

CONVENTION LACKS ENTHUSIASM, SAYS BRYAN IN CHICAGO

By William Jennings Bryan
(Written Exclusively for Universal Service)
Chicago, June 8.—The convention is opened—it was opened formally and according to long standing methods. The delegates were quite slow in gathering—they ordinarily are—but it could hardly be called an enthusiastic opening. There were no waves of applause sweeping over the hall as political leaders appeared.

Usually the bulletins issued from a convention announce "Governor Blank has just entered the hall amid great cheering," "the convention rose to its feet as Senator So-and-So and the speaker of the house took the stand," "the galleries caught sight of General Blank when he entered the hall and the cheers were taken up by the delegates below."

SAME OLD PROCEDURE
Such bulletins are customary in conventions, but somehow the eyes of the assembled spectators were not as alert or the interest in persons not as great as in the custom.

When Chairman Hays advanced to the front to call the convention to order, he was greeted by an ovation that made his smile even broader than it is wont to be.

He bowed in appreciation and waited without impatience until the enthusiasm had exhausted itself; then, in a clear voice, he made the preliminary boasts which are deemed necessary on such an occasion—boasts that assured the audience of a coming Republican victory of greater magnitude than the party has ever known. Then he announced the nomination of Senator Lodge as temporary chairman, declared the vote unanimous, appointed a committee to escort the convention's choice to the platform and the keynote speech was delivered.

The style of the address was just what might have been expected from one who stands so high as a scholar; it was a rhetorical success. The senator followed the established rules of oratory. He began with an appeal to partisan sentiment and this put the audience in a good humor.

Then, taking advantage of the applause that he had drawn from them, he filled in the less exciting material of the speech and reserved for the conclusion of his discussion the League of Nations.

His attack on the president was a digest of all that has been said in the way of criticism. It was a complete indictment and enumerated all that the Republicans have found fault with, the chief count being directed against what the senator described as an autocratic spirit.

PASSES OVER FAILURES
The president was accused of having disregarded the legislative branch of the government and usurping authority belonging to congress. He declared that the rescue of the government "from Wilson, his heirs and assigns" was the paramount duty of the hour—more important by comparison than any domestic or international issue.

In giving a list of the things done by the Republican congress he manifested some embarrassment that the list was not longer and the subjects more important. When it is remembered that the Democrats had been in power for six years, enacting and repealing, would seem that they would have done more that needed to be undone, or would have left more that needed to be done if the Republican charge of incompetency is to be borne out.

ADMINISTRATION BLAMED
While no credit was given for the unprecedented tasks performed during the war, no criticism was made of the economic reforms accomplished, and no petty complaint was entered against the mistakes necessarily made in the handling of the enormous volume of war business.

The Republican party was excused for failure to stop profiteering, not on the ground that there is no exploitation going on, but on the ground that the administration has not enforced the laws against profiteering. Senator Lodge did not go as far as Senator Johnson and Senator Borah went last night in exonerating congress. He admitted that there might be some legislation needed, but he charged the administration with lack of energy in protecting the public.

PROFITS ARE PROVED
He did not point out any specific remedy that might be provided by legislation, although he emphasized the necessity for increased production as a factor in reducing high prices. He also laid a part of the blame—a considerable part—on the increased volume of money, apparently forgetting the stock argument advanced by the financiers in

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1898, viz. that it did not matter whether we had much money or little so long as it was all good.

If anyone doubts the complete vindication of the quantitative theory of money, so hotly disputed a quarter of a century ago, he ought to consult the apocryphal for high prices. The staunchest supporters of the quantitative theory are to be found among those who want to show that the increased volume of money, and that alone, is responsible for the high cost of living. They might have more success but for the fact that the income tax returns give undeniable proof of enormous excess profits.

Lawson Would Back Johnson on a Third Ticket With Coin

Boston, June 8.—Thomas W. Lawson, after he had concluded a long distance conversation with the Johnson headquarters in Chicago, remarked:

"If they give Hiram Johnson a round deal out there, I'm ready to organize and finance a third party and put him over for the presidency in jig time."

"And to show that I mean what I say, I'm tired of the everlasting juggling and pulling and hauling, and if the third party turns to Hiram Johnson I'll provide \$100,000 toward the new party support of this sterling American."

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce is using airplanes to make climatic surveys for the benefit of fruit growers.

Once or twice the convention has

opened its eyes, but those at the bedside agree that it showed no signs of recognizing anyone.

If not a salt solution, then a medicine dance.

Perhaps Hiram Johnson, with the devastating speech which is said to be entertaining only by heroic effort; perhaps Henry J. Allen, whose admirers hint he is going to duplicate Bryan's feat of 1896, except that his speech may read: "You shall not press down upon the brow of capital this crown of thorns," etc. If Johnson provides this, the medicine dance by his enthusiastic followers is assured. If Allen—then it depends on the merit of the incantation.

The delegates miss all the old familiar features. They're in a mood to welcome the reappearance of the old steam roller itself, and if the remnant of the old guard could get that remorseless chariot to hitting on more than one cylinder they'd be justified in rolling out.

"Well after Wood, who are you for?" an Arizona delegate was asked.

ANYBODY WILL DO.
"Oh, I don't know. I guess that—Coolidge is as good as any."

There you are. The best that the average delegate has to say for almost any of the candidates is "that he is as good as anybody else." And some of them express it profanely because there is a little of downright resentment mixed with their indifference.

Students Thank Voters
Oregon Normal School, Monmouth, June 8.—The students of the normal unanimously adopted resolutions expressing obligation to voters of the state because of the passage of the higher educational bill on May 21.

Chicago, June 9.—(U. P.)—They might do it by bringing Boies Penrose to Chicago on a special train and carrying him into the convention hall on a stretcher; they might do it by escorting William Howard Taft to the platform and asking him to smile; they might by presenting Charles Evans Hughes suddenly to the apathetic delegates. They've got to do it somehow. They've got to inject a salt solution into the veins of this convention or see its little white soul go fluttering into the beyond at an unripe age.

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CONVENTION NEEDS BRACER TO ROUSE LISTLESS SPIRIT

By Lowell Mellett
(Written for the United Press by special arrangement with Colliers' Weekly.)
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