

more than 200 delegates in the Coliseum. The seats filled slowly.

Prayer was offered by Rabbi Leon Harrison of St. Louis.

Chairman James called for the report of the platform committee, but it was not ready and the convention settled down to wait.

Senator Reed of Missouri then made a speech. "America" was played by the band when Senator Reed concluded and while Chairman Stone of the resolutions committee mounted the platform to present the platform.

In introducing Senator Stone to present the platform, Chairman James asked order to "hear the democratic declaration of faith." Senator Stone was given prolonged applause.

Chairman Stone delegated the reading to Senator Walsh of Montana and Senator Hollis of New Hampshire. Senator Walsh took the stand first and began reading at 12:36 o'clock.

The reading of the platform was finished at 1:20. There were cheers and the band struck up again.

Chairman moved the adoption of the platform as read.

A minority resolution on the suffrage question was presented and precipitated a lively discussion.

Senator Stone demanded a roll call vote on the minority resolution and Chairman James so directed. As defeat of the amendment by a vote of 888 1/2 to 181 1/2 was announced, there was a demonstration led by the women.

Chairman James then ordered a viva voce vote in adoption of the platform. Delegate Lomasney of Massachusetts objected and Chairman James put the question a second time. The roar of ayes approved the party delegation.

After Chairman James had declared the platform adopted, former Representative Palmer of Pennsylvania presented the resolution providing uniform rules for election of national committeemen. It was adopted. Palmer then moved that the convention adjourn sine die and upon a viva voce vote Chairman James at 3:11 p.m. banged his gavel for the final. The delegates rushed for the exits and filed out to the strains of "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

WHAT ARMED PEACE LEADS TO

In another part of this issue will be found a selection from Dr. Charles E. Jefferson's new book on "What the War is Teaching," which is reprinted by kind permission of the publishers, Fleming H. Revell, New York and Chicago. This selection, "What Armed Peace Leads To," is one of a series of lectures given by Dr. Charles E. Jefferson, pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, under the auspices of the Merrick foundation at the Ohio Wesleyan university, and designated as the 1916 Merrick lectures. Other lectures from this group will be reproduced in subsequent issues of The Commoner. The entire series of lectures has been published in book form under the title "What the War is Teaching," and may be obtained direct from the publishers at \$1.00 net. Every reader of The Commoner should read the book and circulate it among his neighbors.

The two Chicago conventions drove home anew the truth of the old political adage that the successful leader is the man who knows which way the people are going and hurries out in front. The republican bosses ran the convention, with Smoot, Crane, et al., well in the limelight, but they were forced to name the man most in the mind of the rank and file. Roosevelt was able to get the progressive nomination for himself, but not able to hand it over to the frigid Mr. Lodge.

The open season for republican conventions Henry D. Estabrook came to be a candidate for closed without any explanation of why or how president. It is suspected that Henry D. has a subtler sense of humor than he displayed in his speeches—or not.

The real relative importance of events in Mexico is shown by the disappearance from the newspaper columns of "News" from that section when anything else big looms up, like the national conventions of the great political parties.

"Thy day has come—not gone; Thy sun has risen—not set; Thy life is now beyond the reach of change or death. Not ended, but begun; Oh gentle soul, hail and farewell."

Mr. Bryan's St. Louis Letters

(Continued from Page Three)

In international affairs the administration is commended; protection of American rights at home and abroad is promised and co-operation with other nations in the maintenance of the security upon the highways of the sea suggested. While some may read into this plank an endorsement of the program of the league to enforce peace, that is not a necessary construction. Only a "feasible association" is advocated and no association will be found feasible that requires this country to entangle itself in the quarrels of Europe.

Strong endorsement is given to the President's course in dealing with the Mexican situation. The platform supports him in the use of force to repel invasion and to protect our border, but intervention is specifically condemned, except as a last resort. The President is commended for his "stubborn resistance" to every demand and suggestion to enter upon intervention.

This plank is one of the most important ones in the platform. The republicans assail the President's Mexican policy more vigorously than anything else, but their attacks will not succeed. When they are confronted with the fact that intervention is the only alternative, they will find that the people, irrespective of party, will oppose intervention.

The plank on Americanism is one of the longest in the platform. It covers every phase of the subject to which that name has been given. It condemns without reservation the conduct of any American citizen who individually or by association with others attempts to embarrass the government in dealing with international affairs or to aid other governments. No one can find fault with the language employed, because no one would defend the things denounced. It is only the application of the plank that would arouse criticism. Whether, therefore, the plank plays an important part in the campaign will largely depend upon the use made of it by writers and speakers and the language employed in expounding and elaborating it.

The platform has strengthened the party and improved its chance. It was made to fit the record of the President and congress, and it embodies the party's plans for the future.

The renomination of President Wilson and Vice-President Marshall completed the work of the convention. The demonstration that greeted the names of the candidates was proof of their popularity and of the unity of purpose that existed among the delegates. The party is drawn up in battle array; the fight is on, and the chances of success have been greatly improved within the last two weeks. The action taken by the two conventions at Chicago held last week aided greatly; the work of this convention aided still more. W. J. B.

CLOSING SESSION OF THE CONVENTION

St. Louis, June 17.—The debate on the woman suffrage amendment afforded a splendid illustration of the weakness of the opposition. The minority report presented by Governor Ferguson, of Texas, was signed by four members only. Seventeen members of the committee had voted against the plank in the committee against twenty-six in the affirmative, but thirteen of the seventeen were content to accept the will of the majority and did not join in the minority report.

Governor Ferguson took upon himself the task of presenting and defending the minority report on the floor of the convention. If he has any enemies, they missed a great deal of pleasure if they were not present, for they could not have wished him to appear at a poorer advantage. The friends of equal suffrage ought to have his remarks printed and circulated as an evidence of the inability of the opponents of equal suffrage to justify their position. When Senator Stone, Senator Pittman, and Senator Walsh, who divided between them the time given to the majority report on this subject, finished their speeches, the delegates proceeded to defeat their minority substitute by a vote of more than 800 to less than 200. A large majority of the southern delegation supported the suffrage plank, and the great states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois cast the weight of their influence in favor of the platform position.

The democratic convention can be summed up

THE AMERICAN FLAG
"Your flag and my flag, and how it flies today
In your land and my land and half a world away;
Rose red and blood red its stripes forever gleam,
Snow white and soul white, the good forefathers' dream;
Sky blue and true blue with stars that gleam aright;
The gloried guidon of the day, a shelter through the night.
Your flag and my flag, and, oh, how much it holds!
Your land and my land, secure within its folds;
Your heart and my heart beat quicker at the sight,
Sun-kissed and wind-tossed, the red and blue and white;
The one flag—the great flag—the flag for me and you,
Glorifies all else beside, the red and white and blue."

in a few words. Measured by the speeches delivered it ranks among the greatest of the democratic conventions. Reference has already been made to the keynote addresses delivered by Temporary Chairman Glynn and Permanent Chairman James.

The speech of Judge Wescott of New Jersey, presenting the name of President Wilson was a masterpiece. It possessed both strength and beauty and was delivered in such a way as to evince the speaker's heart-felt interest in the honorable task which had been delegated to him.

During the closing session, while the convention was waiting for the report of the platform committee, Senator Reed, of Missouri, delivered a powerful address presenting in his characteristic style a picture of what the country would have been had the republican party been in power, and followed out such a policy as it must have followed had it lived up to its denunciation of what has been done.

And, here, it is worth while to note that there has been just one dominant thought in this convention, namely, that "the President has kept the country out of war." It has been the theme of every speaker, and it has been the one theme which, when forcibly presented has invariably brought the delegates and the visitors to their feet. The convention was proud of what has been done in the way of economic reforms; the delegates were determined that the party shall continue its onward course and secure further remedial legislation, but no one forgot for a moment the world-wide war which is spreading death among men and imposing undeserved burdens upon future generations. No one forgets for a moment the danger which confronts every neutral nation, the danger of being sucked into the flame. The horrors of the war have sickened the people while its nearness has alarmed them. They are grateful that peace reigns here in spite of the unspeakable miseries into which so many nations have been plunged. This is the keynote of the campaign; this is the tower of strength to the democratic cause: "The President has kept us out of war"—that is a record upon which the party can offer him to the voters of the country.

The convention grew in enthusiasm as it proceeded. Harmony was evident everywhere, and yet, harmony plus the enthusiasm that usually accompanies a fight. When the convention adjourned everybody was happy. The delegates dispersed with the satisfaction of knowing they had contributed their mite to democratic success, and a mighty mite it was. The visitors go home feeling that the convention was well worth attending and wondering when there will be another convention of any party so militant for peace and so peaceful in its militancy. W. J. B.

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