

ers of the rum god make threats. Think of the homes that prohibition safeguards, of the lives it saves from ruin, of the jails it is emptying, of the crimes it is preventing. Think of the example we have set to those in other lands as we shake the strongholds of the demon alcohol with the testimony that our nation gives. And then pity the cowardice of the representatives of the thirty-four prohibition states without a spokesman when the crisis came—of forty-five ratifying states without a delegate brave enough to propose an amendment indorsing the prohibition policy or pledging enforcement of a law passed by congress and upheld by the supreme court!

But by the surrender of their convictions on a great moral question and by their abandonment of the priceless interests of the people on this great subject they prevented discord. Oh harmony. I repeat, what crimes are committed in thy name!

THE NOMINATING SPEECHES

Chicago, June 11.—This has been a sure enough convention today. The candidates were presented in nominating speeches. The outstanding feature of the day approached almost a political scandal. The partisan estate of the late President Roosevelt was administered upon, and lo, it was found that he was wedded to two Republican candidates, each claiming his mantle by a will duly executed. When General Wood's name was presented Mrs. Robinson, Colonel Roosevelt's sister, seconded the nomination and her speech was one of the real hits of the day in manner, thought, language and arrangement of her argument. She measured up to the most exacting rules of oratory. She left the audience under the impression that General Wood was the only real heir to the late ex-president, and entitled to all his political assets.

Then came Mr. Wheeler, who presented the name of Senator Johnson. He quoted from a written document to show that Colonel Roosevelt regarded Senator Johnson as his political next of kin and the one to whom the progressives should look as the successor of the sage of Oyster Bay. The verdict has not yet been returned at the time we go to press, but the balloting shows that the jury stands about two one in favor of the colonel's sister's choice.

The nominating speeches were not as a rule a success, possibly because the speakers overestimated the necessity for a thoro exhibit of the candidate's record. This is not an unusual mistake and it probably has more effect on the gallery than on the delegates. The public can be assumed to be acquainted with men whose names are presented for this high office, and the nominating speech would be more effective if it were more brief. After a few minutes the audience gets restless and the speaker is apt to be interrupted with cries of "name him"; even so veteran a politician as Governor Allen of Kansas lessened the effectiveness of his appeal by extending it unnecessarily. The Wood supporters would have been just as demonstrative had it been half as long.

Mr. Wheeler, who put Senator Johnson in nomination, aroused opposition not only by the length of his speech, but by the tone. He presented some unpalatable truths. And he did not take the precaution to sugar coat them. He was defiant rather than persuasive, but possibly he felt that persuasion would be wasted on the delegates to whom he addressed his remarks.

Ex-Governor Willis of Ohio made by far the best nominating speech of the day. He has a fine voice and is an experienced speaker. He began by a trick of expression that always catches a convention audience. He assured the delegates that Ohio would cast her vote for the Republican nominee no matter what his name or the state from which he came. This is one of those pre-election prophecies which always takes with a partisan gathering. As Governor Willis comes from Ohio, many probably recall that another prominent Ohioan made a very taking convention speech about forty years ago. In the convention of 1880 General Garfield presented the name of Senator Sherman so eloquently that he was nominated himself. This kind of history may repeat itself at any convention.

The seconding speeches were as a rule more effective than the nominating speeches, partly due to the fact that the speakers are more apt to be epigrammatic when their time is limited. Mr. McNeal of Michigan, who seconded the nomination of Senator Johnson, made a very favorable impression. He is a young man and his

style marks him as an orator with a future. Congressman Schall of Minnesota turned his blindness to account. By a beautiful and touching incident he impressed upon the audience the argument by which he endeavored to show that Mr. Johnson's following was due to heart ties rather than to mere admiration of intellect.

The women have reason to be proud of the record they made today. They were in no respect inferior to the men. In fact before any fair committee they would win a higher average than the men. Reference has already been made to the happy speech of Mrs. Robinson but two others deserve special mention—Mrs. Alexander Pfeiffer, who seconded the nomination of Governor Coolidge, and Mrs. J. W. Morrison, who seconded the nomination of Mr. Hoover. The former's speech was a rhetorical gem. The latter's speech was very impressive.

The demonstration for Mr. Hoover was very different from that which followed the presentation of the names of the three leading candidates. General Wood, Governor Lowden and Senator Johnson had friends among the delegates and they raised quite a commotion when these candidates were presented, but the Hoover demonstration was confined to the gallery. The scarcity of delegates participating was easily explained when the ballot showed only seven votes cast for him. But the gallery made up for any lack of enthusiasm on the first floor. The chair had difficulty in bringing the demonstration to an end.

In this connection it is interesting to note the preparation that is sometimes made for a demonstration. When General Wood's name was placed before the convention a shower of red, white and blue feathers with the name "Wood" stamped on them floated down from the ceiling. They were eagerly caught up and many of them soon afterwards appeared in hats, button holes, and on the state standards. Some were gathered up as souvenirs and sent to grandchildren as mine were. When the Johnson boom was ready to give vent to itself pictures of the senator rose up from secret places and filled the air like waving banners. In like manner the Hoover demonstration was aided by white triangular banners bearing the name Hoover, which came out of hiding at the proper time.

Man is a new creature when he is in a crowd and woman also. They make a convention interesting.

PROSPECTS OF CANDIDATES

Chicago, June 12.—As this report of the convention must be given to the press before the convention meets, it is not possible to report its action on the presidential nomination, and that nomination may be made before my words reach the reader.

I can, therefore, set forth only the indications based upon the character of the convention, their value depending upon whether they are borne out by final results.

This convention seems to be very reactionary. I have been attending national conventions for forty-four years, beginning in 1876, if I may be permitted to turn for a moment to personal experience.

At the age of 16 I attended the convention in St. Louis, seventy miles from my birthplace. I knew no one, and what was worse, no one knew me.

A policeman, however, took pity on me and allowed me to enter through a window.

In 1880 the convention was held in Cincinnati, too far away from my home for me to attend. I attended the Chicago convention in 1884, the St. Louis convention in 1888, and the Chicago convention in 1892. In 1896 I went to the Republican convention at St. Louis, partly to report it for the World-Herald, of which I was then the editor, but even more to encourage the silver Republicans, who were conducting a losing fight against the gold element of the party.

Later, I attended the Democratic convention at Chicago, at which I received my first nomination. I did not go to Kansas City in 1900, it being certain that I would be nominated for the second time. I attended the Democratic convention at St. Louis in 1904, but remained away from the Denver convention in 1908, where again my renomination was certain. I attended the Baltimore convention in 1912 and the St. Louis convention in 1916, the last named convention as a member of the press.

I shall be a delegate at San Francisco later in this month. From the above it will be seen that I have attended every Democratic convention during the last forty-four years, excepting

three, the one in 1880 before I was grown up, and the ones in 1900 and 1908, when I was in close communication with the convention by wire.

Beside reporting the Republican convention of 1896, I acted in the same capacity at the Republican conventions of 1912 and 1916. I was a delegate to the Democratic conventions of 1896, 1904 and 1912. In the Republican convention of 1912 the Taft and Roosevelt forces were so evenly matched that the real fight was over the seating of delegates. The Taft machine was directed by the skilled hand of Senator Root.

In 1916 there were two conventions, and I divided by time between the two halls. The political temperature was so different in the two gatherings that I oscillated between freezing and sunstroke.

This convention is the most reactionary that I have had the privilege of attending, a fact made manifest in many ways. The chairman of the resolutions committee is Senator Watson, who will feel complimented when I call him a standpatter of the standpatters. He had no progressive rival for the position and received nine-tenths of the votes as against a New York rival.

Of the candidates before this convention Senator Johnson and Senator La Follette are the only progressives, the former receiving 148 votes, about one-fifth of the convention, and the latter 24 votes. The difference in the applause that greeted the reactionary candidates and that given to the progressives was quite marked.

The convention even went so far as to manifest disapproval by groans when Senator La Follette's name was mentioned, notwithstanding the fact that this battle-scarred champion of many reforms is in a hospital recovering from a serious operation. His vote was necessary in organizing the Senate.

Senator Smoot of Utah, one of the outstanding leaders of extreme conservatism, has his hand on the throttle. His delegation showed its knowledge of practical politics by dividing its vote between Wood, Lowden and Harding.

At this writing it seems unlikely (remember this is only a guess) that the leading candidate will be nominated. The large expenditures disclosed by the investigating committee would seem to bar his progress toward the White House. He is also handicapped by the fact that the convention failed to indorse the compulsory military training policy, of which he had been the leading champion. His vote has risen from 287½ on the first ballot to 314½ on the fourth—a small increase for a leading candidate.

Governor Lowden would probably be the choice of the reactionary element if they dared to risk his nomination. But his financial connection with big business added to the large sum that he admits having invested in his campaign makes his nomination highly improbable. His vote has risen from 211½ on the first ballot to 289 on the fourth, but his increase has already commenced to slow down.

Senator Johnson's vote rose from 132½ on the first ballot to 148 on the third, and then fell to 140½ on the fourth. There seems no likelihood of his vote reaching a much higher figure.

If Mr. Hoover had not entered the California primary, he might have had a chance as a compromise candidate, but there seems to be no enthusiasm for him among the delegates.

Governor Coolidge and Dr. Butler may be considered for the vice-presidency if a western man should receive the first place. Pritchard of North Carolina and Governor Morrow of Kentucky may have a chance for the second place if the convention decides to go south for the vice presidential candidate, but no southern state is near enough to Wall street to give one of its citizens much of a chance for either place in this convention.

We shall soon know the worst.

SENATOR HARDING CHOSEN

Chicago, June 12.—Senator Harding is nominated: he fits the platform. He was one of the three prominent reactionaries before the convention. Big business would have preferred Lowden, but the investigation showed so large an investment of his own money in the campaign and such a reckless use of it that a convention made up of a lot of representatives of the corporate class, even as bold as those in this convention, feared to risk the issue before the people. Senator Harding's record is consistently stand-pat. It will be remembered that he belonged to the Taft side of the controversy with Roosevelt and presided at the convention which nominated Justice