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## BATTLE LINES DRAWN

Aspirants for the gubernatorial nomination in Illinois eager for the fray.

### LOWDEN MEN ARE GRATIFIED

See a Favorable Sign of Victory for Their Candidate—Yates May Stump Cook County.

Springfield, Ill., April 5.—What promises to be one of the most exciting and picturesque campaigns ever conducted in the city of Chicago will open tomorrow. With the aldermanic election disposed of today, the Chicago party workers will immediately turn to the broader field of state politics. From now on until the last ward selects its delegates to the state convention the battle will be waged.

And it will be a battle, too—a battle to the political death. This is conceded by both of the Cook county aspirants for gubernatorial honors and by their lieutenants as well. By mutual agreement both organizations have waited until the city election is past before precipitating hostilities. But the armies of both generals have been actively preparing for the onslaught. All available ammunition has been hoarded, all the guns, new and old, have been cleaned and loaded, plans of campaign have been mapped out and even the lines of battle have been drawn; in fact, nothing remains but to touch the sparks to the waiting fuses to precipitate the whole county into the heat of the fray.

#### Cook County Candidates.

Cook county had two candidates for the Republican nomination for governor four years ago, and an exciting auto-convention campaign was conducted in the big city, but nothing like the intensity of feeling that has already developed between the supporters of the rival Cook county candidates this year was witnessed in the whole course of that contest. While Colonel Frank Lowden spends much of his time on his beautiful farm in Ogle county, his business is conducted at his Chicago office and he is generally considered by the voters of Cook county as their candidate.

The explanation offered by the friends of Lowden and Deneen for the intense interest shown by the Cook county Republicans in the selection of the candidate for governor this year is scouted by the supporters of the outside candidates. Nevertheless, the Chicago men are undoubtedly sincere in their declarations of belief. It is this: That never before—at least for a number of years—have the Cook county Republicans felt that they had any chance of naming one of their own citizens for the office of governor. Their fights in behalf of Cook county candidates have been sincere, but always with the discouraging prospect of certain ultimate defeat. This time they profess to believe that the honor they have so long sought is to be conferred upon them. Both factions express equal confidence that a Cook county man will be the nominee.

#### Gratifying to Lowden Supporters.

This view of the situation in Republican politics is especially gratifying to the supporters of Colonel Lowden. They believe that the sentiment in favor of allowing Cook county the nomination is the most favorable sign of victory for their candidate that has appeared on the political horizon since the campaign was opened. As the voters of the northern Illinois counties lay claim with the Chicago residents to Lowden as a neighbor, this candidate has a decided advantage over his opponent in the sentiment of the county delegates. This is proved by the showing the Lowden candidacy has made already in the down-state conventions. Including instructed and uninstructed delegates who are known to be favorable to his candidacy, it is stated that Lowden will have the support of 270 delegates from the outside counties on the first ballot in the state convention, and these, with the delegates he will secure from Cook county, are expected to give him the highest vote of any of the six candidates on the opening ballot. Such a result, the Lowden managers predict, means his certain domination on the succeeding ballot.

Little has developed in state politics in the last week. The campaign outside of Chicago is largely disposed of and the present siesta is looked upon as the lull before the storm. Five counties will hold conventions next week and then little will be done until the first week of May, when a half dozen counties will select their state convention delegates.

#### Conventions Yet To Be Held.

Only seventeen counties remain to hold conventions outside of Cook. Of these, the calls for four primaries and conventions have not yet been issued. These counties are Clinton, Fayette, Stark and Putnam. The dates of conventions still to be held in other outside counties are announced as follows:

Jo Daviess, April 7; DeKalb, April 11; Christian, April 11; Effingham, April 11; Mason, April 14; Cumberland, April 14; Wabash, April 16; Edwards, April 20; Pike, May 2; Boone, May 2; Kane, May 2; Adams, May 3, and LaSalle, May 4. A convention also will be held in Sangamon county on May 3, by the Yates faction in the county and delegates will be named to contest against the delegates selected by the Hamlin forces several weeks ago. The split grew out of a disagreement over the manner of calling the primaries and convention in the county. Just what the outcome of these con-

ventions will be cannot, of course, be predicted with confidence, but it is safe to assert that practically all of the delegates yet to be chosen outside of Cook county will be divided among Lowden, Attorney General Hamlin and Governor Yates. Indications are that Colonel Lowden will capture the Adams county delegation, with twenty votes in the state convention. The Lowden wing of the party in Adams county won out over the Yates faction by a vote of 27 to 24 in the matter of fixing the county convention date, and the managers of the Lowden campaign are confident of carrying the county and controlling the convention.

#### Matter That Causes Discussion.

There has been considerable discussion of the likelihood of the four outside candidates for the nomination for governor entering into the Cook county campaign and their final decisions in the matter are awaited with much interest. For several weeks past Governor Yates has had the matter under consideration. Several conferences have been held with his lieutenants and campaign managers, at which the advisability of such a step was discussed at length, but up to the present time the executive has not announced what course he will pursue.

Early in the campaign Governor Yates announced that it was his intention to visit every county in the state in his speechmaking campaign for renomination, excepting only Cook county. At that time it was expected by the Yates managers that the governor would be able to secure enough support outside of Cook county to assure his nomination. The result of the campaign up to the present time, however, has not met the full expectations of the governor's adherents, and they are now frank to confess that they must look to Cook county for support if their candidate is to win.

Some of the governor's officeholders in the city of Chicago are advising him to enter upon a vigorous campaign for Cook county delegates. Others are counseling him to stay out of the fight there, believing that his interference would not only fail to produce direct results in the matter of delegates, but would endanger his chances of securing the support of Cook county delegates as a "second choice." It is generally expected, however, that Governor Yates will decide to enter the contest in an effort to scoop in twenty-five or fifty delegates.

#### Hamlin to Speak in Cook.

It is practically settled that Attorney General Hamlin will make a number of speeches in Cook county between now and the date of the state convention. Attorney General Hamlin's entrance into the arena, however, is not with the expectation of gaining delegates. The attorney general is not widely known among the rank and file of the voters in the city of Chicago, and he is anxious to broaden his acquaintance there. If he can win favor as a "second choice" of any considerable number of Cook county delegates he will feel amply repaid for his campaign.

Whether or not Judge Sherman will do any speechmaking in the big city will probably depend solely upon the course adopted by Governor Yates. The former speaker's campaign is a strictly anti-Yates crusade, and if the executive undertakes to test the subtlety of his oratory upon the Cook county voters, Judge Sherman will follow his path and present his version of "The Truth About the Governor." Judge Sherman is probably better acquainted throughout Cook county than either of the other outside candidates, but he does not expect any delegates from that territory.

#### Aspirants for Minor Offices.

In addition to the candidates for governor, it has been practically decided by a number of the aspirants for minor places on the state ticket to turn their attention to Cook county. In fact, practically every candidate for a state office has announced his intention to establish himself in Chicago for a portion of each week at least. As the seat of political activity has shifted to the metropolis there is really little to be done by these candidates at any other point, while in Chicago they not only have opportunity of becoming acquainted with the party members and prospective delegates from that city, but also to meet the army of country politicians who congregate at the Great Northern hotel at every week's end. More active party workers can be seen in Chicago on one Saturday than could be visited in a week's active travel over the state.

When the city and country politicians get together in Chicago this week attention will be turned toward the organization of the coming state convention. This is one of the most important matters in connection with the campaign. The matter of controlling or being a party to the organization of the body may mean the fate of one or more aspirants for honors at the hands of the party, from the top to the bottom of the ticket. The unprecedented number of contesting delegations that will seek admission to the convention is the chief source of interest in this connection.

#### Officers for the Conventions.

Up to the present time there has been little talk concerning the selection of officers for the convention. The name of John H. Pierce of Kewanee has been connected with the office of temporary chairman, but matters of this sort will not be seriously discussed until the all-important question of organization is disposed of. Gosip has conceived of every possible form of combination among the candidates for governor, in the matter of organization, but none of this babble is taken seriously. The candidates themselves insist that the question has not yet been considered.

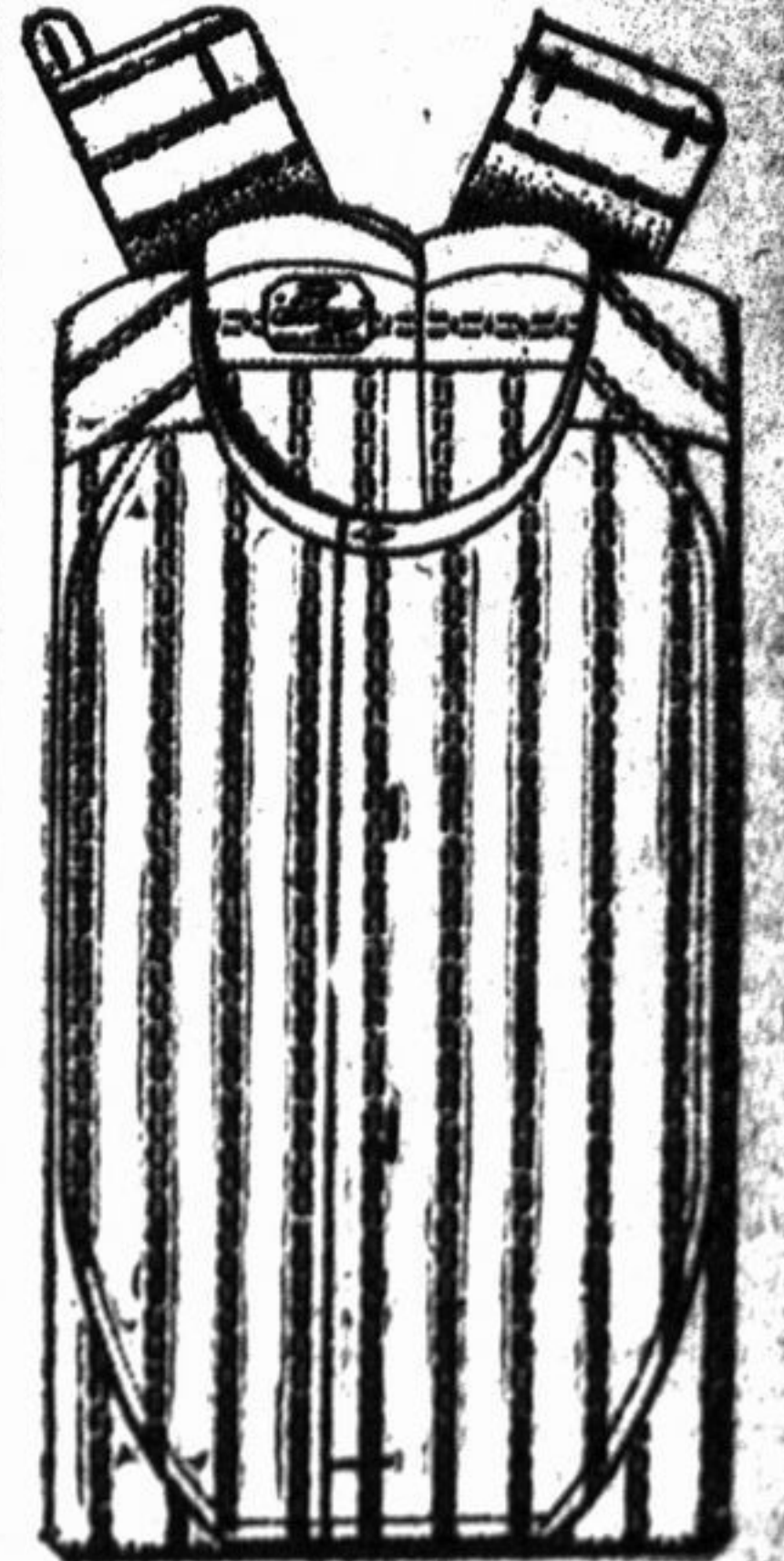
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