

Drawing to a Close.

CHICAGO, October 14.—The beginning of the end of the campaign finds the republican national committee in excellent form, and ready for the important work which now remains. It is doubtful if there has been so much hard work in any preceding presidential campaign as there has been in this. The managers of the republican cause have felt that they were charged with a great responsibility, and it is now no secret that at the outset they—and they include the cheerful and optimistic Mr. Hanna—were seriously alarmed and more or less panic stricken by the commotion everywhere aroused by the young Lochinvar with the oily tongue. Fright spurred the committee to a prodigious effort, and since the first of August there has been no relaxation. The men who are directing the campaign for McKinley are bearing up bravely under the strain. They are worn but not wearied. It was my good fortune today to see and converse with most of the men who are active and influential in the management of the republican campaign—Mark Hanna, the chairman, the big man of the hour; Henry C. Payne, national committeeman from Wisconsin, who has charge of important interests; C. G. Dawes, national committeeman from Illinois, who is the financial executive of the committee; Perry Heath, director of the press bureau; Congressman Hahn, the head of the speakers' bureau; National Committeeman Durbin of Indiana, and Major Dick, Mark Hanna's secretary. Each man is busy—busier than he has been before in this campaign; but each man is in fine spirits and serenely confident.

Mr. Hanna's first question was, "What are you going to do in Nebraska?" He said he saw more Nebraskans than he had supposed lived in the state, and had been much encouraged by the uniformly confident tone of his visitors from Mr. Bryan's state. He added: "We are counting on Nebraska sure. We want to see the plurality 15,000."

Everybody expressed the greatest interest in Nebraska, and Nebraska republicans may rest assured that the committee will put forth every effort in its power to carry Mr. Bryan's state.

Just now there are 250 employees of the national committee. But next week the shipping and mailing department, in which is the greatest number of employees, will be closed. Mr. Heath is accepting no more manuscripts, and by the 25th of October the literary part of the campaign will be at an end. Of course, the speaking will be kept up till the day of election; but the list of assignments is about completed, and Mr. Hahn spends most of his time sending telegrams saying that ex-President Harrison will not make any speeches outside of Indiana.

The real work of the campaign remains to be done. Hurrahing is necessary, but it is not what turns the scale. It remains to figure out with exactness just what are the actual conditions, and withdraw from the localities where republican success is certain, and concentrate effort on the weak places. As an illustration, Nebraska will receive much attention, while New York will be left to take care of itself, which it is abundantly able to do.

The figures in the possession of the committee are not vague estimates. It is probable that Mr. Hanna could tell within a few thousand votes what will be the result in all of the contested states. It is a fact that the committee feels absolutely sure of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Nebraska.

EDITOR COURIER:
I send you a brief letter—brief be-

cause it will reach you late in the week. Had the pleasure of dining at the Chicago club today with C. G. Dawes, who is running the republican campaign, and a man by the name of Hanna from Cleveland, and others.

W. MORTON SMITH.

WALLACE, Neb., Oct. 16, '96.—Editor Courier: Although silver is falling in price, wheat is going up. The business world seems to have broken Mr. Bryan's combination.
J. H. BYARDER.

FRATERNITY NOTES.

"For ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain" the Chinese are not alone peculiar. As proof of this fact, any law-abiding citizen can tell you of the stranger sights and the still more weird sounds which are ever apparent on clear frosty evenings. The dear old October moon has been known on several occasions to hide her face for fear of being called upon as a witness against some daring and reckless "frat," who, in his wild enthusiasm, is dragging a blindfolded victim over the muddy road of the initiate, while in some dark cellar the coal-bins can tell all about the funeral rites held over the weary individual, who wished he really were dead and free from the torture of these fiends who were lowering him, coffin and all in the grave. Fire departments should be warned lest they flood the chapter-houses in their endeavors to quench the evidences of fires due to the frequent flashes of red light and clouds of smoke issuing from the windows and doors.

At the same time similar sounds issue from the houses where young lady fraternities are holding an initiation. shrill shrieks and hysterical laughter burst forth in evidence that some terror stricken maiden is about to mount the storied goat, or that a messenger-boy had arrived with roses and kind congratulations from the "dear boys" of the different Greek letter fraternities.

On the morning following one of these occasions the newly initiated member enters chapel wearing not only the pin and "frat" colors on his breast but a weary-of-soul expression on his face and an I've-walked-fifty-miles—sort of gait. Let the next aspirant for membership pause, and take warning from the twinkle in his eye. It is revenge for which his soul most longs and which he will inflict upon the student who shall pledge himself to any fraternity.

The Beta Theta Pi on Friday evening at the fraternity rooms initiated, Frank Buckstaff, Mr. Moulton and Mr. Schick.

The Delta Gammas initiated the following young ladies at the home of Miss Blanch Garten; Misses Mae Prentiss, Davis, Alice Righter and Helen Welch.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity entertained their gentlemen friends on Tuesday evening with a "Smoker" at their "frat rooms" in the Harris block. The pleasant event was in compliment to their visiting brothers, Mr. Dufrein of Omaha, and Mr. Binford of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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