

push for a central American canal gave the McKinley administration a surprising international flavor.²⁶

The Republicans were on a political crest and no opposition to a McKinley renomination arose within the party. The President received all of the delegates' votes at their Philadelphia convention where he permitted the convention to choose his running mate to replace Vice President Hobart who had died in 1899. Coming to the forefront was a Spanish-American War hero and popular New York Governor, Theodore Roosevelt. Harmonious and in control of the Federal government, the Republicans were confident of victory in the general election.

The Democratic convention held in July was remarkably unified with William Jennings Bryan being renominated without opposition. Former Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois again received the Democratic nomination for that office besting a field of seven candidates.²⁷ The platform reflected the secondary status of the currency issue as the Democrats attacked the McKinley international expansion and called for stronger anti-trust measures.

The campaign of 1900 mirrored 1896 in many respects with Bryan on the campaign tour and McKinley leaving those chores to others, including his right hand man, Mark Hanna, and the magnetic vice presidential nominee, Teddy Roosevelt. With a feeling of material well-being and an enlivened sense of national pride, McKinley easily won re-election. The Republican electoral vote margin (292 to 155) and popular vote margin (859,694) represented increases over 1896.

1900 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
Wm. Jennings Bryan (D)	122,238	6,358,345		155
Eugene V. Debs (S)	388	86,935		
Seth H. Ellis (UR)	145	5,693		
Wm. McKinley (R)	136,185	7,218,039	8	292
Joseph F. Malloney (L)	903	40,900		
John C. Woolley (Pr)	4,574	209,004		

Counter to the national trend, Bryan improved on his first presidential effort in Maryland although McKinley again pulled an all Republican congressional delegation from Maryland. The Democrats carried seven counties²⁸ and cut McKinley's 1896 edge in Baltimore City by almost two-thirds. The Democratic debacle of 1895 had been short lived. Although a Republican legislature had, in 1899, denied Democratic boss Gorman a return to the U.S. Senate seat he had held for 18 years, the Democrats recaptured the Governor's office in 1899 and were re-asserting their control over the state legislature and county offices. Progressivism had brought a viable two-party system to Maryland but the "old guard" would wager a few more fights. With