

Democratic National Convention

The democratic national convention will meet at St. Louis, July 6. It is impossible at this writing to predict the outcome so far as the identity of the candidates is concerned. It seems that Mr. Parker will go into the convention with the largest number of votes of any one candidate and yet it does not seem at all likely that he will be nominated.

In order that the readers of The Commoner may know of the action of the several state and territorial conventions, a statement is hereinafter printed showing the action of the several state and territorial conventions and setting forth the number of delegates to which each state and territory is entitled:

- Alabama, 22 delegates; adopted unit rule; indorsed Parker.
- Alaska, 6 delegates; unit rule; instructed for Parker.
- Arizona, 6 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- Arkansas, 18 delegates; instructed for Parker.
- California, 20 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- Colorado, 10 delegates; uninstructed; non-committal.
- Connecticut, 14 delegates; unit rule; Parker instructions.
- Delaware, 6 delegates; instructed for Judge Gray.
- District of Columbia, 6 delegates; uninstructed.
- Florida, 10 delegates; uninstructed and non-committal.
- Georgia, 26 delegates; unit rule; Parker instructions.
- Hawaii, 6 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- Idaho, 6 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- Illinois, 54 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- Indiana, 30 delegates; unit rule; Parker instructions.
- Indian Territory, 6 delegates; uninstructed; said to be for Parker.
- Iowa, 26 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- Kansas, 20 delegates; uninstructed; divided as to candidate.
- Kentucky, 26 delegates; unit rule; uninstructed.
- Louisiana, 18 delegates; instructed for Parker.
- Maine, 12 delegates; no instructions; divided as to candidate.
- Maryland, 16 delegates; unit rule; uninstructed; all for Gorman.
- Massachusetts, 32 delegates; unit rule and Olney instructions.
- Michigan, 28 delegates; unit rule; no instructions; divided as to candidate.
- Minnesota, 22 delegates; uninstructed; divided as to candidate; Hearst men claim majority.
- Mississippi, 20 delegates; instructed for Parker.
- Missouri, 36 delegates; instructed for Senator Cockrell.
- Montana, 6 delegates; uninstructed; claimed for Hearst.
- Nebraska, 16 delegates; uninstructed as to candidate.
- Nevada, 6 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- New Hampshire, 8 delegates; uninstructed; claimed to be for Parker.
- New Jersey, 24 delegates; unit rule; uninstructed; claimed for Grover Cleveland.
- New Mexico, 6 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- New York, 78 delegates; unit rule; Parker instructions.
- North Carolina, 24 delegates; uninstructed.
- North Dakota, 8 delegates; uninstructed.
- Ohio, 46 delegates; unit rule; uninstructed.
- Oklahoma, 6 delegates; instructed to co-operate with Kansas City platform democrats.
- Oregon, 8 delegates; uninstructed;

- unit rule; majority for Hearst.
- Pennsylvania, 68 delegates; unit rule; uninstructed.
- Porto Rico, 6 delegates; uninstructed.
- Rhode Island, 8 delegates; uninstructed, but favorable to Hearst.
- South Carolina, 18 delegates; uninstructed.
- South Dakota, 8 delegates; instructed for Hearst.
- Tennessee, 24 delegates; unit rule; Parker instructions.
- Texas, 36 delegates; instructed for Parker.
- Utah, 6 delegates; uninstructed.
- Vermont, 8 delegates; uninstructed.
- Virginia, 24 delegates; uninstructed.
- Washington, 10 delegates; uninstructed; unit rule; claimed that majority favors Hearst.
- West Virginia, 14 delegates; uninstructed; claimed to be for Senator Gorman.
- Wisconsin, 26 delegates; unit rule and instructed for Edw. C. Wall.
- Wyoming, 6 delegates; unit rule; instructed for Hearst.

Stability of Political Parties

So far as the popular vote is concerned, there is never a "landslide" in American politics. The stability with which the two big parties hold their own through election after election is really wonderful. In England and France the changes in public sentiment are far more marked than here in America. In the British elections a change of more than 16 per cent has often been found between two parliamentary elections. Since the election of Grant in 1868 down to the election of 1900 there was a change of only 2 per cent in the republican vote with respect to the total vote, though there were greater fluctuations in the interim. We think of the defeat of Bryan in 1896 as a bad one, and of his second defeat in 1900 as a veritable landslide, but this is only true from the electoral college standpoint, and not from the standpoint of the popular vote. The popular vote and the electoral college are not very intimately associated. For example, a majority of 1 in the popular vote of some great pivotal state might give the favorite candidate a very large majority in the electoral college.

Recently, for one of the current publications, Mr. F. B. Tracy prepared a table showing the per cent of the total vote received by each presidential candidate since the last term of Abraham Lincoln, and we give it as follows:

	Republican.
1868—Grant	53
1872—Grant	53
1876—Hayes	48
1880—Garfield	48
1884—Blaine	48
1888—Harrison	47
1892—Harrison	42
1896—McKinley	51
1900—McKinley	51
	Democrats.
1868—Seymour	47
1872—Greeley	44
1876—Tilden	50
1880—Hancock	48
1884—Cleveland	48
1888—Cleveland	48
1892—Cleveland	46
1896—Bryan	46
1900—Bryan	45

Some curious things are here revealed. Grant and McKinley were the only presidents in fifty years who received a majority of the whole popular vote. From Grant's last term down to the first election of McKinley neither party had a majority of the total vote cast, the nearest to it being Tilden, in 1876, who received just half of the popular ballot. The second election of Grover Cleveland has been described as an "overwhelming" vic-

tory, yet he received but 46 per cent of the total vote, and that was 2 per cent less than he had received at either of the other two elections at which he was a candidate. Blaine received 48 per cent of the total vote and was beaten by Cleveland. In 1888 Harrison received only 47 per cent of the total vote, yet he beat Cleveland, who exactly held his own. But an even stranger outcome was that of the election of 1896, when Bryan, receiving exactly the per cent of the popular vote with which Cleveland had been elected four years before, nevertheless lost his electoral college by a vote of 176 to 277. At his second candidacy Bryan lost 1 per cent, dropping to 45 per cent of the total, but his loss in the electoral college was at a greater ratio, the vote standing 155 to 292.

It will be noticed that between 1884 and 1892 both parties declined in their percentages of the popular vote. This meant, of course, that the small political parties were making some headway. In 1892, for example, the populist party polled 1,000,000 votes. In 1896 the republican percentage increased by 8 over 1892, whereas the democrats lost nothing. But in 1896 the vote of the small parties declined from 11 per cent of the total in 1892 to only 3. This meant that the populists had gone into the democratic party and that the republicans had drawn from the democrats and the stay-at-homes enough to increase by



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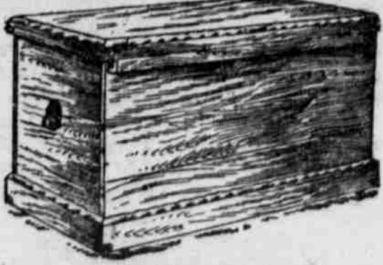


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