

UNDER A GREAT ROOF

TWENTY THOUSAND DEMOCRATS MAY ASSEMBLE AT CHICAGO.

As Usual, the Lake City Outdoors Himself and Constructs the Largest Convention Hall Ever Known—Probable Influence of New York Factors.

[Special Correspondence.] CHICAGO, June 2.—While the wigwam in which the Democratic convention is to be held on June 31 is not a handsome structure, it is well adapted for the object in view.



THE CONVENTION HALL.

and the rattle of trucks or clamor of locomotive bells will not disturb the proceedings. Neither will the smoke from the engines find access into the building and clog the throats of the orators, as was the case at the conventions held in the old Exposition building.

There was some talk of utilizing that historic structure again this year, but the flat had gone forth for its destruction, and the old time discomforts of delegates and spectators within its walls were strong enough in the memoirs of the local managers to deter them from petitioning for a postponement of its fate.

Chicago had made no effort to secure the convention—it came to her as the voluntary gift of the national committee. She readily accepted the unlooked for honor, however, and determined that ample provision should be made for the vast throng to assemble within her hospitable borders.

The building, which is of wood, fronts on Michigan avenue, where there are four large entrances. These will be used exclusively by the delegates, newspaper men and persons invited to seats on the stage.

East of the rostrum are the desks for the official reporters and the stenographers of the Associated Press and United Press, which will supply their patrons with a verbatim report of the proceedings.

One thousand seats have been set apart for the delegates in the pit immediately in front of the stage. To prevent confusion, the alternates will be seated in convenient places in the galleries. It has been decreed also that they shall not be allowed upon the main floor or pit unless they are to serve in lieu of regular delegates.

To break the squat appearance of the wigwam there are towers surmounted with flagstaves at each corner. As the structure has to be torn down within two weeks after the convention finishes its work, very little pains will be given to either exterior or interior decoration.

Some little trouble has occurred between the local committee in charge of the arrangements and the national committee in regard to the number of tickets to be allotted Chicago.

German railway officials are experimenting with rails made of paper, which are said to be as superior to steel rails as paper car wheels are to those made of iron.

FOR THE CONVENTION

How These Trained Observers Will Get the News and Report It—The Best of All Convention Writers is a Woman. The Modern Newspaper.

[Special Correspondence.] WASHINGTON, June 2.—As I write the Washington newspaper correspondents are on their way to Minneapolis in their own special train.

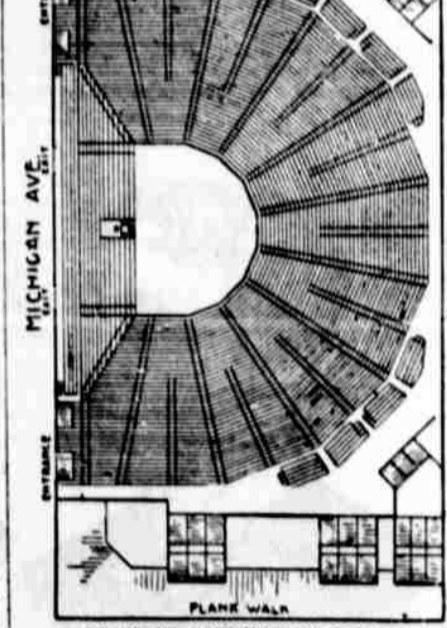
No doubt many of my readers will be surprised to learn that this special train will carry about eighty Washington correspondents to the field of battle.

The work of a newspaper man at a national nominating convention is at best difficult enough. I have been through a number of these affairs and know whereof I speak. The most important work a newspaper writer can do is not in the convention, but before it meets and at night between the daily sessions.

It is worthy of remark that the finest descriptive writer in recent national conventions was a woman—Mrs. Margaret Sullivan, of Chicago. She is unrivaled in the vividness of her sketches, the purity of her language, her quality of enabling the reader, though a thousand miles away, to feel that he was there, catching the marvelous inspiration of the moment and being awayed by those waves of human exaltation which sweep over such gatherings.

It is during the evening and the night that the special correspondent from Washington is most valuable to the paper which employs him. Then the leaders of the convention, the big politicians, the bosses, the heads of messes "are tireless, sleepless, devilishly active" in promoting the schemes to which they are attached.

Out of a thousand false stories and strange rumors he must sift the truth. Out of a thousand theories, each in turn supported by a great variety of evidence, he must select the true one. It is his mission to look always to the future, to point what is likely to be done, as well as to show what is being done.



PLAN OF CONVENTION HALL. There is no difficulty in the matter of hotel accommodation in Chicago. Several new hotels have gone up recently in anticipation of the World's fair crowds.

It has been the generally accepted idea that gout is a disease peculiar to lazy, sluggish minded high livers who have nothing in the world to do but live—and eat. But there is a new light, and Dr. P. Smith says it is not the result of alcoholic drinks, for it is rare in Scotland; nor does wine superinduce it, for it is rare in Spain and Italy, and the beer drinkers of Munich and Vienna know it not.

When, a few days hence, you eagerly seize your newspaper and read of what is going on at Minneapolis, do not forget the man who is doing his best to keep you informed of every phase, change and feature of the tremendous situation. Remember that he is working twenty hours a day, pushing and elbowing his way through dense, hot crowds, inhaling day and night the fumes of tobacco and the all pervading dust of packed hotel corridors, and making prodigious sacrifices of mental and physical vitality to serve you.

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Eighty Washington Correspondents are Westward Bound.

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FOR THE CONVENTION

Some Facts About the Career of Louisville's Leading Editor.

LOUISVILLE, June 2.—Although Henry Watterson is the leading editor of Kentucky, if not of the south, he is not a Kentuckian by birth or education. He

is a native of Washington, having been born there, while his father, Harvey Watterson, was serving as congressman from a district in Tennessee.

Watterson has introduced new methods into The Courier-Journal, and though not entirely destitute of occasional eccentricity himself, he has not encouraged eccentricity in his subordinates. He has said that when he first made his home in this city it was the custom of newspaper men here to get drunk at least once a day—a custom which, if not wholly discontinued, has been greatly modified.

Watterson has not been engaged in any sort of "difficulty" for nearly twenty-five years, and yet he has never hesitated to express his opinion freely and clearly on any subject that came before him. He has tact, humor, ability, independence and a vast fund of common sense, which, at the age of fifty, he is likely to retain.

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