

THE CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.

A CONVENTION THAT IS LIKELY TO
SEE MUCH WRANGLING.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, May 17.—The coming week will bring to this city a political gathering of unique form, in whose action there is a wide interest. It is not a convention in the usual sense of that term, for it has no party call as a basis. It is perhaps best described as a national union conference.

Originally it was called not by the Farmers' Alliance Convention at Ocala, Fla., last year, but by members of that convention, and the time was set for Feb. 23 in this city. That call was addressed to all who have stood up for independent political action on the questions of finance, transportation, labor, and land, and asked for delegates to a national conference from the following organizations: The Independent Party, the People's Party, the late Federal and Confederate soldiers, the Farmers' Alliance, North and South; the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association, the Citizens' Alliance, the Knights of Labor, the Colored Farmers' Alliance, and all other industrial organizations that support the principles of the St. Louis agreement of December, 1889. The ratio of representation was one delegate from each Congressional district by State organizations, and two at large from the State; not less than three delegates to each district organization and not less than one to each county organization. In addition to this the editor of each newspaper supporting candidates nominated on the St. Louis agreement was invited to become a delegate.

This call was signed by about seventy persons from seventeen States. It met with objection from various sources, partly because its purpose was announced to be to form a national union party based on the fundamental ideas of finance, transportation, labor, and land. This opposition had the effect of necessitating a delay, and the date of the conference was changed to May 19. The State Executive Committee of the People's Party of Indiana, composed of some of the original signers of the call, enlarged the representation so as to include the American Federation of Labor, trades unions, and trades assemblies, the Federation of Railway Employes, and the Nationalists. The Citizens' Alliance of Kansas at a convention at Topeka, Feb. 7, reissued the call, stating the object to be to adopt a platform and make such arrangement for the conflict of 1892 as the conference may deem fitting.

From this outline of its call it is plain that difficulty will arise in settling questions if any arise upon credentials, and also that the real purpose of the conference is not clearly defined. Already two views are being urged in various quarters upon the question of forming a third party, and it has gone so far in some places as to cause organizations opposed to the third party to refuse to send delegates, while others are electing delegates for the avowed purpose of defeating the formation of a third party. The conference promises to be one with a task before it likely to call for the best wisdom of its delegates.