

The Conventions

An Idea of What it Costs to Hold One...

What is the actual cost of the national convention of one of the great political parties? This question is more easily asked than answered, as I have found in endeavoring to secure an accurate answer to it. Party leaders, convention managers, convention officials either do not know or will not tell the details of the expenditures on this account. They seem to be part of the body of secrets which one national committee hands down to another, and which all national committees endeavor to keep from the public. The national conventions are largely under the management of the national committees. National committees select the time and the place, make the arrangements with the cities which entertain the convention, manage everything but the actual proceedings, and wind up the business affairs afterwards.

The actual work of arranging for the convention's convenience and comfort and the convenience and comfort of the newspaper men and other spectators is delegated by the national committee to a subcommittee, and the officers of the national committee, as a rule, control the expenditures. Presumably, the accounts are submitted to the national committee and duly audited, and, presumably, vouchers are produced for the expenditure of the money. But, if so, very little seems to be known about the accounting, and some of the political leaders say that it is not always either rigid or exact.

The fact is that the fund for the entertainment of the convention is nowadays made large enough by the city

to prevent them from being counterfeited. They are kept in a safe deposit vault from the time they are delivered by the engraving company until the time they are issued, just before the meeting of the convention. It is claimed that convention tickets have never been counterfeited. As a complete set of them may be worth from \$15 to \$30, there is obvious reason for taking every precaution to keep them from being counterfeited.

In all this nothing has been said about the payment of money for the services of the scores of subordinate officials and assistants of various kinds. It is well known, of course, that the officers of a convention receive no pecuniary compensation. They serve for the honor and glory of it, although allowances are usually made to the sergeant-at-arms and similar officers for their personal expenses.

It does not seem to be so generally known that it has been customary for very many of their subordinates—the doorkeepers and messengers and deputies of various sorts, including clerks—to serve without pay. Many of these men come with the state delegations, and are very glad to have the opportunity of attending all the sessions of the convention, and at the same time privilege of a little authority, even if it is brief, and a chance to wear a big badge, to say nothing of the possibility of future reward in the shape of a salaried office somewhere.

As a rule, I am told, the employees of the convention staff receive no wages, but serve for love and glory. Some of them may receive money for their ex-



PROHIBITION CONVENTION HALL, CHICAGO



DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION HALL, KANSAS CITY



REPUBLICAN CONVENTION HALL, PHILADELPHIA

whose invitation is accepted to leave a large surplus over and above all the necessary expenses for the use of the national committee in the campaign following, and this makes the party managers unwilling to say definitely what actual convention expenditures were, and, perhaps, prevents the adoption of strict requirements as to the accounting for those expenditures.

Of course, all the convention managers say that there can be no fixed schedule of convention expenses, because every convention is different from every other convention. Alterations in the hall might make the bill of expenses differ by \$5,000 or \$10,000 from the convention of the other party in the same year or from a convention before or after. In a rough way it is possible to make a pretty good estimate of expenses for what might be called an average convention by comparing such fragments of information as the party managers are willing to give on the subject.

Certain things are expected by every national committee of the city which has the honor to entertain the convention. It must, of course, provide the hall and whatever alterations are necessary, and the seats and other furniture, and the decorations and a number of incidentals, such as stationery. It must pay the expenses of engraving the tickets and providing the bands of music for the convention proceedings.

It must provide for the entertainment of the national committee as a body, with a large suite of the best hotel rooms as "headquarters," and the rule is to provide for the entertainment of the individual members of the committee as well. The ordinary delegates must pay their own expenses or have them paid by their state organization. All they get are a few tickets of admission each for their friends, which in some cases have been sold to meet personal expenses.

The proceedings of the convention are always reported by stenographers and published afterward in full, and this is done at the expense of the host city. Carriages and other conveniences, luncheons and other eatables and drinkables are among the other items which may be in the convention expenses. As a rule the national committee is asked the highest prices and does not hesitate to pay them for whatever it thinks necessary.

If the hall has to be rented the rental may vary from \$2,000 to \$5,000. If alterations have to be made, as is almost always the case, they may cost as much more, and the bill for the decorations may be equally large. The entertainment of the national committee as a body and as individuals may cost several thousand dollars. Music in the convention may take from \$100 to \$300 a day.

The stenographic work at the Chicago convention of 1896 cost about \$600, and the edition of several thousand copies of the printed report of the proceedings cost several thousand dollars more. The tickets of admission are always very carefully designed and engraved, and are guarded as jealously as the most precious jewels

penses, or what might be called gratuities in some other shape, but this seems to be considered exceptional.

It is obvious that no one can say what a given convention will cost. It seems to be considered that \$20,000 is a reasonable minimum, and \$40,000 a reasonable maximum of cost, and that anything above or below is pure velvet for somebody.

But whether the expense is more or less will never be known to the public. Indeed, it will never be known to the city that entertains the convention. The city makes its invitation attractive with an offer of a lump sum of money and then turns it over without asking any questions.

LAFAYETTE STATUE AT PARIS.

The Lafayette statue by Paul Bartlett, which will be unveiled at Paris July 4, is an imposing testimonial of the friendship of the United States for her sister republic. It is a gift from the school children of the United States to the French government. The



base is 26 feet 6 inches high, 24 feet wide and 18 feet 9 inches in depth.

Koch's Researches on Malaria.
In the report just published on his study of malaria in Italy Prof. Koch says the infection of malaria is especially maintained and propagated by the relapsing cases which continue all the year round and form the link between one fever season and the next, so that the mosquitoes in the beginning of the summer always find germs. If no relapse occurred in any of the cases of malaria in any given district the mosquitoes would find no germs in the beginning of summer, and malaria would become extinct there. The professor ascertained that the so-called aestivo-autumnal fevers were identical with tropical malaria.

CHINA'S TWO GREAT CITIES

Have Come Into Prominence As a Result of Boxers Revolt.

The city of Tientsin, which has come into sudden prominence as a result of the outbreak of the Boxers, is located upon the Pei-Ho river, about thirty-three miles above its mouth by land, and almost twice that distance by water. It is the second-largest city of northern China, having an estimated population of about 1,000,000, and is the port of Peking, the capital of China.

The meaning of Tientsin is "The Heavenly Ferry." The town is an important center of trade, and is the terminus of the imperial canal and of a railroad. Tung-Chau, which was opened a dozen years ago. It is exceedingly dirty, as are all Chinese cities. Its streets are unpaved, and are always covered with garbage.



The "Temple of Heaven" is in Peking.

The Pei-Ho river empties into the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Lo.

which seems to be never carried away. The dwelling houses are constructed of sun-dried brick and are very poor, but the business buildings are more pretentious. The United States consulate is one of the best examples of Chinese architecture in its highest form to be found in the city. Tientsin has a public garden, which receives very good care.

In 1858 a treaty was concluded between China, Russia, England, France and the United States at Tientsin, and at the convention of Peking in 1860 the port was made an open one.

In reaching Peking from Tientsin the boats ascend the tortuous river by a broad stone road and by a canal, either of which may be used by the travelers or by merchants in transporting their goods.

Pekin is better known than any of the other Chinese cities whose names have crept into print since the outbreak of the Boxers. As is commonly

known, it is the seat of the Imperial Tung-Chau, ninety miles distant by water and sixty by land. There the passengers land and the freight is taken off.

Pekin is eleven miles distant from Tung-Chau, and is connected with it by government, and has been such for about 500 years. Here the foreign ministers are stationed. Minister Conger, for the United States, Sir Claude MacDonald, England, and M. De Giers, Russia. The population is estimated to be about 1,500,000, which may be wrong by several hundred thousand, as no census has ever been taken.

The citizens of both Tientsin and Peking are very hostile toward foreigners, and the travelers for pleasure who visit either are not many. Their atmosphere is so foul, owing to their dirtiness, that a foreigner, accustomed to clean streets, can hardly breathe it.



The Pei-Ho river empties into the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Lo.

As a rule boats drawing more than eleven feet cannot enter it, and the Nawark, Admiral Kempff's flagship, cannot get nearer than seven miles to its mouth. At its entrance are the Taku forts, and across the gulf are the fortifications of Port Arthur.

Boats drawing more than ten feet touch the muddy bottom of the stream almost all the way to Tientsin unless they travel only during high tide and rest when the water is low. The highest tide is ten feet and the neap tide seven and a half feet. As a bar obstructs the entrance to the river all but very light draft boats must wait until high tide to get in.

At Tientsin the river is about 200 feet wide. Only boats that draw from two to three feet can go on to Tung-Chau, as the stream is formed by the confluence of the Peking and the Yuen Ling rivers just above Tientsin.

ORIGIN OF THE BOXERS

The Boxers are still a mystery to the Chinese minister, who says they were never heard of in China up to the time of his departure from the country, three years ago. But a Chinese-American named Sun Yow Pang ventures an explanation of their origin. According to this authority the present troubles may be related back to the disputes between the progressive party, which had the emperor for its figurehead, and the conservative party of the empress dowager. It will be remembered that the emperor blos-

in the work of discouraging those reformers who were not discouraged enough already, and to help check the foreign devils, among whom, in spite of the contradiction in terms, were the missionaries. As time passed checking became murdering, and the wicked old woman either abetted or winked at the crime. This is why the imperial troops have made no headway against the so-called rebellion and why the powers have united in self-protection.

Apparently China's greatest need is

TRIAL OF A BOXER.



THE PRISONER IS KNEELING BEFORE THE JUDGE. THE MAN AT THE RIGHT, WITH A BELL-SHAPED HAT, IS THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

somed out as a reformer and issued several edicts which made the representatives of old China shudder with aversion and dismay. Competent critics said at the time that his methods were so crude and arbitrary as to be utterly impractical, though they were inspired by correct motives. Events justified their predictions. Superstitions, long-established customs and abuses could not be overcome at a word, and the reform movement played right into the hands of the empress. Like most of her countrymen, she hated the foreigners. The reformers were the foreigners' friends. Hence China for the Chinese was the import of a counter-revolution, and such of the reform leaders who did not have their heads cut off were glad to escape to distant lands. After the empress was restored to power the Yee Ho Chuan (righteousness, harmony and fists, hence "Boxers") organized their secret society to assist

the deportation of the hateful Gno La She.

The San Juan Prison Revolt.

The outbreak in the San Juan penitentiary of 500 inmates who mutinied because they said their breakfast was not fit to eat is proof that the management of the institution does not understand modern ideas of penology. There is not a prison in the United States where some effort is not made to give the prisoners satisfactory food. At a recent meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections it was said by one of the speakers that the question of food had been responsible for more trouble at the prisons than anything else.

The day of bread and water diet and of food not fit for animals has gone out of fashion with the offensive pens in which prisoners were confined less than a century ago.

DROWNS IN THE PLATTE

George Neithammer Perishes While Trying to Ford the Stream.

PROBABLY SANK IN QUICKSAND

Mrs. Neithammer Clung to the Horse's Harness and Was Dragged Safely to Shore Where She Fell in a Faint to Discover Later That Her Husband Had Drowned.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., June 18.—While crossing a ford in the Platte river Saturday morning the horse driven by Mr. and Mrs. George Neithammer got off the ford and into a deep pool. Mr. and Mrs. Neithammer were thrown from the wagon by the box floating away from the gearing. Mrs. Neithammer grabbed a piece of the horse's harness and was dragged by the horse to the shore. This being some little distance and she having to struggle in keeping above water exhausted her and she fell in a faint just after the horse reached the shore.

The last she saw of her husband he was standing about in midriver. When she recovered consciousness she could find no trace of him. She was on the island shore of the stream and no one else lives on the island. She shouted as long as she could in the direction of the nearest neighbor on the mainland and after some time attracted the attention of Miss Faidorf, who gave the alarm. As quite a few hours had passed before efforts could be set afoot to find the remains it is doubtful if they will be recovered.

Mrs. Neithammer believes that her husband attempted to walk to the shore and ventured on quicksand or stepped into one of the numerous holes. He could not swim. Neithammer is 64 years of age and leaves a second wife and six children from his former marriage, three in Germany and three in New York.

New Nebraska Lawyers

LINCOLN, Neb., June 18.—The supreme court examining commission has reported favorably on the following candidates for admission to the bar: Charles E. Adams, Jr., Superior; H. D. Landis, Milford; Charles L. Fritschner, Omaha; Sidney H. Davis, Beatrice; John D. Wear, Omaha; Alvin H. Johnson, Walter M. Crow, Fremont; Joseph D. Morse, Milford; George F. Rose, Fullerton; George C. DeTemple, Blair; Herbert L. Standeven, Omaha; George A. Ahern, Lincoln; Frank A. Berry, Carroll; Thomas E. Munson, Hastings; Nathan O. Talbot, Omaha; Theodore F. Vandorn, Omaha; Isaac H. Seabury, Plainview; Arthur G. Wray, York; Harry C. Maynard, Fremont; Henry Mencke, Blair; Ray J. Abbott, Crete; J. Edgar Jones, Hastings; Bernard P. Duffy of Columbus was admitted from the bar of Illinois. Arthur G. Wray of York, not being of age, will not be admitted until next year.

Strange Insect in Grain.

BRADSHAW, Neb., June 18.—A very strange little green insect has made its appearance in the wheat fields in this vicinity. It seems to have bred or hatched in the heads of the grain and is generally found just at the base of the berry or close in between the berry and stem. While these little insects are very numerous, they do not appear to be doing any harm at present, but many of the farmers are somewhat apprehensive in regard to the damage they may do when once developed. They are total strangers to the farmers.

Raise Tax Assessment.

WEST POINT, Neb., June 18.—The County Board of Equalization met and raised the assessment on personal property in West Point precinct 24 per cent, at the same time lowering Wisner 10 per cent and Bancroft 20 per cent. This action was deemed necessary from the fact that West Point's most wealthy citizens are believed by the board to be confirmed tax shirkers. While this action will doubtless force this class to pay their proper proportion of taxes, it will be hard on those merchants who have returned a fair assessment.

Elevator Breaks an Arm.

UTICA, Neb., June 18.—About 2 o'clock Friday afternoon E. L. Hurlbut had the misfortune to catch his left arm in the elevator shaft, breaking it in two places and pushing it out of its socket at the shoulder and bruising his whole side. The presence of mind of Marion Nelson, who happened to be in the elevator at the time, in turning off the engine saved his life. The accident is quite a severe one owing to the bruises being so close to his heart.

Lightning Destroys Residence.

OSCEOLA, Neb., June 18.—The residence of J. N. Hurd, about eight miles from town, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The building was insured in the Polk county Mutual for \$500 and the loss will be a thousand.

Decide in Saloon's Favor.

GENEVA, Neb., June 18.—A special session of the district court convened last week. The case of remonstrance against the saloon in Grafton was decided in favor of the saloon.

Honor Memory of Harsha.

TECUMSEH, Neb., June 18.—Services in honor of the memory of Rev. Dr. W. W. Harsha, who was pastor of the Tecumseh Presbyterian church for several years, were held at that church yesterday morning. His contemporaries during his ministerial work here have been invited to be present and assist in the services and will probably respond. Dr. J. J. Lampe of the Omaha Theological seminary, who has been so closely associated with the deceased reverend gentleman, has agreed to make a few remarks.

SMALLPOX AT SOLDIERS' HOME.

City Authorities of Grand Island Discover the Epidemic.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., June 16.—Dr. Kirby was sent to the Soldiers' home on the authority of Mayor Platt to investigate rumors of a smallpox case there. Dr. Swigart, the home surgeon, was at first inclined to resist the investigation, but finally consented. Dr. Kirby found Wellington Watkins in the post house in a state of disquietude, when contagion is said to be most likely. Watkins, who had nursed the first case, had previously been vaccinated, but was affected with a mild attack of the disease.

Dr. Kirby reported back to the city officials that at the present stages of the disease it might spread, but apparently every precaution had been taken at the home. Food has been passed over what soldiers term the "dead line" for the past eight days and as far as the inmates are concerned quarantine regulations appear to have been upheld since the death of the former victim. The city's Board of Health, however, are not taking kindly to the idea of withholding the information of the disease from the official body, not to say the public. Watkins has had a nurse, but as far as reported no medical attention.

Y. M. C. A. Boys on a Tramp.

FREMONT, Neb., June 16.—Fifteen boys from the Junior Y. M. C. A. of Omaha, under the direction of Physical Director J. B. Barnes, are in Fremont. These lads formed what they chose to dub the "hiking club." They went by rail from Omaha Monday to Schuyler and started out to walk the distance back to Omaha, hoping to reach there today. While here the boys were entertained at the Y. M. C. A. and yesterday afternoon played a game of bascoo, with the local Y. M. C. A. team meeting defeat to the tune of 14 to 1. The boys were in good spirits and have been enjoying their tramp hugely. Fremont will be the only town made. At other stops they will rough it in hay mows or straw stacks.

Dissatisfied With Assessment.

MADISON, Neb., June 16.—The county board of equalizers has been besieged during the two days of its session by a large number of persons from Norfolk, who are dissatisfied with their valuation. Norfolk is handicapped at present by her low assessment valuation and will get but little benefit from the assessment just made for there is very little difference in the total valuation.

Death of Child Mother.

ALEX, Neb., June 15.—Pearl Whitford, the 12-year-old daughter of Andre Whitford, is dead. At the last term of district court Obe Williams was cleared of the charge of statutory assault upon her. Recently she gave birth to a nine and a half-pound boy, the child dying soon after birth and the child mother soon followed. The community is much worked up over the affair.

Danish Lutherans Conclude.

BLAIR, Neb., June 16.—The annual convention of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran church of America closed after a ten days' session. About five hundred delegates from all parts of the union were in attendance, and were well pleased with the doings of the body. Many questions of interest to the church were brought up and thoroughly discussed by the delegates.

End of a Long Saloon Fight.

LONG PINE, Neb., June 16.—After a session lasting three days the village board granted a saloon license to F. S. Cook. The town has been dry for some time and this has been one of the most bitterly contested cases for years. An appeal will be taken to the district court and the case fought to a finish.

Two Fatal Accidents.

NELIGH, Neb., June 16.—Two deaths have occurred this week as the result of accidents. Frank Belmer was badly injured in the brick yard some time ago, which resulted in paralysis and later in death. A son of C. E. Spaulding had the misfortune to fall from a platform and hurt his skull so that he died.

Dismiss Partridge Case.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., June 16.—W. A. Partridge, the man brought up from Kansas City on the charge of stealing a horse and buggy from George Brantham of this county, has been dismissed on preliminary hearing, the evidence being insufficient to bind over. Partridge was brought to this city on requisition papers some days ago.

Funeral Directors Finish.

LINCOLN, Neb., June 16.—The Nebraska funeral directors closed their convention with the election of officers. P. F. Bell of Norfolk was chosen president, Harry B. Davis of Omaha secretary and George Brown of Superior treasurer. The next convention will be held in Beatrice.

Battle Creek Store Robbed.

MADISON, Neb., June 16.—The general store of George Zimmerman at Battle Creek was burglarized this week, and \$150 worth of shoes taken. The store was entered by a skeleton key. As far as known nothing was taken from the hardware stock.

Death from Broken Heart.

NEBRASKA CITY, June 16.—Marrett Anderson, colored, aged 42, died here of what the physicians pronounce a broken heart. Anderson's wife, to whom he was devotedly attached, died December 21 last and since that time he has brooded constantly over her loss. Physicians were consulted and stated that medicine would do him no good. He formerly resided at Plattsmouth, where he accumulated considerable property.