

Convention Sidelights

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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New York, July 3.—The delegates have begun to "walk out" on the Democratic show at Madison Square Garden. They have two complaints. One is that life in New York city is entirely too hectic. The other is that the old money is giving out. It seems to them they have been here for ages.

The average visit to New York in times of normalcy is seldom more than a week. Therefore, it is not surprising that there should be a general exodus at this time.

It was the same at San Francisco four years ago. The New York delegation was about the first to leave the convention flat on its back at the Golden Gate. In that instance the New Yorkers could not bear being away from Broadway any longer.

So it all depends upon the point of view. With the unit rule in effect in so many state delegations it is not necessary for all the delegates to remain to the bitter end. New York, for instance has 94 votes in this convention. They have always been cast as a unit by one individual. Consequently, why have more than one delegate present?

There has been some confusion among the delegates and spectators over seemingly opposite rulings of Senator Walsh, the permanent chairman. It has appeared to the uninformed that on one occasion Senator Walsh has upheld the unit rule and in another case has smashed it. As a matter of fact apparently conflicting decisions have been on entirely separate questions.

For the first 15 ballots Florida had been voting as a unit for William Gibbs McAdoo. Then Delegate Gilchrist announced that he wanted to vote for Al Smith and intended to do so. Senator Walsh upheld him, for it was shown that while the Florida delegation has been "instructed" in the primary for McAdoo they had not been bound by the unit rule.

In other states the delegates have been instructed to vote as a unit on all questions. In other words if the delegation stands 11 for McAdoo and 9 for Smith, the entire 20 votes must be cast for McAdoo.

Chairman Walsh very pertinently has held that if every state should "instruct" for some different candidate and no one ever was permitted to break away from the instructions, there would be no chance on earth ever to nominate a candidate. The permanent chairman, who seems to have a permanent job on his hands, allowed it was a difficult task as it is.

Delegate Gilchrist created a laugh when he began his argument. He addressed the convention as: "Ladies and mere-men." A number of delegates thought he said "near-men," and hee-hawed accordingly.

The most popular tune of the convention Wednesday was "Keep the Home Fires Burning." The boys hope to get home before the harvest moon arrives.

The galleries at Madison Square Garden revert to type every now and then. The garden is mostly used for prize fights. Therefore the audience generally is in a mood to look down upon gladiatorial conflicts. That is why the galleries call for "Bryan."

Bryan" every time he appears near the stage. They think the Commoner will "start something." And, he generally does.

This convention was not as far apart on the Klan and anti-Klan issue as the vote on naming the Klan in the platform would seem to indicate. The plain facts are that the great majority of the delegates are outspokenly against the Klan, but they could not "go along" with the "radicals" who insisted that finance Ku Klux Klan should be specifically denounced. The bitterness of the fight grew out of the fact that the radical anti-Klan-ners maneuvered themselves into a position from which it was difficult to withdraw. They announced at the beginning of the struggle that the Klan must be named. Therefore they felt that if the Klan was not named it would consider that it had won a victory. The anti-Klan plank in the platform as adopted went much further than most of the anti-Klan-ners believed it would go before they came to New York. But having set their goal upon the naming of the order, they had to fight to the last ditch for that position.

What may be termed the "economic chance" of the Klan fight in the convention, with all its attending fireworks and publicity for the hooded order, have begun. On Tuesday night in a neighboring New Jersey county more than 400 men were inducted into the Klan with semi-public ceremonies.

The Louisiana and the Mississippi delegations have come to be known in the convention as the "max-wicks." The Louisianans were the first to stroll all about the reservation. They voted for half a dozen different aspirants before finally settling down in the John W. Davis camp and remaining there. The Mississippians voted at first for Pat Harrison. Then they began to ramble after the fashion of Louisiana. Also like Louisiana, they finally settled under the Davis banner.

During the first 15 ballots of the convention the greatest gain was made by one of the darkest of the dark horses—Senator Walsh of Montana. Senator Walsh started with

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one vote on the first ballot. By the time the nineteenth was reached he had two votes—a clear gain of 100 per cent. Some one figured it out that if he maintained that ratio of gain, the eminent Senator from Montana would be nominated for President on the 15,998th ballot.

There is very little "dressing" at the convention, either among the men or the women. Work-day clothes are the order of the day, and small wonder. The delegates have to sit upon rough wooden chairs. Then, too, there is another reason. Many of the delegates have believed from the first that before the convention adjourned the style would have changed.

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