

Convention Sidelights

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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New York, June 25.—Governor Al Smith's proposals that all of the aspirants for the Democratic presidential nomination stand up before the convention and show themselves and give a demonstration of their wares, has been taken seriously by more than a handful of the delegates. Not that they have any idea the proposed presidential parade can be made a possibility this year, but they regard the suggestion as a logical outcome of the quadrennial scramble for the old party nomination.

Four years ago at Chicago all of the principal contenders for the Republican crown were on the scene of battle directing their own forces. There was General Wood and Governor Lowden and Senator Harding and Hiram Johnson—all four of 'em.

It is the same way this year with the Democrats. Nearly all of the contenders are here. It so happens that the convention is being held in the home town of two of the principals, Al Smith and John W. Davis. New York also used to be the home of Mr. McAdoo, and he is treading familiar soil now that he is back here from California. In addition to these Senator Underwood is here and Senator Carter Glass and Governor Bryan and Governor Davis of Kansas, and half a score of more of arditional dark horses. Former Governor Cox, of Ohio, urged to come on ever since convention week began, has declined once more to be drawn into the maelstrom.

It certainly would add dramatically to the interest of a national convention if a rule should be adopted requiring all the aspirants to present themselves before the delegates. The nomination then would resolve itself into a sort of joint debate with some 1,098 judges sitting out in front. Whatever a man might have of personality, or forensic power, of logical argument, would come to the front and aid him in his quest. It might even be provided that the aspiring sons of the Democratic or of the G. O. P., as the case might be, would have to answer a certain number of questions which might be propounded to them. Of course the proceedings might take on the nature of a Kilkenny affair before they were concluded, but the delegates and visitors surely would have a good time while it lasted.

Apparently there no longer is an overwhelming notion that the highest office in the gift of the people should seek the man. The presidency has become a plum to be fought for—a case of every man for himself and devil take the hindmost. In 1920 the Democrats had their try-outs at a Jefferson day dinner in Washington. As a matter of fact there were two dinners and each speaker had to do a double turn. Governor Cox was one of the starters and when the convention came along he won. This year the dinner experiment was not repeated.

That a personal appearance before the convention would be a good thing for many of the aspirants goes without saying. History holds more than one instance of a man rising actually from the convention floor to the nomination. Mr. William Jennings Bryan's experience was not without precedent.

Take the case of Senator Samuel Ralston, of Indiana, for instance. A great many stories have been going the rounds about the Senator's "infirm" old age, and his general "weakened" physical condition. If the Senator could be here and speak to the convention, he would show 'em. He is one of the finest physical types in the Senate and can do as hard a day's work as any man twenty years his junior.

Since the age of the Senator has been brought into so much question it might be well to let him speak for himself. His own brief autobiography in the congressional directory gives the date of his birth as December 1, 1857. He is therefore in his sixty-seventh year.

Governor Al Smith has been "smoked out" at last by the prohibitionists. He is literally and truly the "wettest" aspirant whose claims are being pressed before the convention. He goes down to the ocean every afternoon and takes a cooling dip in the briny while the delegates are milling around the city hotels and suffering from the heat. Pic-

tures of the governor "in the drink" are being circulated.

The campaign being waged here by Mr. McAdoo is reminiscent of the Hiram Johnson fight at Chicago in 1920. Senator Johnson arrived on the scene dramatically to take charge of his own canvass. He addressed his delegates and admirers numerous times from hotel balcony and at indoor gatherings. He exhorted his hearers to stand fast to their colors, to pay no attention to reports in the newspapers and to strike down the sinister forces of capitalism and corruption. Like McAdoo Senator Johnson has trokked out from California. Mr. McAdoo is making the same sort of speeches, the same sort of appeal today. But the McAdoo followers are confident their delegates will remain firmer than the scores who were pledged to Hiram and then voted for Harding. Senator Johnson never recovered from the bitterness of that fight.

An immense picture of John W. Davis at the entrance to the lobby of the Waldorf is attracting the admiring attention of the women delegates and visitors. The former ambassador to Great Britain is one of the handsome, if not the handsomest, men in the big contest.

"He certainly has a fine face," said one of the fair visitors, as her male escort somewhat gruffly said "oh, come along."

William Jennings Bryan, rushing about the Waldorf corridors, found himself at one time almost within the portals of the Underwood boom. Mr. Bryan and the senior Senator from Alabama love each other like a couple of strange bull dogs. When the commoner realized where his unwary feet had almost taken him, he did a regular Charley Chaplin skid in reversing his course. Not a few observed his discomfiture.

"Hope there are no reporters present," smiled the Nebraska-Floridan. But of course there were.

Newton D. Baker, delegate from Ohio, nominator of James M. Cox and commonly regarded as one of the darker horses in the race himself, faced a room full of reporters on his arrival with the same calm self-possession that he used to show at Washington when he was secretary of war. Mr. Baker has a ready wit and a mind that waits or "reaches" for a word that is even better in an interview than Secretary Hughes.

On the occasion of his first interview at the convention, Mr. Baker answered a broods of questions about the "last political will and testament" of his friend Woodrow Wilson. And if it was not the same black briar pipe that he used to smoke in Washington, it was at least one just like it. In placing Governor Cox before the convention, Mr. Baker will be elevating another inveterate pipe smoker. It is a strange thing how a pipe makes for placidity. No man can ever be flustered or excited apparently, so long as the old pipe is there to draw on. Rodin's famous "thinker" should have held a pipe in one hand.

The Al Smith followers were delighted when the governor found his lost collie dog. The pup had been missing from home for a couple of days. The Smith camp had visions of some one kicking their dog around, even if he wasn't from Missouri.

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Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Tuesday's Scores
Cincinnati, 3; Pittsburgh, 4.
Brooklyn, 5; New York, 6.
Philadelphia, 2; Boston, 4.

Standing of Teams.			
W.	L.	Pct.	
New York	40	29	.567
Chicago	36	21	.632
Brooklyn	31	27	.531
Pittsburgh	28	29	.491
Cincinnati	28	32	.467
Boston	27	32	.458
St. Louis	21	36	.368
Philadelphia	22	32	.408

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Tuesday's Scores
New York, 3; Washington, 4.
St. Louis, 7; Detroit, 5.
St. Louis, 5; Detroit, 1.
Chicago-Cleveland—rain.

Standing of Teams.			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Washington	32	26	.555
New York	30	26	.538
Detroit	34	30	.531
St. Louis	30	28	.517
Boston	28	27	.509
Cleveland	29	29	.500
Chicago	27	29	.485
Philadelphia	22	24	.478

NOTICE
The canal bridge at South Mills will be closed to road traffic June 26-27, 7 a. m. to 10 a. m., and 1 p. m. to 4 p. m. for repairs.
B. F. FOREHAND, Supt.
June 23, 24, 25, up.

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Mrs. J. Borden Hartman, nationally prominent in society and political circles, who is one of the leading hostesses to Democratic Convention visitors.

END ARGUMENT ON TWO-THIRD RULE

New York, June 25.—The rules committee ended the two thirds rule again last night when it killed the motion intending to abolish the two thirds rule for nomination and to substitute for it the simple majority.

SECOND PRIMARY
Raleigh, June 25.—The State Board of Elections yesterday issued an order for a second primary on July 5. There is only one State race, that for Commissioner of Labor and Printing between Shipman and Grist, but there will be several local races.

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Year	Gross Earnings	Surplus
1918	\$1,069,628	\$158,899
1919	1,187,389	195,185
1920	1,401,410	263,032
1921	1,562,515	237,032
1922	1,549,241	338,012
1923	1,648,304	371,977

*Available for Dividends, etc.
\$4 a year is being paid on Common Stock.

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