

MANAGING A NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTION

Slight Variation in the Procedure Between Republicans and Democrats.

Great Power Welded Vigorously by the National Committee Preliminary to the Gathering—Handful of Leaders Control Machinery, Nominations and Platform.

National conventions are very expensive affairs. Their cost to the party holding them is estimated at not less than \$150,000, and perhaps more. In each great party is a body of wise men known as the "National Committee." This body is the acme of political ascension. A man may be a proud member of a division committee, which is the first step in the ladder. But when he reaches the dizzy heights of national committee from his State and appears at the convention with a badge as big as an ancient breastplate, so that there can be no mistake in his standing, the height of ambition is reached. There is one national committee from each State. This august body meets in December preceding a national convention, examines the claims of the different cities that desire the gathering, and critically looks into the size of the "guarantee," as it is called. This latter form means that the city paying the most money usually gets the convention. The guarantee is accepted by the committee, and they then proceed to spend it lavishly. Apartments at the most expensive hotels are secured, a host of employees is retained and business begins in real form. The hotel bills of the National Committees are something enormous.

Machinery of a Convention.

While the preliminaries are being arranged the delegates are arriving. The delegate to the National Convention is generally a person of importance at his home. The Democrats require a two-thirds vote of all the delegates present and voting to make a nomination. The Republicans require a majority of those present and voting. At a national convention each State has its own headquarters, where the delegates gather. They do a lot of "conferring" with each other and with delegates from other States. They hold meetings and elect chairmen and honorary vice presidents. The honorary vice president has a seat on the platform and an extra ticket, but little else. The chairman does the declerking in some cases; in some cases the position is a sinecure. Usually the "conferring" and the declerking begin days before the convention is to be called to order.

Prior to the calling of the convention to order the National Committee is virtually in command of the situation. With it lies the arranging of the details, the "framing up" of the procedure of the first session, the selection of the temporary chairman, and, in a great many cases, though not always, the program making of the whole convention, temporary and permanent organizations, nominating and platform building.

Convention Is in Order.

Now for the convention, the great meeting that the country has looked forward to for so many weeks. The chairman of the National Committee calls the convention to order, usually about noon upon the day set.

The convention called to order, the proceedings are opened with prayer. The chairman requests the secretary to read the call for the convention, which is done. Then the rollcall is gone through, and this takes a lot of time. The next step is the announcement by the chairman that the committee offers to the convention as its temporary chairman the name of So-and-So. There are loud and prolonged cheers, and by a viva voce vote Mr. So-and-So is unanimously elected. There is usually little trouble over the election of a temporary chairman. The chairman then appoints a committee to escort the temporary chairman to the platform; the band plays, the delegation from Mr. So-and-So's State makes a lot of noise, and all is merry.

It is incumbent on the temporary chairman to make a speech. He invariably takes advantage of the opportunity. He "sounds a keynote." It is a sustained note. It is invariably a tribute to the "party of Abraham Lincoln" at the Republican convention, and a glorification of the "party of Thomas Jefferson" at the Democratic. It lasts a very long time.

After the speech various resolutions are offered. Usually these have been arranged for in advance, and the temporary chairman works according to a printed schedule, calling on John Doe and Richard Roe at the right time, so that there may be no hitch. Committees are appointed; one on resolutions, which will have the drafting of the platform; one on credentials or contested seats; one on permanent organization. These are the important ones. When they are all chosen, and there has been a lot of hand-clapping and cheering, as well-known men are appointed to this or that committee, the temporary chairman announces an

adjournment, usually until the next day.

Pulling Wires in Committee.

At last the machinery is in motion and the district delegate begins to wonder what he is on hand for. A big man at home, he is lost in the hurly burly and roar of the convention. He may be assigned to a committee, but he had nothing to do with that. The State boss decided that so-and-so should be a member of the Permanent Organization Committee; that Mr. Brown, who is a political economist, should be honored by a seat in the Resolutions Committee, and that the Boss himself or one of his most trusted lieutenants should be a member of the Credentials Committee. These bodies all meet separately. All the contests that were handled by the National Committee the week previous go to the Committee on Credentials unless pressure has been brought to have the contestants withdraw their fight. The Credentials Committee wires are pulled the same as was the National Committee, and the result is usually nearly the same.

Framing the Platform.

It is when the district delegate sits in the Committee on Resolutions to draft the platform that he begins to realize that he is only a small "I" compared with the bosses. The genial Mr. Doe, who has been coming to the national conventions since 1868, is elected chairman with a burrah. He assumes his position and draws from his pocket a carefully prepared document, which the secretary proceeds to read. The district delegate might have had an idea some time previously that he would be consulted as to the platform. But the party leaders saved him all the trouble and worryment. They had skilled men at work on the platform weeks before, and it is built according to their ideas. The committee usually adopts the platform with a rush. Sometimes there is a fight on particular topics. But party expediency usually rules.

Real Work Now Begins.

The Credentials Committee frequently sits for three days and the convention must wait until its labors are finished. The Committee on Permanent Organization is usually a cut and dried affair. Finally the Credentials Committee reports and the new roll is made up. Then the Committee on Permanent Organization makes its report. It recommends that the "Honorable Senator or Mr. So-and-So" be called upon to preside. Cheers greet the name, and the gentleman is escorted to the platform. After he has been elected he makes a profound speech, the other officers are chosen and, like race horses, the meet is on.

If the Committee on Platform is ready to report it reports after the permanent chairman has made his speech. On the report there must be a roll call. There is always, too, the possibility of a fight. Certain "planks" that please Maine may be abhorrent to Texas. When the matter of the platform is disposed of, either by the committee reporting or by the announcement that it is not ready to report, the permanent chairman announces another recess; maybe until the next day, possibly until later in the same day.

Nominating of a Candidate.

Frequently the time is taken up with speeches placing the candidates for President in nomination. These addresses are usually good in their way. Men noted for their eloquence, who can portray the virtues of the aspirant in language that will thrill their hearers, are selected for this work. The platform is usually accorded the speaker and his oration is hailed with deafening applause and cheers. Each candidate is brought to the front and his works painted in glowing colors. Then comes the critical period. The district delegate believes now is the moment when he comes for something.

The roll call begins and proceeds monotonously. The chairmen of the different delegations alone do the talking. That is all there is to it. The first ballot in the convention is usually devoted to complimenting favorite sons. After that the real work begins. The district delegate learns that he is not to vote as he intended, but that he will vote for some one else on the second ballot.

Suddenly there is a roar in the convention. It is a mighty shout, louder than cannon. Somebody has been nominated for President. Amidst great disorder the rollcall is pushed to conclusion. The chairman tries to learn how the tellers agree in their count. But the crowd knows all about it. The chairman, powerless as Mrs. Partington with a broom against the waves of the ocean, tries to do his duty. The shouts and cheers keep up for ten or

more minutes. Excited men parade the aisles, carrying their State banners, cheering and singing. Finally, when order is restored, the chairman announces formally the name of the nominee.

World Knows the News Quickly.

This is greeted by more cheering and everybody is happy except the friends of the defeated. They move to make the nomination unanimous with a formal grace that lacks enthusiasm. This is done and the band plays. In the meantime the click of the telegraph instrument shows that the news has been carried to every town and hamlet in the country. It has been cabled to foreign countries. The rulers of all nations know within a few minutes after the nomination who is the prospective President of the United States.

No matter how long it has taken to choose a nominee for the Presidency, the whole performance has to be gone through again when it comes to nominating a candidate for the second place on the ticket. There are not so many "favorite sons," however, and one ballot frequently suffices. More noise, more enthusiasm. The convention has nominated the ticket.

Each State delegation, at one of its conferences, has chosen its candidate for member of the National Committee. The election of this committee is now in order. It is put through quickly, as a rule, and without a hitch. Then resolutions of various sorts are passed. The ticket is named, the convention passes into history and the battle for power and patronage begins. The district delegate goes home. His townspeople congratulate him on his good work.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

THE "FIXER" OF GOTHAM.

New York East Side Character Has a Real Mission in Life.

You will not find him mentioned in the city's charter nor on the pay roll of Greater New York, but the east side "fixer" is an established institution and is as important in his way as the policeman who samples the wares of the pushcart peddler, or as the white-robed street cleaner.

When aliens come to this country, says the American Hebrew, and are enmeshed in a mountain of ordinances and regulations it is obvious that their lapses from the straight path marked out for the native must be viewed with an eye of softened by kindness.

"This eye of kindness is the 'fixer.' He is the man who rushes to the rescue of the unfortunate wight who has been caught in the wheels of the law and who needs a sponsor.

"Necessarily the 'fixer' is the intimate friend of the ward heeler, of the district leader and necessarily of the judges of the minor courts. He is usually bluff, hearty, good-natured and with a genuine love for his fellow citizens.

"When a pushcart peddler is suddenly made to realize that he is violating the law by standing on one spot for more than the regulation number of minutes, and he is arrested by the policeman who has been sampling his beans or his fruit, it is not a pleasant situation in which he would find himself if he had no means of communicating with friends who are friends of the 'fixer.'

"It is the 'fixer' who sees the district leader for him, who appears in court to say a good word for him, who sees the judge before the case is called, and who, if necessary, puts up the bail to take him out of jail for the night.

"It must not be supposed that the 'fixer' is a philanthropist. He disdains ethics and civic virtue as the fanatic mouthing of the silk-stocking folk. What he does is done for his own good.

The Remittance Man.

Throughout the west from Cape Nome to San Diego, stretch long ranks of pioneers, building great cities, turning arid deserts into fertile plains, harnessing mighty rivers to do man's bidding, clearing away primeval forests, laying the foundation of an empire in lands where solitude has reigned supreme. But one figure stands aloof from the stern-faced, hurrying throng, unmoved by all their clamor and contemptuous of their feverish strivings. It is the Remittance Man. Here on the skirmish line of civilization, with the roar of battle ringing in his ears, with men on every side of him rushing eagerly into the fray, some to emerge victorious, some to fall fighting gallantly against odds, he remains an only-slightly-interested onlooker. The remittance men in large numbers come from England and are supported by money regularly sent to them. They have left their native lands on account of some scandal, or infraction of the law, or family disagreement, and form few ties here.

Battlefield Logic.

Among the men who served with Roosevelt's rough riders in Cuba was a little Dutch Jew, who, according to the men in his own troop, was "the very incarnation of cool, impudent bravado in a fight." He was a consistent fatalist.

One day he observed a comrade dodging a spent bullet that had whistled uncomfortably close to him. "Yat's de use to dodge dem pullets?" sang out the little Jew. "Dey'll hit you shut as vell yere you are as vee you ain't!"—Everybody's Magazine.

FARMS AND FARMERS



Story of an Amateur Poultryman.

About the most sensible (and I might add, also, the most profitable, beginning I ever saw made in the poultry business was by a young clerk, who lived in the suburbs of a near-by city. He sustained a severe attack of the "hen fever," and, as is the usual occurrence, became enthused over the "enormous" profits to be made with poultry. He did not, however, allow his enthusiasm to get the best of the better judgment, and cause him to resign his clerkship and immediately embark in the poultry business on a more or less extended scale, as has so frequently occurred; but, instead, he held on to his clerkship, fixed up a good, comfortable little house on a back lot, bought a dozen standard-bred hens and a rooster at a dollar a head, of a neighboring fancier, and thus made his start.

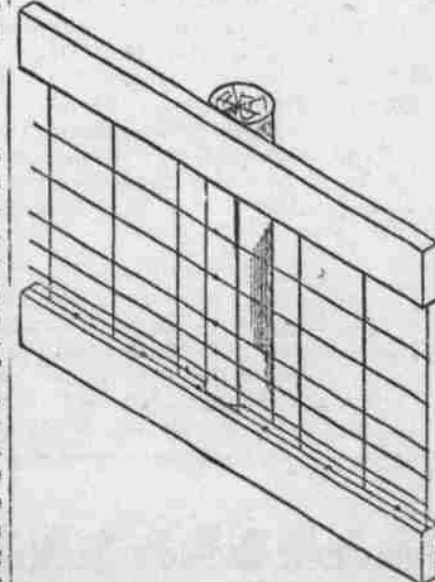
This was early in the spring; during the spring and summer he furnished the family table with eggs and chickens, and, besides, hatched and raised something like a hundred young chicks. Out of these he retained twenty-five of the best pullets for breeders, and, of course, at the same time enlarging his house room; and so, by the next spring, we find that his business has, from natural causes, tripled itself, and all this time our friend has been steadily and rapidly gaining in practical knowledge of the business.

This natural increase continued for another year or two, and by this time he had his business so firmly established on a paying basis that he was justified in buying a small farm out at the edge of town, and then there becoming a full-fledged poultryman, making this his exclusive occupation. Speaking of profits, he recently told me that he scarcely managed to meet expenses the first year, the second year he slightly more than kept even, while subsequent years have not failed to show a nice little sum on the right side of the ledger.—Outing.

Experiment Station Bulletins.

It always has been and always will be true that scientists can but point the way and practical men must demonstrate in a practical way all new developments along the line of improvement in agricultural and breeding problems. Our experiment stations are doing excellent work and are not only introducing new ideas, but are also condemning practices that were considered good by those who thought they were right but had no way of demonstrating their propositions. Practical men should be slow to discredit the work of these institutions and should work in harmony with them for the general uplift of the cause which they are all trying to better. The accessibility of the work done at these stations makes it easy for every one to keep in close touch with the work being done. The bulletins issued are cheerfully sent to all who will apply for them without cost to the recipient, so that there is no excuse for any one not knowing just what is being done by these hard-working scientists who are always glad to spread the news of new discoveries or new ideas. If you are not getting these bulletins regularly from your own experiment station it is your own fault.—National Stockman and Farmer.

Fence for Hog Yard.



Small yards for hogs require very tight fences either of boards or wire. The plan shows cedar posts set less than eight feet apart. At the top and bottom are two by six inch planks set into the posts and there are seven lateral wires.

Destroying Pocket Gophers.

The Nebraska Experiment Station has been investigating the destruction of pocket gophers. As effective and at the same time inexpensive methods as can be employed are: Trapping when done properly and in conformity with the animal's habits; poisoning under certain restrictions and careful practices; shooting at certain times and under some conditions; and lastly the protection of the natural enemies of the animals. It is urged that barn owls, the long-tailed weasels and bullsnakes especially be spared, since all these animals are particularly noted as enemies of pocket gophers wherever they are found.

"CHILDREN'S EVANGELIST."

Miss Gamlin, whose work among the young is very successful. The Children's Evangelist is the title bestowed upon Miss Alice Miriam Gamlin, of New York, the superintendent of the evangelistic department of the State Sunday School Association. She has made a special study of evangelistic work among children and has met with remarkable success. She has simple but direct methods of reaching boys and girls. To even the careless and indifferent child she seems to be able to make the truths of the Christian religion attractive. She brings before the children the beautiful ideals and the wealth of wisdom which are

The honey produced in the United States last year would load a string of freight cars from Chicago to New York. "This is certainly sweetness long drawn out."

The heifer calf that is intended for dairy use should not be given too fattening a ration. Oats, grass and milk, with a scant ration of shelled corn, will furnish about what she needs for her proper development.

The 1,300 pound draft horse at three years old can always be counted on by the horse raiser as a safe and profitable proposition. During the past few years such an animal has been worth from 10 to 12 cents per pound.

Some one who has tried it says that if flour of sulphur is mixed liberally with the seed corn in the planter box the cutworms will not touch the corn so treated. It is certainly an easy and inexpensive recipe and at least worth trying.

The colt that is halter broken at the start and trained and handled as he grows not only makes a much more tractable horse at three years old, but also one that will fetch a considerably higher price on the market because of this very fact.

When the flock of hens is confined at close range and no green food is available, cut green stuff, preferably lawn cuttings, should be given to them in generous allowance every day or two. The greediness with which they devour it not only shows that they relish it, but that their systems need it.

Water Pans for Poultry.

In the construction of a water pan for poultry some provision should be made to keep out dust and litter. The forms shown in the illustration permit fowls to drink from different sides at



DRINKING PAN FOR POULTRY.

one time and presents the smallest possible space for filth to enter. The round cone-shaped top prevents the fowls roosting upon it. It may be fixed on a platform high enough to prevent the litter being rescattered into it.

Squash Bugs.

The squash bug never lays its eggs on the stem, unless by accident, but the under side of the leaves. The eggs are of a dark chestnut color, globular in form, and exist in clusters. They may be found by turning up the leaves, when the eggs may be crushed. Another insect deposits its eggs on the stem; this is the borer. The larvae, as soon as hatched, eat into the stem, and are then difficult to dislodge. One of the most effectual remedies against enemies of the squash is a solution of saltpeter, which is prepared by dissolving a teaspoonful in a quart of water and sprinkling it over the plant, though sawdust, saturated with turpentine, is also used on the ground around each plant with success.

Sanitary Poultry Nest.

The present-day tendency to employ sanitary measures in the dairy, the stable, the doghouse, etc., has at last extended to the poultry yard. The industrious hen is to be provided with a sanitary nest which can be readily washed and scrubbed as occasion demands. This recent development is shown in the accompanying illustration.

The nest is made of wire and is supported in a suitable housing, both of which can be removed from the chicken house when cleaning is necessary. When thus removed they can be conveniently placed in a suitable receptacle containing boiling water and thoroughly cleansed of all impurities and undesirable insects.

Denatured Alcohol School.

As a result of plans which have been matured by Secretary James Wilson of the department of agriculture, there will be established shortly in his department at Washington a denatured alcohol school. This will include a small but complete distilling outfit, including vats, worms, engines and other necessary apparatus, while it will be the aim of the secretary and his specialists to give a practical demonstration of what denatured alcohol is, how it is made and from what products to all visitors at Washington who may be interested in the subject. Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief chemist of the department, has been assigned to the job.

Harvesting at Right Time.

Pick vegetables with the dew on; they are superior to those picked in the hot sun. Beans, however, must be picked when dry; if vines or fruit are handled when wet they will rust. The following are better picked before full sized: String beans, beets, carrots, corn, cucumbers, peas, radishes and squash. Don't allow seed to ripen on the plants or they will stop bearing.



MISS ALICE M. GAMLIN.

contained in the lessons of the Bible in a manner which always appeals to them.

Miss Gamlin is a native of Worcester, Mass., and went through a course of thorough training to fit her for the work in which she is engaged. Five of her seven years in this branch of religious work have been spent in New York. All during the summer season she conducts meetings in the metropolis in tents, which seat from 300 to 500. She is a woman of great natural ability and of wonderful personal magnetism.



REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

A college youth is rarely as old as he talks.

All the world's a stage, and most of us are in the gallery.

The things we turn up our noses at are the things we can't understand.

A girl may make a sweeping assertion without knowing how to handle a broom.

Strawberries come and go, but in boarding house circles the prune is perennial.

A man has to have a mighty good disposition to be willing to admit he hasn't.

Engaging manners are an asset in other circles besides the matrimonial market.

If a woman can't find any other way to enjoy herself she will do it by having the blues.

The reason women have so few bad habits is they have such queer ideas of what fun is.

There's nothing makes a man so proud of his brains as for somebody else in the family to have them.

A girl always has an idea that if she knew any dukes most of them would want to marry her.—New York Press.

Tennis Rackets.

What most affects the life of the gut in a lawn tennis racket is dampness, says the New York Sun. Nowadays rackets are strung so tight that the strings break with even greater frequency than before. The idea is that tight gut sends the ball with greater force from the very tense surface. The dampness gets right after these very taut strings. A lawn tennis man was explaining recently what precautions have to be taken in sending rackets abroad:

"When first we began to send them to Bermuda, for instance," he said, "we put them merely in waterproof covers. Greatly to our surprise we learned that the entire first shipment had arrived with strings broken. We tried the same packing again, with the same result.

"Then we realized what was the trouble and packed the rackets in tin boxes. Each box was carefully soldered up and that made them airtight and damp proof."

The lawn tennis man explained a new wrinkle of players. At the end of a season some of them have all the gut cut out of a favorite racket. This is done because if the gut were left in a string might break in the winter and put the strain all on the side of the frame, warping it.

"With a favorite racket they think it better to pay for restringing them than to run those chances," said he. "It doesn't hurt a racket to restring it; really it helps and improves it."

Even an empty-headed man is capable of getting full.