

Mr. Reid's followers in the House decided unanimously to support him in connection with the proposed coalition programme; but the extreme protectionist wing of Deakin's party (led by Sir William Lyne), opposed any coalition whatever with the free traders. The majority of the old ministerial party would probably nevertheless have agreed, but Deakin, although he urged his followers to join the coalition, stated he would not take office in a coalition government. After a good deal of discussion the Deakin party refused to join that of Reid.

The Labor party also offered to form a coalition with the Deakinites, but that too was refused; so there are still three parties in the house, as before.

The Watson (Labor) ministry has put before the House a very mild programme for the present. It has dropped the clause to include all public servants in the arbitration bill, upon which it defeated the Deakin ministry, but it will probably try to include all railway employees.

The Victoria State elections were held on June 1st, with this result.

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The Opposition and Labor parties both advocate land value taxation.

ERNEST BRAY.

ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Mo., July 6.—There is only one marked difference between the Republican convention recently held at Chicago, and the Democratic convention now in session here. The great corporations control here as they did there. The politicians for plunder are in the saddle here as they were there. The "band wagon" element is dominant here as it was there. But there was no protest there, save La Follette's, and that was promptly suppressed. All was harmony. The whole Republican convention surrendered to its plutocratic masters without so much as a whimper. But here there is a protest, a fight, an effort at least, however ineffective, to prove that not the whole Democratic party is owned by the corporations and bossed by hungry office seekers. Therein is the only important difference between the two conventions.

The atmosphere for days has been an office-hunting atmosphere. It is amazing, the candor with which men, even men supposed to be men of principle and conviction, have brushed off all pretense of principle and boldly avowed either by word or deed, that their only object is to get office, or, as most of them put it, to "get into the band wagon." Here is an instance which is typical in spirit, though slightly unusual in expression. A delegate from Oklahoma was overheard "barking" for Park-

er to a group on the street. One of the group asked:

"What has Parker done to make him a good candidate?"

"It makes no difference what he done," was the response; "it's what he do."

"Well, what will he do?"

"He'll make me marshal of Oklahoma for \$4,000 a year; that what he do," came the answer.

"But what are his principles?"

"Oh, to hell with principle; what I want is the loaves and fishes."

This was an actual occurrence and, its spirit, I repeat, was typical. Precisely the same idea was expressed by William T. McMahan, an old-fashioned Democrat down Cincinnati way, who declared at the caucus of the Ohio delegation that he wanted a candidate who "not only can carry the country, but will take care of you young fellows when he gets in." Mr. McMahan made no other requirement.

Yet he it was who at the same caucus defeated Tom L. Johnson, 26 to 20, for Ohio member of the committee on resolutions. He was McLean's candidate, and this contest between him and Johnson was the first test of strength in the Ohio delegation.

Had the field been clear for a fight in Ohio when the primaries were approaching last Spring, Johnson could have defeated McLean, although it would have required a strenuous primary fight all over the State to do it, for spoils and boodle are alluring bait. But at that time the meretricious Hearst campaign invaded Ohio, and Johnson was forced either to support Hearst, which was simply out of the question (as all self-respecting Hearst men ought by this time to understand), or else to precipitate a conflict between radical Democrats, and so make even greater demoralization. He wisely decided to do neither. Before primaries are on again in Ohio, the air will be pretty well cleared and Johnson's friends will be glad that he reserved his strength for a fight worth making.

The "band wagon" campaigning which has turned over the convention here to professional politicians is bad enough in itself. But in itself it is not the worst of the situation. For behind these spoils-men are the same corporate influences that were behind those of the Republican convention, and that means fat campaign funds. Spoils if successful, and campaign funds anyhow, are a great power in politics.

With the railroads, the Standard Oil company, and the influences of Wall street as represented by August Belmont—with these distinctive powers in the ascendent, well served by "band-waggoners," the convention assembled at noon to-day. Though the attendance was large, there were many empty seats in the galleries. Shuffling noises were so general throughout the day's proceedings that the speaking could be

heard only a few feet from the rostrum. This was partly because it was not very good speaking. The voice of John Sharp Williams is thin and without carrying power; and, although his gestures are impressive and graceful, his presence is not of the kind that commands attention from great audiences. His long drawn-out speech soon became wearisome to an audience which had to strain attention to catch here and there a word.

Unfortunately Mr. Williams's manner of speaking was no worse than the matter of his speech. His speech was the poorest apology for a keynote speech that the enemy could possibly desire. Of the mere stump speech grade, it was defensive in character, evasive as to principle, disgusting in the indecency of its expression of race animosity, and altogether lacking in the qualities that arouse the higher instincts and inspire noble enthusiasms. Mr. Williams has distinctly deteriorated. It is not long since he exhibited signs of statesmanship; but his keynote speech reduces him to the level of the "band wagon" politician.

This is not to say that Mr. Williams's speech was without merit in every detail. He said some good things in a strong way—not many, but some. One of these was his demand that we shall "not make of the army and navy of the United States a constabulary for the collection of European debts from the governments or peoples of South and Central America." But brave words like these can count for little in the speech of a man who, knowing what free trade is and believing in it, as Mr. Williams has heretofore indicated that he does, turns off the tariff issue with a few vague generalities. Much can be excused in Mr. Williams with reference to his views on the race question. His home environment is such that allowances must in fairness be made. But he should realize that whatever his own views on that subject may be, it behooves him not to revive the old sectional and race questions as national issues. His projection into national politics of the "white man's government" proposition with its principle of legalizing status, is intolerable; and his objection to the adjustment of national representation on the basis of suffrage is indefensible. This attitude of his is unfortunate, and so was a certain pervading sentiment in the convention of which he was the spokesman. Not only did Mr. Williams repeat the ante-bellum doctrines of unequal rights which the Democratic party of Toombs represented, but the audience galvanized that old party, when after listening without much emotion to the "Star Spangled Banner," it burst into enthusiastic applause at the strains of "Dixie." This is a little matter in itself, but it is unhappily significant of a great matter. Under all the circumstances it signifies a disposition, and this is confirmed by Mr. Williams's speech, to undo the re-

sults of the civil war with reference to human rights.

That is a dangerous path for the Democratic party to enter upon. It is a dangerous direction for Southern sentiment to take. The civil war ended 40 years ago, and its animosities ought to be forgotten. Anything like hatred for the South should be denounced by every patriotic citizen. But if the South is fairly represented by Williams's speech, it is the South that challenges a rehearing on the humanity issues of the war, and invites a renewal of its animosities. It is one thing for the people of this country to forget the war; it is a very different thing for them to renounce its most vital results.

Williams's speech was quite in line with the platform he is understood to have drawn in behalf of the "band wagon" contingent which Judge Parker represents. This platform, published today in advance, exhibits some of the kind of handiwork for which David B. Hill is notorious. Like Williams's speech, it contains but little that is at once strong and good. In the main, it is vigorous as to wrong things, and weak as to good ones. It is a plain bid for plutocratic support, garnished with "taffy" for the unsophisticated, and interlined with "weasel words." Like the candidate for whom it is made, it is a "confidence" platform, made by "confidence" men, to bunko the confiding.

Three incidents of the first day's session are worthy of note. When Bryan appeared to take his seat with the Nebraska delegation, he received an ovation of applause. Later in the session, at a mention of Cleveland's name by the temporary chairman, there was long continued and frequently repeated applause, in which many Bryan men joined, supposing it was a demonstration for Bryan. Immediately after the close of the chairman's speech, there were general and persistent calls for Bryan. It is asserted that more than a third of the delegates are pledged not to vote for Parker until he gets two-thirds of the convention; but the general impression now is that Parker will be nominated on the first or second ballot. Whether this is a result of "band wagon" tactics, or a genuine probability, no one can safely say.

L. F. P.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, July 7.

The Democratic national convention (pp. 183, 184, 195, 204) met at St. Louis on the 6th. It was called to order by James K. Jones, chairman of the outgoing national committee, and John Sharp Wil-

liams, of Mississippi, was introduced as temporary chairman.

The Prohibition national convention, which met at Indianapolis on the 29th (p. 204) made nominations on the 30th. Until noon of that day there had been a strong movement favoring the nomination of Gen. Nelson A. Miles, but this was dissipated by the following telegram received from him by John G. Woolley, the leader in the Miles movement:

Hon. John G. Woolley, Prohibition National Convention, Indianapolis, Ind.:—Appreciating the good will of yourself and friends, I must earnestly request that my name be not used in the convention and that my letter of June 20 be considered final.

After adopting the platform the convention nominated Silas C. Swallow, of Pennsylvania, for President by acclamation, and George W. Carroll, of Texas, for Vice President, by a vote of 626 to 132.

The platform adopted by the convention describes the destruction of the liquor traffic as the paramount issue in American politics, and demands its abolition. On issues of minor concern it declares in favor of the impartial enforcement of all law, the application of the principles of justice to combinations of labor and of capital, the initiative and referendum, protection of American citizens everywhere and international arbitration, reform of divorce laws, extirpation of polygamy, and suppression of sexual prostitution, mental and moral qualifications for the suffrage, reference of the tariff question to a non-partisan commission, uniformity of laws "for all our country and dependencies," extension and honest administration of the civil service laws, and election of United States senators by popular vote.

The national convention of the People's party met on the 4th at Springfield, Ill. Prior to its meeting ex-Senator Butler, of North Carolina, resigned as chairman of the national committee, owing to inability to attend the convention, and J. A. Edmiston, of Nebraska, called the convention to order. W. H. Weller, of Iowa, formerly a Congressman from that State, was made temporary chairman, and

upon permanent organization J. M. Mallett, of Texas, was elected permanent chairman.

The platform adopted on the 5th declares in substance that—

The issuance of money should be regarded as a purely governmental function, and it should be issued "in such quantities as shall maintain a stability in prices, every dollar to be a full legal tender, none of which shall be a debt redeemable in other money." Governmental postal savings banks should be established. The right of labor to organize should be protected. Legal provision should "be made under which the people may exercise the initiative, referendum, and proportional representation and direct vote for all public officers with the right of recall." "We denounce" "government by injunction and imprisonment without the right of trial by jury." "Land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is a heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited." "To prevent unjust discrimination and monopoly the government should own and control the railroads, and those public utilities which in their nature are monopolies. To perfect the postal service, the government should own and operate the general telegraph and telephone systems, and provide a parcels post. As to those trusts and monopolies which are not public utilities or natural monopolies, we demand that those special privileges which they now enjoy, and which alone enable them to exist, should be immediately withdrawn. Corporations, being the creatures of government, should be subjected to such governmental regulation and control as will adequately protect the public. We demand the taxation of monopoly privileges, while they remain in private hands to the extent of the value of the privileges granted. We demand that Congress shall enact a general law uniformly regulating the power and duties of all incorporated companies doing interstate business."

After adopting the platform the convention chose Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, as the party's candidate for President, and Thomas H. Tibbles, of Nebraska, for the candidate for Vice President. The national committee elected James H. Ferris, of Joliet, Ill., for its chairman, and Charles Q. De France, of Lincoln, Nebraska, for secretary.

At the Republican convention of Michigan, on the 30th, Fred M. Warner was nominated for Gov-