

CONVENTION KILLS TIME WHILE ROLL FIXERS SQUABBLE

Republican National Convention Branded as Reunion of Hack Politicians Operated at \$100,000 Per Day.

By George Fitch.
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Chicago, June 20.—Laying aside all scientific terms and coming right down to plain pink extra English the Republican convention situation seems to be what Bill Taft, the Ohio giant, and Teddy Roosevelt, the Oyster Bay boss breaker, are circling slowly around the mat, with their heads on each other's shoulders milling for each other and looking for an opening. The former has a two dog fall and the latter has claimed that the referee tripped him in each case. The crowd is yelling for Roosevelt and is daring the officials to come outside a minute. The Oyster Bay man claims that unless the strange hold is barred he will walk out of the ring. This Ohio giant would be very glad to have him do, but for the fact that he is afraid the Oyster Bay man would take the stakes as he went out, and that the audience would protect him.

This is not using due and appropriate dignity in discussing a so eminent men but dignity is awful hard to find in this campaign. There has not been a real case of dignity at the Congress hotel for two weeks, and the Coliseum is entirely free from it. It is even predicted that the resolutions committee will have a terrible time scraping up enough of this obsolete stuff to dissolve the tobacco and vitriol out of the platform.

Waiting on One Committee.

For 24 mortal hours this convention has stood still while the credentials committee has been tossing coins and picking daisy petals and cutting cards from the deck trying to make up its mind whether to sustain all the contest decisions of the national committee or to hand back enough delegates to Mr. Roosevelt to sooth him into a state of coma while the convention flattens him out. If the credentials committee could decide just how many delegates it cared to put back safely the job could be finished in a hurry. But it can't and so it toiled all day while 1256 delegates, an equal number of alternates, a train load of contesting delegates, a large band, 500 policemen, 2000 honorary officials and several thousand camp followers and visitors have been waiting on them.

This simply demonstrates once more the supreme chuck-headedness of the convention system. It is an Eiffel tower of folly and is run with less sense than is required to operate a sprinkling cart successfully. It costs including cart bills and laundry, \$100,000 a day to run a Republican national convention. Here is a whole day's work of a \$100,000 convention gone and what were the net results? Two prayers for the Republican party. That is the pitiful total. And they were short prayers at that.

Prayers Come High.

Fifteen thousand people journeyed down to the Coliseum yesterday morning and stood up while a Catholic priest asked mercy for the elephant in a few well chosen words. The same number struggled back in the afternoon while a Protestant minister added one more petition. Two prayers, \$50,000 a piece. Valuable as prayer to this is too much. There was the equipment, there was the audience. The supply of ministers available was inexhaustible. Without another cent of expense a thousand prayers for the Republican party could have been pronounced yesterday and there isn't a member of the party who will not admit that in the present crisis this would have been none too many.

The waste of this \$100,000 a day is especially irritating from another standpoint. Although it is not suspected at present by more than a few, a vice president is to be nominated when the

big show is over. He will be nominated with the usual haste and informality. While the janitors are busy shoveling the mangled atmosphere out of the convention hall at the close of the final presidential ballot, Brother Barnes will exclaim as he is putting on his coat: "Here we've forgotten to nominate a vice president," and Chairman Root as he wraps up his splinted gavel will say: "That's so, come back you fellows," or the equivalent of these words in out-of-way language. Then the convention will sit wearily down and try to think up a good man for the job before the 8 o'clock rush gets into the Pompeian room down town.

Haste is Necessary.

This is the regular way of nominating vice presidents. No convention is going to stick around for three days after the fireworks discussing the merits of more or less eminent gentlemen who are willing to let themselves be interred in this position of horrible decay. And then once again the hideous waste of yesterday's performance becomes apparent. Besides being prayed for the party could have spent Thursday on the vice president problem. Of course, it could not have nominated a vice president, but it could have spent the day getting acquainted with the candidates. There is Governor Mead for instance. He is not as well known to the convention as Frank Chance or Mike Donlin. Governor Mead is a candidate but no one knows why. He should have been allowed to pass along the audience yesterday and distribute statistics. There are Governor Johnson, Judge Lindsay, Governor Hadley and John D. Wannamaker. These are well known men, but only in other lines of work. They might have been examined yesterday as to their qualifications for the vice presidency.

Score Card for Candidates.

Compare our present haphazard system of filling this great office with the businesslike methods of judging a candidate on points: silence, 25 points; hand-clap, 25 points; Euphony adame, 10 points; bank account, 15 points; appearance in evening clothes, 10 points; attractive power in home state, 10 points; popularity with reporters, 10 points; total, 100 points. Think what might have been accomplished along this line on Thursday.

What this country needs most is a commission for the conservation of \$100,000 convention days. As a matter of fact it is generally conceded that the convention system is on its last leg. With a good many running national committee there is really very little place for national convention. It is whispered that the national committee is considering taking over the convention with entirely henceforth on the ground that it could be accomplished at a far less expenditure of time, money, perspiration and super heated conversation. If this plan is carried out the convention will not be abandoned, but will be held in some distant city where it will not interfere with the committee and will be conducted entirely as a reunion.

Reunion of Old Friends.

This, after all, is the greatest benefit of the national conventions. They bring together old friends from Florida and Alaska, Maine and Hawaii, New York city and Wahoo, Nebraska. They serve as a meeting place for editors and correspondents from a thousand newspapers and besides giving 3000 class B politicians from all parts of the country a chance to get behind a big official badge and propel it slowly up and down the main street of some great city, it distributes up to date styles and new wrinkles in living high in all corners of the nation through the medium of sail politicians' wives. These are the great necessities so ably filled by the national convention and because of these things it will never be abandoned.

But there is a distinct feeling among many of our most prominent politicians this week that is going too far to allow it to elbow in and decide such important questions as nominations. If it is encouraged in this way it may want to tinker around with the platform next.

FREE LUNCH IN SALOONS UPHELD BY COUNCILMEN

Medford, Or., June 21.—The fight of the restaurant and hotel men of the city against free lunch stands in saloons was definitely lost Wednesday night, when the city council by a unanimous vote allowed the saloons to conduct either free lunch stands or small lunch counters in their respective places of business. Members of the W. C. T. U. also favored the abolishing of all lunches.

THIRD CANDIDATE MOVEMENT LAGS; TAFTITES ARE PAT

None of Possibilities Suggested Are Willing to Say Definitely That They Will Enter Contest.

(United Press Special Wire.)
Chicago, Ill., June 21.—With all danger of a general bolt eliminated, the Republican national convention assembled at 11 o'clock. The program of the leaders was to bring in a partial report of the credentials committee for immediate consideration.

The Taft men declared that they were in absolute control of the situation and they were well pleased with the demand of the Roosevelt forces that there be a record vote on each contest. Congressman George B. Malby, the New York member of the credentials committee, joined with Devine in his demand that the leaders drop their plan of asking for a partial report.

"We have remaining to be heard," he said, "five districts of Missouri, eight districts at large and eight districts in Washington, seven districts in Louisiana, six delegates at large in Michigan and four at large and eight districts in Virginia, all of which are of supreme importance to the Republicans of the nation. We cannot limit debate. To do so would give the opposition another opportunity to declare that we favor gag rule. I for one, will not stand for the committee making any report to this convention until such time as we are in a position to clear up the entire matter."

End Seen on Saturday.

"I think that by keeping at it, as we have up to the present, we will conclude our labors late tomorrow (Saturday) night. I think, though, that it would be too late to have the report acted on before Monday, as a Sunday session would be out of the question."

"This will mean, if the Roosevelt forces insist as they say they will, on having a separate roll call on every separate contest, that we cannot complete our labors before next Wednesday. And even to get that far we will have to hold long day and night sessions every day next week."

The assertion, coupled with Devine's declaration of opposition, caused a sensation among the members of the convention "steering committee." If adhered to, it was feared many of the delegates would refuse to remain over, but would return to their homes before the convention finished its labors.

"No Steam Roller," Cries Majority.

Until the convention was fully organized no real business could be transacted. The credentials committee has positively refused to accept the roll call contests. The majority members declare they have been unjustly criticized in advance and that they intend to show to the country that there is no steam roller.

Taft Men Standing Pat.

The Taft men insisted that they were standing pat. Secretary Hilles and Campaign Manager McKinley, after a count of noses, said that they had more than the 540 votes needed to nominate Taft. They declared there was absolutely no truth in the report that they had offered to drop the president for another candidate, either Hadley of Missouri or Root of New York.

But while the leaders were talking this way, many of the individual delegates were asserting that they did not believe the party should renominate the president.

Assert Roosevelt Still in Race.

The Roosevelt men still deny the colonel is out of the race, and contend that when a vote is taken there will be universal surprise.

Delegates who favor a compromise had not crystallized their sentiment on any particular candidate. The situation, so far as the candidates were concerned, today shaped up so that it appeared that if President Taft were not renominated on the first ballot, he probably would not be nominated at all. The managers of his campaign asserted that he would be chosen. William Barnes Jr., in denying the renewed report of additional defections in the New York delegation, insisted that the delegation was still morally bound to the president. He pointed out that the state convention asked the delegates to do all in their power to bring about the renomination of the chief executive, and asserted that he saw little reason why any delegate should choose to disregard instructions.

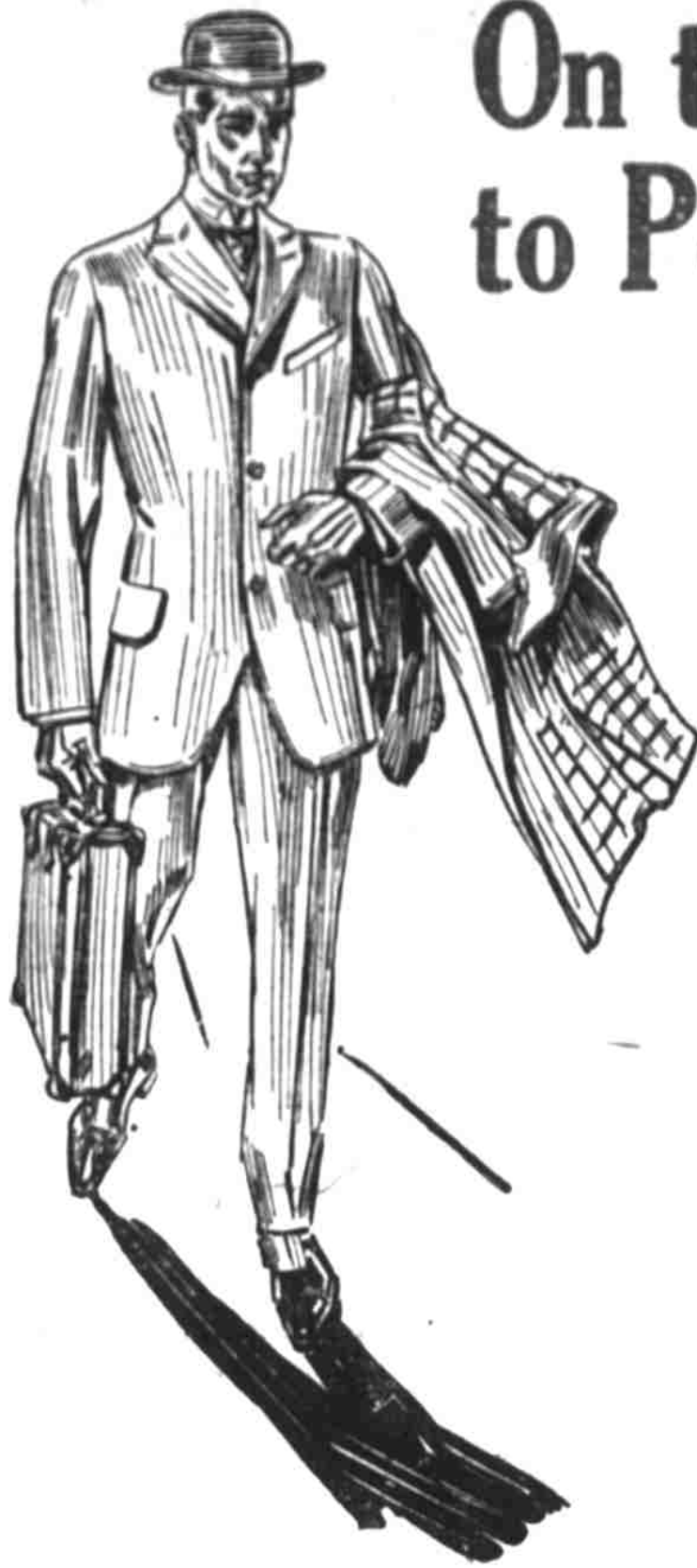
FOREST GROVE AWARDS EXTENSIVE PAVING JOB

(Special to The Journal.)
Forest Grove, Or., June 21.—The city council has let a contract to the Warren Construction company for the paving of College Way and eight blocks on First avenue. The property owners on the latter street were generally favorable, as the electric railway line runs on this street, and the electric and Southern Pacific companies will be required to do considerable paving, lessening the cost to the property owners. The city council passed a resolution some weeks ago to pave several blocks on Second avenue, but met considerable objection from property owners, and was prevented from awarding a contract through an injunction served by Sheriff George Hancock. The council has 10 days to answer, when the injunction will be heard in the circuit court. If the council can make a proper showing, the injunction will be dissolved. The city's attorneys have been instructed by the council to defend their action in ordering in the pavement.

Druggist Made School Director.

(Special to The Journal.)
Forest Grove, Or., June 21.—Charles A. Litter has been chosen school director of the Forest Grove public schools, the term of H. T. Buxton having expired. Robert P. Wirtz was re-elected clerk. Mr. Litter is proprietor of the Forest Grove Pharmacy.

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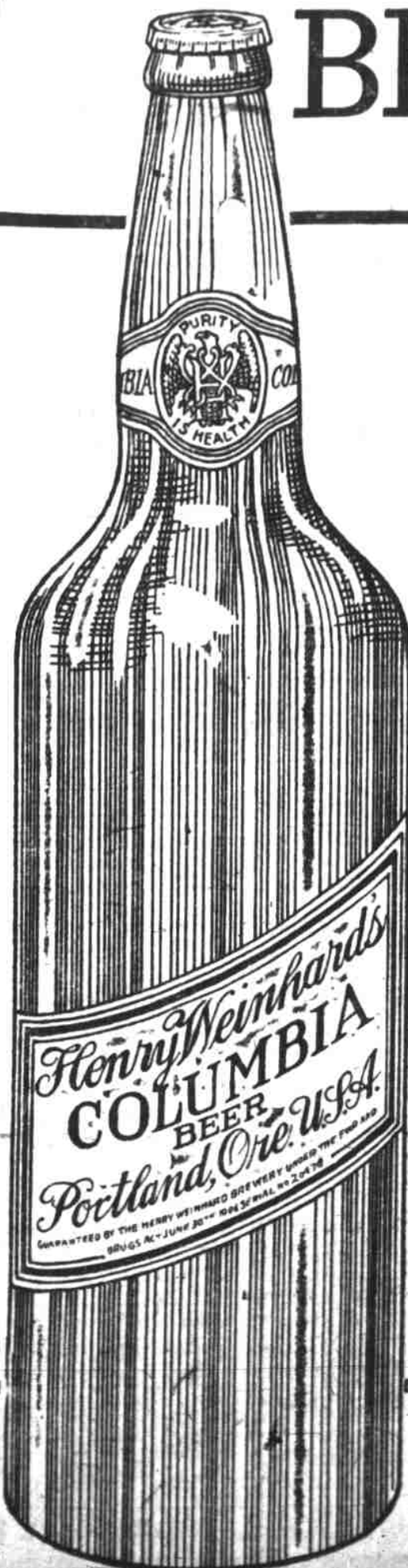
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