

Convention Has Become More Bane Than Blessing

Plight of Delegates Whose Money Is Giving Out as Nothing When Compared, for Instance, With Tex Rickard Whom Convention Is Costing \$1,000 a Day

ROBERT T. SMALL
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New York, July 7.—Much pity has been lavished upon the poor delegates of the Democratic national convention who have had to spend from \$10 to \$15 a day for the privilege of remaining in Manhattan and contributing to the greatest political deadlock in all history.

But their plight is as nothing compared to the predicament of one single New Yorker not in any way officially connected with the political convention. The convention has been costing that individual exactly \$1,000 a day while it has lasted longer than anyone dreamed. Old observers were confident the assemblage would go into a second week, but they could not have predicted that it would go entirely thru the last half of a fortnight.

The New Yorker who is being so beautifully stung is none other than Tex Rickard, the famous prize fight promoter, mentioned more or less prominently in the Daugherty investigation at Washington and under indictment for alleged infringement of the Federal laws in the transportation of prize fight pictures. Rickard had been "bunked" in the picture deal by persons who had told him they could get Congress to pass through a bill legalizing the showing of the Carpentier-Dempsey films. And now poor Mr. Rickard has been "bunked" again. When New York was planning on bringing the Democrats here Mr. Rickard came magnificently forward and said:

"Take my garden for the show; take it without let or hindrance; take it free, gratis for nothing; take it and tear it to pieces; do with it as you will; but bring the Democracy to the tents of our city so that they may look upon our faces and our dwelling places and see that we are not all that is wicked and sin." Then with a grandiloquent attitude, Mr. Rickard said:

"There is but one condition I shall make. The expense must be mine."

Well, the expense has been his. It has been costing him \$1,000 a day to keep the garden open. He has not complained out loud, but he has taken a few friends into his confidence and let it be known that for some time past he has had a keener interest than anyone outside of the ultimate candidate in getting this dead-lock over and done with. Mr. Rickard is the lessee of the garden, but when it is closed it costs nothing to maintain.

Above all the rest of his vicissitudes, Mr. Rickard contributed something like \$25,000 in cash to the entertainment fund for the Democrats.

Now he has become a life-long Republican.

There is no doubt that New York generally found the convention in its second week more of a blight than a blessing. The gathering took on the atmosphere of a visitation from an unwelcome mother-in-law. New York could not do too much for the convention at first. But the metropolis did think the guests would know enough to go home when the party was over. But the delegates have remained on and on and have seriously interfered with the big city's routine.

It was that the convention was going to help business, but it has all but killed the theatrical attendance. Everybody has been staying home evenings listening in on the radio. Never has there been such a persistent, long distance, continuous radio attraction. Naturally New Yorkers have been interested in the fate of their native son, Al Smith, and this has kept thousands "on the air" that would long ago have passed up the garden performances as dull routine.

When a non-partisan committee was organized to bring the Democrats here this year, it was announced that the city would invite and expect the Republicans in 1928. The prolonged garden party in Madison Square may cause a material revision of these plans.

Will H. Hays, former chairman of the Republican national committee, and Frank A. Munsey, stalwart Republican and denouncer of all Democratic ways and means, were on the committee to bring the Democrats to the metropolis. If they have been seen grinning up their sleeves lately, who can blame them?

The convention is not only interfering with some lines of business here in New York, but a few of the delegates are receiving word that affairs are pretty much demoralized at home.

"I have an office force of more than fifty people" said one of the Ohio delegates to the writer. "Since this convention has been in session and I have been in New York, the gang at the office have chipped in and bought a radio. They keep it going all day long at the office and gather around the loud speaker to fight it out. If I don't get home soon I won't have any business left."

The caterers at the Cleveland convention did not make a nickel, be-

cause the sessions were so short the delegates could all go to their hotels for lunch and dinner. Here the restaurant concessionaries are making a young fortune. There has been some profiteering, too, despite the efforts of the committee on arrangements.

Here is a musical program postscript. Another favorite tune of the convention is "Tipperary." "The Long, Long Trail" also is coming into its own.

Considering the toughness and all the opportunities for a fight there have been comparatively few fistfuffs in the garden. In any event they have not become so common that they no longer attract attention. Let a blow be delivered and the entire convention is on its feet. The New York cops have been most tactful and tender in separating the belligerents.

The announcements made from the stand by Mrs. Izetta Jewett Brown, of West Virginia, have been the bright spots of the convention since Miss Anna Case ceased to lead in song. Mrs. Brown, once a noted actress, has a wonderfully trained voice and it is nothing short of marvelous to hear her impart to the seventeenth ballot the inflections of emphasis and the tonal qualities of perfectly delivered stage lines. Chair-

man Walsh always has made a hit with the crowd every time he has led Mrs. Brown to the microphones. She has even imparted a symphonic atmosphere to a complete roll call.

The peculiar construction of Madison Square Garden has made it possible for the galleries to interfere with the proceedings more than would be the case at any other convention hall in the country. In the garden the galleries extend entirely around the building without an interruption. The stage has been placed almost in the center of the hall. Therefore the galleries have completely surrounded the speakers and clerks and delegates. Probably there will never be another convention laid out on such a plan. It

is better to have the stage at one end or one side of the hall.

It was a great day for the rivers of the middle-West when Senator Ralston of Indiana, and former governor Cox of Ohio, withdrew from the race. When the Ralston announcement was made the band played "On the Banks of the Wabash" and when Governor Cox's finely worded message was given to the delegates the band broke into the "Beautiful Ohio" waltz.

TEN BODIES FOUND AFTER STEAMER BURNS

Baltimore, July 7.—Ten bodies were recovered yesterday from the

hulk of the bay steamer Three Rivers which burned to the water's edge Saturday.

REVOLUTION BREAKS OUT IN BRAZIL TOWN

Buenos Aires, July 7.—A revolution against the organized authorities broke out yesterday in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the revolutionists are in control of the city.

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