

# The Democratic National Convention

President Wilson and Vice-President Marshall were nominated by acclamation Thursday, June 15, by the democratic national convention in session at St. Louis. The nomination of Woodrow Wilson aroused the crowded convention hall to the greatest enthusiasm that has been seen in a national convention for many years.

Below is a summary of the three days proceedings as reported in the Associated Press dispatches:

## FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

The democratic national convention was called to order a few minutes past noon Wednesday, June 14.

At 11:20 o'clock, forty minutes before time for the convention to be called to order there were not more than twenty delegates on the floor, only a few officials on the platform and the galleries were filling slowly. There was little excitement, and bands that marched with delegates from downtown furnished the only amusement for the crowd.

At 11:45 the official band began playing the opening selection in accompaniment to a male quartette that sang a new song about America through megaphones. The song brought the first applause of the day.

Just before the convention was called to order, the band struck up "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," and the delegates rose, joining in the chorus and waving American flags. "Dixie" brought a roar, interrupted with the rebel yell.

William J. Bryan was cheered as he took his seat in the press section. The applause for him started in the galleries and then spread to the delegates. Mr. Bryan smiled his appreciation and got out his pencil and prepared for his reportorial duties.

A "Woody tiger" was sent to Chairman McCombs' desk by a New York delegate.

The crowd was patient, orderly and quiet as it waited for the convention to begin. A half hour after the time set for the start the delegates were still coming in.

Chairman McCombs took his place at his desk at 12:30 p.m. amid applause.

When National Chairman McCombs called the convention to order 13,000 delegates, alternates and spectators packed the big coliseum to the roof.

Members of the national committee, members of President Wilson's cabinet, and party leaders from all over the country had places on the platform. Plaster medallions of Washington, Jackson, Jefferson and Cleveland looked down upon the delegates from the decorations, which consisted uniformly of nothing but the American flag. The only picture of President Wilson in the hall hung in front of the speaker's desk, inscribed "America First."

Down under the speaker's stand direct telephone and telegraph wires to the White house carried momentary reports of the proceedings in the hall.

One verse of "America" was then sung by the entire crowd with tossing flags keeping the rhythm.

This was followed by one verse of the "Star Spangled Banner."

The Rev. James W. Lee, Methodist Episcopal clergyman of St. Louis, offered prayer.

The call of the convention was read by Mr. Kremer, secretary of the national committee, and Chairman McCombs then delivered the introductory speech. At the conclusion he announced the temporary officers, and Governor Glynn of New York began an extended address.

After hearing the keynote speech, the convention adjourned until 11 o'clock, Thursday, June 15. Committees then went into session to prepare their work for the session.

The big coliseum, holding about 12,000 people, practically was filled on the opening day, and despite a constantly rising temperature it was comfortable. On their way to the convention hall, the delegates passed between lines of suffragists spread along twelve blocks on Locust street, the most traveled route to the coliseum. The suffragists, seated on chairs ranged along the curb, were arrayed in white and yellow and

held yellow parasols. The waving lines of yellow gave the demonstration the popular name, "golden lane."

## SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Eleven o'clock, Thursday, June 15, the hour for the convention to be in order, passed with the Coliseum only partly filled. Very few of the delegates were in their seats, and none of the leaders had arrived. The band entertained the small crowd while the rules committee had a meeting to talk over the proposal to proceed to nominations at Thursday night's session.

The committee on permanent organization meanwhile formally named Senator Ollie James, of Kentucky, as permanent chairman; J. Bruce Kremer, of Montana, permanent secretary; E. E. Britton, of North Carolina, permanent associate secretary; John I. Martin, of St. Louis, permanent sergeant at arms, and recommended that all other temporary officers of the convention be made permanent.

William J. Bryan got his usual reception when he took his place in the press stand. Delegates and galleries joined in cheers and applause. A soloist in the stand sang "Wake up America," a preparedness song, as Mr. Bryan was taking his seat.

It was 11:46 when Temporary Chairman Glynn called the convention to order. The delegates still bubbling over with enthusiasm from his speech of the day previous, gave him a rousing reception.

Archbishop John J. Lennon, of St. Louis, then offered prayer.

The credentials committee then reported on the delegate contests from Washington, D. C., Porto Rico and Hawaii. The delegates from the District of Columbia and Hawaii were recognized as placed on the rolls by the national committee. Porto Rico was divided between the contesting delegates.

The report of the committee on permanent organization was adopted. The announcement of names of permanent convention officers, Chairman Ollie James, Secretary Kremer and others, were cheered.

Delegates Norman E. Mack, of New York city; Gov. S. V. Stewart, of Montana, and Senator Phelan of California, composed the committee which escorted Senator James to the chair.

Senator James launched into his prepared speech. It was punctuated by applause.

Senator James departed widely from the printed text of his speech, but the sentiment he presented was substantially the same. When he recounted the horrors of war and the President's efforts to preserve peace William J. Bryan, his face flushed with emotion, rose to his feet and applauded vigorously.

When James recounted in implied terms the President's diplomatic success in the negotiations with Germany the delegates wanted to hear it again.

"Repeat it," they demanded.

James repeated his statement and the convention rose up and broke loose with cheers. In repeating the phrase from his prepared speech, the senator said:

"Woodrow Wilson, without orphaning a single child, without widowing a single American wife, without firing a single gun, without the shedding of a single drop of blood wrung from the most militant spirit that ever brooded above a battlefield an agreement to American demands and a concession of American rights."

The band swung into "America," and the "Star Spangled Banner." Hats and flags went into the air. Somebody cried, "Three cheers for Wilson!" the crowd roared the answer.

Standards were torn from the floor and a march of delegates through the hall was started. The aisles became choked because the demonstration was begun without organized leaders.

The congestion aided in shortening the demonstration. The band played "A Hot Time" as a marching tune, while Senator James fanned his florid face.

After the demonstration had been running twelve minutes, the Kentucky standard was taken to the platform and placed directly behind Mr. James. It was the signal for cheers and a tiger for the speaker, while the band played "Dixie," followed by "The Battle Cry of Freedom."

The applause had lasted eighteen minutes when Mr. James was able to proceed.

When Mr. James finished there were more cheers and applause and calls for "Bryan."

Senator James appealed to the convention to quiet down and hear the rules committee report, but his efforts were futile until he announced that Mr. Bryan had left the building and would speak in the Coliseum later. That satisfied the crowd and they heard the rules report.

Chairman Glasgow presented the report of the rules committee. It provided that among other things no delegate shall speak more than thirty minutes on any subject, that nominations for president begin at 8 p.m., followed by nominations for vice-president.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, moved to delay the session for nominations until 9 p.m., and explained that St. Louis business men had planned entertainments for this evening, which would be nullified by 9 p.m. The motion by Senator Reed carried.

The report as amended was adopted.

At 12:22 p.m. a recess was ordered until the night session.

The night session, at which Mr. Wilson was named by acclamation at 11:52, and Mr. Marshall at 11:55, was marked by the most enthusiastic demonstrations of the convention.

The convention convened shortly after 9. Meantime the platform committee remained at work.

The hall was already so packed that Norman E. Mack and Charles F. Murphy, New York, had to be helped in through a window. Committeeman P. H. Martin, Green Bay, Wis., was obliged to get the help of police to enter.

The first speech was that of William Jennings Bryan, called for by unanimous consent. He was escorted to the platform by Senator Kern amid tumultuous applause, and introduced by Chairman James as "one of the leading citizens of the world and America's greatest democrat."

Mr. Bryan, in his speech eulogizing the President, and praising the foreign and domestic policies unreservedly, was more than once moved by evident emotion and drew wild applause from the crowd.

When Mr. Bryan had finished John W. Westcott, New Jersey, was introduced to nominate President Wilson. His speech, coming as it did after the eloquence of Glynn, Ollie James and Bryan, was an unusual effort of oratory, in a more serious and deeper tone than its predecessors. It won the sustained attention of the great audience. At its conclusion, When Mr. Westcott said, "I nominate Woodrow Wilson," the crowd went wild in demonstration.

For forty-six minutes the hall was a pandemonium, before Chairman James' gavel brought quiet.

Ex-Gov. Judson Harmon, Ohio, who was a candidate for the presidential nomination at Baltimore four years ago, made the first seconding speech for President Wilson.

The next was by Gov. H. C. Stuart, Virginia. Senator Hughes, New Jersey, moved that the rules be suspended and the nomination made by acclamation. The motion was carried with a tremendous roar, cutting off other seconding speeches, among them that of William F. Wolfe, La Crosse, Wis.

The only objection came from Robert E. Burke, Chicago, the only anti-Wilson delegate in the convention. He shouted "No."

Senator James declared President Wilson nominated at 11:52 p. m.

Senator John W. Kern of Indiana then was recognized and placed in nomination Vice-President Marshall. The nomination was made by acclamation.

Vice-President Marshall was declared nominated four minutes after the nomination of President Wilson.

Ex-Governor Glynn was made chairman of the committee to notify President Wilson of his nomination.

Roger C. Sullivan presented a resolution expressing thanks to ex-Gov. Glynn, Senator James and other officers of the convention.

A resolution was adopted giving state committees authority to fill vacancies caused by death or resignation on the national committee.

Senator Hughes reported to the convention that the resolutions committee had failed to complete its work on the platform. The convention then adjourned at 12:32 a.m. Friday, June 16, until 11 a.m. of the same day.

## THE CLOSING DAY

The final session of the democratic national convention was called to order at 11:26 a.m., Friday, June 16. At 11 o'clock, the hour set for the convention to begin, there were not