

No Word of Agricultural Crisis Heard at Donkey Meet

By JAY LOVESTONE.

(Special to The Daily Worker)

NEW YORK, June 25.—A touch of military air was given to the curtain-raising of the democratic convention by an especially arranged parade of New York's proudest policemen, street cleaners and firemen. Bluejackets, armed national guard men, marines and sailors from the United States battleship Colorado joined in the parade up the "Avenue of Gold," Fifth Avenue.

Many Divisions.

The lines are being fast drawn for a battle in the gigantic arena, Madison Square Garden. At least a half dozen groups—angry and in fighting mood and trim—speaking for the democratic machine from wide separated sections of the country are ready to go to bat at the midday striking of the gong. These groups may be classified along three main lines, conservatives, liberals and progressives. Most of the presidential aspirants class themselves as the occasion requires. The lines are not sharply drawn. The bosses, like Taggart, Brennan, and Guffey are working overtime to combine the sundry uncombined delegations in order to use them as pawns in the various horse-deals that are now being planned in the secret chambers of the rich hotels of the metropolis.

Farmers Forgotten.

The writer made it his business to spend some time in the lobbies of the hotels Imperial, Commodore, McAlpin, Astor, and Pennsylvania, where headquarters of the North Dakota, Iowa, Montana and Kansas, Minnesota and Nebraska delegations are lodged. Not a word was whispered or said there about the great agricultural crisis or the suffering of millions of farmers. Yet there is quite some fighting in the lobbies over a mass of "issues." From appearances it seems as if the bosses and the powers running the convention are deliberately stirring up exciting discussion among the various delegations in order to give them a chance to blow off some steam and lose their anxiety to launch a vigorous discussion on the floor of the convention.

Dark Horses Threatening.

There seems to be much noise in the stable where the dark horses are lodged. As the McAdoo forces are receding from their demand for an immediate discarding of the two-third rule and the Smith group is letting up in its demand for the abolition of the unit rule, the steeds of dark hue are galloping at an increasing pace.

The fastest dark horse is John W. Davis. The efforts being launched for him are transparent. One can readily discern the source of the inspired well-financed propaganda in the columns of the press. It will be recalled that in the 1920 San Francisco convention Davis stood a mighty good chance of getting away with the nomination if the balloting had gone only three lengths more. The Smith delegates are ready to accept him hands down. Everybody here sees in Davis an excellent source of financing the campaign, which is bound to be a costly one in view of the determination of the republican party to go the limit in spending money to buy the election.

Morgan's Lawyer—Pacemaker.

But John W. Davis who is J. P. Morgan's private lawyer and who is engaged as the counsel for the biggest corporations in the country is also facing some real opposition.

William Jennings Bryan, here as delegate from Florida has just declared that the convention might as well nominate Morgan himself as Davis. Some people even expect Bryan to pull the stunt he performed in the 1912 convention at Baltimore when he administered a furious tongue lashing to the multi-millionaire democrats, August Belmont and Thomas Fortune Ryan, if Davis should be nominated and pushed in all seriousness. Bryan is for McAdoo and he means business.

Vice Presidency Important.

Increasing importance is being attached by the bosses and moneyed-men now meeting in secret caucuses. It is obvious that the convention leaders are angling for a candidate who will be satisfactory to the LaFollette group. For if the election should fail to choose a president then it would fall upon the Senate to pick the chief executive of the country from the

two highest vote-getting vice presidential candidates. In that case the votes of Brookhart, Ladd, Frazier, Magnus Johnson, Norris and others in the so-called insurgent group would determine the election of the president. The democratic bosses and the Wall Street angels are on guard to be fully prepared for such a possibility becoming a reality.

Thus the big boss of the Illinois delegation, Brennan, is ready to accept even Wm. J. Bryan for the vice presidential nomination. This is an especially desperate move to appear progressive. William Jennings Bryan, as secretary of state in the democratic Wilson administration toured Illinois against Roger Sullivan, the then democratic state bosses running for the United States senate. It was Bryan's eloquence and influence which aided materially in electing the Republican Lawrence Y. Sherman to the Senate at that time.

A Wilderness of Issues.

The delegates find themselves in a veritable wilderness of issues. Yet nothing definite will be done or uttered on any of the perplexing problems. For instance, all that one may expect from the convention platform on the agrarian depression is dabbling in the perennial piffle about tariff rates. This may be supplemented with a deluge of words of condemnation of their republican opponents for the Administration's failure to do something for the farming masses.

Much the same treatment will be accorded to the other issues. The delegates who are almost solidly hand-picked henchmen of the machine in the various states don't seem too interested in the pressing questions confronting the country. Even the three principal issues facing the convention—the Klan, prohibition, and foreign affairs—will all be straddled. The shadow of the Invisible Empire is falling heavily on the convention. The Smith forces are making a desperate move to force a declaration on this matter in order to corner McAdoo. But to put over a clear-cut statement on the hooded order would jeopardize the unity of the party. And no democrat wants to disturb the already dilapi-

dated, creaking mechanism in view of the possibilities for victory and the political plums coming with it.

On the League of Nations there is every likelihood of the 1920 plank being re-adopted despite the fact that the last severe defeat suffered by the democrats, in no small measure due to the stand on this question, is still hanging like a pall over the conclave.

The wet and dry issues are taking a back seat. Even Smith is cutting out his voluminous talk about it. There will be a real get-together over the beer, whisky and wine dispute.

McAdoo Drives On.

To the careful observer the McAdoo campaign here looks like the movement of a dying man whom the doctors are trying to save by pumping him full of oxygen. In democratic, as in republican politics, money, real, good gold is the oxygen. The McAdoo movement may yet be saved, as the dying man is sometimes saved.

A daily paper will be published by McAdoo while the convention will be on. It will be handed out to all delegates as a non-partisan sheet containing "valuable information." More gold in the melting pot.

Ex-Senator James D. Phelan, a known lobbyist, will nominate McAdoo. Mr. Phelan has made a dramatic and hurried return from Paris to put over the nomination. He is a Catholic. The McAdoo general staff is planning to liquidate some of the anti-Klan opposition by this maneuver.

Even many Negroes can be seen around the corridors where the McAdoo agents are congregating. It might be mentioned that no Negroes are to be seen in the headquarters of the other candidates. McAdoo is playing on the ruling made by him as railroad administrator for the payment of equal wages to Negro railway hands.

McAdoo himself is feverishly at work making speeches to inspire the various delegations arriving.

The Texas oil and ranching interests as well as Western banking and power interests seem to be standing behind Doheny's million dollar beauty.

Tammany and Brennan are taking it out on McAdoo because he was part of the Wilson administration which

did not give them enough patronage. The Pennsylvania machine entrenched in the big industrial centers and financed by the giant liquor interests of the state are fighting McAdoo because he is for prohibition.

McAdoo is doing everything in his power—and he has considerable power at this moment—to counteract the damage of the blows struck at him from the above source. He is yelling frantically for the elimination of all graft from government administration. His being smeared with oil, tax reduction scandal, and Morse pardons does not help him in this propaganda of defense.

And while McAdoo is yelling his head off against bossism, he is doing his darndest to make an alliance with the notorious political jobber and big boss Tom Taggart of Indiana. The latter is momentarily isolated from the New York—New Jersey—Illinois combination. McAdoo agents are seeking to make the most of this situation, as they recall that in 1920 Taggart supported their man even at the cost of breaking with boss Murphy of Tammany and Moore of Ohio, then Cox's campaign manager.

Gompers On His Knees.

Samuel Gompers who has been resting at the Lenox Hill Hospital since last week in preparation for his quadrennial battle for labor at the democratic convention is off his sickbed.

The Grand Old Man of the American trade union movement is on his knees crawling before the democrats for better consideration of his fifteen "liberation" planks than that accorded him at the republican pow-wow.

A big caucus is being organized for the Major George L. Berry candidacy for vice presidency. Martin F. Ryan, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and one of the A. F. of L. vice presidents, Jacob Fisher, another A. F. of L. vice president; J. C. Shaughnessy, president of the International Barbers' Union; and Joseph Franklin, President of the Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders, were on the scene early today to line up all the union-card holders to be found among the delegates.