

View of The Tribune Composing Room,

GENESIS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

There is no more interesting or important chapter in the history of this country, from the formation of the Federal Constitution up to the civil war, than that which records the organization of the Republican party While the revolution won independence for the colonies, the civil war resulted in establishing the principle not only that all men are equal, in accordance with the Declaration of Independence, but that they are also created free. Although the Republican party at the outset did not aim at the achievement of this result by violence, or expect the complete removal of slavery to follow suddenly, or even in a single generation, its final accomplishment was the outcome and consequence of agencies which were put in operation by that party and indorsed by the people in the election of Abraham Lincoln

to the Presidency in 1860. The reorganization of THE TRIBUNE in 1855 came at an opportune moment, not only for the cause which it was to espouse but for the cause which it was to espouse but for the success of the paper itself. The causes put in operation a year previous by the repeal of the Missouri compromise had had the effect of loosening party ties, and the opponents of that act were eagerly seeking new political affiliations. In Illinois they had already succeeded in electing a representative of their views to the United states Senate in the person of the late Lyman Trumbull, and were organizing for future conflicts. They had held their first State convention during the State Fair at Springfield in October, 1854, and, although in the absence of local organizations only a few counties were represented, and most of these by self-appointed delegates, the dec-

nished by the attempt to force slavery upor the scheme—Hotace White, who about the same time became a reporter of The Tribune and still later its editor, being Assistant Secretary of the Kansas National commit-

First Convention in Decatur. Early in 1856 the first effective steps to-ards the consolidation of the opponents slavery extension in Illinois into a com nti-Nebraska editors of the State held anti-Nebraska editors of the State held Decatur Feb. 22—the same day on which number of representatives of the same titical views met at Pittsburg, Pa., and, by oointing a national committee, made paration for the first Republican Napreparation for the first Republican National convention, held at Philadelphia, June 17 following. The Tribune had strongly indorsed the Decatur convention in advance, and was represented by one of its editors -Dr. C. H. Ray. The full list of editors present and participating in the proceedings embraced Dr. Ray of The Tribune, George Schneider of the Chicago Staats Zeitung; Schneider of the Chicago Staats Zeitung;
E. C. Daugherty, Rockford Register; O. P.
Wharton, Rock Island Advertiser; T. J.
Pickett, Peoria Republican; V. Y. Ralston,
Quincy Whig; Charles Faxon, Princeton
Post; A. N. Ford, Lacon Gazette; B. F.
Shaw, Dixon Telegraph; E. W. Blaisdell,
Tord Republican; Paul Selby, JacksonJournal; and W. J. Usrey, Decatur
icle—a round dozen, others being pred from arriving on time by a snow

from arriving on time by a snow e upon the railroads. Small as was mber, they did their work effectively 1. Dr. Ray served as Chairman of mittee on Resolutions, Mr. Schneig also a member.

aham Lincoln was present and in close cence with the committee, and made a cteristic speech at a banquet given to ditors in the evening. A platform was ed and a State Central committee apted and a State Central committee apomited, with instructions to issue a call
for a delegate State convention, to be held
at Bloomington, May 29, following. The call
was issued; the convention held; a ticket for
State officers, with Col. William H. Bissell
at its head for Governor, was nominated,
and it was elected in November. It was at
this convention in Bloomington that Abraham Lincoln made his great speech which
by its magnetic power and convincing eloquence so aroused everybody that the reporters forgot to make a report of it The Tribune
and the Democratic Press—then separate
establishments, but agreeing on the one
great issue—were represented in this convention, both on the floor and at the reporters' table. There were many others
from Chicago who then or afterward became prominent leaders of the party, including Isaac N. Arnold, John Wentworth,
henczer Peck, N. B. Judd, and others whose

names are familiar to the older citizens of Chicago and the State.

This convention—though perhaps little noted at the time—has given to Bloomington a historical interest which has rendered it a sort of political Mecca. It was here that lesse W Fell who had the credit of first less w W Fell who had the credit of first less w Fell who had the credit of first less w Fell who had the credit of first less w Fell who had the credit of first less w Fell who had the credit of first less w Fell who had the credit of first less we were supported to the country at the time the Republicant party was the credit of first less who had the credit of first less we were supported to the country at the time the Republicant party was the credit of the speech." noted at the time—has given to Bloomington a historical interest which has rendered it a sort of political Mecca. It was here that Jesse W. Fell, who had the credit of first nominating Lincoln for the Presidency, and to whom Lincoln sent that quaint biography of himself, resided. John M. Palmer, afterwards a Major-General, Governor, and lastly United States Senator, then a zealous Republican, presided. Joseph Medill, editor of The Tribune, in an article communicated to McClure's Magazine of September, 1896, has given the following account of this convention:

count of this convention:

"It (the convention) was composed of Abolitionists, Free-Soil Whigs, and Anti-Nebraska Democrats. Owen Lovejoy embodied the first named, Abraham Lincoln and John M. Palmer the second and third elements; the whole united made the new Roubling programmers.

At this Bloomington Republican conto nominate Fremont for President. Abraham Lincoln was placed at the head of the State Electoral ticket, and free soil resolutions were passed. John M. Palmer presided and made a stirring free soil speech. Mr. Lincoln, who was a delegate, counseled every step that was taken in his quiet, persuasive way. A sharp dispute broke out in the Platform committee between the radicals, led by the Abolitionist, Owen Lovejoy (afterwards member of Congress), and O. H. Browning (afterwards Senator and Secre-(afterwards member of Congress), and O. H. Browning (afterwards Senator and Secretary of the Interior), leading the conservatives. Lincoln acted as a peacemaker and counselor. He advised the committee to indorse 'the Declaration of Independence and the rights of man and to declare that, in accordance with the opinions and practices of the great statesmen of all parties for the last sixty years. Congress possessed full confew counties were represented, and most of these by self-appointed delegates, the declaration of principles put forth proved the moderation and political sagacity of its members.

An Chicago, as also throughout the northern half of the State generally, the opponents of the Nebraska act far outnumbered its supporters. The Tribune, in 1855, thus found an audience in full sympathy with its views, and the fact that its circulation more than doubled within three months of the change of proprietors proves how hearty that sympathy was. In view of approaching State and national elections in 1856, the work of organization on the basis of restriction of the further extension of slavery into the Territories went on with great activity.

Mr. Lincoln's Great Speech.

Mr. Lincoln's Great Speech. Then followed a description, by a "free State" man from Kansas, of the outrages perpetrated in that Territory by the "border ruffians" from Missouri, after which Mr. Medill's account continues:

Medill's account continues:

"Lincoln was vociferously called for from all parts of Majors' large hall (the place where the convention was held). He came forward and took the platform beside the presiding officer. At first his voice was shrill and hesitating. There was a curious introspective look in his eyes, which lasted for a few moments. Then his voice began to move steadily and smoothly forward, and the modulations were under perfect control the modulations were under perfect control from thence forward to the finish. He warmed up as he went on and spoke more rapidly; he looked a foot taller as he straightened himself to his full height, and his eyes flashed fire; his countenance became wranned in intense emetion; he wished along his eyes flashed fire; his countenance became wrapped in intense emotion; he rushed along like a thunderstorm. He prophesied war as the outcome of these aggressions, and poured forth hot denunciations upon the slave power. The convention was kept in an uproar, applauding and cheering and stamping; and this reacted on the speaker, and gave him a tongue of fire. The thrilling scene in that old Bloomington hall, forty years ago, rises in my mind as vividly as the day ago, rises in my mind as vividly as the day

after its enactment.

"There stood Lincoln in the forefront, erect, tall, and majestic in appearance, hurling thunderbolts at the foes of freedom, while the great convention roared in indorsement! I never witnessed such a scene before or since. As he described the aims and aggressions of the unappeasable slave-holders and the servility of their Northern allies, as illustrated by the perfidious repea of the Missouri Compromise two years previously, and their grasping after the rich prairies of Kansas and Nebraska, to blight them with slavery and to deprive free labor of this rich inheritance, and exhorted the friends of freedom to resist them to the death, the convention went fairly wild. It paralleled or exceeded the scene in the Revolutionary Virginia convention of sight results. parameter or exceeded the scene in the Revo-lutionary Virginia convention of eighty-one years before, when Patrick Henry invoked death if liberty could not be preserved, and said: 'After all, we must fight.' . . It is difficult to name any speech by another

orator delivered on the same subject, about that time or subsequently, that equaled it— not excepting those made by Sumner, Seward, and Chase—in strength of argument

Seward, and Chase—in strength of argument or dramatic power.

"It was my journalistic duty, though a delegate, to make a longhand report of the speeches delivered for The Chicago Triberoune. I did make a few paragraphs of report of what Lincoln said in the first eight or ten minutes; but I became so absorbed in his magnetic oratory that I forgot myself and ceased to take notes and joined with and ceased to take notes and joined with the convention in cheering and stamping and clapping to the end of his speech. . . It was some sort of satisfaction to find that I had not been 'scooped,' as all the newspa-per men present had been equally carried

lican party was in process of organization, as well as some of the means by which that organization was effected. Others have given a similar description of the scene on that memorable occasion when history was

Republican Editors Meet in Chicago. There was another meeting of anti-Ne-braska editors (by that time known as "Re-publican") at the old Tremont House in the City of Chicago on the evening of Dec. 10, 1856. This was held at the invitation of the Chicago Fremont club for the purpose of celebrating and rejoicing over—in connec-tion with a banquet to the Republican ed-itors of the State—the victory which had been won at the polls in the election of the been won at the polls in the election of the entire Republican State ticket in November. It was more largely attended than the De-catur convention had been, as some who doubted the wisdom of the latter had by was divided between him and Douglas.

Douglas—but the final result proved him to be wiser than all his critics. The Hon. Rob-ert R. Hitt, who has since held the position of Secretary of the American Degation at Paris, and Assistant Secretary of State, and who for fifteen years past has been a Representative in Congress from the Rockford District, was the principal reporter employed by THE TRIBUNE in reporting these debates, although he was assisted by Mr. Henry Binmore and others.

Henry Binmore and others.
If the campaigns of 1856 and 1858 indicated that the Republican party was in its formative stage, that of 1860 proved it to be a completed and successful organization. The pleted and successful organization. The holding of the convention in Chicago this year again gave THE TRIBUNE an opportunity to display its enterprise, and this it did most successfully. It had been a zealous supporter of Mr. Lincoln's claims for the nomination, and now it was able to make the nomination, and now it was able to make its advocacy most effective. No such com-plete report of the national convention of plete report of the national convention of any party had ever been published. It gave not only verbatim reports of the proceedings and speeches, but also reported every incident and occurrence of importance connected with the convention. That The Tribune did its full part in the organization of the Republican party cannot be questioned in the face of evidence furnished by its files.

Nomination of Abraham Lincoln. On the day after the nomination of Mr. Lincoln for the Presidency (May 19, 1860) THE TRIBUNE, in a double-leaded leader

The age of purity returns. After a succession of Presidents who have not only been subservient to the interests of the propagandists of human slavery but corrupt o a degree alarming to the truest friends republican institutions, the nomination Abraham Lincoln—Honest Old Abe—by the great Republican party is a guaranty that the country . . . desires to return to the sterling honesty and Democratic simplicity which marked the administrations of Jefferson, Madison, Adams, and Jackson. The party has not mistaken the man selected for a standard-hearen Mr. Lincoln is ed for a standard-bearer. Mr. Lincoln is the very soul of integrity. In all his life, now extending over fifty-one years, there is not an act of commission or omission by which his thorough uprightness, his exact conscientiousness, his perfect integrity are

against whom no allegation of fanaticism will hold good. . . The uprising in his favor has been spontaneous—the outgrowth of a widespread conviction of his fitness and availability. . . He goes into the Pres-idential chair clean-handed and pure; and, when President, his distribution of the patwhen President, his distribution of the patronage will be governed by the wants and exigencies of the public service, and not by the loud clamors of men who urge their claims upon the ground of past support.

Being all that the exigencies of the times demand, whether estimated as to ability, tact, integrity, or faithfulness to principle, his nomination will be taken up with the zeal and enthusiasm which foreshadow not only success but majorities unequaled in the political history of the free States."

This prediction was fully verified in the

This prediction was fully verified in the election of the following November, Mr. Lincoln receiving the Electoral vote of every Northern State except New Jersey, which

made by other cities—especially St. Louis—which desired to secure the convention, the selection of Chicago was acquiesced in, and Monday, July 5, being nearest to the 4th, was chosen as the time.

No official report of the proceedings of this history by the compilation from the press of that day and other sources, of an account of the event, which was published in 1882 as No. 18 of the "Fergus Historical Series:" Many men whose names were well known, not only in Chicago, but throughout the nation, were identified with the movement. Among the list of members of the various lead compare identified with the movement. Among the list of members of the various local committees were such familiar names as William B. Ogden, Mark Skinner, J. Young Scammon, Isaac N. Arnold, Norman B. Judd, S. Lisle Smith, John Wentworth, George Manierre, Grant Goodrich, Thomas Hoyne, B. W. Raymond, Richard L. Wilson, F. C. Sherman, Walter L. Newberry, Jesse B. Thomas, William H. Brown, George Smith, P. F. W. Peck, Samuel Hoard, Dr. Levi D. Boone, Dr. Daniel Brainard, Henry Brown, the first historian of Illinois, and many others whose names were familiar to Chicagoans a half century ago. Among over 100 signers of a letter to Daniel Webster inviting him to be present were the following, who still survive: And-

Daniel Webster inviting him to be present were the following, who still survive: Andrew Blaikie, William Blair, Arthur G. Burley, Silas B. Cobb, Stephen F. Gale, Charles R. Vandercook, Nathaniel P. Wilder, Thomas B. Carter, and Elisha W. Willard. Nineteen States were represented in the convention, including every New England State except Vermont, the Southern States of Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina, and most of the Middle Western States, together with New York and Pennsylvania. Most of the principal cities—especially those on the Western rivers—were represented, while many counties in Illinois especially those on the Western rivers—were represented, while many counties in Illinois and adjoining States sent large delegations. As Chicago had then an estimated population of 16,000 it may be assumed that its hospitality was taxed to the utmost, as the local newspapers put the number of strangers in the city at 25,000, while Horace Greeley, in his report to the New York Tribune, placed the number at 20,000, of whom 10,000 were members of the convention.

Prominent Men Who Took Part.

After a procession under the direction of the day the convention met in a tent 100 feet square, erected in the public square, on which the Courthouse and City Hall now stand. An oranization was effected with Edward Bate St. Louis—afterwards President Lincoln first Attorney-General—as President, while Schuyler Colfax of Indiana, who was Vice-President during President Grant's first term, was one of the secretaries. Letters term, was one of the secretaries. Letters were read (or received) from Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Justice John McLean of the Supreme Court, ex-President Martin Van Buren, Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, Gov. Silas Wright, Daniel S. Dickinson, and Washington Hunt of New York, John Minor Botts of Virginia, and many more, while the principal speakers were Thomas Corwin, Horace Greeley, the late David Dudley Field, and Thomas Butler King of Georgia. Abraham Lincoln, then the only Whig Representative in Congress from Illinois, was one of three delegates from Sangamon "his first visit to the commercial em

doubt his visit will impress him more eply, if possible, with the importance and spire him with zeal for the great interest had barbor improvements. We porium of the State," and adds: "We have

of river and harbor improvements. We expect much from him as a Representative in Congress, and we have no doubt our ex-

ritics present, not already named, included Zachariah Chandler of Michigan, John C. Spencer of New York, Anson Burlingame of Massachusetts, Gov. William Bebb and Stanley Matthews of Ohio, Andrew Stewart of Pennsylvania, and Thurlow Weed of the Albany Evening Journal



How The Tribune Originally

BIRTH OF ILLINOIS JOURNALISM.

There has not been entire accord between

authorities as to the date when the first newspaper was established in Illinois, though there has been universal agreement as to the name of the paper and that of the founder. The latter was Matthew Duncan, a brother of Joseph Duncan, who was for six years a member of Congress from 11%, nois and Governor of the State from 1834 to 1838. The name of this pioneer journal was the Illinois Herald and its place of publicathe Illinois Herald and its place of publication was Kaskaskia, then the capital of Illinois Territory. Gov. John Reynolds, who came to Illinois as a boy in 1800, in his "Pioneer History of Illinois," fixes the date of the first issue of the Herald as 1809, the same year in which Illinois was separated from Indiana and placed under a distinct Territorial government. There is good reason for believing that the Governor was mistaken in this statement, as the carliest issue of the Illinois Herald (No. 32 of Vol. II.) known to be in existence in recent years, bears date April 18, 1816. Calculating from this, if the paper was issued continuously and without a break from its original establishment the date of the first issue must have been about Sept. 6, 1814, two years after the date of the massacre at Fort Dearborn and thirty-six years after Illinois became a part of United States territory as the result of the capture of Kaskaskia by Col. George Rogers Clark. Evidence corroborative of this date is found in the fact that the Missouri Gazette—the predecessor of the old Missouri Republican, now the St. of the old Missouri Republican, now the St. Louis Republic—which began to be published in 1808, makes no mention of the Kaskaskia paper before 1814, although these were the ly two papers then published west of Vin-

Services of Editor Cook. The Herald was sold in August, 1817, to Daniel P. Cook and Robert Blackwell. Cook, who had previously been Auditor of Public Accounts for the Territory, and had been succeeded in that office by Blackwell, became the editor of the paper, and its name was changed to Illinois Intelligencer. To was changed to lilinois Intelligencer. To follow out the history of Cook. He became a Circuit Judge under the Territorial government the next year, was the first Attorney-General under the State government, and for eight years was the brilliant Representative in Congress from the new State. For his efficient service while in Congress, in securing the first donation of public lands for the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, Cook County was named in his honor. The Intelligencer was removed to Vandalia after the transfer of the State Capital to that place, and under other management homes. other management became an opponent of the scheme for a revision of the State Con-stitution, which had for its object the es-tablishment of slavery in Illinois during the

Only Two Other Newspapers in 1820. grant, and still later Gazette, which had been established at Shawneetowh in 1818, and the Edwardsville Spectator, founded by Andre Matter and the Edwardsville Spectator, founded by Hooper Warren at Edwardsville, Madison County, in 1819. The founder of the Shawneetown paper was Henry Eddy, an able lawyer, though James Hall, afterward a Circuit Judge and State Treasurer and the most prolific and popular writer of his day in Illinois, was for a time one of the editors, Judge Hall afterward founded the Illinois Magazine, which was finally removed to Cincinnati, where it became the Western Monthly Magazine. The Shawneetown paper published articles on both sides of the slavery question, though its general tendency was in opposition to the proslavery amendment. The Edwardsville Spectator, edited by Hooper Warren, aided by an able corps of contributors, including Gov. Coles, Judge Samuel D. Lockwood, Daniel P. Cook, George Churchill, the Rev. Thomas Lippincott, Morris Birkbeck, and others, was most pronounced in opposition to the convention scheme, and exerted a wide influence. Warren afterward established the first paper at Springfield (the Sangamo Spectator), published a paper at Galena previous to 1830, founded the third naper in Chicago (the lished a paper at Galena previous to 1830, founded the third paper in Chicago (the old Commercial Advertiser in 1836), and was for a time associated with Zebina Eastman in the publication of the Free West and Western Citizen, dying at Mendota in 1864 while returning from Chicago to his home in Marshall County. in Congress, and we have no doubt our expectations will be more than realized, for never was reliance placed in a nobler heart and a sounder judgment. We know the banner he bears will never be soiled." Horace Greeley in one of his letters alludes to Mr. Lincoln as "a tall specimen of an Illinoisan, just elected to Congress from the only Whig district in the State," who "was called out and spoke briefly and happily in reply to Mr. [David Dudley] Field," who had made a moderate speech on the side of the "strict constructionists." Other celeb-

Slavery Question Promotes Journalism Interest in the slavery issue led to the establishment of two other papers in 1822, both of which were zealous champions for the introduction of slavery in Illinois, and, by a remarkable coincidence, both bore the name "Republican." One of these was the Republican Advocate, at Kaskaskia, which was established as the personal organ of Elias Kent Kane, then Secretary of State, who was seeking an election to the Market who was seeking an election to the United States Senate, and the other the Star of the West, at Edwardsville—changed a few months later to the Illinois Republican, and, under the management of a zealous body of proslavery advocates, it became the leading organ of that party. Theophilus W. Smith,

and George W. Dole Birth of the E

Journal as the sam nomens. This third of the Edwardsville the frontier capital cording to the Amorectory for 1897, have

Prediction on Chica

published in the City



Linotypes in The Tribune Composing Room.

Many important events have occurred

this time become convinced. Among those present not of the editorial profession, as shown by the report printed in The Tribune of the next day, were Abraham Lincoln, Owen Lovejoy (who had just been elected to Many important events have Owen Lovejoy (who had just been elected to Congress for the first time), James Miller (State Treasurer-elect), Elisha P. Ferry (then of Waukegan—afterwards Governor of Washington, both as a Territory and a State), the late B. C. Cook (then of Ottawa), Isaac N. Arnold, Dr. W. B. Egan, and many more whose names would still be familiar to Chicagoans. J. Young Scammon presided, and letters were read from Senator Seward of New York, Gov. Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, Gov. J. W. Grimes of Iowa, Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky, Senator Trumbull, and others. Of some thirteen regular toasts proposed the first was as follows: osed the first was as follows

"The Union—the North Will Maintain It, the South Will Not Depart Therefrom." This was appropriately responded to by Mr. Lincoln, who was, a few years later, to play so important a part in the fulfillment of its predictions. His speech was directed largely to a sarcastic criticism upon the message of President Pierce just addressed Congress, congratulating the country the election of Buchanan to the Presidency. The closing sentences are an appear for union and harmony between the op-ponents of the Democratic party. As re-ported by THE TRIBUNE, this part of the

"In the late contest we were divided between Fremont and Fillmore. Can we not come together for the future? Let every one who really believes and is resolved that one who really believes and is resolved that free society is not and shall not be a failure and who can conscientiously declare that in the past contest he has done only what he thought best—let every such one have charity to believe that every other can say as much. Thus let bygones be bygones, let past differences as nothing be; and, with steady eye on the real issue, let us reinaugurate the good old central ideas of the republic. We can do it. The human heart is with us; God is with us. We shall again be able not to declare that 'all States are equal' [a phrase used in the President's equal' [a phrase used in the President's message, upon which Mr. Lincoln was commenting], nor yet that 'all citizens as citizens are equal,' but to renew the broader, better declaration including both these and much more, that 'all men are created equal.'"

Speeches were also delivered by Owen Lovejoy, T. J. Turne C. Cook, and others. Turner, Ebenezer Peck, B.

Campaigns of 1856 and 1860.

The campaign of 1858 opened with the nomination of Mr. Lincoln for the United nomination of Mr. Lincoln for the United States Senate, to which he responded in his memorable "house-divided-against-itself" speech—a production even more significant than his Bloomington speech of 1856, when the remarkable fulfillment of his predictions is taken into account. This opening was followed in the next few weeks by the series of deleter with Development in the public terms with Development in the public part of the series of deleter with Development in the public series with Development in the public series of deleter with Development in the public series with the series of the series of the series with the series of of debates with Douglas, and in the publication of these as they occurred The Trib Incation of these as they occurred The Trib-UNE accomplished the greatest feat of jour-nalism so far undertaken or performed by the press of this country, either East or West. It was a feat which vastly extended the reputation and influence of the paper and assisted to build up the Republican party. It is true that some of Mr. Lincoln's friends doubted the wisdom of some of his acts in connection with those debates—espe-cially regarding the questions put by him to acts in connection with those debates—especially regarding the questions put by him to

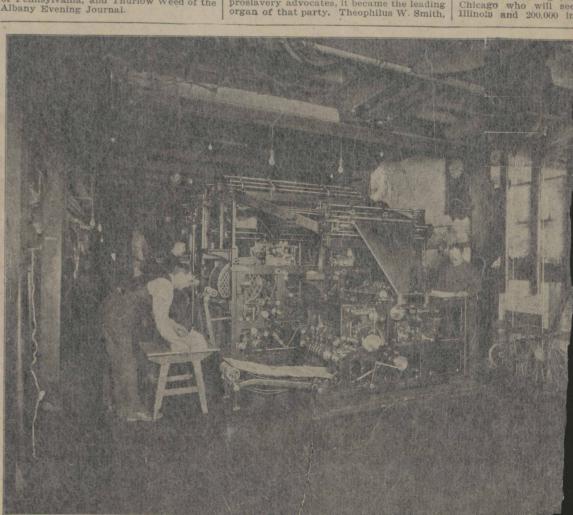
CONVENTION.

since The Tribune began its existence, with which it has been more or less conspicuously identified, either as a news medium or as a leader of public opinion, and which may be regarded as landmarks in the history not merely of Chicago but of the whole country one of these took place almost simultaneously with the advent of the paper, and while it absorbed for the time being the attention of the whole city, it excited deep interest throughout the Nation. This was the riverand harbor convention held at Chicago on July 5-7, 1847; in fact, there is a tradition that it was with a view to the preparation. that it was with a view to the promotion of one of these enterprises, had in view in calling that convention at the City of Chi-cago—to-wit: the connection of the lakes of the North with the rivers of the South by the completion of the Illinois and Michigan Canal—that THE TRIBUNE was estab lished. This conception had stirred the imagination of the French "voyageurs," who were the first to visit the Illinois country, and had been a favorite scheme with all who had speculated upon the com-mercial possibilities of this region. It had been commended to the attention of Congress by Albert Gallatin, then Secretary o he Treasury, as early as 1808; subject of a report to the Michigan Territorial Legislature in 1812, and of treaty negotiations with the Illinois Indians in 1816; had been favorably mentioned by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun in 1819; had been hinted at by Nathaniel Pope as Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Ulivais in his greach on the Illinois analysis. Illinois in his speech on the Illinois enabling act in April, 1818, and had received the commendation of Govs. Bond, Coles, and Duncan from 1818 to 1834, besides being the sub-

Enthusiasm for the Project. The Niles Register in 1814, speaking of the possibility of opening a waterway com-munication from Buffalo to New Orleans through Lakes Erie, Huron, and Michigar down the Illinois River to the Mississippi in a burst of enthusiasm had said: "Wha in a burst of entities and a said; what a route! How stupendous the idea! How dwindles the importance of the artificial canals of Europe compared with this water communication! If it should take place the Territory of Illinois will become the seat of

Territory of Illinois will become the seat of immense commerce and a market for the commodities of all regions."

Conventions having for their object the promotion of the improvement of Western rivers and harbors had been held at Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis, and St. Louis in previous years. In the fall of 1846 a movement for the holding of a similar convention in Chicago was broached, William Mosley Hall, who died in New York City Nov. 8, 1894, being the originator and leading cham-1894, being the originator and leading cham pion of the measure. The first meeting of the subject was held at Rathbun's Hotel an editorial writer on THE TRIBUNE bein chosen to preside, while Robert Fergus, the venerable pioneer printer of Chicago, server as one of the Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Hall already mentioned, whose home was in Buffalo, was one of the Secretaries. olutions were adopted favoring the holding



One of The

nposing and Press Room Looked June 10, 1847.