch or sit on it when placed there, it sits on the floor of the cage and pours out the clear, sweet strains of song from morning till night.

Short hours for workmen is a phrase that means different things in different countries. In the German Parliament the ministers have just been defending themselves for cutting makers' hours of labor down to twelve. In Britain, Canada and the United States some are striving to have eight hours as the limit.

The mountains of the moon are immensely larger in proportion than those of the earth. The moon is but one forty-ninth the size of the earth, but its mountain peaks are nearly as high. Twenty-two are higher than Mont Blanc, which is within a few feet of three miles high. The highest is a little more than four miles and a half.

"World's shows" of some kind are being or will be held in thirteen places this year—at Odessa, Geneva, Berlin, Kiel, Cannes, Mons, Rouen, Johannesburg, Brisbane, Para, Namur, Paris and the City of Mexico. There will be exhibitions at Brussels and Rio Janeiro next year, at Amsterdam and Sao Paulo in 1898 and at Adelaide in 1899.

Sheep delight in the short grass and peculiar herbage of hill pasture and bare downs, and the mutton produced in such pastures, and by the breeds most suitable to them, is of superior quality to that of the large, fat sheep fed on richer soil. The multitude of tiny shells so often found on every foot of turf is also very efficacious in fattening and nourishing the animal.

Baron de Hirsch died in a fit of anger at having been swindled, according to the Transvaal papers, by a Kazmandy, writing as Le Figaro. He had sold his beautiful property at Sanct Johann on the March on account of its dampness, and bought the Ogyaka palace, near Komom, with the idea of turning it into a children's hospital. After spending \$400,000 on the palace without having seen it he discovered that it was in a bog at the confluence of four rivers.

Nowhere in England is there to be found a library where political science is accorded a proper recognition or where the serious student of administrative or constitutional problems can find the material for his work. If such a student desires to frequent an efficient library he must betake himself to Baltimore, where he can get what he wants at the Johns Hopkins University. An endeavor is at last to be made to remedy this under the direction of the London School of Economics, and it is contemplated that a fund of \$50,000 will serve to initiate the scheme.

A quaint reminder of bygone times and institutions is found in a bill which has just passed from the Committee on Claims to the House calendar for the relief of John F. McKrae. It proposes to make good to Mr. McKrae some losses he sustained in 1859, when he was a United States deputy marshal in attendance at court in Savannah. During that year the ship Wanderer landed a cargo of African negroes on the Georgia coast, and an attempt was made to smuggle them into the interior and sell them as slaves. McKrae seized thirty-six of them and kept them at his own expense for fourteen days, while their final disposition was under advisement. Probably owing to the confusion caused by the war this claim was never presented to the treasury for payment, but it arises now like a ghost from the grave of the dead past to recall to the mercy of the American people the fact that the African slave trade was once a form of smuggling on our shores.

Scenes and Posters.

See the man.

Is the man wild of eye and disheveled of hair?

The man is wild of eye and disheveled of hair.

Perhaps the man is about to make a scene.

Ah, no.

The man is an artist of the modern school which never makes scenes—merely posters.—Detroit Tribune.

Hard on Informers.

Informers stand a slim chance in Georgia, according to this unique paragraph: "Any person driving over this bridge faster than a walk shall, if a white man, be fined \$5, and if a negro, receive twenty-five lashes—half the penalty to be bestowed on the informer."—Atlanta Constitution.

Synonyms.

Critic—What do you mean when you speak of the flow of inspiration?

Poet—I mean that I am thinking of "the current coin."—Exchange.