

PARTY CHIEFS' PLAN CARRIES PERFECTLY

Harding Nomination Bit of Clever Engineering.

OHIOAN LOGICAL CHOICE

Chances for General Wood and Illinois Governor Badly Diminished by Expense Disclosures.

(Continued From First Page.)

standing to act under common leadership as a balance of power. It was that group that was now accomplishing what must obviously be their first purpose—that is to prevent Wood from winning.

They were setting about it. They were under way. They were doing it, scientifically, easily, comfortably. So things stood when adjournment came. That adjournment was dictated by the anti-Wood forces. It did no damage to Wood and was not an unfriendly act against the Wood forces. But it was the anti-Wood forces who dictated it, who had the power and exercised the power, whether it should be done or not.

Leader Perfectly Serene.

After the adjournment his correspondent rode home with the leader of the balance-of-power group. He was perfectly serene and confident. I asked him why they had brought about the adjournment. He said it was because it was the decent thing to do. He said it was the part of fair play and sportsmanship. It was a gesture of generosity. He said they had complete control of the situation and it was a gentleman's obligation to give the Wood forces a chance to reassemble and see what they could do overnight. They were entitled to a chance to see what combinations they could make for further defense, or, if they admitted defeat, what they could do in the way of salvage.

At the hotel your correspondent went to see Frank Hitchcock. He was perfectly cool, perfectly collected—even a little more self-restrained, more rigidly repressed, than usual. A situation had arisen which called for the most penetrating and concentrated intelligence that was all. A decidedly impressive figure he was. A cold, hard fighter, with perfect self-command as his lieutenant. He was there for conference. Your correspondent left and went to bed. More things would happen during the night than any one man could see or hear. As to some of them, they could readily be guessed. The real would appear when the balloting began in the morning.

Eventful Morning Comes.

The morning came. Through a miasmic fog of fluttering rumor and surmise you made your way to the Coliseum. The air was vibrant with excited talk, and the mark of color of the talk that would have caught the attention of anyone new to it was the curious coupling of two names, Knox and Johnson. Harding and Coolidge, Lowden and Harding, Sprout and Allen. Some of the combinations any informed person knew were ridiculous. Anyhow, the balloting would tell. But to the familiar ear there was one other noticeable feature of the talk. In none of the combinations did Wood's name appear.

At the Coliseum the session opened. The chaplain made his prayer. The chairman announced that the secretary had an announcement to make. The audience became breathless. Surely the announcement would be vital. It would be the result of some of these midnight conferences. It would announce a withdrawal. Over the heads of the expectant audience the bulky secretary spread his hands. He opened his mouth. He said something about mail for the delegates accumulating at the post office. The audience laughed uncomfortably. Then the balloting began.

Alabama Shows No Change. When Arizona came, the chairman of the delegation arose, showing clearly in manner and in voice, the expectation of a man who will stand with his back to the wall in the last ballot. He barked out "Arizona casts six votes for General Wood." He's a loyal Wood man, this Arizona delegate. Loyalty and determination to stick showed in every tone of his voice. But he could not conceal the consciousness of being on the defense.

At Arkansas came the first renewal of the anti-Wood tactics. One Arkansas delegate switched from Wood to Lowden. At Colorado came a variation of the same tactics. Two votes that had been for Wood went away from him. Then came a blow that made Wood partisans gasp a little. Dependable Kansas, Henry Allen, Kansas, began to break. From 14 for Wood in the last ballot last night he fell down to 10. Then at Missouri came a blow. Five of Wood's delegates left him. When New York came it was apparent that the two factions in that state recognized that the tug-of-war had come. Wood went up from 29 to 24, a rise of 4, but Lowden went up from 32 to 42. The machine was working.

Break From Johnson On.

At New Jersey came more evidence of the inevitable break from Johnson. One vote left him and went to Harding. At Oregon the inevitable drift of the delegates that Johnson had under duress began. Three of his eight left him. One of them went to Lowden and another to Harding. And now came Texas. There, for the first time, we got the sure sign of what was being done. Up to the present it has been solely a case of beating Wood with Lowden, now came signs of the next purpose—to substitute Harding for Lowden. Lowden, in his turn, was to be beaten and Harding was to be made the winner.

The Texas delegates are just the kind who are most easily subservient to a programme like that. On the last ballot last night Wood had had eight delegates from Texas. Now, on the first ballot this morning, they gave him only 5½. Lowden last night had 3½. This morning they gave Lowden 8½. That was the thing that attracted the attention and marked the beginning of a new trend. They were taking delegates away from Wood, but they were not giving them to Lowden, or they were giving them to someone else. That someone else was Harding. Harding last night had only 4½ delegates from Texas, this morning he had eight.

Senate Group Confident.

The balloting went on for a while without any high spots. At the District of Columbia there was a human equation. When it was called, a light, but trenchant voice snapped out in two sharp syllables, "Wood two." It was a faithful Wood adherent, seeing how things were going and showing by his voice that he would stick to the last ditch. It sounded as sharp as rifle shots.

The end of the first ballot this morning showed how confident were

the senatorial group who possessed the balance of power. We had all expected that this first ballot this morning would be Wood's peak, and although we all felt that he was going to be beaten, we did not expect to see him begin to fall until after he had won another ballot. But the balance of power group were confident. In this first ballot this morning they gave Wood only 29 and Lowden 39. Lowden had passed Wood. The audience, seeing it only superficially, cheered and yelled.

The crowd thought it was merely a case of two runners and one beating the other, but those of us who could see deeper knew well that the other programme was under way.

Situation Clears Fast.

The next ballot began—the second of the day. Alabama, no change. Arizona stood fast for Wood, as always. In Colorado Wood lost one. Connecticut had no significance. None of the other states had any significance until we got down to Indiana. There it became increasingly apparent just what was happening. On the previous ballot Wood had had 18 from Indiana, Harding only four and Johnson five. Now two were taken away from Wood and one of them given to Lowden. At Maine Frank Hitchcock began to call on his Wood reserves. One Maine delegate had been voting for Hoover, with the consent of the Wood forces. But now that vote could no longer be wasted on Hoover. It was called back and for the first time Maine voted her solid delegation of 12 for Wood. Next came Maryland and Maryland still stood fast for Wood. There have been uneasy rumors about this Wood delegation from Maryland. Sooner or later part of it would prove disloyal and turn away.

Then came Michigan, and here the real Johnson break began. There was expected it in the last ballot, but there was every disposition to be conciliatory to Johnson, and he was permitted to have Michigan for one ballot longer than he might reasonably have expected it. In the break Johnson still kept 18. Lowden got 1 and Wood got 11. Johnson would not be able to keep all of those 18. On future ballots more of them would leave him to go to Wood or Lowden.

Johnson Break Continues.

This break away from Johnson continued as soon as Nebraska was reached. Ten Nebraska delegates had been voting for Johnson. Now six of them quit and went where they were much needed—to Wood. New York was passed on this ballot without substantial change. When Ohio was reached it was very evident that there was strife in that delegation. Quite naturally so. Harding had most of the delegates from that state. He had 39 of them, while Wood had only nine.

That alignment—9 and 39—remained the same up to this ballot, but we all knew that several of these 39 delegates were not loyal to Harding and were voting for him only under duress. They counted on leaving him at the next ballot. A decided change were. But now came the complication. They now saw that Harding was to be the man the leaders would try to nominate and Harding was a son of their own state. Under these circumstances they kept their promise to leave him. There was a demand for a rollcall. The balloting ceased and the secretary called the names of the 48 men. The result was that four delegates left Harding and went to Wood. The result of this ballot was that Wood and Lowden were exactly even at 31½.

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Management Is Perfect.

The end of this ballot showed that laborious and complicated, but highly artful, process by which the thing was managed. By this time the intention to push Harding forward was plain, even to the uninitiated. What the balance of power group was doing was carefully to shift the delegates they controlled. They did not take the delegates directly away from Wood and Lowden and give them then straight away to Harding. They shifted them about from place to place. Only an acute observer could follow the process. At the end of this ballot, for example, Wood and Lowden had 31½ and 31½, but Harding had come up from 88 to 105½. All the time Hitchcock was drawing on his reserves. The elimination of Johnson released them to him. He called up from Massachusetts occasionally. On the very last ballot, before the recess, Hitchcock dragged up half a delegate from Florida, which was supposed to be one of his private personal stores of delegates. Again in this last ballot he called up a delegate from Nebraska. Wood's score in that state went up from 13 to 14.

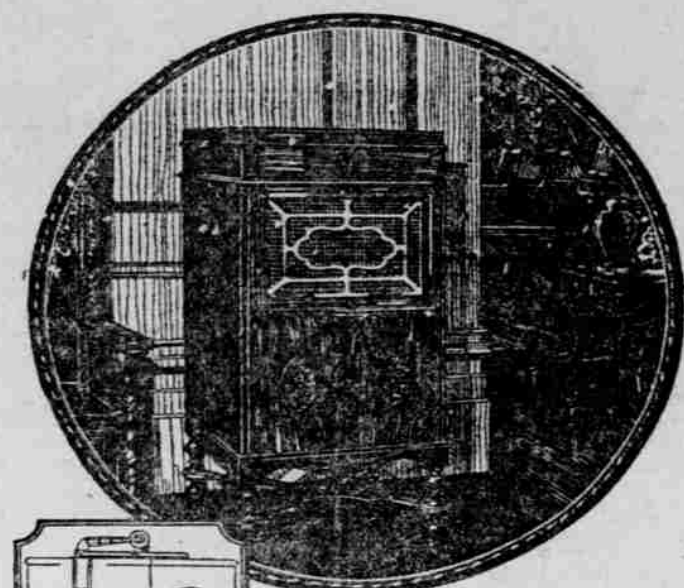
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Through it all certain states stood fast. Arizona and New Mexico were like a combined stone wall for Wood. California still stuck with Johnson, but soon she, too, would break up and the bulk of her delegates would be distributed where they would best further the plan of the senatorial group that now had the power.

Great Fact Develops.

Illinois continues the same throughout—41 delegates for Lowden and 17 for Johnson. Iowa stands like a stone wall for Lowden all the time. 26 votes on every ballot. Kentucky is another dependable division for Lowden. Pennsylvania never changes—75 for Sprout and one for Knox. Now it is apparent the senatorial group is going to ask for a recess. If they get it easily they will show their power. They do get it easily. At the recess Harding, by a strange

Prosser School Growth Noted.

PROSSER, Wash., June 12.—(Special.)—The recently completed census of the Prosser district shows a substantial increase over that of two years ago, and bears out the contention of the board of directors that the school-room facilities are inadequate. According to the census just taken there are 1805 children of school age in the district at this time, as against 800 two years ago.

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