

MR. HARRISON'S STILL HUNT

ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN.

SOME OF THE SECRETS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE—HARD WORK TO BE DONE TO SAVE THE NORTHWESTERN STATES—THE PUBLIC TO BE HOODWINKED IF POSSIBLE.

There are evidences that Mr. Harrison, through his National Committee, is making a still hunt this year. Mr. Carter is keeping remarkably quiet as to what is going on in the brownstone building 518 Fifth Avenue, and the only signs of activity which are allowed to come to the public eye through the newspapers are brief official statements as to the callers who are taken up to see Mr. Carter and some campaign interviews which predict harmony on all sides and unbounded popularity for the Republican candidates and issues.

There is about the building where business is transacted some of that mysterious secrecy which characterizes approaches to a Masonic lodge room. The casual visitor to headquarters will probably get a sight at from five to ten watchmen, guards, and doorkeepers who are always there, and a comfortable chair in the front room will be given to him, where he may sit unmolested as long as he pleases. From this room it is possible to see a half dozen clerks, typewriters, and minor secretaries at work, but they must be viewed from a distance unless the visitor has influence or is a man whose name carries weight sufficient to pull open the iron gate which is the first bar to the privacy of the business offices.

Chairman Carter sits up in the little front room on the second floor, and, while it has been from time to time announced that the "preliminary work of the campaign has been indefinitely outlined" and speakers have been sent to the States where early elections are to be held, information has leaked out that many of the plans of battle have been pretty accurately determined on. Lieutenants have been chosen, have secretly received their instructions, and have been fitted out with the necessary implements for carrying on the work in their respective sections.

The policy has been adopted of summoning from the States which are to be especially taken into consideration representative politicians who have gone back to their homes loaded with instructions fresh from the Loon Lake wire. Some of the details of this work have leaked out, and it is possible to go into some of the particulars of the fight, according to information given by Republicans who have discussed the situation.

Chairman Carter has received personal information from nearly every State this side of the Rocky Mountains at a series of interviews which were planned on the quiet and held without any blare of trumpets. From this information the work has been mapped out.

It has been determined to make a hard fight for New-Jersey. Despite the fact that the member of the committee from that State has been abroad ever since the early Summer and his services are not available, reports have come to headquarters that by the use of plenty of money there is a possibility of success.

Pennsylvania, which is looked on as the harvest field for campaign funds, according to the best information is to be held largely responsible for the fight in that State. Thomas V. Cooper of Philadelphia, Collector of the Port, has been placed in direct charge of the southern portion of the State. He is also to have charge of Delaware. He is not only an expert in raising campaign funds in his own State, but has had experience in the intricacies of the politics of both States. He had a prominent hand in the management of the campaign in Delaware when the Republican Legislature was chosen which elected Anthony Higgins to the United States Senate four years ago.

Connecticut is to be enriched to a considerable extent by the goodly sums of campaign money which are to be sent there. The manufacturing towns will be assessed heavily, but, in addition to the home crop of boodle, some of the contents of the safes at headquarters will be sent there.

In Indiana, it is said, the National Committee will not be asked to do much work. President Harrison and his lieutenants in that State, who are thoroughly familiar with the shady methods of Indiana politics, reckon that they will be able to handle that State fully as advantageously if left to themselves. Reports which have been received from the State are not so satisfactory as from any of those States which are usually classified as "doubtful." The distribution of offices which President Harrison has made, according to reports, has created a bitterness among a few cliques which cannot be, or have not as yet been, healed, and in so close a State this is disastrous.

Accordingly the energies of the President and his faithful followers there are to be largely exerted to the patching up of these local differences, and this is the reason, it is said, why the President does not want Chairman Carter to have much to say about Indiana. He wants the work done by some one who is more familiar with the inside machinery, and who may deal with the conflicting elements in a way that will not tread on the tender toes of either. It comes from good Republican authority that President Harrison is more deeply concerned for his chances in his own State than over any one of the doubtful ones under the old classification.

There have been several delegations from the Northwest in close consultation with Chairman Carter within a week or two. He is familiar with that section of the country, and those who have his confidence assert that he is hopeful whenever he turns his eyes in that direction.

There have been received at Republican Headquarters pretty accurate reports as to the strength of the Farmers' Alliance in the two Dakotas, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa. Republicans who have brought these reports have doubtless given Mr. Carter as rosy a view as possible. One of them told a TIMES reporter that the most hopeless outlook in any of the States named was in Nebraska, where, he said, prominent Republicans who had never before wavered in their belief that the State was for all time in the Republican ranks were now doubtful of the ability of the party to carry it.

It is in these States, where the Farmers' Alliance vote is so strong, that one of the warmest battles will be attempted. In this connection comes another evidence of the "still-hunt" feature of the campaign. It has been officially declared that no Western headquarters would be established in Chicago, and with some cleverness an attempt has been made to scatter the impression abroad that there was dissatisfaction on that account. But one member of the committee made a statement the other day which indicates that this talk was "a part of the game," as he expressed it.

"The central point for the battle, which is to be made in the West and Northwest, would naturally be Chicago," he said. "The surface indications are such that the Democrats would naturally be excused for locating a branch headquarters there. They are simply invading what has been heretofore—Republican territory. That they think it worth while to pitch one of their camps there naturally creates the impression that they believe they have fighting ground in that vicinity. If the Republicans were to announce that they had established headquarters in Chicago, it would be a confession that extraordinary work was needed there and was to be undertaken. The work will be carried on in those States just as vigorously, but there will be no public advertisement of the fact that this old-time Republican territory is getting away from the party."

It is said, too, that while the announcement that no branch headquarters will be established there is technically true, it is also true that something to answer the same purpose will be in existence. This is to be a sort of Northwestern Bureau of the National Republican Committee. The work in the Northwestern States will be largely left in the hands of Henry C. Payne of Wisconsin, Robert G. Evans of Minnesota, and J. R. Tanner of Illinois. It is said that these members of the committee will get together at frequent intervals in Chicago during the next two months, and will hold a series of conferences with prominent Republicans from all over that debatable ground. The details of the work will be reported to these Northwestern members of the committee, and they will be allowed considerable discretionary power as to the management of affairs there.

The bureau will not be a headquarters in the sense that it will either collect or disburse campaign funds or distribute literature, but all of this will be done on the recommendation of the committeemen through the headquarters at 518 Fifth Avenue. By this means, Republicans say, just as effective work may be done without attracting the undesirable attention of the country.