

PLAN OF DECIDING CONTESTS; RULES OF CONVENTIONS

National Committee Primarily a Campaign Committee; Accredited Agency of National Party; Temporary Roll.

What makes a national convention? What and why is a national committee? How are contested seats decided? These and similar questions are inquired by the struggle in progress in Chicago, which by many voters is dimly understood because of a lack of familiarity with the rules that govern the game.

In every game the players are guided by rules provided by some recognized authority. So in every convention, except a purely mass convention, those who participate must have credentials showing they are entitled to seats. If there is a dispute, the power of settling the dispute is delegated to some committee or other authority.

In Chicago there is to be held a Republican national convention, and the national committee composed of one member from each state, is the authority designated by rule and precedent to make up the temporary roll. Before the convention meets this authority must decide who are entitled to seats. Otherwise, with numerous disputes as to legality of election, there would be no convention, or at least a wrangle impossible to compose.

Delegates Have Power.

This decision by the committee is not final. An appeal may be taken to the delegates themselves when the convention assembles, for the convention itself is the highest authority, and is the creator of the committee. The convention itself will elect the credentials committee to make up the permanent roll, and when that committee reports, can accept or reject its work.

But in naming the credentials committee rule and precedent require that the delegation from each state shall in caucus select the member it desires for credentials committee. It should be borne in mind that the state delegations who thus choose the credentials committee are the ones occupying seats on the temporary roll call, and the temporary roll is made up by the national committee.

With this explanation the news reports as to the manner by which the Taft men expect to control at Chicago become clear. The national committee is engaged in making up the temporary roll, and it is seating the Taft men. The men thus given temporary seats are the ones who will pass on the question as to their title to permanent seats. Naturally they will favor themselves, and the only chance for overturning the work of the national committee is that a large majority of the unseated delegates will vote to unseat them.

Contested Delegates.

Take for instance the first state on the roll call, Alabama. Here enough delegates were contested to have thrown the majority of the delegates in that state to Roosevelt had the contests been sustained. The national committee decided those contests against the Roosevelt men, and 21 out of 24 delegates are for Taft. These 21 men will naturally name one of their number for the credentials committee who will favor their own claims to the seats, and when the credentials committee reports, these same 21 are quite certain to vote to confirm their own titles to sit in the convention.

In Arkansas was the same situation, and the same result. No doubt the Alabama Taft men will assist the Arkansas Taft men to keep the seats they have gained, and the Arkansas men will return the courtesy. So the story runs in most of the southern states.

Contests have arisen in numerous ways. Perhaps the most frequent type of contest is where two factions have been nearly evenly divided in strength in a district or state convention. One side declares its chairman elected, a vote being taken viva voce. The other side bolts, or organizes a separate convention in the same hall.

Another frequent type is where charges of manipulation and fraud are made. Sometimes it is claimed that one or two men, being officers at the head of a party committee, have called snap meetings, when a full expression of

the party will be suppressed. In the south, some contests were based on charges of bribery and intimidation of the negro delegates.

Technical Points Raised.

In other cases, as in California, the contest arises on a technical question of law. The same was true in Georgia, though on a different point of law. Sometimes it is claimed the call for the convention has been disregarded. As the delegates are going to the national committee, it is clear that not less than 10 state delegates will have a Taft majority, meaning 20 members of the credentials committee of the convention. The Roosevelt men will have 11, and are in doubt. There is no doubt at all that the Taft element will control the credentials committee just as thoroughly as it controls the national committee.

It remains to be seen whether or not the Taft leaders, with all this advantage, will be able to outmaneuver the president. A careful estimate based on the best information that can be had indicates that Taft will need to have practically every contest decided in his favor to hold a clear majority, and even then his control is threatened by defections at the south, in New York, and in some other states. He cannot lose the contests in either Washington or Texas and be assured of a majority. The margin is so close that it can be upset by a few desertions, and if a few unseated delegates join with the La Follette and Cummins men in voting for a third candidate, the fight may go into a deadlock.

In a brief prepared by William Hayward, secretary of the Republican national committee, the status of that body is thus explained:

National Committee.

"The national committee is primarily a campaign committee, coming into existence at a national convention and conducting the campaign for the election of the nominees of that convention for president and vice president.

"It is also the duly accredited agency of the national party through which the party preserves its records, arranges the inaugural ceremonies, issues a call and makes arrangements for the physical handling of the next convention, bears and determines contests, makes up a temporary roll, names temporary officers, and attends to the infinite variety of detail necessary to distinguish a party from an unorganized group of voters, and a convention from an impromptu mass meeting.

"It is created by no law, state or federal. The national convention is the highest party authority. In fact, there is no authority either for the creation or continuance of a national committee. The national convention has provided how vacancies occurring by death or resignation may be filled, but it has never provided for the creation of a vacancy. In other words, the recall has not as yet been put in operation.

"The successive national conventions being the creators of each national committee as a central body, and also naming the members thereof, whether by confirming the nomination or suggestion made by a state delegation, or a state convention, or otherwise, it is apparent that no state law can do more than to provide a method for naming or recommending a single member of this committee. In fact, where such state law operates to nominate or elect a member prior to the convention, the nominee or member-elect is chosen for membership on a committee not yet in existence. It is in future.

Senate Refuses to Recede.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, June 13.—By a vote of 23 to 27, the senate refused to recede from its amendment to the metals bill, repealing the Canadian reciprocity act.

UNIVERSITY SENDS OUT LARGE CLASS

Pacific at Forest Grove Will Hold Fiftieth Commencement.

(Special to The Journal.)

Forest Grove, Or., June 13.—The fiftieth annual commencement exercises of Pacific university begins tomorrow evening with the advance Conservatory of Music recitals in Marsh hall at 8 o'clock. Pacific will graduate the largest number of students that have ever completed the course. Eleven will finish the liberal arts and take A. B. degrees and five will complete the music courses. The collegiate graduates are Charles E. Ward, Kelso, Wash.; Sumner E. Bryant, Clatskanie; D. J. Taylor, Forest Grove; V. V. Gould, Forest Grove; H. J. Turner, Clatskanie; L. L. Hope, Vale; Olaus J. Murie, Moorhead, Minn.; Marion S. Taylor, Liberty, Mo.; Jennie C. Rasmussen, Forest Grove; Miss Gladys Peterson, Forest Grove; Miss Leah Blusser, Portland; Miss Agnes Johnson, Carlton; Perry Burton Arant, Monmouth.

Following the recitals on Friday and Saturday evenings, baccalaureate services are to be held on Sunday at the First Congregational church at 11 o'clock. President W. N. Ferrin delivering the address. At 2 o'clock the annual address before the Christian association is to be given by Rev. Perry Frederick Schrock. On Monday the senior class day exercises take place on the campus at 2 o'clock and the finals in the interclass tennis contests for the Hope cup are to be played off. In place of the annual commencement play, the reader's department will give a recital in Marsh hall. The annual meeting of the trustees is to be held at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning and the closing exercises of Tuatlati academy with the prize declamation contest will be held at the same time. Rev. Hiram Gould, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Forest Grove, will deliver the address before the graduating academy class. The annual Philomathean society reunion is scheduled for 3 o'clock in the afternoon and at 8 o'clock the anniversary exercises of the associate alumni of the university are to be held.

On Wednesday, the graduating exercises of the college and the conferring of degrees, with the graduating address by President William Truitt, Ph. D., of Reed college, are to be held at 10 o'clock. At noon the annual business meeting of the associate alumni is to be held. The commencement concert is the last feature on the program to be given at 8 o'clock, in Brighton chapel.

Seventeen Leave Academy.

(Special to The Journal.) Pacific University, Forest Grove, Or., June 13.—The graduating class of Tuatlati academy, the academic department of Pacific university, numbers 17. They are Elizabeth Briggs, Dilley; Ruth Forbes Brown, Heppner; Vernon Burdington, president, Forest Grove; Ethel Maud English, Forest Grove; Norma Emeline Hope, Vale; Charles L. McNeil, Aldrie, Alberta, Canada; Edna Lola

Mills, Forest Grove; Ralph Ira Mills, Forest Grove; George Morris Rasmussen and Robert James Rasmussen, Forest Grove; Mildred Lutz Thomas, Forest Grove; Warren Ernest Tupper, Camas, Idaho; Charles Decker Wegman, Portland; Laura May Wiest, Skamokawa, Wash.; Paul Abraham, Forest Grove; Earl D. Smith, Forest Grove; Nicholas Sourlas, Kirochort, Greece; and Robert Cochran Buchanan, Portland. The annual declamation contest will be held Tuesday at 10 o'clock. The contestants will be Ruth G. Brown, Edna L. Mills and Maud English, for the young ladies, and Vernon Burdington, James Rasmussen and Charles McNeil for the young men. Gold medals are given to the winners. A gold medal is also given for the best scholarship during the last two years of work in the academy.

PARIS GETS DIRIGIBLE PASSENGER SERVICE

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Paris, June 13.—A dirigible passenger service over Paris and vicinity is being organized by the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, and a number of daily trips will be carried out during the summer at fixed rates. The starts will be made from the long aerodrome, just outside the military fortifications of Paris. The same company is planning a daily air service between England and France with hydroplanes.

"Hollow" Is Transferred.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Washington, June 13.—Secretary of War Stimson has today authorized the transfer of Tennessee Hollow, on the San Francisco Presidio grounds, to the Panama Pacific exposition. It will be used by the exposition for nursery purposes.

CORPORATIONS DIE OF MANY TROUBLES

Records of State Show 7000 Concerns More or Less Active.

(Helen Bureau of The Journal.)

Salem, Or., June 13.—Request for the annual reports of corporations sent out by Secretary of State Olooff May 11 is bringing to light the fact that nearly one-fourth of the corporations which, according to the state records, are supposed to be doing business in Oregon, are defunct. Some of them became bankrupt, some merely ceased doing business and other died from various causes.

These requests for reports were sent to 1000 supposedly live corporations. Besides these there are 11,000 names of other corporations that once existed in this state. Under the present corporation law these names must be kept on the records and no other corporation may use the names. "Any time any of these defunct corporations wish to resume business the present law provides they may do so by paying the fees due up to the time they were dissolved, which would be within two years after they ceased doing business," said Corporation Clerk Babcock. "This puts a premium on delinquency."

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