

Republican National Convention at the Coliseum In Chicago

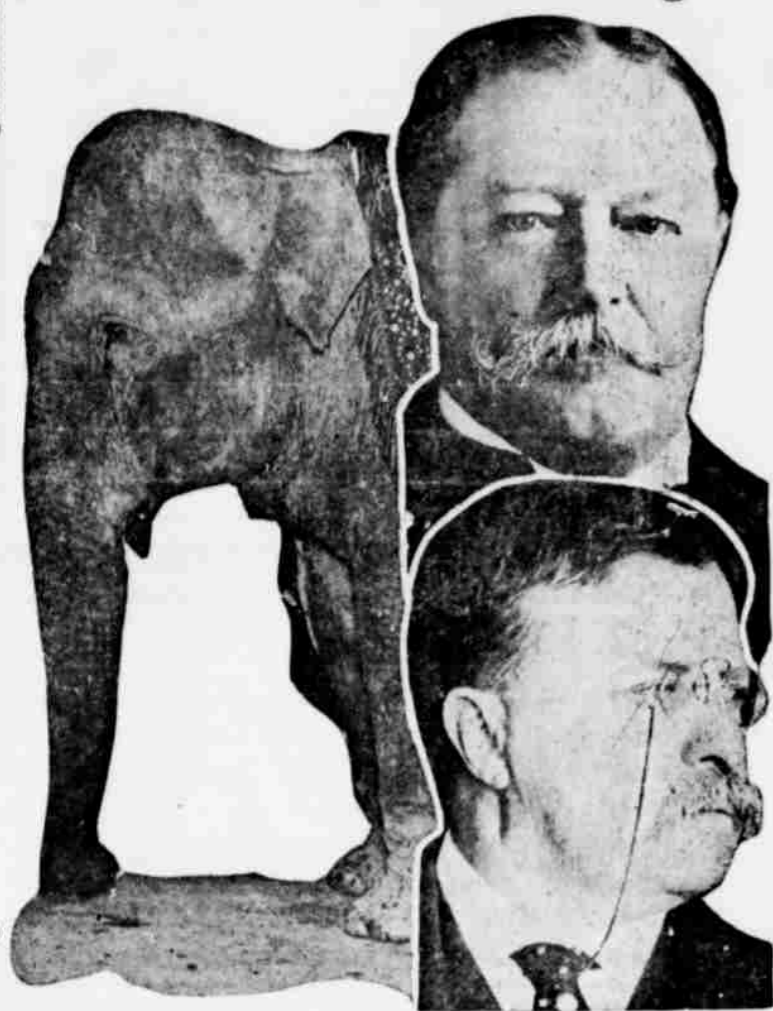


Photo of Taft by Harris & Ewing. Photo of Roosevelt by American Press Association.

On June 18 the Delegates Will Meet to Choose Candidates For President and Vice President—It Will Be the Largest Convention Ever Assembled—How the Big Event Will Be Handled.

By JAMES ARTHUR. THE Republican national convention of 1912 meets on June 18, the one hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the war of 1812. If this is an omen of anything it is that there will be war in that gathering, a thing so probable that it needs no omen. One of the battles of 100 years ago was at Fort Dearborn, standing where Chicago now stands, thus lending local emphasis to the foreboding. If further proof is needed that there is to be a fight it is furnished by the fact that William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt are the leading candidates. Robert M. La Follette and Albert Baird Cummins are also candidates and are also something in the fighting line.

The convention hall is Chicago's famous coliseum that has seen so many conventions in the past. It is the successor to the coliseum built for the Democratic convention of 1860, when William Jennings Bryan won the nomination by his "cross of gold" speech. The writer was present on that occasion and still remembers the tingle of that oratorical triumph.

For the coming convention the new coliseum is being remodeled and refurnished. This was all worked out on paper long before the convention, and as soon as the building was turned over to the national committee a force of carpenters began to rush the work. Railings were to be put in place, seats arranged and all the thousand and one details to be looked after throughout the vast hall.

Another problem has been the decorations. This contract was given separately. The state guidons, festooning of the national colors, display of flags and of portraits all had to be planned carefully and executed quickly.

The printing and giving out of tickets were also a man's job. There are many varieties of these admission cards, as delegates, alternates, national committee, stage, press and visitors in all the various sections of the building must have tickets for each session and each day and for numbered seats. The tickets are under the absolute control of the national committee. Because of the press of visitors the giving out of these pasteboards has to be carefully guarded. The hall seats something more than 11,000.

These represent only the beginning of the details. Elaborate preparations have had to be made for the press. Not only does every important paper in the country send one or more representatives, but the press associations have a large number of men, and there is a small army of telegraph operators, stenographers, messengers and other helpers.

There is also an army of doorknockers, ushers and sergeants-at-arms. Badges must be supplied, and there are almost as many kinds of these as of tickets. Music must be provided, although this is comparatively simple, since only one official band is stationed in the convention hall. The numerous bands in the streets and hotels come voluntarily or are supplied by various candidates, delegations and marching clubs.

The foregoing covers but a small part of the machinery of the convention. There are many other details, such as doctors and nurses, for possible contingencies. Among these contingencies is not included a free fight, or at least so we hope. Fighting there will be, but not of the physical variety. Yet there are many accidents that could happen in a convention hall, such as the breaking down of platforms or

seats, fire, panics and the like. Delegates and visitors are liable to be overcome by the heat. All of these contingencies must be provided for. Various concessions, including those for lemonade, fans, flags, canes, buttons, etc., are to be given out. Noise producers are also in demand, although there are always plenty of these in human form.

The national committee makes up the temporary roll. This means that it must hear all contests, of which there is an unusually large number this year. Of course the committee's decision is not final since the convention passes on the credentials of its own members. Yet, in fact, the committee's decision will be final in most cases, for the reason that those on the temporary roll will have power to vote as to determining all contests in the convention except those in which the delegates voting are personally concerned. Thus the national committee's action on these contests may determine the actual complexion of the convention, especially if it is close.

Largest Convention Ever Assembled.

The number of delegates in the Republican national convention is 1,076. There has been some confusion on this point owing to the fact that New Mexico claimed 8 delegates, whereas the call apportioned her only 6. If she is allowed 8 the total will be swelled to 1,078. In all the territories or dependencies, excepting Hawaii, the number is 2. Hawaii is allowed 6. New York heads the list with 90. Pennsylvania comes next with 76. Illinois is third with 58, Ohio fourth with 48 and Texas fifth with 40. Massachusetts and Missouri have 36 each, Indiana and Michigan 30 each, Georgia and New Jersey 28 each, California, Iowa, Kentucky and Wisconsin 26 each; Alabama, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia 24 each; Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma 20 each; Arkansas and South Carolina 18 each; Maryland, Nebraska and West Virginia 16 each; Connecticut and Washington 14 each; Colorado, Florida and Maine 12 each; North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island and South Dakota 10 each; Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Utah and Vermont 8 each; Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming 6 each, and Alaska, District of Columbia, Philippine Islands and Porto Rico 2 each. That makes just 1,076—count 'em. The Republican national convention of this year is larger than any ever assembled before. The delegates alone would make up an ordinary sized military regiment. There are as many more alternates, several hundred newspapermen, several hundred more distinguished citizens, convention officials and Mr. Common People, with his numerous family.

Most Americans are now familiar with the scene presented by the average national convention either through having attended at least one such gathering in person or through pictures and descriptions in the press. In their main features these conventions are all alike. There are variations, of course, due to particular causes, but the scene presented to the eye, the course of procedure, the speeches, the balloting, the cheering, the decorations and the other accessories that go to make up these popular party assemblages make one national convention as like another as two peas in a pod.

Color, Perspiration and Enthusiasm. The writer has attended eight national conventions and has kept fairly close track of others for a matter of twenty-five years. A general description of one will answer for all. They are always swelteringly hot. Packed from 10,000 to 20,000 human beings in one building in June or July and it could not be otherwise. The three chief features are color, perspiration and enthusiasm. A great barlike structure, with girders, pillars and every other exposed projection festooned with bunting and flags; seats arranged in a vast amphitheater, sloping up from the pit in which sit the delegates; guidons on which are the names of the states on long poles attached to delegates' chairs along the aisles; beyond the circle of delegates the chairman's platform, banked with distinguished guests; up aloft in some little cubbyhole of a balcony the band, which keeps up an incessant playing as the delegates and visitors stream in; the audience divided off into sections by railings; perhaps there is a gallery or two away back on the outer fringes of the great hall; everywhere the national colors, in wreaths, rosettes and garlands, flags of all sizes and suspended at all angles; gigantic portraits of famous party leaders of the past—that is the picture.

After going through the press of the crowds, passing the doorknockers and threading our way through long mazes to our seats we take in all these details one by one or get their effect in mass. The seats are now rapidly filling. Down in the pit there are a few knots of delegates. Soon there is a salvo of applause as some party leader enters at the head of his delegation. This is redoubled as another familiar figure takes his place. Perhaps it is a senator, a well known governor or a popular congressman. Maybe it is only a state boss.

The hour arrives for opening the session, but still there is no sign of life at the chairman's table. Perhaps he is engaged in some important caucus or conference. The delegates and spectators continue arriving, and the band industriously pounds away at ragtime, marches and national airs. Now the chairman suddenly appears at his place. If it is the opening session he is the chairman of the national committee. His gavel whacks like a distant woodpecker. The hubbub and buzz of conversation gradually ceases. The chairman announces prayer, though we do not hear him, but arise because everybody else does. Possibly we catch some echo of the minister's voice, possibly not. If God doesn't hear him any better than we do the invocation is in vain. Anyway, it is ended, and we are all again seated. Then the secretary reads the call. Nobody tries to hear this, and the buzz of conversation resumes. Now the temporary organization is announced and the temporary chairman introduced.



Photo by American Press Association. SENATOR ELIHU ROOT, ADMINISTRATION CANDIDATE FOR TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.

ed amid cheers. He is usually an orator with a voice of some carrying power. Consequently we can follow him, at least in spots, and join intelligently in the applause that marks the periods. This is supposed to be a keynote speech, profusely interlarded with praise for our party and abuse of the other, and we cheer both indiscriminately.

Coming to the Climax.

At the end of the temporary chairman's speech confusion reigns again. The various delegations are now announcing their members of the committees on credentials, on platform and on permanent organization. This does not interest us, and we use our eyes instead of our ears. Likewise we use our fan, if we are so fortunate as to have one, otherwise our hat or a newspaper folded fan shape. The later sessions vary from the opening one, the excitement gradually mounting. The report of the credentials committee brings a clash of oratory and of voting, the permanent chairman makes another keynote speech, the platform is liberally cheered and adopted after several speeches have been made for and against it, and at last the boards are cleared for action. The hour has come for the nomination of a candidate for president of the United States.

In the Chicago convention the call to order will be made by Victor Rosewater, acting chairman of the national committee since the death of Chairman Hill of Maine. Mr. Rosewater, though a young man, is editor and owner of the Omaha Bee.

As to the other events of that great gathering up to and including the nomination of the Republican candidate for president—well, I am not now working at the trade of political prophecy. However, I will hazard just one prediction: there will be a fight.

COURT OF ST. JAMES.

What a Presentation to English Royalty Means Socially.

There is no need for jealousy and excitement about presentations at court. Any respectable American girl can be presented at the court of St. James if she have sufficient influence with some lady who is even mildly persona grata at court. And when a girl or a matron has been presented then the matter ninety-nine cases out of a hundred comes to an abrupt end.

The social cachet amounts to no more than this—that the lord chamberlain has made an inquiry into your antecedents and found nothing in their history to cause comment. In the case of Americans the inquiry cannot be anything but perfunctory.

Some people imagine that a presentation at court is followed immediately by an invitation to the next state dinner or the next state concert or the next state tea and muffins. Nothing of the kind. You must attain or inherit great social importance or be representative in some way before the king and queen ask you to dine with them.

Presentation is a pretty laborious and expensive ceremony, signifying to any one who is not in the inner social ring in London nothing. — New York Telegraph.

A COLOSSAL HARP.

Veritan's Aeolian Giant Had Strings 320 Feet in Length.

The largest harp ever made, so far as is known, was that invented and constructed by M. Veritan, provost of Burkil, near Basel. It was known as the gigantic meteorological aeolian harp. It was 320 feet in length and was erected in the garden of its inventor in 1787.

This harp consisted of fifteen iron wires, 320 feet in length, stretched between two poles. The wires were from two to three inches apart, the largest being one-sixth of an inch in thickness and the smallest one-twelfth of an inch. They were placed in the direction of north and south and inclined in such a manner as to form an angle of from twenty to thirty degrees with the horizon, being stretched by means of rollers properly disposed for the purpose.

Whenever the weather changed the wires sounded with such loudness that it was impossible to go on with a concert in the house. The sound sometimes represented the hissing noise of water in rapid ebullition, sometimes that of a harmonicon and sometimes that of distant chimes or an organ.—Exchange.

Paul Revere, Dentist.

Was Paul Revere a dentist? The following advertisement published in the Boston Gazette and Country Journal of Revere's time is believed to prove that he was: "Whereas, many persons are so unfortunate as to lose their Fore-teeth by Accident and otherwise, to their great Detriment, not only in Looks, but speaking both in Public and Private:—This is to inform all such that they may have them replaced with artificial ones, that looks as well as the Natural & answers the end of Speaking to all Intents, by Paul Revere, Goldsmith, near the head of Dr. Clarke's Wharf, Boston. All Persons who have had false Teeth fixed by Mr. John Baker, Surgeon Dentist, and they have got loose in they will in time, may have them fastened by the above who learnt the Method of fixing them from Mr. Baker."

Honey Bread.

In Europe, where the food value of honey seems to be much better understood than in the United States, enormous quantities are used. Of late years we seem to be waking to the realization of the value of honey as a wholesome and delicious article of food and also as to its preservative qualities. Cakes and sweetbreads made with sugar soon become dry and crumbly and to get the good of them must be eaten when fresh, but where they are made up with honey they seem to retain their moist freshness indefinitely. In France honey bread a year or eighteen months old is preferred to that just made. They say, "It has ripened." It is the preservative, or rather the unchanging quality of honey, that makes it so popular with the best confectioners.—Christian Herald.

Spiders.

Spiders are not insects, as most people think. The spider has eight legs, whereas an insect cannot have more than six. The nervous system is constructed on a totally different basis, and so are the circulation and respiration. The eyes are different, the insects having many compound eyes and the spider never having more than eight and all of them simple. Then a spider has no separate head, the head and the thorax being fused together.

Longest Cough on Record.

The tiger came toward me, bellowing and grunting, and when he got opposite the screen he gave one of those fearful coughs which only a man who has been close to such a beast can appreciate. It was eleven feet long.—London Standard.

A Jollier.

"She's an economical little woman." "Which means, I suppose, that every time her husband has his suit of clothes pressed she tells him that it looks just as good as new."—Detroit Free Press.

Quite Solid.

"Let me see a plain wedding ring." "Solid?" "You bet I'm solid. We've been engaged more'n a month."

Love keeps no ledger of its services.—Christian Herald.

Notice of Completion of Street Improvements

Notice is hereby given that Chas. W. Connor and Son, contractors, have filed written notice this 29th day of May, 1912, of the completion of State Street, adjoining block one, Waucoma, by the construction of concrete sidewalk and gutters, under their contract with the city heretofore made and entered into under ordinance No. 238, and that the amount due said contractor for said improvement upon its acceptance is hereby stated to be \$372.80.

And notice is further given that any objections to the acceptance of said work under the contract with the said contractor on the part of said city may be filed in the office of the undersigned City Recorder at any time within seven days from the date of filing said notice, to-wit: within seven days from the 29th day of May, 1912.

This notice is published in the Hood River News for two consecutive issues thereof, the date of the first publication being June 5th, 1912. H. L. Howe, City Recorder.

For some years past the state of Illinois has employed convict labor in crushing limestone, to be sold at cost to the farmers of the state. Virginia plans to do the same thing, and other states will likely follow suit. If convicts can just be instrumental in "sweetening the sour old world" up a bit they will have performed a useful mission.



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TRY THIS MEDICINE AND IF NOT SATISFIED RETURN

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FOR PARTICULARS CALL L. J. GATES, 2102 K

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Some of Our Prices This Week

A1 Standard Corn and Tomatoes, per can..... 10c
3 cans Carnation, Libby and Pioneer Milk for... 25c
Cream Rolled Oats in bulk, per pound 5c

Special Prices on Fruit Jars

Mason--- Pts. 55c, Qts. 65c, Half G., 85c
Economy---Pts. 85c, Qts. \$1.10, Half G. \$1.40
Shrams--- Pts. 75c, Qts. 85c, Half G. \$1.30

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