

offices. While a goodly sum in the hand is worth two offices in the bush, both inducements must be taken into calculation in a contest like that now being waged for supremacy in the party.

The fight over the temporary chairmanship seems likely to give the first reliable indication of the line-up and it may be left to the followers of La Follette and Cummins to decide the question, if they are willing to take the responsibility, but they may prefer to withhold their votes rather than be counted with either side. Neutrality is their strong card and they would find it difficult to support the candidate of either side without subjecting themselves to misrepresentation.

The Roosevelt meeting tonight will give opportunity for an outburst of enthusiasm, as the ex-president is going to speak. It is safe to predict that he will studiously refrain from praising the republican national committee. In fact, he may brush up on the criminal law and make some additions to the adjectives which he has already employed in describing the various forms of larceny which he has charged against his opponent. The war goes merrily on, and I feel even more than a journalistic interest in watching it.

#### JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE

Chicago, Ill., June 17.—It is "just before the battle, mother," and the writer is able to survey the scene more calmly than those who "may be numbered with the slain."

The feeling, as one meets with it in the corridors of the hotels, is not as bitter as some of the expressions of some of the delegates would indicate. The lines are closely drawn and each side is putting forth its best efforts, but there is a good deal of cheerfulness, and I am trying to cultivate it wherever I can. I am urging both sides not to take the matter too seriously, assuring them that we can correct at Baltimore any mistakes they may be unfortunate enough to make.

I find that not one of them is disposed to question a democratic victory four years ahead, and many of them are willing to admit confidentially that the republican party is in such a muddle that the democrats have the chance of a lifetime.

The fight opens tomorrow with the election of a temporary chairman, and an expectant audience will fill the Coliseum before noon tomorrow, the opening hour. Senator Root is the choice of the Taft forces, while Senator Borah will receive the Roosevelt vote. If anyone attempts to give in advance of the roll call the actual number of votes to be cast for each he will be walking "by faith rather than by sight."

It is likely that the La Follette and Cummins delegates will withhold their votes rather than cast them for either candidate. As both Cummins and La Follette must receive votes from both sides in order to win the presidential prize, their friends are disposed to avoid an alliance actual or even seeming with either group. As Taft and Roosevelt have nearly equal strength and together control more than nine-tenths of the convention the other candidates can afford to let them fight out their differences and await the result.

As soon as the temporary organization is completed the committee on credentials will be announced and the struggle which was commenced before the national committee will be renewed. The Roosevelt forces will have a larger representation on the credentials committee than they have on the national committee and about eighty contests will be submitted to this committee. The remaining contests will be abandoned and the Taft delegates will be permitted to occupy seats without further controversy. This is regarded by the president's followers as a vindication of the fairness of the committee. But the ex-president's friends reply that these delegates were seated by a unanimous vote in the committee and that acquiescence on the part of the Roosevelt members of the national committee is proof to see justice done. The eighty contests, however, are sufficient in number to decide the presidential nomination, so that the interest in the result of the committee deliberations is acute. The California contest, while it involves but two delegates, has aroused more heat than some of the others of greater number or importance.

I have taken pains to consult the leaders on both sides in order to present the issue accurately. The Taft side relies upon the wording of the call of the national committee, which is in conformance with the rules which have gov-

erned republican national conventions for thirty years. According to the call the several states are permitted to introduce variations in the rules to conform to state law, but this permission concludes with the words: "But provided for that in no state shall an election be so held as to prevent the delegates from any congressional district and their alternates being selected by the republican electors of that district."

This provision, taken in connection with the custom that has prevailed and the practice of other states would give the Taft side a prima facie case and they would also have the moral support of those who oppose the unit rule as unfair. It was the injustice possible under the unit rule that led the republican party to adopt, in 1880, the system of arranging all the delegates by districts, except the four from the state at large. As this same question is likely to come before the Baltimore convention an illustration as what is to be under the unit rule may not be out of place.

Let us use the present contest as an illustration. There are something over a thousand delegates in the republican convention. Let us, for convenience, fix the number at a thousand. Suppose further, that Mr. Taft carried a majority of the districts in states electing five hundred delegates, and that Mr. Roosevelt carried a majority of the districts electing a remainder of the 500 delegates. If Mr. Taft had a majority, his friends invoked the unit rule and gave him the entire five hundred votes, while if Mr. Roosevelt's friends did not resort to the rule Mr. Taft would have five hundred votes, plus nearly 250, while Mr. Roosevelt would have only a few more than 250. In the case supposed the use of the unit rule would give the one who employed it an unfair advantage over the one who did not employ it. The unit rule, to be fair, ought to be used in all the states, and even then injustice is possible under it. In the California case, however, the Roosevelt men are not compelled to rely entirely on the general arguments advanced in behalf of a unit rule. They insist, first, that the primary law of California substitutes a system of election by the state at large for the district system, when certain formalities are complied with, and they contend that the formalities were complied with in this case. The law supersedes the language employed in the committee's call.

In the second place, they declare that the Taft delegates, who now claim election in the districts, were candidates before the state at large, and became so with the indorsement of President Taft, thus being stopped from questioning the validity of the election of their opponents. In addition to these contentions the Roosevelt men argue that there is no possible way of determining the exact vote in the Fourth district, the district in controversy, because fourteen precincts are partly in that district, and partly in the Fifth district. The vote between Roosevelt and Taft in the Fourth district was so close that the votes of these fourteen precincts would change the result, but no one is able to say how many of those living on the Fourth district side of the line running through the fourteen precincts voted for Taft, and how many for Roosevelt. In view of the fact that Roosevelt carried the state by 77,000, and the Fourth and Fifth districts, taken together, by three thousand, it can easily be understood why the claim of the Taft delegates have aroused a spirited resistance.

Yesterday there was a great deal of discussion as to the effect of Mr. Woodruff's announcement for Roosevelt, but the interest has largely subsided since the New York delegation has been polled and the extent of the defection learned. The Brooklyn delegates seem to be firm in their adherence to the president, and out of the New York delegates only twelve are conceded to Roosevelt, and three of these are said to prefer Justice Hughes to the ex-president.

The day closed with the Roosevelt meeting at the auditorium, Senator Borah presiding. Both the chairman and the ex-president were greeted with great enthusiasm, the applause lasting some minutes when Mr. Roosevelt appeared upon the platform. The Arabs are said to have seven hundred words which mean camel. Mr. Roosevelt has nearly as many synonyms for theft, and he used them all tonight. His denunciation of the national committee was scathing and he included the president and Senator Root in his denunciation. The most spontaneous approval of the evening greeted his statement that the action of the convention would not be binding upon any republican in the convention or outside of it, if it depended upon the votes of the seventy-six delegates whose

seats are to be contested before the credentials committee. He demands that the contested delegates shall stand aside and leave the one thousand uncontested delegates to decide the contest. This will evidently be the line of battle in the convention.

The latter part of the speech was an eloquent indorsement of progressive ideas and sounded so much like Senator La Follette's speeches during the last eight years and democratic speeches during the last sixteen years that one could hardly believe that it was being applauded by a republican audience. Only one thing was lacking to complete it—namely, a question from the ninth verse of the twentieth chapter of Matthew.

#### OPPOSING VIOLENCE

The following plank in the socialist platform should receive universal commendation:

"Any member of the party who opposes political action or advocates crime, sabotage or other methods of violence as a weapon of the working class to aid in its emancipation shall be expelled from membership in the party."

The American people believe in law and order: they favor the correction of every evil, but they want the remedy to come through peaceful agitation and by constitutional methods. When the supreme court declared the income tax unconstitutional the people proceeded to amend the constitution; when the voters found that predatory interests were using the present method of electing senators they began a fight for popular elections and they have about won; when they saw that bosses were holding power through the convention system they demanded primaries. In time, all abuses will be remedied.

The man who resorts to violence may sometimes mean well but he is at all times an enemy of the cause he seeks to advance.

#### DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION AT BALTIMORE

Governor Harmon's name will be presented to the convention by Micheal A. Dougherty, of Lancaster, Ohio. Champ Clark's name will be presented by Senator Reed of Missouri. Governor Wilson's name will be presented by Judge Westcott of New Jersey.

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Baltimore, Md., June 11.—Plans are being formulated by members of the democratic national committee, it was learned here tonight, to create a new office to be known as chairman of the campaign committee. This new officer, who will work with the national chairman, may or may not be a member of the national committee and his selection will be made by the presidential candidate after a conference with the new national committee members. The national chairman will continue in general charge of the campaign.

#### THE LINCOLN OLEOGRAPH

Mr. George S. Benson, 220 Melon street, Phoebus, Va., has prepared a very interesting chart for school rooms. It contains an excellent picture of Abraham Lincoln, and on one side a picture of the house in which he was born, and on the other a picture of the White house, where he spent the later years of his life. Below are the Gettysburg speech, the greatest for its length in literature, and the Bixby letter, one of the sweetest expressions of sympathy that has ever found its way into print. The combination which he presents is calculated to excite the ambition of the student, and to offer suggestions eminently helpful to the young.

#### JUDGE HANFORD IN ERROR

Judge Hanford's action in cancelling Oleson's naturalization papers may not justify impeachment but it deserves a reprimand. In fact, congress should make it unlawful for any judge to render such a decision hereafter. Citizenship should not depend upon a person's political views. Free government is founded upon free speech—it can not exist without it. If the democratic and republican parties can not meet the arguments of socialists they must go down—but they can meet these arguments and should jointly oppose suppression.

#### A PRAYER

(By Rose Trumbull)

Oh, make me strong like some great tree,  
Root-grappled through the sod—  
My strength in that humility  
Which clasps the feet of God.

—From the Independent.