

UNDER A GREAT ROOF

TWENTY THOUSAND DEMOCRATS
MAY ASSEMBLE AT CHICAGO.

As Usual, the Lake City Outdoes Herself 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 21 is not a handsome structure, it is well adapted for the object in view. Situated on the lake front, between Madison and Washington streets, it is removed from much of the noise and bustle of the city. True, a number of railroad tracks run between it and the lake, but there are no windows or doors on its eastern side,



THE CONVENTION HALL.

and the rattle of trucks or clatter 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. The Auditorium was also suggested, but commodities as that magnificent hall is it was pronounced insufficient for the requirements of the occasion.

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.

For convention purposes the wigwam on the lake front was devised to accommodate 15,000 people. It was afterward estimated that, including the delegates, nearer 20,000 would desire to "assist" in this great council of the Democratic party, and the first plans were accordingly enlarged. The improvised auditorium is probably the largest in the world, and its acoustic properties and seating arrangements are declared to be unsurpassed.

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. On the north and south sides are doors for the admission of the general public. The stage is on the Michigan avenue side. It will accommodate 300 or 400 people. A commodious rostrum is in front of the stage, facing east. This is for the accommodation of the officers and speakers.

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. The newspaper workers have 150 seats on either side of the rostrum, so arranged that every man can see and hear without straining. Editorial spectators—those from country papers and those who have no actual work to do during the proceedings—will be assigned good positions in the galleries.

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. The seats rising from the outer edges of the pit will accommodate 9,000 people; the galleries above, 3,000 more. Admission, as usual, will be by ticket, and there will be an ample force of police to keep the various entrances clear and preserve order on the outside. The exits have been so arranged that the building can be emptied in a few minutes in case of an emergency of any kind.

To break the squat appearance of the wigwam there are towers surmounted with flagstaffs 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. There will be national flags and bunting galore, pictures of leading statesmen and wreaths of flowers and evergreens wherever they can be disposed to advantage. No effort will be made to otherwise please or bewilder the eye, since our people, who are eminently practical, do not deem it wise to enter into more elaborate adornment for a temporary building. The comfort and convenience of both delegates and visitors have been kept steadily in mind, however, and I think it is safe to say that in these important respects the convention hall will prove eminently satisfactory.

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. At the last Democratic convention here complaint was made that the local allotment was unfair and that certain outside gentlemen were permitted, or rather took upon themselves the liberty, to pack the hall with followers of certain candidates. In order to prevent anything of the kind occurring this year, the local committee has demanded 6,000 tickets to dispose of as in their judgment they see fit. The national committee tendered 3,000 at first, but the Democratic press of the city objected so vigorously to such a slight recognition of Chicago's rights in the premises that the national committee drew back their proposal. Up to this writing the question has not been

definitely settled. It is confidently expected here, however, that at 5,000 tickets at least will fall to our share.

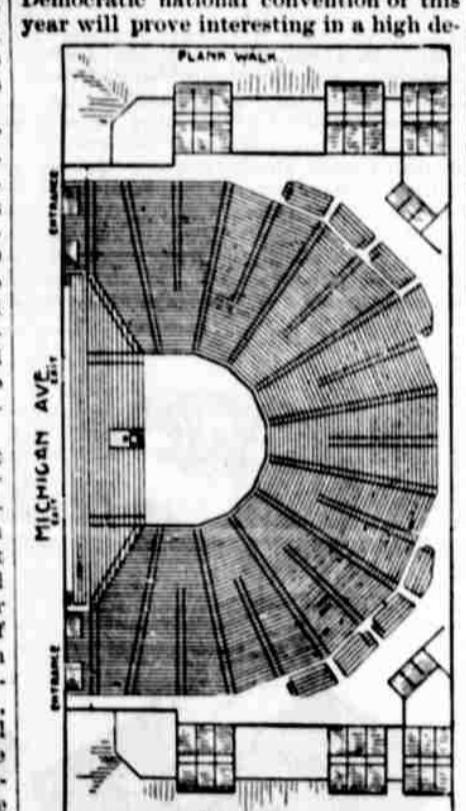
A little financial project naturally attaches to this matter of tickets. The erection of the Wigwam cost \$30,000, which was raised by contributions from hotel and restaurant keepers and citizens generally. After using 2,000 tickets for their personal following the local committee, should they be awarded 5,000, will have 3,000 left. There will be no difficulty in selling these at \$20 apiece, which would bring \$60,000 and cover not only the cost of the Wigwam, but the entertainment of distinguished visitors and other incidental expenses.

The convention itself bids fair to be one of the most exciting in the history of the Democratic party. At the outset there will be a vigorous contest over the delegation from New York. The adherents of Grover Cleveland have taken the position that the February convention at Albany did not fairly represent the Democracy of the state—that it was called too early to obtain an honest expression of the will of the people and that its action ought to be ignored. At the Syracuse convention on May 31 this sentiment found formal expression.

Senator Hill's supporters, on the other hand, insist that the midwinter convention was regular in every respect, and that the date was agreed to by the Cleveland men on the state committee. They will stubbornly resist any recognition of the contesting delegations, and a very hot and bitter fight is expected both in committee and on the floor of the convention. The outcome will have a very important bearing on the selection of a candidate. Should the regular delegation win, Senator Hill will hold the seventy-two votes of New York state, and ex-President Cleveland will have to be placed in nomination by a delegate from some other state. It is believed that Wisconsin will champion his cause and that the orator for the occasion has already been agreed upon in the person of General Bragg, author of the now historic phrase that "we love him for the enemies he has made."

But the factional differences in New York have led many conservative Democrats to look around for some outside candidate. They think the dispute has become too bitter to allow of a compromise, and that the nomination of either Cleveland or Hill would result in the loss of the Empire State. There is abundant material from which to select another standard bearer. Iowa has placed the name of Governor Boies before the country. Illinois is half pledged to Senator John M. Palmer and Senator Voorhees looks upon Indiana's endorsement of Gray as a sure prelude to victory. Then there are Gorman of Maryland, Russell of Massachusetts, Pattison of Pennsylvania, Carlisle of Kentucky and Campbell of Ohio, all sturdy, representative Democrats, with more or less following beyond the bounds of their own states.

With such an array of names to choose from it can be readily imagined that the Democratic national convention of this year will prove interesting in a high degree.



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. The convention hall is within easy distance of the Palmer, Auditorium, Grand Pacific, Leland, Tremont, Sherman and Great Northern, where the headquarters of the leading state delegations will be located.

JOHN W. POSTGATE

SOME FACTS ABOUT GOUT.
It has been the generally accepted idea that gout is a disease peculiar to lazy, sluggish minded high lives 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 do wines superinduce it, for it is rare in Spain and Italy, and the beer drinkers of Munich and Vienna know it not. According to him it is a proud distinction, for it "belongs to the most civilized times and nations, to the stronger sex, to the most vigorous period of life, to the higher classes of society and to the most able." And so another popular delusion is attacked, if it is not yet destroyed, and the gout must be classed with William Tell and Lucrezia Borgia. It will be remembered that Dr. Johnson once wrote Dr. Taylor as follows: "My opinion is that I have drunk too little, and therefore have the gout, for it is my own acquisition, as neither my father had it nor my mother." At the same time Johnson was immoderate in all things, and he acknowledged that he was "a hardened and shameless tea drinker."

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

EIGHTY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS ARE WESTWARD BOUND.

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 delegates, managing politicians, magnates or spectators will travel to the northwestern city in finer style than the men who are to chronicle the proceedings of the convention. They have sumptuous sleeping, dining, parlor and observation cars. They carry their own barber from the National Capital Press club, their stenographers and typewriters. If necessary they could print a newspaper in any town at which they might stop, having their copy ready for the printers' hands. At Minneapolis, and later at Chicago, they will be second in importance only to the members of the convention themselves. The delegates will nominate the candidates for president, but it is the newspaper men on whom the entire country must depend for its information of the proceedings, the plots, conspiracies, movements and combinations.

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. Perhaps you did not think there were so many correspondents at the capital. But these eighty will be only one-half of the whole number, the remaining eighty being left here to cover the news of the nation's capital.

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. What occurs in the convention is an open book, or at least easily understood. It speaks for itself and only needs to be carefully watched and intelligently reported. Stenographers are depended upon to report all speeches and formal proceedings, and descriptive writers are stationed at points of vantage to make pen pictures of the stirring scenes.

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 swayed by those waves of human exaltation which sweep over such gatherings. Mrs. Sullivan will be at Minneapolis and Chicago. One of her peculiarities is that she will not sit among the newspaper men on the platform. She prefers the spectators' gallery, where her point of view is that of the average onlooker, where platform, delegates and the thousands of spectators are spread out before her like a valley seen from a mountain top.

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. There are secret plottings, midnight conferences, combinations, conspiracies which may change or affect the proceedings of the morrow. As tireless, as sleepless, as active as the politicians must the correspondent be. He must know as well as they, and he usually knows better, what is going on.

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. The great reading public not only wants to know everything that is going on, but what it all means and whether it drifts; and it depends upon the special correspondent to harmonize the conflicting indications, the diverse theories and statements, into an orderly, rational story which shall embrace not only the developments of the day but their probable bearing upon the result.

I venture the prediction that these eighty correspondents who reach the field of battle today by special train will from hour to hour and day to day have a better understanding of the situation in both conventions than any other men on the field, excepting, perhaps, four or five men in each convention who are the generals of opposing forces. Before the struggle the correspondent will inform himself as to the plans, the purposes, the points of strength and weakness in each of the camps. As the battle comes on he will thus be able to judge the value of every onslaught, every repulse, every temporary advantage gained by one or the other of the fighting lines. The slightest change in the array of battle will have him a deep significance. To him it is a game which he knows better than nine out of ten of the men who are engaged in it.

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. Remember that as a rule it is sundown before the schemes and combinations of the

bosses begin to develop and become known, and that after satisfying himself of the tendency and features of the hour the correspondent must turn his ardently acquired intelligence into copy and get it upon the wire.

The bane of the newspaper profession, its oppressiveness, its murderousness to the men who take pride and achieve success in it, is that after a day's labor has been expended in acquiring information, when body and mind are fagged with exertion and long tension, then must be performed the most delicate, the most important, most trying task of all—putting into words and sentences the harvest of intelligence, inference, logic. Good newsgathering is a failure without good writing. How difficult good writing is after a day and part of a night of newsgathering in one of these human maelstroms, known to the public as a national convention, no man knows so well as he who has tried it.

At Minneapolis there will be more than the usual necessity for rapid work, because the telegraphic service is not so extensive as that at Chicago or at other cities in which national conventions have formerly been held. There will be a rush for the wires, and the correspondent who can get his facts quickest and put them in words earliest will be the man to win the plaudits of his managing editor. The newspapers of the country will report the preliminaries and proceedings of the coming national conventions as they have never before reported such gatherings.

There are papers in New York and Chicago which will want and have, if the wires can be found to carry them, a hundred thousand words from Minneapolis in a single night. A hundred thousand words will fill eight pages of the paper, and the telegraphic tolls alone to New York will cost nearly a thousand dollars, to say nothing of the other expenses. The big newspapers will each have from five to twelve men at Minneapolis, and the same number at Chicago. The special reports written by these reporters will be in addition to the routine reports made by press associations.

A feature of newspaper work in the conventions of this year will be the illustrations. Four years ago newspaper illustration had not been so fully developed as it is today, and while some capital pictures were then printed the illustrations of this year will be almost as perfect from the graphic and the artistic point of view as those which the weekly illustrated papers will bring out ten days or so later. The modern newspaper has become such a perfect photograph of the thought, the occurrences and the incidents of the day that precious little is left to the weekly illustrated journal or to the monthly magazine.

The modern daily newspaper is the cheapest thing in the world. There is nothing else that compares with it in value per price. For two cents one may buy a New York or Chicago paper of sixteen pages. Think for a moment of what it is you get for the price of a postage stamp. First, there is the white paper. It alone costs one cent, and white paper, thanks to the development of machinery and processes, is cheaper now than it ever was before. To make white paper, costly machines and apparatus, marvels of ingenuity and intricacy are required. The paper is shipped to the newspaper office in huge rolls, and there it goes through a process compared with which its manufacture is mere child's play. The big roll lies on the sidewalk where it has been dropped by the drayman. Tomorrow, you know, it will appear worked up into printed sheets. But what is the method of breathing the breath of life, a soul, into this mass of white, inert matter?

Early in the morning hundreds of men in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe are the first to contribute their share. They are news gatherers, telegraph and cable operators. They write of thrones, armies, families, principalities and powers. As soon as the sun has begun to shine upon the western hemisphere thousands—literally thousands—of men take up their part of the work. They think, inquire, note, write. They are scattered from Hudson's bay to Patagonia, from ocean to ocean. Through air, but as they multiply with each mail he feels his last year's enthusiasm return, and he is soon boasting over having every room engaged, but keeps right on as usual accepting applications.

Now come the money lenders from the surrounding towns. They come with a good many fifteen dollars in their inside pockets; they return to their plows, to their fishing smacks, to their trades and to their banks with paper in place of their hard earned dollars, bearing 1, 2 and sometimes 3 per cent. a month, and all coming due in August. Money lending is probably carried on a bigger scale in Bar Harbor than in any other place of its size in the country, and paper doubtless commands a greater rate of interest.

Among the new cottagers expected this year are Colonel Elliott F. Shepard, Mr. Joseph Pulitzer and Hon. Wayne MacVeagh. The prominent people who were here last year will return.

It has been colder than the shades of Greenland here this spring, but notwithstanding that fact not a few of the old standby cottagers have already put in an appearance.

There is but one new cottage being built at Bar Harbor this year, but that is a palatial affair for J. S. Kennedy, a New York banker. It is situated near the Vanderbilt estate and will be finished early in July. It will eclipse in architectural beauty anything in this village of elegant cottages. It is rumored upon pretty good authority that W. D. Sloan, the great carpet merchant, will build a summer residence here during the present year that will not cost less than \$1,000,000.

A great deal is expected from Mrs. Shepard and Mrs. Pulitzer in the way of entertaining this season. Both will doubtless be leaders. The Shepards have the more elegant home. It has been until the Kennedy house was built the show place of Bar Harbor. It is nearly opposite Stanwood, the home of Secretary Blaine, who is expected here soon.

WALTER WELLMAN.

HENRY WATTERSON.

Some Facts About the Career of Louisville's Leading Editor.
[Special Correspondence.]

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

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