

The Conventions

An Idea of What It Costs to Hold One...

What is the actual cost of the national convention of one of the great political parties? This question is more easily asked than answered, as I have found in endeavoring to secure an accurate answer to it. Party leaders, convention managers, convention officials either do not know or will not tell the details of the expenditures on this account. They seem to be part of the body of secrets which one national committee hands down to another, and which all national committees endeavor to keep from the public. The national conventions are largely under the management of the national committees. National committees select the time and the place, make the arrangements with the cities which entertain the convention, manage everything but the actual proceedings, and wind up the business affairs afterwards.

The actual work of arranging for the convention's convenience and comfort and the convenience and comfort of the newspaper men and other spectators is delegated by the national committee to a subcommittee, and the officers of the national committee, as a rule, control the expenditures. Presumably, the accounts are submitted to the national committee and duly audited, and, presumably, vouchers are produced for the expenditure of the money. But, if so, very little seems to be known about the accounting, and some of the political leaders say that it is not always either rigid or exact.

The fact is that the fund for the entertainment of the convention is nowadays made large enough by the city

to prevent them from being counterfeited. They are kept in a safe deposit vault from the time they are delivered by the engraving company until the time they are issued, just before the meeting of the convention. It is claimed that convention tickets have never been counterfeited. As a complete set of them may be worth from \$15 to \$30, there is obvious reason for taking every precaution to keep them from being counterfeited.

In all this nothing has been said about the payment of money for the services of the scores of subordinate officials and assistants of various kinds. It is well known, of course, that the officers of a convention receive no pecuniary compensation. They serve for the honor and glory of it, although allowances are usually made to the sergeant-at-arms and similar officers for their personal expenses.

It does not seem to be so generally known that it has been customary for very many of their subordinates—the doorkeepers and messengers and deputies of various sorts, including clerks—to serve without pay. Many of these men come with the state delegations, and are very glad to have the opportunity of attending all the sessions of the convention, and at the same time privilege of a little authority, even if it is brief, and a chance to wear a big badge, to say nothing of the possibility of future reward in the shape of a salaried office somewhere.

As a rule, I am told, the employees of the convention staff receive no wages, but serve for love and glory. Some of them may receive money for their ex-



PROVISION SERVICE HALL CHICAGO



DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION HALL KANSAS CITY

whose invitation is accepted to leave a large surplus over and above all necessary expenses for the use of the national committee in the campaign following, and this makes the party managers unwilling to say definitely what actual convention expenditures were, and, perhaps, prevents the adoption of strict requirements as to the accounting for those expenditures.

Of course, all the convention managers say that there can be no fixed schedule of convention expenses, because every convention is different from every other convention. Alterations in the hall might make the bill of expenses differ by \$5,000 or \$10,000 from the convention of the other party in the same year or from a convention before or after. In a rough way it is possible to make a pretty good estimate of expenses for what might be called an average convention by comparing such fragments of information as the party managers are willing to give on the subject.

Certain things are expected by every national committee of the city which has the honor to entertain the convention. It must, of course, provide the hall and whatever alterations are necessary, and the seats and other furniture, and the decorations and a number of incidentals, such as stationery. It must pay the expenses of engraving the tickets and providing the bands of music for the convention proceedings.

It must provide for the entertainment of the national committee as a body, with a large suite of the best hotel rooms as "headquarters," and the rule is to provide for the entertainment of the individual members of the committee as well. The ordinary delegates must pay their own expenses or have them paid by their state organization. All they get are a few tickets of admission each for their friends, which in some cases have been sold to meet personal expenses.

The proceedings of the convention are always reported by stenographers and published afterward in full, and this is done at the expense of the host city. Carriages and other conveniences, luncheons and other eatables and drinkables are among the other items which may be in the convention expenses. As a rule the national committee is asked the highest prices and does not hesitate to pay them for whatever it thinks necessary.

If the hall has to be rented the rental may vary from \$2,000 to \$5,000. If alterations have to be made, as is almost always the case, they may cost as much more, and the bill for the decorations may be equally large. The entertainment of the national committee as a body and as individuals may cost several thousand dollars. Music in the convention may take from \$100 to \$300 a day.

The stenographic work at the Chicago convention of 1896 cost about \$600, and the edition of several thousand copies of the printed report of the proceedings cost several thousand dollars more. The tickets of admission are always very carefully designed and engraved, and are guarded as jealously as the most precious jewels

ences, or what might be called gratuities in some other shape, but this seems to be considered exceptional.

It is obvious that no one can say what a given convention will cost. It seems to be considered that \$30,000 is a reasonable minimum, and \$40,000 a reasonable maximum of cost, and that anything above or below is pure velvet for somebody.

But whether the expense is more or less will never be known to the public. Indeed, it will never be known to the city that entertains the convention. The city makes its invitation attractive with an offer of a lump sum of money and then turns it over without asking any questions.

LAFAYETTE STATUE AT PARIS.

The Lafayette statue by Paul Bailliet, which will be unveiled at Paris July 4, is an imposing testimonial of the friendship of the United States for her sister republic. It is a gift from the school children of the United States to the French government. The



base is 26 feet 6 inches high, 24 feet wide and 18 feet 9 inches in depth.

Koch's Researches on Malaria. In the report just published on his study of malaria in Italy Prof. Koch says the infection of malaria is especially maintained and propagated by the relapsing cases which continue all the year round and form the link between one fever season and the next, so that the mosquitoes in the beginning of the summer always find germs. If no relapse occurred in any of the cases of malaria in any given district the mosquitoes would find no germs in the beginning of summer, and malaria would become extinct there. The professor ascertained that the so-called sensitive-summer fevers were identical with tropical malaria.

CHINA'S TWO GREAT CITIES

Have Come Into Prominence As a Result of Boxers Revolt.

The city of Tientsin, which has come into sudden prominence as a result of the outbreak of the Boxers, is located upon the Pei-Ho river, about thirty-three miles above its mouth by land, and almost twice that distance by water. It is the second-largest city of northern China, having an estimated population of about 1,000,000, and is the port of Peking, the capital of China.

The meaning of Tientsin is "The Heavenly Ferry." The town is an important center of trade, and is the terminus of the Imperial canal and of a railroad, Tung-Chau, which was opened a dozen years ago. It is exceedingly dirty, as are all Chinese cities. Its streets are unpaved, and are always covered with garbage.



THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN IN PEKING

which seems to be never carried away.

The dwelling houses are constructed of sun-dried brick and are very poor, but the business buildings are more pretentious. The United States consulate is one of the best examples of Chinese architecture in its highest form to be found in the city. Tientsin has a public garden, which receives very good care.

In 1858 a treaty was concluded between China, Russia, England, France and the United States at Tientsin, and at the convention of Peking in 1860 the port was made an open one.

In reaching Peking from Tientsin the boats ascend the tortuous river to a broad stone road and by a canal, either of which may be used by the travelers or by merchants in transporting their goods.

Peking is better known than any of the other Chinese cities whose names have crept into print since the outbreak of the Boxers. As is commonly

known, it is the seat of the Imperial Tung-Chau, ninety miles distant by water and sixty by land. There the passengers land and the freight is taken off.

Peking is eleven miles distant from Tung-Chau, and is connected with it government, and has been such for about 500 years. Here the foreign ministers are stationed, Minister Conger, for the United States, Sir Claude MacDonald, England, and M. De Giers, Russia. The population is estimated to be about 1,500,000, which may be wrong by several hundred thousand, as no census has ever been taken.

The citizens of both Tientsin and Peking are very hostile toward foreigners, and the travelers for pleasure who visit either are not many. Their atmosphere is so foul, owing to their dirtiness, that a foreigner, accustomed to clean streets, can hardly breathe it.

As a rule boats drawing more than eleven feet cannot enter it, and the Newark, Admiral Kempff's flagship, cannot get nearer than seven miles to its mouth. At its entrance are the Taku forts, and across the gulf are the fortifications of Port Arthur.

Boats drawing more than ten feet touch the muddy bottom of the stream almost all the way to Tientsin unless they travel only during high tide and rest when the water is low. The highest tide is ten feet and the neap tide seven and a half feet. As a bar obstructs the entrance to the river all but very light draft boats must wait until high tide to get in.

At Tientsin the river is about 200 feet wide. Only boats that draw from two to three feet can go on to Tung-Chau; as the stream is formed by the confluence of the Peking and the Yuen Ling rivers just above Tientsin.

ORIGIN OF THE BOXERS

The Boxers are still a mystery to the Chinese minister, who says they were never heard of in China up to the time of his departure from the country, three years ago. But a Chinese-American named Sun Yow Pang ventures an explanation of their origin. According to this authority the present troubles may be related back to the disputes between the progressive party, which had the emperor for its figurehead, and the conservative party of the empress dowager. It will be remembered that the emperor blo-

in the work of discouraging those reformers who were not discouraged enough already, and to help check the foreign devils, among whom, in spite of the contradiction in terms, were the missionaries. As time passed checking became murdering, and the wicked old woman either abetted or winked at the crime. This is why the imperial troops have made no headway against the so-called rebellion and why the powers have united in self-protection.

Apparently China's greatest need is

TRIAL OF A BOXER.



THE PRISONER IS KNEELING BEFORE THE JUDGE. THE MAN AT THE RIGHT, WITH A BELL-SHAPED HAT, IS THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

seemed out as a reformer and issued several edicts which made the representatives of old China shudder with aversion and dismay. Competent critics said at the time that his methods were so crude and arbitrary as to be utterly impractical, though they were inspired by correct motives. Events justified their predictions. Superstitions, long-established customs and abuses could not be overcome at a word, and the reform movement played right into the hands of the empress. Like most of her countrymen, she hated the foreigners. The reformers were the foreigners' friends. Hence China for the Chinese was the impetus of a counter-revolution, and such of the reform leaders who did not have their heads cut off were glad to escape to distant lands. After the empress was restored to power the Yeh Ho Chuan (righteousness, harmony and fate, hence "Boxers") organized their secret society to assist

the deportation of the balofni Gno La Sha.

The San Juan Prison Revolt. The outbreak in the San Juan penitentiary of 500 inmates who mutinied because they said their breakfast was not fit to eat is proof that the management of the institution does not understand modern ideas of penology. There is not a prison in the United States where some effort is not made to give the prisoners satisfactory food. At a recent meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections it was said by one of the speakers that the question of food had been responsible for more trouble at the prisons than anything else.

The day of bread and water diet and of food not fit for animals has gone out of fashion with the offensive penitentiaries in which prisoners were confined less than a century ago.

AS THE WHEAT MOVES ROUND



HAS A FAMOUS MADSTONE.

A Chicago telegram says: There arrived in Chicago today, in the vest-pocket of an ex-soldier of the Spanish-American war, an insignificant little porous stone, with which the owner declares war against hydrophobia. This "little jewel" came to Alderman George Newman of Kankakee when he was with Col. Bennett's Third Illinois regiment fighting on the coast of Porto Rico, near Guanica. The Porto Ricans didn't want it because they couldn't eat it. Newman stubbed his toe on the little heritage of the sea while bathing, and he picked it up and put it in the pocket of his blouse. He had promised to take home some stones and seashells, and he says if it hadn't been for the injury to his toe he never would have been reminded of his promise. Thus he came by the queer little spongy stone about the size of a hen's egg. When he received a fresh wound he applied the stone and it worked like magic. Then he says he began to make inquiries and ascertained that the little stone he got mad at and swore about in the sea that day was really a madstone. Newman says there have not been enough dog bites in Kankakee, so he brought it to Chicago. Within the last year the stone has been applied in thirty-five cases.

THE NEWMAN STONE.

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BRYAN AS A FARMER.

Col. William J. Bryan's farm near Lincoln, Neb., is attracting considerable attention. The presidential candidate can be found there any day doing manual labor like any other farmer. Next to chickens, Mr. Bryan takes an interest in the garden. He planted it, and has done the most of the cultivating. He gets out about 9 o'clock in the morning and works for an hour and a half among the onion beds and bean rows. It has supplied the Bryan household with some of its early vegetables, but the lettuce came to grief. Mr. Bryan's white Wyandotte and Leghorn hens played havoc with his lettuce. He knows better now, and will



BRYAN ON HIS FARM.

build a wire netting around his lettuce bed when next he essays to cultivate it. Not only will he raise enough vegetables for home consumption this summer, but there are potatoes enough to last all winter.

Ten acres of the Bryan farm are in wheat, five in oats and five in corn. Part of each crop was sold last year, and the stables in town, as well as the one on the country place, are supplied from the crop raised on the farm. The orchard consists of seventy apple trees, twenty of peach and a few cherry trees, none of which is yet large enough to bear fruit. There is a bed of strawberries big enough to supply the Bryan family and the tables of several neighboring families in Lincoln.

Prospect of the Wheat Crop.

Ever since the necessity of plowing up a considerable portion of the land sown in winter wheat last fall became apparent, more or less gloomy forecasts have been made concerning the amount of wheat that would eventually be harvested. From the government crop report recently issued it is learned that the deficiency thus produced will be much greater than had been anticipated. Previous reports had shown a marked diminution in the productive field, but the June report brought the total figures of the abandoned acreage up to 5,240,000, equal to 17 1-2 per cent of the territory sown in wheat last fall. Not only was there this large reduction in the field, but after the plowed-up land had been taken out of the computation the condition of the remainder was found to have fallen from 88.5 on the 1st of last May to 82.7 on the 1st of June. With an average remaining that is far below the average of the fields of winter

wheat usually harvested, and with a condition also below the average, the outlook for winter wheat does not appear very encouraging.

ST. LOUIS STRIKE FIGURES.

Strike commenced May 8. Number persons killed, 18; number wounded by bullets, 65; number otherwise injured, 90; estimated business loss, per day, \$100,000; loss of strikers in wages, \$275,000; cost of posse committees, \$325,000; number in posse committees, 1,500; number police on duty (total)



A MEMBER OF POSSE COMMITTEE (uniforms), 1,000; number special police, 500; men on strike, 4,000.

THE CHINESE MINISTER.

The most popular oriental ever accredited to the capital at Washington is without doubt Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister. It has been said that Mr. Wu was to have been called home by his government and be succeeded by Chang Yen Huan, former representative here of the celestial kingdom, but Li Hsiung Chang wished Mr. Wu retained in office, and he was. Mr. Wu proposes, however, to start soon for Peru, where, and at the court of Spain, is also rep-WU TING FANG, presents his government. He will not be accompanied by his wife, who has planned to make an extended tour through the west in company with her son and nephew during his absence.

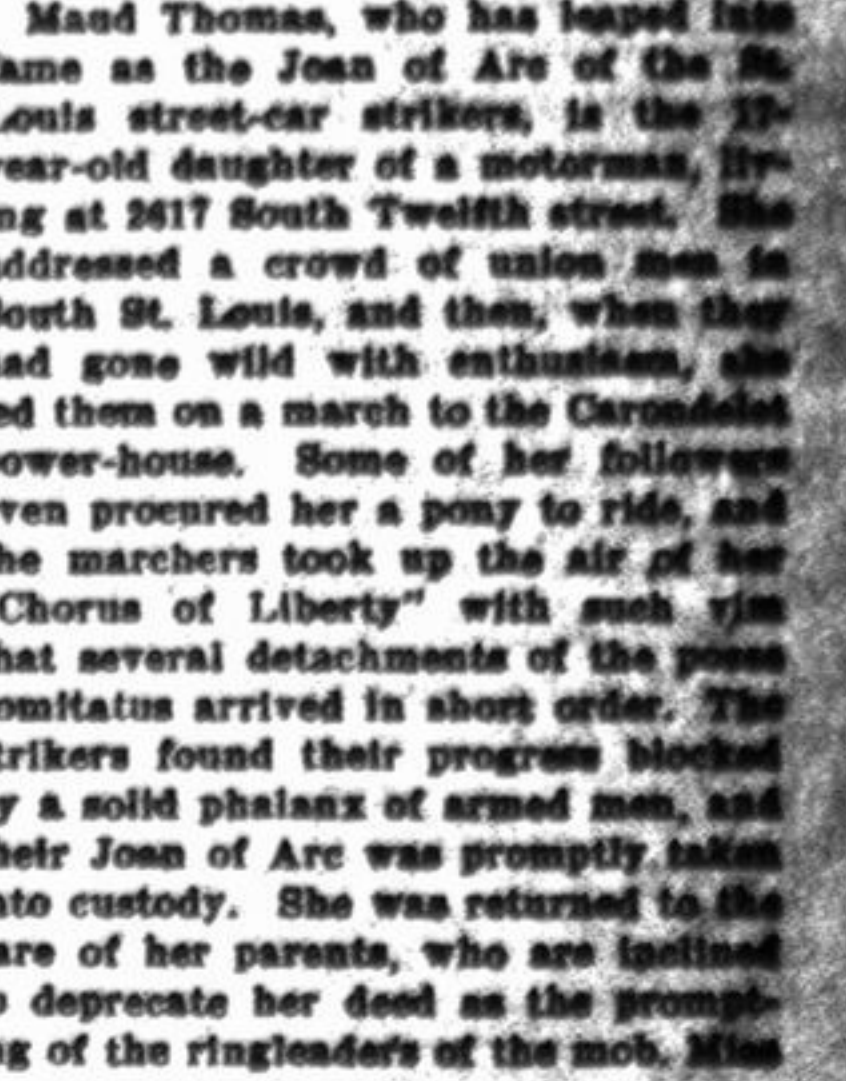
MR. WU IS A DIPLOMAT OF THE FIRST ORDER.

Mr. Wu is a diplomat of the first order and he carefully looks after his country's interests. He is accredited with being enormously wealthy and stands well with those in power in the "land of the Boxers." His relations with the Washington officials are most cordial, and he fulfills his mission far better than his predecessors have done. He is considerable of a wit and after-dinner speaker and society courts his company.

A STRIKE HEROINE.

Maud Thomas, who has leaped into fame as the Joan of Arc of the St. Louis street-car strikers, is the 27-year-old daughter of a motorman, living at 2617 South Twelfth street. She addressed a crowd of union men in South St. Louis, and then, when they had gone wild with enthusiasm, she led them on a march to the Carondelet power-house. Some of her followers even procured her a pony to ride, and the marchers took up the air of her "Chorus of Liberty" with such vim that several detachments of the posse committees arrived in short order. The strikers found their progress blocked by a solid phalanx of armed men, and their Joan of Arc was promptly taken into custody. She was returned to the care of her parents, who are inclined to deprecate her deed as the prompting of the ringleaders of the mob. Miss

MAUD THOMAS.



MAUD THOMAS.

Thomas is a society school girl and a favorite among the husbands of the workmen's wives of the city.

There has been some talk of a lawsuit in its early stages. Maud, it is said, has been arrested at the home of her father.