

CONVENTION AT WORK

First Session of Big Gathering at Denver is a Brief One.

Allies Lack a Leader and Opposition Crumbles to Pieces—All Efforts to Unite on Vice Presidential Candidate Prove Futile.

The Democratic national convention got under way Tuesday at the Auditorium in Denver in a brief session. After the delivery of the keynote speech by Temporary Chairman Theodore A. Bell of California, an adjournment was taken as a mark of respect to the memory of Grover Cleveland.

Above the hubbub of the opening day of the convention these main developments stand out prominently: The wave of Bryan sentiment has increased to apparently overwhelming and irresistible proportions, and the



THEODORE A. BELL.

Nomination of the Nebraskan seems now assured beyond any reasonable doubt, unless some unlooked for reversal of present conditions occurs.

All efforts to unite on a vice presidential candidate have proved futile and the convention began its deliberations with the contest for second place wide open.

A majority of the Pennsylvania delegation in caucus named Colonel James M. Guffey as national committeeman in open defiance of Mr. Bryan's demand for his displacement and on the heels of Guffey's public arraignment of Bryan as a "hypocrite, ingrate and falsifier."

A minority of the Pennsylvania delegation held a rump caucus, which sought to depose Guffey from leadership and install James Kerr, a Bryan man, as Pennsylvania's leader.

The New York delegation appointed a committee of ten to draft a platform and named Judge Alton B. Parker, the Democratic standard bearer of 1904, as the New York representative on the platform committee. The New York caucus was silent on the presidential and vice presidential situation and still fails to show her colors.

The Democratic national committee held its first meeting to consider contests, which resulted in the dismissal of Senator McCarran's New York contestants and the seating of Roger Sullivan's Illinois delegates.

Allies Lack a Leader.

The belated arrivals Tuesday have practically completed the roster of state delegations and have given a clear idea of the aggregate strength commanded by the Bryan force. It has been one continuous swelling of the Bryan chorus, with only scattering accessions for other candidates. This has become so apparent that the nomination of Mr. Bryan seems assured, not only by the required two-thirds vote of the convention, but by practically an unanimous vote, except that of Minnesota and Delaware, whose representatives still insist they will be steadfast to the end for their favorite sons, and scattering anti-Bryan votes from Georgia, New York, Pennsylvania, Maine and several other localities—a scattered opposition dwarfed by the magnitude of Mr. Bryan's total. While this steady tide of Bryan strength has been setting in the allied opposition have been looking intently, but vainly, toward New York, for it has been recognized that Chief Murphy, the political genius of the delegation, held a key which might loosen some movement of genuine force against the Nebraskan. With New York taking the lead and throwing its 78 votes against him, Guffey and his Pennsylvania cohorts would have followed suit; Georgia was wavering and likely to turn a block of southern strength away from Bryan and this, with the organized strength of Johnson and Gray, might have given vitality to the allied opposition, but all these reckonings have come to naught because of New York's persistent silence. Mr. Murphy is neither for Bryan nor against him, and with this leaderless, aimless situation, the allied opposition has slowly crumbled to pieces. If Murphy has waited for some one else to take the lead, as is generally believed, he will have the satisfaction of going back to New York with the declaration that it would have been lacking in political sagacity for New York to act against Bryan until the aggregate strength of the opposition was demonstrated to be sufficient to defeat him.

A meeting was held of the various anti-Bryan elements, during which the situation was fully canvassed and a

practical agreement reached that it was futile to continue the fight in view of New York's inaction.

Platform Makers at Work.

Evidences are multiplying that practically the only difficult plank to prepare for the Democratic platform will be that relating to the use of injunctions in industrial disputes. Mr. Bryan has let it be known through a number of reliable sources that his position on this plank is not rigid.

Work on the platform continued through the medium of an informal subcommittee, consisting of Governor Haskell, who is to be chairman of the resolutions committee, and a number of prominent members of the party who will have places on that committee. The plan contemplates telephoning each plank to Mr. Bryan at Lincoln as soon as it is agreed upon by the subcommittee. In this manner it will be possible for the subcommittee to present to the full resolutions committee a perfected platform which already has received the stamp of approval of the prospective candidate.

The tariff plank came in for considerable discussion, with the result that this language was put forward tentatively as embodying the position the party should take:

"The Democratic party believes in tariff for revenue only, but inasmuch as the expenses of the government are great and we are depending largely upon imports for the revenues for running the government, which means the imposition of a tariff, we favor the laying of the tariff duties in such a manner that there shall be no discrimination in behalf of any section of the country or any industry."

Major F. W. Brown of Lincoln, who is to be the Nebraska representative on the committee on resolutions, arrived with Mr. Bryan's suggestions concerning a number of planks of the platform in his pocket. Mr. Brown said that it had not been Mr. Bryan's intention to prepare a complete platform, but that it was his wish that the committee itself should perform this duty. He declined to say what subjects were covered by the Bryan draft, but it is understood through other channels that Mr. Bryan's memoranda deal especially with the subject of the regulation of the issuance of writs of injunction by the federal courts in labor disputes, the tariff, the trust, the railroads, the election of senators, which he would have by direct vote of the people; the guarantee of bank deposits by the government and the publicity of campaign contributions. The injunction plank, as drafted, would prohibit the issuance of prohibitory writs without notice, except in cases in which it is evident irreparable damage might be done to property. In that event the plank would permit the issuance of an injunction limited to ten days' time, and a hearing would be required on the second presentation of the case.

BELL HAS STRENUEOUS DAY

Temporary Chairman of Convention Has Trouble in Reaching Denver.

The arrival in Lincoln, Neb., Monday of Theodore A. Bell, temporary chairman of the Democratic convention at Denver, was a comedy; his departure a melodrama. The first act brought him to Lincoln avert the "paparazzi" inevitable in dramatic plots and in this case meaning the platform and his speech as temporary chairman of the convention. W. J. Bryan, the kindly old gentleman that the hero had occupied the calcium light when the patter of hoofs introduced the hero, Mr. Bell, in his carriage bespattered with mud and his clothes hinting of the flood conditions in which the scene was set. Salt creek was on a rampage; the bridge over Antelope creek had been partially washed away and the hero had arrived through remarkable difficulties at the Old Homestead. The act closed with a hurried admonition on the part of the kindly old gentleman that if the hero wished to save the situation he must stay on the first train. Train after train was chosen, only to fail as a possibility of escape; the flood was everywhere; expedient after expedient was chosen, only to be abandoned. It seemed that the convention of which the hero was an indispensable part must be abandoned, when the low comedian, in the person of General Manager Melcher of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad, burst in through the medium of a telegram and proffered a special train to conquer the machinations of the flood.

With this the curtain on the first act descended.

The curtain on the second act arose with Theodore A. Bell, hero of the play, pumping way on a handcar, in company with four brawny railroad hands and a tireless correspondent, in the direction of set scenery representing a flood and blasted alfalfa crops. They were straining every effort in an endeavor to reach the special train provided by Mr. Melcher on the other side of the washout. This act closed with the flood passed and the hero on board the special train, introduced as a medium of bringing the act to a fitting climax.

The third act was laid at Fairview, with W. J. Bryan awaiting news of the hero, who was reported at last as safely at Denver, his difficulties passed and the situation saved.

Serious Fire at Port au Prince.

Fire broke out at Port au Prince in the vicinity of the palace. The flames spread quickly, there being a high wind. Four hundred buildings were burned, including the court house and prison. Sparks were carried to the arsenal, which was also burned, together with stores of powder and munitions. The destruction of the arsenal was accompanied by many explosions, causing a panic.

FLEET SAILS FOR HOME

Battleships Continue Voyage Around the World.

Vessels Will Remain a Week at Honolulu and Then Proceed to Antipodes. Will Reach Hampton Roads Latter Part of February, 1909.

The Atlantic battleship fleet, led by the flagship Connecticut, with Rear Admiral Sperry in command, headed out of San Francisco Tuesday and began their long voyage homeward across three great oceans to Hampton roads.

San Francisco took no official notice of the departure of the fleet, but for all that there were thousands of patriotic Americans on San Francisco hills



REAR ADMIRAL C. S. SPERRY. and on the cliffs that flank the approach to the Golden Gate and the big fighting ships did not lack for hearty cheers and fervent good wishes when they headed out into the Pacific, on their way to the far east.

The fleet steamed out through the Golden Gate in single column. This strung the sixteen battleships out over many miles of sea, and by the time the last ship swept out through the gate the Connecticut was hull down in the western horizon, a dwindling smoke obscured speck against the declining sun.

The fleet will reach Honolulu on July 16, remain a week, and then proceed to the antipodes. Elaborate preparations for its entertainment have been made at Auckland, Sydney and Melbourne. The fleet will reach Manila after a visit to Japanese and Chinese ports about Nov. 7.

It is expected that the fleet will arrive at Hampton roads during the latter part of February, 1909, where it will again be reviewed by President Roosevelt.

PERRY BEGINS HIS JOURNEY

Has Only Minimum Amount of Supplies for Trip to North Pole.

With only a minimum amount of supplies, Commander R. E. Peary's exploring ship, the Roosevelt, left the pier at East 24th street, New York, for the initial stage of its journey toward the North pole. Over \$4,000 is still lacking in the estimate the explorer made sometime ago of the smallest amount of money necessary for another attempt to place the Stars and Stripes over the geographical point never before reached by human beings.

"I haven't the supplies that I would like to have," declared Commander Peary, "but still I think we will be able to pull through. With my experience and knowledge of the country up there, I think the expedition is prepared for three years in the Arctic regions, if conditions are favorable and I have no bad luck. I will have, of course, to depend upon getting a good amount of wild game for food, which I would not be so dependent upon if I could obtain all the provisions I expected to have."

RUEF RELEASED ON BAIL

Former 'Frisco Boss Furnishes Bonds Aggregating \$1,560,000.

Abraham Ruef, former San Francisco political boss, was released from jail on bonds aggregating \$1,560,000, the largest amount ever given in a criminal case in California. This sum is the aggregate bail upon seventy-eight indictments returned by the Oliver grand jury, charging Ruef with bribery of the former board of supervisors in connection with the granting of franchises to public corporations and upon which he was taken in custody on March 8, 1907.

Twenty sureties, including Ruef's father and sister and himself, signed the bonds. It developed during the examination of his sureties before Judge Murasky that Ruef owned real estate in San Francisco, which he had transferred to his father and sister, upon which a real estate expert on the witness stand placed a valuation of \$1,095,556. Ruef's annual income from this property was \$16,900. His father and sister went his bonds to the amount of \$690,000, while other sureties qualified for \$870,000.

They Kill 77,607 Dogs and Cats.

Since Jan. 1 77,607 stray dogs and cats have been destroyed by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Never in the history of the society were greater efforts put forth to rid New York city of the homeless dogs and cats.

Preston and Munro Named.

The national convention in New York city of the Socialist Labor party nominated Martin R. Preston of Nevada for president and Donald Munro of Virginia for vice president.

SELF-HYPNOTISM CAUSES DEATH

Strange Case in Chicago Interests Doctors, Who Will Hold Post Mortem.

Suffering all the agony and exhibiting many of the symptoms that accompany death by poisoning, John Neriza of Chicago died of hallucination and auto-suggestion. It is believed his condition resulted from worry because of Fourth of July noise. Attending physicians found no trace of poison in their examination of Neriza.

Members of his family declare that he had eaten nothing that might cause his condition. But the efforts of physicians to assure him that he was not poisoned were futile, and he passed into a comatose condition and died after hours of acute suffering.

The case is one that puzzled the physicians of the Alexian Brothers' hospital staff, and many of them will attend the inquest, while alienists also will be present to explain the cause of Neriza's death. A weak mental state is believed responsible for the self-hypnotism. It was asserted by several physicians that scores of deaths occur annually in every large city from such conditions.

EIGHT KILLED IN WRECK

Engine Crashes Into Side of Smoking Car, Killing 8 and Injuring 30.

A local, bound from Alameda Mole into Oakland, crashed into the Santa Cruz train No. 57, bound for the Oakland Mole, at First and Webster streets, killing or injuring all of the passengers in the Santa Cruz train's smoking car. Eight were killed and over thirty injured.

The engine of the Alameda train, which was running with tender ahead, cut into the Santa Cruz train's smoking car a few feet from the front trucks, and the mass was tossed from the main line track against the signal tower in Webster street. The wreck of the coach, containing its dead and screaming wounded, was hurled on its side, with the Alameda local tender buried in the wreckage.

NINE KILLED; FIFTY INJURED

Missouri Pacific Fast Trains Crash Near Knoboster, Mo.

The California train from St. Louis on the Missouri Pacific railroad collided with the equally fast St. Louis train from Kansas City near Knoboster, Mo. Nine persons were killed, all on the train from Kansas City, and at least fifty were injured.

The dead: Michael Burke, lineman for Western Union Telegraph company, Poplar Bluff, Mo.; S. R. English, lumberman, Olean, Mo.; Fred Story, lineman, Franklyn, Ky.; W. J. Frisbie, St. Louis; John Hood, Hurley, Mo., lineman; W. H. Harding, negro mail clerk, St. Louis; Baggage man, Campbell, Jefferson City, and two assistants.

74 DEAD; 2,786 INJURED

Record of 1908 Eclipse All Previous Fourths.

Seventy-four dead and 2,786 injured are the totals of the accidents attending the celebration of the Fourth of July in the United States. This breaks all records for deaths since 1899. The number may be nearly doubled by tetanus in the next few weeks.

The number of deaths reported this year is thirteen more than at the same time last year. The number of injured, however, is only two-thirds of the average for the last five years. This is regarded as an indication that the agitation for a sane Fourth is having its effect. This year's fire loss is \$535,453, which is about the average of the last ten years.

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISIONS

Features of the Day's Trading and Closing Quotations.

Chicago, July 6.—Rain in Nebraska and higher prices for wheat at the principal European markets caused a sharp advance today in the local wheat market, the September delivery closing at net gain of 1%. Corn was up 1 1/2c. Oats were 1 1/4@1 1/2c higher and provisions 5@27 1/2c higher. Closing prices:

Wheat—July, 88 1/2c; Sept., 89 1/2c.

Corn—July, 74c; Sept., 73 1/2c.

Oats—July, 48 1/2c@49c; Sept., 42 1/2c.

Pork—July, \$15.65; Sept., \$15.82 1/2.

Lard—July, \$9.42 1/2; Sept., \$9.52 1/2.

Ribs—July, \$8.70; Sept., \$8.85.

Chicago Cash Prices—No. 2 hard wheat, 91 1/2@93c; No. 2 corn, 74c; No. 3 oats, 52 1/2c.

South Omaha Live Stock.

South Omaha, July 6.—Cattle—Receipts, 1,600; steady to 10@15c higher; native steers, \$4.50@7.65; cows and heifers, \$3.00@5.25; western steers, \$5.50@6.15; Texas steers, \$3.00@5.15; canners, \$2.00@2.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.00@5.00; calves, \$2.75@5.75; bulls, stags, etc., \$2.75@5.00. Hogs—Receipts, 2,800; 10c higher; heavy, \$6.17 1/2@6.22 1/2; mixed, \$6.15@6.17 1/2; light, \$6.10@6.17 1/2; pigs, \$5.50@6.90; bulk sales, \$8.15@6.17 1/2. Sheep—Receipts, 1,700; 10@15c higher; yearlings, \$4.25@5.00; wethers, \$3.75@4.25; ewes, \$3.00@4.00; lambs, \$3.50@4.50.

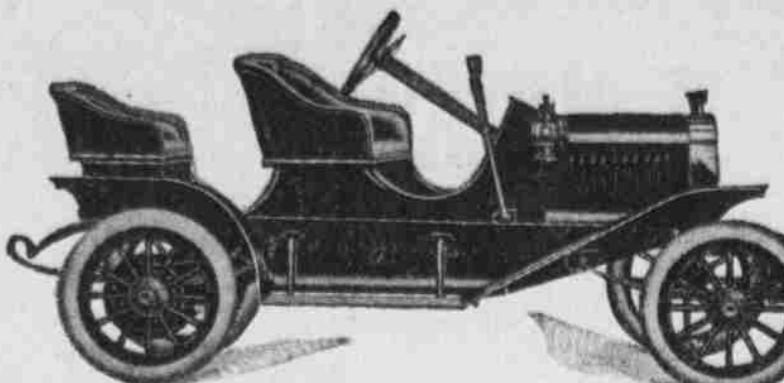
Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, July 6.—Cattle—Receipts, 12,000; steady to 10@15c higher; steers, \$6.60@5.25; cows, \$3.60@5.50; heifers, \$3.50@6.90; calves, \$5.40@6.25; bulls, \$4.50@5.25; stockers and feeders, \$3.75@5.15. Hogs—Receipts, 30,000; firm; choice heavy shipping, \$6.70@6.80; butchers, \$6.65@6.75; light mixed, \$6.35@6.50; choice light, \$6.50@6.65; packing, \$5.75@6.40; pigs, \$4.50@6.00. Sheep—Receipts, 13,000; firm, sheep, \$3.75@4.40; lambs, \$3.50@4.75; yearlings, \$4.75@5.80.

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