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28TH YEAR

Convention Begins To-Day With "Taft" the Best Bet, Running Mate Not Known

Hughes Still Declines to Accept the Nomination for Vice-President—White House Said to Favor Dolliver or Cummins, But—
CHICAGO, June 15.—The eve of the Republican national convention finds Chicago on the tip-top of anticipation, with final preparations well matured for candidates and platform, except the ever-doubtful vice-presidency, and with the whole city astir with those tremendous scenes which ushered in a national convention.

To-night the streets are ablaze with lights; flag day has brought forth a wealth of color on the tall buildings; bands vie with glee clubs in the packed headquarters of candidates, and in the open air marching clubs in fantastic regalia parade the main thoroughfares singing "Taft, Taft" or "Knox, Knox," and there is that universal pandemonium which befits the night before a national convention.

The full force of the invading army is now here—leaders and followers, delegates and rank and file, marching clubs and glee clubs, bands and drum corps. The last of the state delegations from the far south came in to-night.

But while the din proceeds without, the final preparations of the leaders proceed within. Their plans are well laid, probably with greater precision than has ever been known before a national convention has met, and unless the unexpected happens, or the spectre of a stampede rises from its grave, the convention of 1908 will establish a record for the methodical execution of well-established plans.

It is conceded that Taft will get the nomination for the presidency.

Hughes' Stated, and under the governor that there was a general feeling that New York would be accorded the vice-presidency if a suitable name were presented from that state, but that so long as the delegation was bound by their obligation to Governor Hughes it was impossible to secure the recognition to which it was believed New York was entitled.

This was followed by a telegram from Delegate-at-Large Frederick R. Hazard of Syracuse, who was named as a delegate upon Governor Hughes' suggestion. In his message he advised the governor that either Taft or Roosevelt would be nominated for the presidency, and that the latter delegation could probably unite on ex-Mayor Seth Low for the vice-presidency if free to act.

State Caucuses.
Among the important state caucuses of the day were those of Ohio, New York, Indiana and Iowa, each had some bearing on the perplexing question of the vice-presidency. Each of these gatherings brought forth the old negative contention that state, but in favor of any candidate for the vice-presidency—Ohio because the Taft leaders don't wish to see the title of dictatorial New York because of advocacy of Sherman or Love or any other New Yorker might impugn the loyalty to Gov. Hughes; Iowa because the state wants Dolliver to remain where he is in the senate, and thus avoid a hard-fought state politics; Indiana because of distasteful persuasion has not induced Mr. Fairbanks to change his attitude towards the first and second places on the ticket. Other state caucuses were equally fruitless in solving the vice-presidential mystery, which depends as the ballot approaches, until it seems that the prize may be thrown in the arena of the convention for a nerve-racking struggle.

Short Run For Dolliver.
The Dolliver movement experienced varying fortunes to-day. Early in the day it was reported that the White House favored an Iowa, either Dolliver or Gov. Cummins, which sent the Dolliver stock up to its bound. But this was offset by the action of the Ohio managers, who are supposed to respect Secretary Taft's wishes, in formally declaring that the Taft forces are scrupulously avoiding the support of any vice-presidential candidate.

Moreover, Chairman Perkins of the Iowa delegation, and Congressman Hepburn of Iowa called on ex-Gov. Herrick, chairman of the Iowa forces, and told him that positively Dolliver could not and would not be a candidate. This brought the Dolliver stock down again, and to-night it stands at the same level as yesterday.

The movement for Sherman or some other New Yorker is similarly checked by the decision of the state not to present a candidate for second place until Gov. Hughes' name is eliminated for first place, either by the ballots or by his withdrawal.

Speaker Cannon remained in Chicago all day, and although keeping away from the noisy center of convention enthusiasm, he took a most active part in the conferences on the platform.

Governor Hughes replied in a telegram as follows to Congressman Parsons: "Your telegram received. My position with regard to the presidential nomination remains unchanged. After careful consideration of all the circumstances I do not find that any such extension exists as would justify me in directing the withdrawal of my name."

Attitude on Railways.
The exact text of the plank of the Republican platform prepared by Wade Ellis, and approved by President

"BLIND TOM" DROPS DEAD

Pathetic Ending to the Curious Career of the Slave-Boy Pianist.

NEW YORK, June 15.—Blind Tom, the famous negro musician, marvel of three generations of playgoers, died in Hoboken, N.J., where he had been living for years in retirement and subsisting on charity. He was born a slave, near Columbus, Georgia, about 1850.

Of late years he had relapsed into a state of almost complete mental torpor. While he was always known as "Blind Tom," he was never totally blind, and could always distinguish between light and dark. Mentally, he was never much better than an imbecile, and those who saw him on his first concert tours, nearly a half century ago, will remember that he would always stand dumb for a moment or two before the piano and would not respond to the applause of the audience, which was applauding his remarkable skill. This was a trick which he retained as long as he appeared in public.

Three weeks ago, as he sat before his piano, in this home of Mrs. Eliza B. Lerche, the widow of his old master, at No. 69 Twelfth-street, Hoboken, singing the old melodies with which he had thrilled great audiences before the civil war, he suddenly stopped and fell paralyzed.

But Tom could not understand that he was different, and soon went back to his piano. When he found that his right hand could not strike the keys he said, with his voice quavering, "Tom's fingers won't play."

Again and again he tried. Finally, when he realized it was useless his big blind eyes filled with tears and he wept like a child. Each day he returned to the piano and with his left hand started some favorite piece.

Least Saturday night Tom went to his piano again and began softly his old lullaby, "Down on the Suwannee River," but his voice broke. Sobbing, he rose and said: "I'm done, all gone, missus."

The next he heard was a faint cry and a thump near the bathroom door. He had dropped dead from a second shock.

Back in the slave days, when he was but two years old and clothed only in an old shirt, he sat beneath the window of his first master, James Bethune, a Georgia planter, and heard the sound of a piano. Thrilled, he crawled trembling up the steps into the parlor where the music was. Bethune saw how apt the child was, and said, "The child is musical-clever. Poor little thing." Then he placed him under the piano and let him strike the keys. To his utter astonishment the child, after hitting the keys, clumsily for a few minutes, began to play slowly with one finger the air he had just heard.

Gen. Bethune immediately began to educate the child, and from that day until the time of his first stroke he had played eight hours nearly every day. In 1865 when he was eight, his master took him to Europe. Over \$200,000 was realized during this tour. Young Bethune then took him and with his earnings, it is said, established a valuable racing stable. Upon his death his widow, who later married Albert T. Lerche, a lawyer, managed his concerts.

OFFICERS UNFITTED TO SUITABLY LEAD MEN IN RANKS

Interim Report of the Militia Council Points Out Some Defects in the Force.

OTTAWA, June 15.—(Special.)—An interim report of the militia council was tabled to-night. It deals with practical lessons of the 1907 camps. The report says: "The worst feature of the militia force still remains—the deficiency in officers who are leaders of men. It is noticeable that the type of man in the ranks is, as a rule, high. He has much intelligence and aptitude for military work, but too often his officers are not equally well qualified to lead him."

"In this respect, however, some improvement upon the conditions of last year were noticeable. It is largely upon the recognition by squadron and battery officers of the fact that they alone are responsible for the training of their commands that all true efficiency must rest.

"The training of the infantry is improving, but much remains still to be done. The essential point of all infantry training is the development of the power of leading in the officers and of discipline, self-reliance, and of intelligent use of the rifle on the part of the men."

HIS EXCELLENCE TO UNVEIL.
QUEBEC, June 15.—His excellency the governor-general will officiate at the unveiling of the monument erected to the memory of the late Rev. Mr. Laval, the first bishop of Quebec and founder of Laval University. The ceremony takes place on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock sharp.

NOTHING TOO GOOD FOR TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE MEMBERS TENDER BANQUET PRESIDENT OF C. P. R. ASSURES

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy Tells of the Beginning of the Trans-continental Railway and What It Means to All of Canada.

BESPEAKS HAPPY FUTURE FOR CITY AND RAILWAY

Something more than mere compliment rang out in the cheers with which Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., was greeted last night when he rose to reply to the toast of his health at the board of trade banquet in the King Edward.

Loyalty to the greatest of Canadian business enterprises, of which he is the executive head; sympathy with the success achieved by personal worth and integrity of a distinguished citizen, mingled in the acclamation that rang thru the banquet hall.

The gathering was one of some distinction, and under the auspices of the local commercial parliament, whose president, L. H. Clarke, occupied the chair. With him at the guest table with Sir Thomas sat Lieutenant-Governor Sir William Mortimer Clark, Sir Sanford Fleming, Mayor Oliver, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Hon. L. J. Forges, D. Mann, E. B. Osler, M.P., W. P. Cockburn, M.P., W. P. D. Matthews, Major MacDonald, J. W. Woods, R. C. Steele, Peleg Howland, John F. Ellis, J. P. Watson, Noel Marshall and Henry Brock.

The royal toast was followed by that of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William Mortimer Clark, who, after a few interesting experiences and stirred the Canadian hearts near him as he told how the railway had changed the fortunes of the road one Scotchman in London called to another in Canada the magic word "Craigoil," which meant the C.P.R. The ability, care and ceaseless watchfulness necessitated by the office of president of the railway, Sir Mortimer's tribute to Sir Thomas met with loud applause.

Celebrating an Event.
The chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, suggested that the opening of the new railway, on this occasion upon which even Sir Thomas' modesty need not shrink from celebrating, therefore, the opening of the new railway, but comment for the equipment, management and operation of the C.P.R., and this was a matter of great interest to the members of the board of trade.

Mr. Shaughnessy, who was introduced by Sir Mortimer, said that the C.P.R. was a Canadian enterprise, and that it was a matter of pride that the railway was under Canadian management, whose honesty was unquestioned.

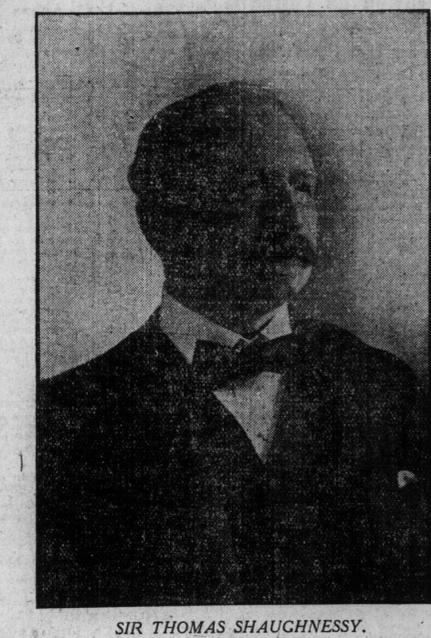
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SIR THOMAS SHAUGHNESSY, President of the C. P. R. and Guest of Honor at Last Night's Board of Trade Banquet.

HARRY COLLINS WITHDRAWS FROM CONTEST FOR S.C.R. IN FAVOR OF STEVENSON

Takes Advice of Friends and Concludes That a Readjustment of Rates Should Not Be Hampered by Election Conflict.

The opposition of Harry Collins to Mr. Stevenson for the supreme chief rangership of the I.O.F. has collapsed as suddenly as it came into being.

The announcement was made late yesterday afternoon in the following signed statement issued by Mr. Collins: "After conferring with close personal friends to-day, I have decided to withdraw my name as a candidate for the supreme chief rangership of the I.O.F. in the coming election as supreme treasurer, a position which I have held for the past thirteen years."

Mr. Collins had nothing to add to his statement, and there will be no opposition to the election of Mr. Stevenson.

The committee of twenty-five appointed to consider the proposed increase of rates will present its report this afternoon to the supreme court.

This morning's session will be occupied by the ritual opening, the offering of addresses on new delegates, and the reading of the supreme chief rangers' address. The reports of committees follow, and business is transacted on these reports. The report on rates will be one of the first to be taken up.

The committee agreed yesterday unanimously to sign a report recommending to the consideration of the supreme court the three propositions which have been debated, attaching thereto a summary of the arguments in favor of each. The committee did not divide on any question and were agreed on the need for a change.

The three proposals are to adopt the standard actuarial rates; to accept Mr. Stevenson's modification, giving old members larger privileges; or re-arranging the old members as at age of entry. Among the old members the latter is naturally the most popular plan.

It is very probable that the present officers will be re-elected. Several candidates have been mentioned for the several positions. H. W. Wood, St. John, N.B., appears to the past S.C.R. E. J. Hearn for the supreme chief rangership; T. V. C. Cresce, K.C. Montreal, for S.V.C.R.; John G. H. Meyers, New York, and O. P. Stock-

WASTE MONEY ON BIG FAIRS

Complaint is Made Against Government Displays in the Old Land.

OTTAWA, June 15.—(Special.)—The house went into supply to-night, taking up an item of \$300,000 for the Franco-British Exhibition at London, England, and the smaller exhibition at Edinburgh.

The total cost of the Canadian display at the former will be \$300,000. A portion of the vote was taken from last year.

It developed that the son of John Tolmie, M.P., and a cousin of J. G. Turritt, M.P., are connected with the Canadian pavilions, which led George Taylor to observe that these international shows were largely for the purpose of finding jobs for political friends.

David Henderson criticized the spending of money on an exhibition remote from the centre of London, and advised building a permanent pavilion near Trafalgar-square.

That Mr. Henderson enquired what class of men it was hoped to attract to Canada. There was the Olympic show. He supposed Tom Longboat would be there, and that it was hoped to attract a lot of sporting men to Canada; that was not the class of men we wanted.

Joseph E. Armstrong failed to find in the trade returns any evidence that we had increased business with foreign countries as the result of making displays at foreign exhibitions.

Col. Talbot declared that as a result of the Liege Exhibition a million dollar company was organized in Berlin to develop coal lands of the west.

"And," Mr. Armstrong continued, "this same company, in which Col. Talbot is interested, secured the services of prominent members of the staff of the geological survey to locate mines in the west."

What is the geological survey for?" queried Col. Talbot.

Mr. Templeman, who was acting minister at the time, said he gave Dr. Colquhoun the official in question, leave of absence to accompany the German company to the west. More recently, he had delegated Dr. Ellis to accompany members of a New Brunswick company to see if oil can be extracted from the shales of that province.

Mr. Fielding asked what advantage the United States had in Japan that we did not have, and Mr. Monk replied they were getting the whole of the eastern trade and threatening the supremacy of Great Britain.

That French Treaty.
Mr. Fisher answered the statement of Mr. Monk that the French treaty made at the time of the Franco-British Exhibition had made Canada and Canadian products widely known in the Orient.

Mr. Armstrong complained of the failure of the government to conduct satisfactory trade arrangements, and Mr. Fielding replied that Canada was at a disadvantage in the German market because we were obliged to give Germany the same preference as the mother country. Mr. Bergeron pointed out that what the Conservative party was working for was a mutual preference.

The house adjourned at midnight, after passing two items, one of \$200,000 for exhibitions, the other of \$300,000 for the Canadian exhibit at the Imperial Institute, London.

NO BARS IN ALBERTA Five Years Hence They'll All Be Gone is Prediction Made.

LETHBRIDGE, Alta., June 15.—(Special.)—Rev. W. G. W. Fortuna, field secretary of the Alberta Temperance and Moral Reform League, predicted to-night that there will be no bar-rooms in Alberta, five years hence. He says hotel men have the same thing.

WOMAN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

LINDSAY, June 15.—During a severe thunderstorm, lightning struck the house of Mrs. Alex. McCarty, who had just opened the door to call her two children. She was rendered unconscious and a doctor worked over her for two hours before she recovered consciousness. Her hair was burned from her head.

Fishermen Fined.

Randolf Wrights plumber, with a shop at Carlton and Mutual-streets, and his brother Edmund, 14 East Gerard, also a plumber, last Sunday crossed the river from Niagara-on-Lake in company with William Logan of the M.C.R. and a Buffalo man, and started to fish in the river under the lee of the American fort. It was claimed that they were illegally arrested, taken to Niagara Falls and fined.

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