REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
JUNE 1896.

IT WILL SEAT 14,000.

ST. LOUIS AUDITORIUM THE LARGEST CONVENTION HALL.

How the Proceedings of the Convention Will Be Handled — Number of Delegates and National Committeemen—Routine Work.

ST. LOUIS is a hot city in June, but so was Chicago in 1888 and Minneapolis in 1892, as Republican delegates will testify. Over-crowding and inconvenient accommodations are more to be dreaded during National convention week than hot weather. St. Louis, according to all reports, will furnish better facilities than ever before have been accorded to a National convention.

The immense new auditorium, where the Republican National Convention will be held, will accommodate 14,000. There will be 909 National delegates in the convention this year—more than ever before—and the same number of alternates. There will be 53 members of the National Committee present, and the rest of the vast audience will consist mainly of "rooters" for the several candidates whose names are to be presented for the highest honor in the gift of the American people.

According to recent estimate, there will be none too much room. It is customary to give to the city in which the convention is held, the largest block of seats. St. Louis will have more seats in the auditorium than any convention city ever obtained before.

It has put in a modest request for 3,500 seats, and will probably receive 2,500 at least. Ohio and Iowa, being near by and both having prominent candidates, will probably send the two largest State Delegations. Ohio, it is estimated by zealous Republicans of the Buckeye state, may have as many as 20,000 Republicans in St. Louis, but, of course, only a small per cent of them will get seats in the auditorium.

Timothy E. Byrnes of Minneapolis, who has been elected sergeant-at-arms of the convention by the National Committee, will have charge of the distribution of tickets for admission. Each National delegate and alternate will receive two tickets—and as many more as they can get. The member of the National Committee from each state will make out a list of all Republicans in his state who may want to attend the proceedings, and the tickets will be distributed among the different states, pro rata. Under the system of distribution which Sergeant-at-Arms Byrnes will employ it will be practically impossible for the friends of any one candidate to "pack" the convention hall, despite the fears of such an event which have been expressed. Mr. Byrnes has said that, so far as he has the power, the friends of all the candidates will be treated alike.

The real work of the convention, leading up to and providing for the selection of the National ticket, is done in committee rooms. Spacious accommodations for committee work have been provided in the auditorium, and the newspaper facilities will be especially convenient.

A novel scheme is to be put in operation in the convention hall. Each section of the hall where individual State delegations are seated, will be connected by telephone with the chairman's desk, that he may easily ascertain the name of every delegate who may claim recognition. The scheme, it is said, will do away with the usual annoyance and worry in recognizing delegates who think they have a duty to perform by claiming the attention of the convention.

The telegraph facilities for dispatching to every corner of the Nation the names of the nominees will be ample. Nine new copper wires are strung from St. Louis to Chicago and six from Chicago to New York. About fifty loops will be run into the Auditorium. Wearied delegates can repair for refreshment to any number of gardens and open-air restaurants and cafes, where the best that St. Louis can offer will be placed before them at prices that may make them complain. But what is the loss of a few hundred dollars to an enthusiastic Republican, fired with interest in his party's welfare, and perchance, in some instances, with irons of his own in the fire?

Thomas H. Carter, of Montana, chairman of the National Committee, will call the convention to order. But important work of the convention will have been done by the National Committee even before the delegates assemble in their seats.

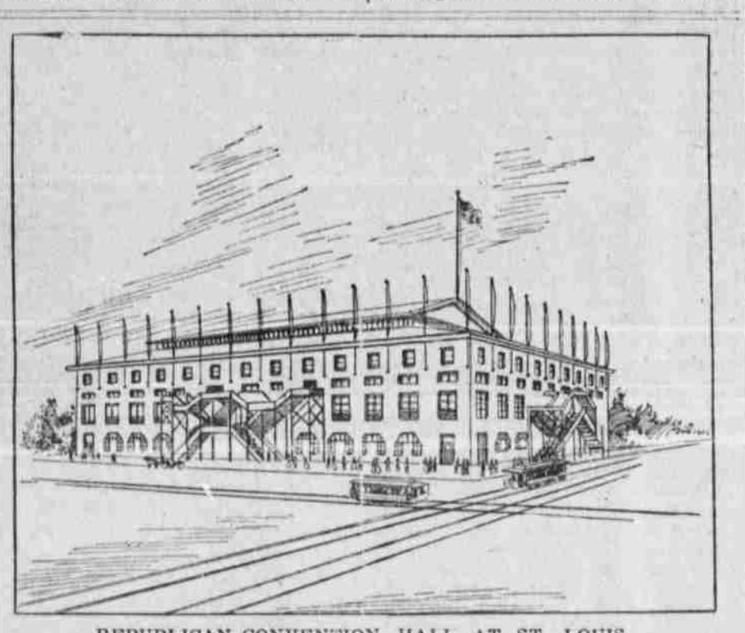
On the day preceding the convention a temporary roll of delegates has to be formed, for manifestly no State can have the advantage of another in representation. Some states will send contesting delegations, but only one set can be seated. It would not be proper, on the other hand, to shut a state out entirely because of contests. Each must have representation in the organization of the convention. General Clarkson of the National Committee from Iowa says there will be about 110 contested seats out of the 909, and that the nomination may really hinge upon the results of these contests.

It should not be supposed that the National Committee reserves to itself the power to decide contests: that must finally be done by the convention itself. This much, however, the National Committee will do, and its action may have an important bearing on the result in the convention—the National Committee will meet, and a sub-committee on contests will be selected. Each member of the committee will report to this sub-committee the list of delegates from his state, and if there be no contests these names will be placed on the temporary roll by the secretary of the National Committee. In states where contesting delegations have been elected the claims of both sides will be heard, and the National Committeeman from the state will give his version of the contest. The sub-committee will decide and instruct the secretary which delegates are entitled to representation.

The importance of these decisions in committee cannot be overestimated, for while they are in no way binding upon the convention, the action of the committee, based generally on good and sufficient grounds, is seldom overturned.

The National Committee selects also by a majority vote the temporary and permanent chairman of the convention; that is to say, it selects a name for each position, to be presented to the convention. A bitter contest may arise within the National Committee over these selections. Sometimes, as in 1892, the minority may withdraw their candidate, and make the selection of temporary chairman unanimous, as they did for J. Sloat Fassett. Again, as in 1884, a majority and minority report may be presented and the fight brought to a head in the opening of the convention.

As the Democratic National Convention in 1892, after Mr. Cleveland's friends, who controlled the Committee on Resolutions, had prepared a tariff plank under Mr. Cleveland's supervision, the convention, which afterward turned to and nominated Cleveland, broke away at one word from Henry Watterson and rejected the tariff plank as presented by the Cleveland committee. No better example of the American principle in politics—that the sovereign will of the people must govern—is accorded than in a National convention.



REPUBLICAN CONVENTION HALL AT ST. LOUIS.

CONKLING STOPPED TO TALK.

That Incident Prevented Windom's Nomination for the Presidency.

From the Minneapolis Journal: In the political history of the state "Windom Ten" has been written down as a burlesque incident. When the campaign for the republican nomination for president in 1880 was in progress Minnesota was an overwhelmingly enthusiastic Blaine state. Senator Conkling's daring ambition was to defeat Blaine, and he was shrewd enough to see that Minnesota could not be swerved from Blaine save by springing a "favorite son." Mr. Windom was flattered by Conkling's suggestion and the poison spread to his friends, with the result that Minnesota went to Chicago solidly instructed for Windom. At that time Minnesota only had ten delegates to the national convention, and during the four days' balloting the reading clerk would announce in stentorian tones, "Windom, ten," and much of the time the announcement would provoke derisive laughter. Blaine's friends always felt that if Minnesota had been loyal he would have been the nominee, and in their estimation "Windom, ten," was a badge of tricky politics. The delegation was undoubtedly sincere, but it seemed at the time like grasping for a will-o'-the-wisp.

I met an old politician yesterday, an intimate friend of Windom, who said he called on Windom in Washington some time after the event and Windom said to him, "Did you know I came pretty near receiving the nomination for president?" The visitor conceded that he did not understand how "Windom, ten," was very near the goal, and Mr. Windom then explained. He said Postmaster General James of New York told him that the Grant forces had decided to go to him and have the credit of nominating the president, even though it was not first choice. This was thought to be better than to allow the Blaine forces to win a semi-victory in a similar manner. Mr. James said that Conkling actually left his seat to go over and notify the Minnesota delegation that they were going for Windom and urge them to do the rest, when someone halted him and advised delaying one more ballot. He accepted the advice. This was fatal. On that one ballot the stampede to Garfield began and then it was too late. If the "Grant 306" had been added to "Windom, ten," it would have carried the stampede in the Windom instead of the Garfield direction.

An Old Loaf.

The Soar family, of Ambaston, Derbyshire, England, have a curious heirloom in the shape of a loaf of bread that is now over six hundred years old. The founders of the family, it appears, were great friends of King John. When that monarch died he made several land grants to the Soars. One of these tracts, it appears, had always been conveyed with a loaf of bread along with the "writings," and the deed and the loaf are both kept to this day as sacred relics.

Bryton Early—I thought you were going to save so much money by resigning from the club. Minos Coyne—Well, just look how much I'm not in debt.—Life.

CONVENTION OF 1892.

WHY BLAINE ENTERED THE RACE AT ELEVENTH HOUR.

President Harrison Had Greatly Offended Mrs. Blaine and She Forced Her Husband to Resign at the Last Moment.

JAMES G. BLAINE.

PROBABLY THE most sensational event that took place during the national republican convention of 1892 was the entry of Blaine into the race at the eleventh hour and his crushing defeat. The secret of Blaine's untimely action was only recently made public by T. C. Crawford in Leslie's Weekly. It is quite likely that if Mrs. Blaine had not become angry at the President because he could not make an appointment which she wished made, Mr. Blaine would have remained at his post in the department of state, and his name would not have been used to trail at the end of a defeat at Minneapolis. Mrs. Blaine wished her son-in-law, Col. Coppinger, to be promoted to the rank of brigadier-general. In this she was actuated by the motives which would inspire a mother to seek to advance the fortunes of a son. The President could not make the appointment without violating the precedents quite as strong as laws and trampling on the rights of thirty-five officers who stood between the colonel and his desired advancement. The difficulty of making this appointment was conceded by Mr. Blaine, and he attached no blame to the President when he refused. But Mrs. Blaine was not so considerate. The day following the President's final decision Mrs. Blaine called at the White House.

This interview between Mrs. Blaine and the President was the beginning of the Blaine campaign. The interview was remarkable in many ways. No President was ever so openly defied to his face. All courtesy due to the President's high office was omitted. First, Mrs. Blaine entered one of the lower reception-rooms of the White House and asked that the President should come down from his office to see her. This request, remarkable from the standpoint of etiquette, was acceded to by the President. When he descended and entered the room Mrs. Blaine at once opened the conversation by demanding imperiously that the President should recede from his decision in the Coppinger case.

The President betrayed no impatience or temper at this request, notwithstanding the manner in which the demand was made. He had repeatedly gone over the case with Mr. Blaine. It was not necessary to repeat his reasons to Mrs. Blaine. Her fiery mood was not one appreciative of the cold logic of the situation. The President's firmness and calmness did not have a quieting effect upon Mrs. Blaine. She now turned upon him and charged him directly with unkindness to her family, cruelty in his former lack of consideration for the ambition of her dead son, Walker, and with general ingratitude to Mr. Blaine, whose influence had placed him where he was.

The President did not wince under this fierce attack. At the close of the fiery address of Mrs. Blaine she announced to the President that she would defeat him for his renomination and that she would force Mr. Blaine to run. This dramatic announcement was followed by Mrs. Blaine herself closing the interview, again in defiance of White House etiquette, and then leaving the room.

From that moment Mr. Blaine was in the field, although he himself did not apparently understand that he was to be forced to run. He called upon the President soon after Mrs. Blaine had gone, and gave the President to understand that he did not sympathize with his wife in her vigorous expression of displeasure.

Later on the Blaines went to New York. While the secretary was there Chauncey M. Depew called upon him for the purpose of learning if he was a candidate. All that he could learn came from Mrs. Blaine. It was she who assured him that Mr. Blaine would run. Mr. Depew obtained nothing from Mr. Blaine upon the subject. The fact was that Mr. Blaine was in a position where he could not say a word to any one of his old associates without explaining the cruel embarrassments of his situation. He could not ask Mr. Depew, who had been one of his intimate friends through many years and who was thoroughly devoted to his political fortunes, to go ahead now and champion him as a candidate. He had withdrawn in good faith and had so informed Mr. Depew. The agitators who called at the Fifth Avenue Hotel never succeeded in getting Mr. Blaine to say that he would be a candidate. All that they did succeed in was to obtain from Mrs. Blaine assurances that she would see that no more letters should be written, and she also gave the leading opponents of Mr. Harrison to understand that if Mr. Blaine was nominated he would accept.

Mr. Blaine never affirmed to any one who has appeared upon the surface what he would do or would not do. He was kept in a negative attitude, and if he had been nominated undoubtedly the same influences which kept him in that position would have made him accept the nomination.

Mr. Depew evidently understood the situation clearly, and saw that a nomination coming under such circumstances would only result in an overwhelming defeat for the party. His position was very clear. He had no intimate relations with the opponents of the Harrison administration. He was previously committed to Mr. Harrison after Mr. Blaine withdrew. Mr. Blaine did not ask him to change that attitude, and so Mr. Depew entrenched himself in the impregnable position of taking his old leader at his word, respecting his carefully-expressed wishes, written with due deliberation over his own signature.

The situation which followed was as unfortunate as anything that could have been devised by Mr. Blaine's most vigorous enemies. The campaign from the start was foreordained to fail. Its sole reason was a personal quarrel, and its sole strength was in a union with certain opposing elements in the party.

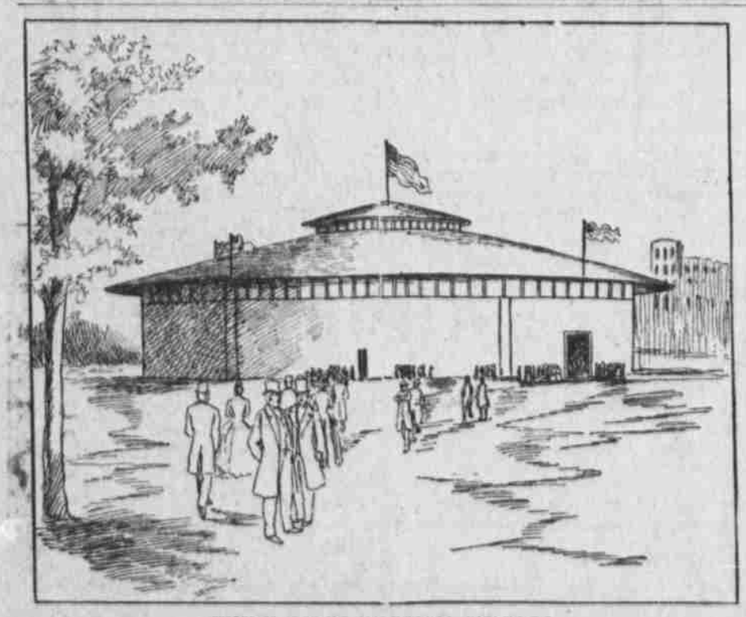
Mr. Blaine's attitude, too, fettered every one. He knew that he was in a false position, and with his clear vision must have seen the outcome. The fact that throughout the campaign at Minneapolis he never expressed a word to the public, and, so far as is known, sent no instructions to the people who were supposed to represent him, shows clearly what he must have thought of his own campaign.

The President never asked Mr. Blaine to write his original letter of withdrawal, and never asked him to make public any further expressions of opinion upon the subject. The February letter was written without the solicitation of any member of the administration family. After it was published Mr. Harrison decided to become a candidate, and this decision had the tacit approval of Mr. Blaine. None of the silly or malicious stories circulated in any of the anti-Blaine circles could be traced to any member of the administration. None of them sought any quarrel with Mr. Blaine. On the contrary, they strenuously sought to avoid a difference until they knew it was inevitable.

If Mr. Blaine had given the real reasons to the public or to the President he would probably have said in his letter: "I go out of your Cabinet and break with you, in preference to a break with my domestic cabinet."

This situation was well understood within the inner circles of the Republican party, and was the best explanation of why the prominent friends of Mr. Blaine did not stand with him at Minneapolis.

THE AUDITORIUM CHICAGO.
(Where Harrison was nominated in 1888.)



THE FAMOUS WIGWAM CHICAGO.
(Where Lincoln was nominated in 1860.)

EXPOSITION HALL, MINNEAPOLIS.
(Where Harrison was nominated in 1892.)

SPEECH AT CINCINNATI.

Nominating James G. Blaine for the Presidency, June, 1876.

(By Robert G. Ingersoll.)

Massachusetts may be satisfied with the loyalty of Benjamin H. Bristow; so am I; but if any man nominated by this convention cannot carry the state of Massachusetts, I am not satisfied with the loyalty of that state. If the nominee of this convention can not carry the grand old Commonwealth of Massachusetts by seventy-five thousand majority, I would advise them to sell out Faneuil Hall as a Democratic headquarters. I would advise them to take from Bunker Hill that old monument of glory.

The Republicans of the United States demand as their leader in the great contest of 1876 a man of intelligence, a man of integrity, a man of well-known and approved political opinions. They demand a statesman; they demand a reformer after as well as before the election. They demand a politician in the highest, broadest and best sense—a man of superb moral courage. They demand a man acquainted with public affairs—with the wants of the people; with not only the requirements of the hour, but with the demands of the future. They demand a man broad enough to comprehend the relations of this government to the other nations of the earth. They demand a man well versed in the powers, duties, and prerogatives of each and every department of this government. They demand a man who will sacredly preserve the financial honor of the United States; one who knows enough to know that the national debt must be paid through the prosperity of this people; one who knows enough to know that all the financial theories in the world cannot redeem a single dollar; one who knows enough to know that all the money must be made, not by law, but by labor; one who knows enough to know that the people of the United States have the industry to make the money, and the honor to pay it over just as fast as they make it.

The Republicans of the United States demand a man who knows that prosperity and resumption, when they come, must come together; that when they come, they will come hand in hand through the golden harvest fields; hand in hand by the whirling spindles and the turning wheels; hand in hand past the open furnace doors; hand in hand by the flaming forges; hand in hand by the chimneys filled with eager fire, greeted and grasped by the countless sons of toil.

This money has to be dug out of the earth. You can not make it by passing resolutions in a political convention.

The Republicans of the United States want a man who knows that this government should protect every citizen, at home and abroad; who knows that any government that will not defend its defenders, and protect its protectors, is a disgrace to the map of the world. They demand a man who believes in the eternal separation and divorcement of church and school. They demand a man whose political reputation is spotless as a star; but they do not demand that their candidate shall have a certificate of moral character signed by a confederate congress. The man who has, in full, heaped and rounded measure, all these splendid qualifications is the present grand and gallant leader of the Republican party—James G. Blaine.

Gentlemen of the convention, in the name of the great Republic, the only Republic that ever existed upon this earth; in the name of all her defenders and all of her supporters; in the name of all her soldiers living; in the name of all her soldiers dead upon the field of battle, and in the name of those who perished in the skeleton clutch of famine at Andersonville and Libby, whose sufferings he so vividly remembers, Illinois—Illinois nominates for the next president of this country, that prince of parliamentarians—that leader of leaders—James G. Blaine.

Angels and Bagpipes.

In Gothic sculpture and tracery angels are sometimes portrayed practicing on the bagpipe. It was occasionally used in churches before the introduction of the organ, which occurred early in the fifteenth century.

Yeast—Your landlady says you are behind with your board. Crimsonbeak—Well, she's dead wrong. I'm ahead. I owe her $45.—Yonkers Statesman.