

THE DEMOCRAT

Washington and Lee University

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FIRST DAY OF CONVENTION INCREDIBLE MEETING CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Credentials Committee Get Extra Power

The first session of the National Democratic Convention was called to order at 3:40 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the University Chapel by Mr. B. D. Smith, of the National Committee. Mr. James Somerville was asked to read the call which he did. Mr. Smith announced that the National Committee had nominated Mr. C. N. Hobson, of Washington, as the temporary chairman of the convention, Mr. Somerville, of New Jersey, as temporary secretary, and Mr. J. H. Miller, as sergeant at arms. Mr. H. E. Meek and Mr. E. S. Merrill were appointed as assistants to the Secretary. Mr. Ramsey, of Arkansas, moved that the nominations of the National Committee be accepted. Mr. Wilcox, of Pennsylvania, seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. Mr. Hobson was then declared to be the temporary chairman of the convention and he immediately took the chair amid great applause. The chairman made a strong speech in which he outlined the Democratic prospects. At the conclusion of the address, Mr. Goodloe, of Wisconsin, moved that the rules of the last Democratic Convention be continued until the present convention adopt its own rules. Mr. Gray, of Texas, seconded the motion which was carried. At this juncture the Nebraska delegation entered the hall with a banner on which were the words "Nebraska for Bryan." This created quite a commotion and the chairman rapped repeatedly for order.

Mr. Mann, of Virginia, moved that the chairman of each State delegation appoint one man to serve on each of the four committees. Mr. Dow, of New Mexico, seconded this motion. Mr. Peck, of California, rose and said some of the States had already appointed committeemen. The chairman ruled that the appointments would stand. Mr. Mann's motion was voted on and accepted. The secretary was instructed to call the roll of the States, each State chairman reading out the members from his State on the several committees. Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and the Philippine Islands failed to answer to the roll call. In order to prevent confusion in time and place of meeting, Mr. Hobson arranged that the committees come together as follows: The Credentials Committee in the Economics Room at 8 o'clock, the gentleman from Mississippi acting as temporary chairman; the Permanent Organization committee in Prof. Staples' lecture room with the gentleman from Porto Rico as temporary chairman; the Committee on Rules and Order in Prof.

Burke's lecture room, the gentleman from New York being temporary chairman; the Resolutions Committee in Prof. Long's lecture room, being headed temporarily by the gentleman from Wyoming. Mr. Ramsey, of Arkansas moved that the Credentials Committee be empowered to decide on contests in State conventions. Mr. Hanna, of Alabama, seconded the motion. Mr. Hobson, of New York, spoke against the motion. Mr. Ramsey rose and said that he had introduced the motion to facilitate business. Mr. Deshazo, of Arizona, amended the motion so that, in order for a contest to be instituted, there should be presented to the Credentials Committee a request for a contest, signed by a majority of the members of the delegation in question. This amendment was accepted. Mr. Ramsey said that by his motion he intended the decision of the Credentials Committee should be final. The motion was voted on by a roll call of the States and was carried. Mr. Gibson, of Nebraska, moved that visitors be admitted to the Convention Hall. Mr. Converse, of Tennessee, seconded the motion which was accepted. Mr. Herndon, of Utah, moved that the convention adjourn until 10 o'clock Wednesday morning. The temporary chairman declared that the convention stood adjourned.

SMITHSON CHAIRMAN

Alumnus Chosen For That High Office

The committee on permanent organization met Tuesday night in the law building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Smith, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Reviere, of Puerto Rico, was nominated for permanent chairman and after Mr. Smith had gracefully withdrawn in his favor, was elected.

Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Noble Doak Smithson for the permanent chairman of the convention. After a short discussion at which the nominee was much complimented he was unanimously elected. It was decided to recommend that the temporary secretary be continued in office.

Philadelphia Inquirer: Mr. Roosevelt returns to his own defense in the matter of the Harvester Trust and virtually places President Taft in the Ananias Club. It is an ill-natured document.

Indianapolis News: The record in this harvester case is perfectly clear and plain, and it is most damaging to Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bonaparte. Neither one of them deigns to discuss it.

Bolting And Re-Bolting--- Why, When, Where!

The Credentials Committee which by the vote of the convention in session had been given the power to decide upon contested State primaries, met in Newcomb Hall on Tuesday. Disorder and confusion were rampant and the meeting resembled a cross between a suffragette meeting and a Mexican revolution. Being given this new power naturally excited every man appointed on the committee and forty responded to the roll call.

Mr. Halbert, of Mississippi, acted as temporary chairman and after a spirited election, Mr. Keister, of far away Puerto Rico, was made permanent chairman with Mr. Somerville of New Jersey as permanent secretary. By a vote of 22 to 18 it was decided to allow proxies, it being strictly a partisan vote, the Clark men vigorously protesting against such action.

Mr. Peck of California, spoke earnestly against the right of Mr. Yonce of Rhode Island to serve as a member of the committee and as substantiation of his claim submitted a petition signed by three of the Rhode Island delegation. In this they charged Yonce with relieving Mr. Curry of the responsibility of serving and appointed himself as a member. Mr. Yonce arises and speaks in his own defense, after which Mr. Curry states his viewpoint. As the best means of solving the problem the Rhode Island delegation was asked to retire and then, one by one, in jury fashion, they were called in and cross-examined. But again party lines were drawn and finally in order to preserve some degree of harmony, Mr. Somerville, of New Jersey, moved that Mr. Curry be seated and the convention thus acted.

Next came the protest containing the row in the Massachusetts primary. The Clark forces contending that the petition to be brought before the committee was not properly signed. However, their objections were overruled and the Wilson vote was sustained. The committee then took up the Missouri case. Mr. Pifer presented a petition signed by eleven men alleging that they constituting a majority of the delegation, had not been duly notified of the meeting called by the chairman. But at the meeting the chairman showed extreme partiality that in fact Mr. Keaton had been duly elected chairman and that among the many illegalities at the meeting were certain false proxies.

Mr. Peck attacked the validity of the petition in a heated argument, re-

moving his coat to get rid of superfluous heat, but in spite of this radiation the committee decided to receive the petition.

Mr. Pifer then began to present the evidence for the petitioners. He read an affidavit of Mr. H. D. Newman who affirmed that he was a member of the Missouri delegation, that he had inquired in vain as to where meeting was to be held, and had known nothing of it until when he was at least a mile distant from the place of meeting a kind friend had notified him by telephone.

Mr. Curry moved that the affidavit be quashed for some technical reason but was himself squelched. Then the mighty Californian rose to argue that since the signer was absent and could not be cross-examined it was not fair to consider his evidence. At this juncture Mr. Bowman rose in the rear of the room to announce that he was a full-fledged member of the committee and he stated that he was also a member of the Committee on Rules and Order and began to tell what they had done. The Clark men having enough of this decided to bolt and the aisles were soon darkened with the clouds of the fleeing followers of the houn' dawgs. Then Mr. Peck, slipping gracefully into his coat cried in stentorian tones, "Mr. Chairman is there a quorum present? I demand a roll call." And he dashed madly for the door where he was stopped by the mass of interested observers. The Secretary called the roll and amid applause announced there was a quorum. The motion was then carried to order a new primary election for Missouri, but the Californian giant put in again his shot of objection and in spite of the fervent opposition of Mr. Womble, of Massachusetts, the chair ruled that there had been no quorum present and the motion was invalid.

Mr. Judson now arose to move that those present declare themselves a quorum, to oppose this enough of the bolters returned to have made a full meeting but were warned away. The chair at last ruled Mr. Judson out of order.

At length Mr. Somerville, of New Jersey, rose to speak a few well-chosen words of grave and dignified advice to the uproarious gathering, informing the delegates that since the matter would have to come up in convention it might just as well be postponed. Then he moved to adjourn which was done and no one either of the committee or of the spectators has been able to find out exactly which did not happen at this most curious meeting.