

Republican National Convention of 1892 Collection

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Republican National Convention. (10th: 1892 : Minneapolis, Minn.)
Title	Republican National Convention of 1892 Collection
Date	1891-1892, 1956
Extent	0.83 Linear feet
Language	English

History

The Republican National Convention of 1892, which took place from June 7 to June 10, was the first national political convention to take place west of the Mississippi. Held at the Industrial Exposition Building, in Minneapolis, the result of the convention was the nomination of the Benjamin Harrison for re-election as President and Whitelaw Reid of New York for Vice President. Harrison lost his bid for re-election and Grover Cleveland succeeded him as President.

The Convention's arrival in Minneapolis was contingent on a suitably sized hall and the availability of accommodations for delegates and members of the press. The Industrial Exposition Building, built in response to Saint Paul's construction of the state fairgrounds, had seven and half acres of floor space and a total seating capacity of between eleven and fifteen thousand. With construction complete in 1887, the city made a bid for the 1888 Republican Convention, but lost to Chicago. In bidding for the 1892 Convention, the convention committee convinced Chicago not to enter a bid and got Western Union to install more telegraph wires in Minneapolis to support press coverage. The committee's bid was accepted by the Republican national committee on November 23, 1891, and planning went into high gear. The convention drew in about thirty-five thousand people, which was well below the estimated hundred thousand the committee had expected, but in the process of planning for the convention, Minneapolis built up city infrastructure and showed its metropolitan character to the country.

The bulk of this collection consists of correspondence regarding press accommodations. The citizen's executive committee, led by George A. Brackett, was responsible for the logistics of housing, feeding, and transporting people from all over the country, and the collection reflects the complexity and immensity of this task. Arrangements specifically for the press were handled by a separate committee, chaired by Gilbert A. Pierce of the Minneapolis Tribune. Many members of the press were housed at the newly built New York Life Insurance Building, which was converted to a hotel just for the event, and reconverted to offices afterwards. Others stayed in hotels in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and some lodged in boarding houses or private homes.

Description of the Collection

This collection consists of three boxes of correspondence, clippings, and ephemera regarding the Republican National Convention of 1892. The first and second boxes contain correspondence between members of the press and the Convention committee regarding attendance and accommodations. The correspondence is organized by state. Of particular interest are the letterheads of various newspapers, both large and small, from the Baltimore Sun to the Sioux City Times.

The third box contains directories and programs from the event, ephemera including tickets and delegate ribbons from the convention hall, and newspaper clippings remembering the convention. Also in the third box are a facsimile of the front page of the Convention edition of the Minneapolis Tribune, June 7, 1892, an 1892 *Cosmopolitan* article describing the Convention, and "Convention City - The Republicans in Minneapolis, 1892", a comprehensive article on the planning and execution of the convention from the journal *Minnesota History*, June 1956.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Minneapolis Industrial Exposition Building.
- Republican Party. (U.S.:1854-)

Geographic Name(s)

- United States -- Politics and government.

Subject(s)

- Convention facilities -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Political campaigns.

Collection Inventory

Press accommodations correspondence 1891-1892	Box	Folder
Press Committee Correspondence	1	1
California	1	2
Colorado	1	3
Connecticut	1	4
District of Columbia	1	5
Foreign Press	1	6
Georgia	1	7
Illinois	1	8
Indiana	1	9
Iowa	1	10
Kansas	1	11

Kentucky	1	12
Louisiana	1	13
Maine	1	14
Maryland	1	15
Massachusets	1	16
Michigan	1	17
Minneapolis	1	18
Minnesota (excepting Minneapolis)	1	19
Missouri	1	20
Montana	1	21
Nebraska	1	22
Nevada	1	23
New Hampshire	1	24
New Mexico	1	25

New York City	1	26
New York State	1	27
North Dakota	1	28
Ohio	1	29
Oregon	1	30
Press accommodations correspondence 1891-1892		
	Box	Folder
Pennsylvania	2	1
Rhode Island	2	2
South Carolina	2	3
South Dakota	2	4
Tennessee	2	5
Utah	2	6
Virginia	2	7

Washington	2	8
West Virginia	2	9
Wisconsin	2	10
Convention materials and newspaper clippings		
	Box	Folder
Directory of delegates and alternates	3	1
2 guest tickets, 1 editorial ticket, 1 reciprocity ribbon, One Pillsbury's Best sponsored ribbon	3	2
Grand Concert program	3	3
Newspaper clippings, recollections and remembrances of convention 1900-1940	3	4
Correspondence (facsimiles) regarding convention planning 1891-1892	3	5
Facsimile of Minneapolis Tribune June 7, 1892 front page, Convention City article from Minnesota History, June 1956	3	6
10 guest tickets	3	7
"The Convention at Minneapolis", article from Cosmopolitan Magazine 1892	3	8