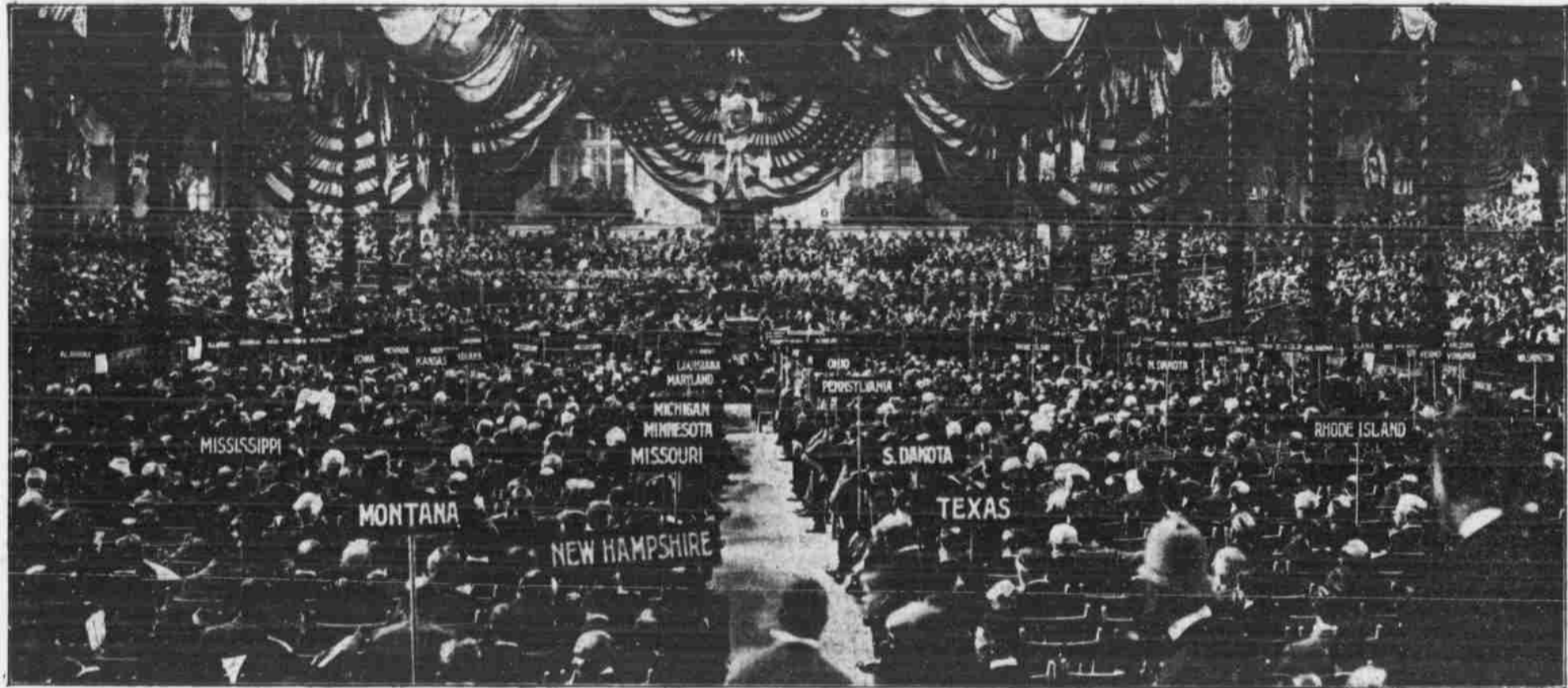


Millions for Presidential Nominations



A SESSION OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION AT PHILADELPHIA IN 1900.

A GAIN this country is getting ready to spend rather more than \$1,000,000 in nominating a candidate for the presidency a little more than a month from now at Chicago in the three or four days beginning June 21, when the national republican convention is to be held.

In the three or four days beginning July 6 at least as much will be spent for a like purpose by the national democratic convention, to be held in St. Louis. As the democratic convention seems likely to be the more strenuous of the two and may last longer, more money will probably be spent in St. Louis than in Chicago. It will certainly cost \$2,000,000 to place the two leading presidential candidates before the people, and this big sum will be considerably larger if either nomination should be hotly contested. These figures may seem excessive, but here are a few facts to bear them out:

In the first place it will take between 4,000 and 5,000 men and women to run the convention and report its proceedings.

This small army will be divided into five general classes, of which the delegates will be most important, numerically as well as otherwise. They will number about 2,000, half being actual delegates and half alternates. To be exact, so far as the republican convention is concerned, there will be 972 delegates from the states and an average of four each from the six territories of Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Porto Rico, or twenty-four in all, making a total of 996, or a grand total of delegates and alternates of 1,982.

The next class includes the "convention staff" of the convention sergeant-at-arms, which is sometimes more and sometimes less than 1,000. The sergeant-at-arms is practically the business manager of the convention for political reason, and because the members of his staff serve mostly without pay, he is allowed to appoint as many as he chooses and the various committeemen, delegates and other political personages may demand. His "convention staff" includes deputy sergeants-at-arms, ushers, messengers, pages and doorkeepers. Based on the average of past conventions, there will be 200 deputies, 200 ushers, 200 messengers, 200 pages and 100 doorkeepers—900 all told—and there may be more.

Next come the newspaper men—and women— including shorthand reporters, correspondents, photographers, artists, telegraphers and messengers. There will probably be about 1,000 of them in all; between 400 and 500 press seats are already reserved in the convention hall, with the assumption that at least half of the newspaper representatives in the convention will do their work elsewhere than in the hall itself—at the hotels, in committee rooms, etc. Possibly the number of actual working newspaper folk at the national convention may not be more than 400 or 500, but at least 1,000 press credentials are undoubtedly given out always, a very respectable proportion going to representatives of country weeklies and various obscure periodicals.

Last comes the miscellaneous class, and it is very miscellaneous indeed. It includes the national committeemen (forty-five in number, one from each state), their private secretaries, stenographers and clerks, the working office force of the sergeant-at-arms (as distinguished from his "convention staff"), the employes at the various candidates' headquarters and "all not otherwise classified." These latter would swell the

miscellaneous class to 500 at least at a convention before which several candidates were to be placed in nomination, as may be the case at St. Louis this year.

In tabular form, those who will devote the major part of their time and energy to the convention, as a business, during its continuance, may be represented as follows:

Delegates and alternates	2,000
Deputy sergeants-at-arms	200
Ushers	200
Messengers	200
Pages	200
Doorkeepers	100
Newspaper men and women (correspondents, stenographers, artists, photographers, amateurs, etc.)	1,000
Miscellaneous (including national committeemen, boomers and all intermediate classes)	500
Total	4,400

For many years the direct expenses of the national conventions have been paid by the cities in which the conventions have been held. Newspaper readers generally are familiar with the quadrennial bids put in for the conventions by New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis and other places; the bids of late years have ranged from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and have generally been large enough to pay all the expenses of the convention proper, with sometimes a small surplus.

The heaviest single item of expense to be met by the convention city is the furnishing of the convention hall. This year both conventions will be held in buildings that have been used for similar purposes before, but sometimes the hall has to be built from the ground up. In 1900 Kansas City had to do this for the democratic convention. When the structure was nearly completed it took fire and was burned, and the local citizens' committee had a hard time getting the second hall ready in time.

Even when there is a good convention hall in existence it almost always has to be refitted, and sometimes this means practically the entire rebuilding of the interior. The seating arrangements have to be remodeled and the lighting has to be modified. Special committee rooms, headquarters for telegraphers, writing rooms for correspondents and a restaurant have to be installed, and a hundred other things have to be done which would not occur to the ordinary mind, but which men who are convention wise know to be positively essential.

These things are all looked after by the convention sergeant-at-arms. He leads a strenuous life for weeks in advance of the gathering itself, and sometimes has hundreds of carpenters, plumbers and other artisans working for him many days.

Like his convention staff, the sergeant-at-arms serves without pay, though his expenses are met by the local fund and the pay of his office force comes from the same source, as also do the official expenses of the national committee. When, as sometimes happens, the contributions of the convention city do not equal the convention expenses proper, the balance is made up from the regular campaign funds of the party.

Most of the convention fund is subscribed by the railroads and hotels, which are, of course, the chief beneficiaries, though often various business men and public-spirited citizens swell the sum with substantial contributions. The railroads, hotels and other refreshment places get the bulk of the money spent by those who attend the convention.

The average "visiting attendance" at national conventions has been variously estimated by experts, and probably over-estimated by most of them. Guesses of 30,000,



THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THOMAS C. PLATT RIDING TO THE CONVENTION HALL, PHILADELPHIA, IN 1900.



LEWIS NIXON OF NEW YORK AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION OF 1900.

50,000 and even 100,000 sometimes seem justified to the novice by the crowds which flock to the convention, but the majority of the convention crowds is always made up of local people. Bearing this in mind and taking into consideration the views of the railroad men, who ought to know, it is safe to put down the visiting attendance at ten for each delegate and alternate—say, 20,000, or thereabouts. With this as a basis, some



SNAPSHOT AT DAVID B. HILL AT THE KANSAS CITY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, 1900.

Idea may be obtained as to the probable amount of money spent on the convention. It is safe to assume that the average round trip railroad fare paid by the 4,400 persons who run and report the convention will be \$15 each, or \$66,000—some of them will pay a good deal more, for they come from all parts of the country—and that the "visiting attendants" pay \$5 in round-trip

(Continued on Page Nine.)