

M'KINLEY, OF COURSE.

Meeting of the Republican Convention in Philadelphia.

Special correspondence of The Florida Star.

PHILADELPHIA, June 12.—It has been 28 years since a national convention was held in this city. Then, as now, the Republicans assembled to renominate a candidate who had been elected four years before. In 1872 there was no doubt about the renomination of President Grant, nor was there any doubt then of his election. There is much talk about history repeating it-



SENATOR LODGE.

self, and the Republicans who have been preparing this convention claim to be as confident of the re-election of President McKinley, who is to be renominated here next week, unless all signs fail, as were those Republicans who named Grant 28 years ago. A few men—not many, however—who were delegates to the convention in 1872 will be present in this convention and serve as delegates. Ex-Governor Kellogg of Louisiana is one, and it seems to me that there are some others of the convention of long ago.

The city is putting on its convention dress and convention manners. Bunting is being displayed, and decorations are hung up. The hotel men are looking cheerfully expectant and at the same time somewhat apprehensive as to the capacity of their houses. At this particular time there are so few of the advance guard here that those who are early birds have their choice of accommodations. The members of the national committee present and a number of newspaper men and the others who are actually obliged to be here are having things their own way. There are, of course, the people who have been sent on ahead to prepare the headquarters and arrange for the reception of the different delegations.

All national conventions are interesting, but those where there is no contest and where the main events can be accurately forecasted months in advance are comparatively tame. It is the convention where the nominee for president cannot be foretold until the last ballot that excites great interest. And we have not had many of that kind lately. The last convention in Chicago was the best in that particular. In 1888 at St. Louis and again in 1892 at Chicago Cleveland was an easy guess. There was some little contention over the platform and the vice presidency, but we did not get worked up to a fever pitch, as in the Republican convention of 1888, when one newspaper man guessed Harrison a few days before it met and was laughed at by the whole crowd. At Minneapolis, in 1892, while there was a contest and Blaine plumes waved for the last time, the nomination of Harrison was "inched."

The Republicans now come to Philadelphia with a candidate chosen and a platform practically made. The vice presidency will go to the man who is most strongly indicated by the administration. So there is not so very much to anticipate in the way of excitement except oratory and the shouting, the marching of the campaign clubs, the playing of the bands and the general jollification of the crowds who come here for a good time. "Cut and dried," you may say. Yes, no doubt; but it will be a convention just the same, and with all the enthusiasm of the crowds who will come here, crowds that will cheer as much, march as often and drink as regularly as if the nomination was in doubt, crowds that always yell for whomsoever is successful and who know as little about what is going on in the way of real manipulation as the man in the moon.

There has not been a convention held in recent years where will be seen so many senators as are to attend this convention. Democratic senators were quite numerous at the convention at Chicago four years ago, but this convention beats them all in this respect. Among them are Hanna and Foraker of Ohio, Platt and Depew of New York, Fairbanks and Beveridge of Indiana, Davis and Nelson of Minnesota, Wolcott of Colorado, Sewell of New Jersey,

Shoup of Idaho, Carter of Montana, McComas of Maryland, Warren and Clark of Wyoming, Hansbrough and McCumber of North Dakota, Lodge of Massachusetts, Simon of Oregon, Thurston of Nebraska, Pritchard of North Carolina and Penrose of Pennsylvania. This is a formidable list and comprises a majority of the Republican senators.

Governors of states and representatives in quite a large number will be present also, though the senators will predominate. In nearly every instance where senators are chosen they are the head of their delegations. It is almost certain that nearly every senator will take a prominent part in the proceedings, either as presiding officers, chairmen of the delegations or members of the committee on platform, and some of them will no doubt be selected for



SENATOR WOLCOTT.

service on the national committee for the next four years. Of course these senators know how conventions are conducted and are generally equipped for the work that is to be done. Most of them are good talkers, and more than half of those mentioned will no doubt be heard before the convention closes.

This much is known: Senator Hanna, chairman of the national committee, will call the convention to order and make a short speech. He can make a very good talk on occasions, but it is not the custom of the chairman to deliver a long address. He will name Senator Wolcott as temporary chairman, who will make the convention hall ring with a flood of oratory. Easily one of the most graceful speakers of the country, with a voice of tremendous carrying power, well modulated and musical, Senator Wolcott will give the convention an opening speech which will be all that can be desired. Wolcott was last heard in 1892 at Minneapolis when he placed Blaine in nomination.

Senator Lodge, who is slated for permanent chairman, will deliver another



SENATOR FORAKER.

speech, but his effort will be confined more particularly to the issues and policies of the campaign. Senator Foraker will be heard as chairman of the committee on resolutions and also in a speech seconding McKinley's nomination. Senator Depew and Governor Roosevelt are both slated for speeches either on the president or vice president. Senator Thurston, whose voice can penetrate every nook and corner of the convention hall, and Senator Carter, who is one of the forceful and pleasing speakers of the senate, will be heard in the seconding speeches. In fact, there will be a flood of oratory, and perhaps men of whom we now know nothing will develop into convention spellbinders.

Few conventions have been held where the preparations are so complete thus far in advance of the convention coming together. The last meeting of the subcommittee of the national committee having charge of the arrangements has just been held, and it was found that everything is in splendid shape. The convention hall, which was one of the exposition buildings, has been transformed into a vast auditorium which will seat about 14,000 people. Besides these there will be 1,200 assistant sergeants-at-arms, 800 doorkeepers and 500 ushers, who

will not be provided with seats. None of the assistant sergeants-at-arms or doorkeepers will be taken from the states of Pennsylvania or New Jersey, because the residents of those states will be afforded an opportunity of attending the convention which those from other states will not have. The ushers will be selected from the churches and theaters of Philadelphia. The arrangements for the press are better than have ever been made at any national convention.

The belief is general that the convention can finish all its business in three days, but the probabilities are that it will extend over until the fourth day. This extension is a sort of benefit for the Philadelphia people.

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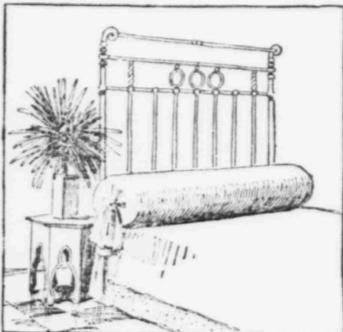
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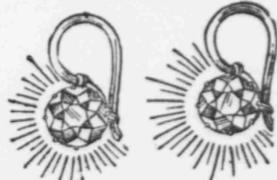
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