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W. C. WOODWARD AT BIG CONVENTION

Former Oregonian Gives His Impressions of the Big G. O. P. Show at Chicago

Thanks to Ralph E. Williams, National Committeeman for Oregon, who furnished me the necessary ticket, it was my privilege to attend the recently held National Republican Convention. Since I attended as a former Oregonian and a representative of the Graphic, it behooves me to submit to the latter a "story" presenting some of my impressions of the very interesting quadrennial National field meet.

National Political Conventions Are Characteristically American

For more than three-fourths of a century the highest elective office in the world, unless the papacy be excepted, has been selected primarily by an extra-legal body; by an institution unknown to the Constitution. A few years ago we were assured by many political prophets that the last typical presidential nomination convention had been held; that such conventions would in the future be merely ratifying bodies registering the voice of the people as already expressed in the presidential preference primary, and that the former would therefore be accorded a dusty shelf in our political museum along with the electoral college. But the prophecy has not come to pass as yet at least. In many ways the convention is characteristically American, and is the striking expression of American character and temperament.

In all activities of life of whatsoever kind, the game instinct is strong. Whatever the end sought, whether in the religious or secular realm, the impelling desire for winning or achieving success is an underlying motive. In politics therefore, these spectacular quadrennial meetings have been an expression of the American competitive or play instinct. They have been the Olympian games of our political life. The National Political Convention is therefore the center of the great game of American politics.

The most dramatic incidents in our political history have been enacted on the floors of these nominating conventions. Both the great political gatherings of 1860 furnished such. The disruption of the Charleston Democratic Convention paved the way for the national crisis, while out of the dramatic scenes enacted in the old Wigwam at Chicago, the Republicans gave to the nation the man to meet that crisis.

Many a national convention has resolved itself into a great battle ground wherein delegates were marshaled against delegates by respective political champions with all the strategy and tactics known to military science. Such was the Republican Convention of 1880 when the brilliant but supercilious Senator Conkling led the famous solid phalanx of 306 in a spectacular battle to win for Grant a third nomination. He was successfully opposed by a man less brilliant but possessing the greater qualities of leadership, James A. Garfield. The political generalship of the latter turned from Grant the tide of enthusiasm following Conkling's masterful nominating speech and after 36 ballots had been cast, the record for any political convention, Garfield himself was picked up and nominated by the convention.

Coliseum Events, Past and Present

From the game point of view, the Chicago National Convention held last week was a great success. As one sat in the vast coliseum in which were some 15,000 people, one's mind could not but recur to the great chariot races of the Coliseum held 2,000 years ago. The events then and now are entirely different, but what the chariot race was to the populace of the Roman Empire, the National Political Convention is to the American populace today. In place of the exciting course of the chariots, there is the stentorian voice of the secretary calling off the roll of the States in the taking of the ballot, and it took but a little stretch of imagination as the ballot proceeded to see the candidates, as in the race course of the Coliseum, each straining himself to the last ounce of strength to increase his pace against his competitors. To illustrate: Some dozen

men entered the race on Friday. Of these General Wood set the pace, with Lowden following close behind. Lowden gradually crept up on the leader until finally they stood abreast, each man receiving 311 1/2 votes. On the next ballot Wood pushed ahead half a vote. On the next he dropped back to 299, and Lowden held the lead with 307. In the meantime, a man who had been running well in the rear, slowly but surely crept forward and on the final stretch swept down the course in a great burst of speed, which made him the winner. From a spectator's point of view therefore, little was left to be desired in the way of thrills.

Convention Oratory

National Political Conventions have been the occasion of some of the greatest efforts of American oratory. Conkling's nomination of Grant is "a classic for all time to come." Ranking with it is Ingersoll's famous "Plumed Knight" speech in which he nominated James G. Blaine, in 1876. Belonging in the same group is Rufus Choate's tribute to Daniel Webster in 1852. Rather singularly neither of these three notable orators was fruitful in securing the prize for the man so eloquently named.

Nominating speeches last week were good, bad and indifferent. Beginning at 10 o'clock Friday morning, the vast audience listened to the speeches for the candidates without interruption, except for the demonstrations, until after five o'clock in the evening. Here again however, the instinct of the game was sufficient to hold the attention for the most part. The ability to attract and hold the attention of such a crowd, particularly after it had sat in session for hours, is perhaps the severest test that could be given an orator. Singularly enough the three speakers who perhaps had the greatest opportunity from the point of view of their "source material" failed to strike twelve. We refer to Governor Allen, of Kansas, Charles S. Wheeler, of California, and Judge Miller, of New York, who nominated respectively, Wood, Johnson and Hoover. Neither rose to the opportunity offered him. Allen and Miller lacked conviction, while Wheeler lacked tact. On the other hand, the most captivating nominating speech of the day came toward the end of the list when the audience thought it could not be roused again. It was made by Ex-Governor Willis, of Ohio, who nominated Senator Harding.

Women to the Fore Politically

In this connection it is entirely worthy of comment the new place taken by woman in this convention. During its sessions seven women appeared before the convention as speakers, and every one scored a distinct success; not because she was a woman, but because she had something to say and knew how to say it. The part which woman is to take in the future councils of our parties was indicated by the fact that the Executive Committee of the National Committee was enlarged to make room for women members, and that the office of vice chairman of the committee was created which it is understood is to be filled by a woman member. It is too early of course to prophesy as to what effect the active participation of women will have in raising the tone of our national politics in general and of our political conventions in particular. It would seem that the tone of the Chicago Convention was not notably elevated on account of the new accessions. We do not believe however, that this fact will be charged up against the women. On the other hand it seemed to us that the participation of the women members at the convention gave it a dignity and an atmosphere that would otherwise have been wanting.

Demonstrations and Near-Demonstrations

The National Convention may be said to be characteristically American in its frequent demonstration of hasty response to emotionalism, to popular enthusiasm if not to noise and clamor. Time and again the best laid pre-convention plans have been swept away like a house of cards before some glittering cross of gold and crown of thorns speech. A comparatively obscure Illinois lawyer through a tempest of noise raised at the critical time once won the presidential nomination and be-

came the saviour of our country. The American people can generally be trusted when they think twice, though Abe Martin has asked, "What has become of the second sober thought?" But it is the hair trigger burst of enthusiasm that suggests the danger.

On the whole, last week's convention may be said to have been one almost without any spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm. Up until Friday the convention seemed even unemotional. It seemed difficult for any speaker to get a real hearty response from the audience. It is true that when the nominating speeches were made there were the expected demonstrations lasting anywhere from ten to forty-two minutes. But the fact that these were expected and were not truly spontaneous made them less convincing. The most nearly spontaneous outburst was that given the name of Hoover. It was the more impressive from the fact that it had no support from the delegates themselves who "sat tight," and was carried on with little or no leadership by the audience itself for fifteen minutes.

The demonstrations were nevertheless intensely interesting. The Coliseum was so immense that it was next to impossible to lead the whole audience unaided in its tumult of noise. The demonstration therefore would resolve itself into several simultaneous ones led by volunteers in different parts of the convention hall. We may cite one example: During the entire Johnson demonstration a short fat man weighing probably 300 pounds and more, standing on a chair just in front of us and with a short thick megaphone to match his physique, kept up a continual roar for Johnson. Behind us a few seats an improvised male quartet or chorus was attempting to make itself heard in singing the praises of its candidate. At the same time just a few seats to our right stood a severe looking, serious minded woman, who, in a strident voice, kept up a continuous call of "Johnson, Johnson, we want Johnson!" One could hardly perform a task more seriously and energetically than the way in which she gave herself to hers. Finally, her voice broke and she began to cough between yell's when some one near by handed her a bottle of pop. With hardly a moment's delay she took a few swallows and immediately was at it again, "Johnson, Johnson, we want Johnson!" Such scenes as this were being enacted throughout the day in all parts of the Coliseum.

Has the Day of the Military Hero Nominee Passed?

Heretofore another American trait illustrated by the National Conventions of the past has been susceptibility to the military hero on the part of a professedly peace loving public. Since the appearance of the convention as a method of naming presidential candidates at least twenty men of military reputation have been placed in nomination by different parties, and of these eight certainly and possibly had little or nothing to recommend them to the duties of the high office but doubtful military glory. Out of the sixteen presidents during this period ten have been military men. The refusal of this year's convention to name a military hero is therefore not without significance.

Concerning Vice Presidents

Heretofore the little care that has so often been given to the choice of the vice presidential nominee suggests either an heroic and persevering faith in a protecting Providence, or, on the other extreme, a reckless heedlessness that is to be deplored. Our past history has shown that there is one chance in five of the vice president becoming the Chief Executive. This year as formerly, men were placed in nomination for vice president of whom no one had ever heard. One of the aspirants, a Virginia apple grower, named Adams, made a try for nomination by virtue of a distinguished family connection and through the allurements of a few barrels of apples which he had on hand and dispensed to the delegates. As suggested by a facetious paragrapher, however, the fact that a delegate had an Adam's apple was little indication of his vote. We believe the feeling is general that in naming Governor Coolidge for the second place on the ticket, the convention showed a becoming sense of the serious implication involved in the nomination to

the vice presidency.

Perhaps, however, the convention should not be given too much credit for the selection of Governor Coolidge to take the second place on the ticket. As a matter of fact, the Oregon delegation is credited with having "spilled the beans." At least from the point of view of the Old Guard who had picked Governor Allen, and then having secured the Kansas vote for Harding, turned to Lenroot. Just then, as the story goes, (the confusion at that stage of the proceedings was so great that it was hard to tell what was really going on) the Oregon delegation named Coolidge. The fact of a second from Pennsylvania, gave the impression that this was "according to program"—Penrose's program—and seemed to increase the movement towards Coolidge to a tidal wave which swept him in on the first ballot with 670 odd votes.

The Saving Grace of Humor

Many an otherwise dangerous and threatened situation has been cleared up when passions are at white heat by one American characteristic—the saving grace of humor. At a time during the Chicago Republican Convention of 1912, when the situation was tense and ominous, an old door keeper listening from the outside, exclaimed, "There, do you hear him? If this were in France, they would be fighting duels; in Germany, having apoplexy; in Italy, pulling hair, but now, the country is saved, the convention has laughed." And it was so. "Why are we here?" bellowed a speaker. "We're here because we're here" broke forth from some source and the convention laughed in uproar. The other day an official song leader had considerable difficulty in getting his audience warmed up to the spirit of the occasion. Finally he called for "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and in an attempt to make it impressive, in lining out the words bore down with great uncton on "Glory, glory hallelujah." "Amen!" roared out a stentorian voice in true camp meeting style, and we are not sure but it was the Amen which gave the necessary uncton to get the great hymn across.

Convention Prayers

Pre-convention announcements made through the press concerning the prayers to be offered at the opening of the various sessions prompted a Democratic editor of the South to remark upon the evident need of prevailing prayer for the Republican convention. A Republican editor retorted that the coming San Francisco convention is already past praying for. Having read with interest in the past of convention prayers we awaited them with some degree of expectancy, wondering how they would fit themselves into their environment. The first two which we heard offered were read. Moreover, the second, that by Cardinal Gibbons, while a very good prayer, was delivered very much as a short address, the Cardinal looking out over his audience while reading. But perhaps the most striking prayer was that which virtually asked God to ratify the platform about to be adopted. For the most part, both the delegates and the audience stood in an attitude of comparative respect at least, if not reverence, during this devotional part of the program, though with a somewhat evident sense of resignation, especially when one of the invokers made the most of his opportunity, since no time limit was placed on the prayers.

Cardinal Gibbons' prayer came high for one spectator at least, if we may believe the story carried in a Chicago newspaper. Seats to the convention hall were at such a premium as to furnish a rare opportunity for ticket scalpers who were able to get by the convention authorities. According to the story the man in question paid a scalper \$40 for a seat during Thursday's session. The convention met at 11 o'clock and since the platform committee was not ready to report, adjourned almost immediately following Cardinal Gibbons' prayer.

Convention Comradery

There is a delightful spirit of comradery in a national political convention holding over some days. One feels acquainted with his seat neighbors at once, although they may come from the four corners of the Union and as the convention breaks up he parts with them as with long time friends. In this

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THE SMALLEST WEEKLY PUBLICATION

A copy of what the publisher claims is the smallest weekly publication being sent out has reached this office, and following is what it contains:

"It's certainly queer business. Millions of citizens vote presidential electors to nominate the man of their choice. A gang of professional politicians manipulate the convention and thrust forth a dark horse. That is supposed to be representative government. But it's educational and illuminating. Some day the thing will be done less clumsily. No dependence whatever can be placed these days upon the safe and accurate transmission of a telegram. You cannot be certain of the origin much less the signature. Blood likely as not will read flood and hospital might appear "capital." So to be on the safe side always confirm a telegram by letter. Maybe when Aerial Mail Service becomes a reality we can dispense with those marvelously perfected telegraphic devices that fail to deliver 'the goods' because of the unhappy and inefficient human equation. And that's the rub all along the line.

"The telephone likewise is all shot to pieces. The average establishment gets about one wrong call in four, which means a terrific waste of time and nerve energy. Nobody ever thinks of cooing with the telephone operator any more. She is the arch-devil of the devil to torture poor human souls! If the telephone company had any respect for religion or regard for propriety it would eliminate from its curriculum 'I beg your pardon,' for it adds only fuel to the flame! For the tired business and professional man the only relief is to cut the wires or go to the Yellowstone and shoot grizzlies."

Following this there are seven lines telling the price of diphtheria antitoxin at San Francisco where the postal card is issued and addressed to physicians.

OBITUARY

Minnie Viola Hoskins, daughter of Albert M. and Sarah J. Hoskins, was born in Charlottesville, Indiana, August 20, 1868.

At the age of ten years, she moved with her parents to Newberg, Oregon, where in the public schools and Friends Pacific Academy she received her education. She was united in marriage to Walter O. Robertson, January 22, 1891. The couple resided in Newberg until the year 1910, when they moved to Lebanon, where they remained until 1914. From Lebanon they moved to Portland which was her home until the time of her death, which occurred June 4, 1920, at Vancouver, Washington.

The deceased is survived by her husband, two sons, Balfe O. and Harold T., and two grandsons, Wayne and Lewis Robertson. She was a birthright member of the Friends church and was also a member of Burr Oak Circle, Women of Woodcraft, Newberg, and a member of Pearl Rebekah Lodge, I. O. O. F., at Lebanon.

Funeral services were conducted at the Friends church in Newberg, on Sunday following her death, by Rev. Fred E. Carter, the pastor.

SERVICES AT FREE METHODIST CHURCH

There will be Quarterly Meeting services at the Free Methodist church commencing Friday evening and continuing over Sunday. District Elder W. T. Klotzback will be in charge.

Instead of the regular Sabbath school there will be Children's Day exercises at 10 a. m.

At 11 a. m., preaching by the Elder, followed by communion service.

At 7 p. m. there will be an old fashioned love feast service and preaching again by Elder Klotzback at 8 p. m.

Everyone is cordially invited.

W. N. Coffee, Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

The West Chehalis Sunday school will hold its annual picnic next Saturday, June 26, on Barnett Roe's place in the Wapato district. Entertainment for all—races, base ball, volley ball, horse shoes, swings, etc. All comers welcome.

D. V. Fendall.

THE HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE NOTES

1. A trip south through the Valley to Corvallis at this time emphasizes the great advantage of living in and around Newberg.

2. In no town or city did we note any splendid vegetable gardens such as are to be seen on any street of Newberg.

3. Flowers were to be seen in many places, but in these days of great economic stress, the vegetable garden should be the big thing.

4. In Salem, where one would not expect to find it perhaps, was noted the Newberg spirit, and some fine garden patches were seen. Many folks were using the parking strips for potato growing.

5. Corvallis is always rather a disappointment when it comes to vegetables, doubtless because of the heavy gumbo soil.

6. Corvallis certainly can teach Newberg, however, when it comes to landscape and home ground improvement. Place after place on street after street shows the house made a part of, and an ornament to, the grounds—through tasteful foundation plantings of shrubbery.

7. The landscape effects produced in our sister town have cost each house holder little. Perhaps fifteen or twenty dollars in many cases. Such plantings have improved yearly and in six or eight years have added (literally) hundreds of dollars to the value of the place.

8. What a splendid thing it would be if the Newberg high school students could make an annual picnic excursion to Corvallis. A decided stimulus would be given many a one to continue his studies in college.

9. As one walks about the campus and entering buildings, notes the equipment for experiment and demonstration, unless he is indeed a sluggard intellectually, a distinct desire comes to him which will only be satisfied by a college education.

10. The college education is had certainly for itself alone, but if only more young people could actually know of the genuine fun involved in the getting, then we would not be able to keep them out of college.

11. Nor does one need to go away to Corvallis or Eugene. Right in Newberg is a college that will give the fundamentals just as well as another. And after all, it is the fundamentals that count.

12. Every grown-up, if he progresses, is daily building, tearing down, and re-building his "ideals superstructure" on his "fundamentals foundation." If our foundation is sound, we stand a chance. Herbert Hoover had his fundamentals from Pacific College, Newberg, Oregon. No one of us but surely would be proud to back a college that could give such a substantial basic knowledge and training.

Oliver F. Kilham, Director Agriculture Department, Newberg High School.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN NEWBERG'S PUBLIC LIBRARY?

The Library Board and Civic Improvement Club appeal to you for donations of either pies or baked beans for the lunch to be served by them, July 5th, on the vacant lot next to the post office. All proceeds go to the book fund of the public library.

Anyone desiring to contribute please call Miss Jennie D. Miller, librarian, or anyone of the following soliciting committee: Mrs. C. H. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. William Ormond, Mrs. Walter Fortune or Mrs. James Rice.

At the annual election of officers of the Civic Improvement Club, held on last Friday, Mrs. E. E. Goff was elected president; Mrs. George Kelly, first vice president; Mrs. C. H. Fitzpatrick, second vice president; Mrs. L. C. Palmer, secretary; Mrs. Walter Fortune, treasurer. The executive board members elected are, Mrs. L. A. Swart, Mrs. E. C. Baird, Mrs. George Larkin and Mrs. E. L. Evans.

The club voted to co-operate with the library board in serving lunch on July 5th for the benefit of the book fund of the public library.

CHURCH NOTICE

An all day meeting will be held at the Church of God hall on East First street, Sunday, when visiting speakers will be in attendance. You are invited.