

The Democrat

Washington and Lee University
PUBLISHING THE
DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

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THE DEMOCRAT is devoted to the interests of the students of Washington and Lee University in their convention to nominate a candidate for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of these United States.

Contributions should be handed to any member of the staff.

Meeting Of The Platform Committee

For two hours, filled with discussion and fervid oratory, the Resolutions Committee held forth in Mr. Long's lecture room on a platform that would catch the votes of all classes and sections. The meeting was called to order by Mr. A. J. Harbert, who was elected chairman with Mr. Robert McGehee as Secretary. The National Committee through a sub-committee, had prepared a tentative platform and the chairman presented this to the Resolutions Committee. It was taken up plank by plank and, with one change and one addition, was adopted as the one to be put before the National Convention. On some points the argument waxed hot and furious, each man desiring to put in some favorite clause. Once a gentleman who had been told by another that he was a "little off," remarked in answer that "it took a thief to catch a thief" and "it takes a fool to catch a fool." Order was at last restored and business resumed. One measure that caused considerable expenditure of energy was a proposed plank favoring the building of levees along the Mississippi River to protect the people against floods. This was defeated on the ground that it was sectional legislation and, as something that Congress could and probably would, attend to. The labor question also came in for its share of attention but at last it was satisfactorily settled along with the banking ques-

tion and Porto Rico's desire for statehood.

Scholars, lawyers, teachers, doctors, soldiers, laborers, bankers, capitalists, all would have been benefited if they could have heard the able arguments brought up on all subjects. At last the committee tired, but triumphant, adopted the platform and adjourned.

Meeting Of The Rules And Order Committee.

The meeting of the Rules Committee held in the Law Building Tuesday night was marked by scenes of disorder and confusion and so thoroughly were matters muddled up that the report of the committee to the National Convention will in one section uphold the unit rule and in another, reject it.

The difficulty all came about through the inability to procure a proper definition of the term "unit rule" and as a result, a lively argument ensued between committee men Glasgow, Wurth, and Keller, one man speaking in favor of the rule one minute and getting up to oppose the next. The consensus of opinion, however, was that the issue will have to be fought out on the floor of the convention and the "unit rule" question settled for all time. The opening of the committee session was peaceful with the calm that precedes the storm prevailing. Mr. C. E. Williams was elected chairman and the proxy rule was put through, the rule providing that proxies shall only be granted to the Press Committee and Band. A slight rumbling was heard when the "two thirds" rule was adopted but the storm burst when after the unit rule had been rejected, attempts were made to embody its features in a different form. It is impossible to accurately describe what happened. Even men of cold analytical minds were completely at sea as to what was occurring during the latter part of the meeting and enough oratory was furnished to fill the Congressional Record for a year and finally everybody gave it up as a bad job, adopted Robert's Rules of Order and adjourned the meeting.

An Appeal

It seems to be the custom of all college publications, during their strenuous, varied and precarious existence, to fill up space with a pathetic and impecunious appeal to delinquent subscribers. "O, Tempore, O Mores." Alas that The DEMOCRAT cannot break away from custom, but we must live and pay our debts.

There are about 100 unpaid subscriptions—let the 1 be struck out! The DEMOCRAT does not mind having those 99 of unpaid subscriptions but 1 plus two zeros is overpowering. Twenty-five cents is not much—any man can pay that and it won't seriously interfere with his trip to Lynchburg but add one hundred together and "it's fierce." Pay up your subscriptions at once and let us all settle up.

You two hundred men who have

not subscribed, have not you had enough fun out of the convention to pay a quarter towards the support of a feature that makes the convention what it is? The DEMOCRAT is a necessary evil and as money is the root of all evil let's get at the root of this matter and get your subscription. Drop in the Co-op today and pay that little quarter and get all the issues. You need 'em. It is four years until another DEMOCRAT will be published, so this is your last chance to have one as a souvenir—something to show the folks at home. Honest now, you know you want it so overcome that physical aversion to parting with that silver. Shut your eyes and hand it over.

Picture Of An Ex-President

(From a speech of the Hon. Martin W. Lyttleton, Oct. 24, 1910.)

"The vast region of Mr. Roosevelt's political economy he has peopled with a law-made race of men and women who grope their way about in the very fog of diffuse and unrelated power. In the wide range of his active mind he has never encountered a structure of authority which he would not change; a form of government which he would not alter; a society which he would not transform. In the long reach of his ample and enriched years he has never met with a philosopher whom he would not advise; a teacher whom he would not instruct; a soldier whom he would not command; a King whose sceptre he would not wield; a book which he would not rewrite; a religion which he would not reorganize; a civilization which he would not reconstruct.

"In government bound by no law; in life bound by no policy; in intercourse bound by no attachment; in debate bound by no record; in society bound by no conventions; in conduct bound by no tradition; in attack bound by no strategy; in retreat bound by no order; in ambition bound by no limit; he towers to-day the embodiment of conscious and unconstrained power. He is the final, conclusive and dogmatic answer to the riddles of the universe."

The Outside World

It is not only within the walls of the University that the DEMOCRAT is making a sensation but its influence is being felt in every place where it has been circulated. Of course all the prominent DEMOCRATS of the land are put on the list and the first copies from the press go to them. But also the REPUBLICANS of the U. S. A. are honored with this publication as it may serve to convert them from the error of their way and make them into followers of the grand principles of Jeffersonian Democracy.

But as it always takes time for good ideas to take hold on the minds of conservative men we are not expecting any great change in the immediate policies of the Colonel or our President of to-day. Besides both of them are too busy fighting each

other to spend much time in thinking over the axiomatic truths contained in these pages. But as true followers of the cause we are not despairing even of them as we confidently expect to bring the whole nation in line with us in the time we are before them.

We have at the time we go to press gotten two encouraging messages from men of National prominence. We would be glad to publish the one which comes from that grand old leader of the Democrats, William Jennings Bryan, but he made it specific that his compliments were not to be given out to the world, since perhaps some of his critics might take the wrong meaning from his remarks. And not wishing to go counter to the wishes of so eminent a man we refrain from putting his message into cold print. However he said that he was watching to see the result of the convention and was holding the next issue of the *Commoner* until we had elected, for no man would be supported by that sheet in the future unless he was approved here in the first instance.

But as Mr. Mack did not put a ban on his message we take the liberty of publishing it for the public. We were surprised to hear from him so early but his promptness is a sign of the general National interest. His wire is as follows:

Buffalo, N. Y., May 11.
Editors of The DEMOCRAT,
Washington and Lee University,
Lexington, Va.

The first issue of the DEMOCRAT came to me a few hours ago and I am wiring you my congratulations. As you so modestly claim you are indeed the pioneers in the field, leading the party to the logical candidate for the Baltimore Convention. Be sure that as chairman of the Democratic Committee I express the real interest and attention of the whole party as we await the result of your deliberate consideration and your choice which will be so nearly binding on the party. Choose wisely and well.

NORMAN MACK.

Our Nominee

Democrats, attention. Remember the Titanic. She was a well built ship, said to be the best in the world, but when all seemed well and the outlook relaxed a little the shock came that startled the nations. Political parties are like ships, the best of them must be well managed or they will flounder. The structure may be the very best, the crew may be men of skill, but if the pilot is not competent—the ship may never come into port at all.

The Great Ship of DEMOCRACY is a masterpiece of the world's greatest political shipyard. She has a splendid crew of able citizens, men of the highest faith and patriotism. But what she now asks is that the best of these be chosen as the pilot. We must have a pilot who knows the route and who can guide the ship safe from the dangers which still rage on the deep seas political.

But there are several who aspire to be at the helm when the run of the good ship of state is started. They have spoken to us on the other pages

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Opening Speech Of The Convention

Delivered By The Silver Tongued Orator, C. N. Hobson, the Temporary Chairman.

Temporary chairman, C. N. Hobson took the chair amid considerable applause and began to outline the position of the party in general terms.

Some of his remarks were as follows: "Fellow Democrats gathered here from the length and breadth of these glorious United States resplendent—Democrats, for what other more complimentary name could I use—Democrats hail and greeting to you all! We have gathered here from all parts of our glorious Union from where the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada rise in majesty to the heavens above; from there to where the blue waters of the Gulf play on the golden sands of Texas; from the forests of Maine to the banks of the Great Lakes and the Valley of the Colorado. Some of us have journeyed from the plains of the fertile prairies or the rich river bottoms which line in uniform fertility the banks of the Father of Waters. There is no State which cannot find among its best citizens some of them in front of me, for there are men from the bleak coasts of Alaska, the Isles of the Spanish Main and the faraway islands of the Orient. And yet why are we here? This is the question which we have to determine and answer.

"We have gathered on this most felicitous and promising occasion to nominate the next President of these United States. Not the nominee of a party but the next President of the Union. (Applause). In former times it has been said that Democratic conventions were held to register the quadrennial objection of this party against the government of the Republican misrule, but such is no longer the case. Here we are to consult and to consider and determine who shall be the next President, not the next nominee. For this is the year of Democratic opportunity.

And why is this the year of the Democratic opportunity? And these are the reasons why this is the year of opportunity. The solid South is solidier this year than they ever were before. The States south of the Mason and Dixon line are now lined up with as true solidity as they did fifty years ago when the Confederate States of America were in existence and the whole section was lined up in arms against a common foe. As really as the South was solid when shoulder to shoulder the sons of Dixie marched over the fields of the wilderness or charged the heights at Gettysburg, just that certainly will they be found in the Democratic columns when the votes are taken in November. Some of our esteemed contemporaries of the more northern States have had the effrontery to call the solid South by another term—the thinkless South—but the one who says this knows little or nothing of the reason which made the South truly solid and impervious to the flatteries of the Republican promises. Those only who have known and suffered under the war and the worse than war which followed in the can-

ker worm of the reconstruction times can truly understand the reasons which made the South even at this date a unit. Unified by struggle, by failure, by pride and conservative disposition these States stand to-day as they have always been and will long continue.

But in curious contrast with the solidity of the Southland is found the disorder and uncertainty which exists now in the North. In the Empire State of the Nation is found a Democratic Governor, to the west in Ohio we find a leader of Democracy who was able to carry his State for his party against a Republican candidate for President only a few years ago and who now is stronger than ever before. In New Jersey we also find another leader of the party who has taken this State from the clutches of the enemy. Missouri has lined up again in the place where she of right belongs and Indiana and Massachusetts are to be found in the fold of Democracy. In Washington we find a House of Representatives which is led and controlled by the Democrats and where the Republicans occupy the position which they of right ought to have. For there we find them on the floor of the House represented by a minority leader. Of course, for the purposes of good government there ought to be a minority but may it ever be and continue to be a Republican one.

Thus when we find the year of opportunity for those who follow the traditions of Jeffersonian Democracy let us look for a moment into the camp of the other party and find how goes the fight with them. And a glorious fight it is too.

Four years ago a victorious and triumphant party under the name of the Republicans of U. S. A. were together and fighting as an organized body. One of the great leaders of the tribe chose his successor and gave out that this man was the one chosen of the Lord to carry out "my policies." How did he do this? The policies were carried out, too, for awhile. Just two years ago two men on one of the porches of New England and apparently were glad to see each other. "Hello, Bill," says one, and the answer came clear, "Why, hello, Theodore." Now ask any man who knows the conditions of things what would be the result if these two leaders of their party were to meet at this date? There would either be a fistic encounter, or the coldest of cold shoulders toward each other, as though a breeze had suddenly come in from the cold place on the Antarctic shores.

To-day one of them stands on the back end of a train and to the assembled people of these United States calls the other "Liar," and the answer, perhaps more dignified, but none the less full of meaning, comes back speaking in careful terms of mendacious falsehood and deliberate falsification. The other word, shorter and uglier, he does not use, simply because he doesn't care to use the term. When these two leaders continue

to sling the vilest terms of the language at each other and descend as holders and ex-holders of the presidency, to the cheapest billingsgate, who can expect that the party will not be torn asunder. Already as small as a man's hand there appears on the political horizon the cloud which will in all probability result in the dark horse of the Republican convention and show both of these leaders too ambitious and self-seeking to hold the chance to run. And even this dark horse will have a horrible and dangerous task to piece together the torn shreds of the garments of the Republican party and bring the votes out of chaos.

The Democrats, on the other hand, are as one man harmonious. No one leader makes any effort to tear down another, knowing full well that such an attempt is also tearing down his party.

Let us, then, continue this harmony, this uniformity of thought and of action. In the binding together of many weaknesses there comes out an article of strength and in Union of the combined powers of Democracy we can be sure of having not mere strength, but an irresistible power to brush aside, break down and sweep over all opposition until success be ours; until once more as in the good, old days of old, when there was a Democratic city of Washington; until the triumphant rooster of successful Democracy can crow from the very tip of Washington Monument, and the city and the nation be ours; until we can see in the White House—a gentleman, a Democrat and a president; in the Senate a majority of the Democratic minds doing their duty to their party and to their constituency, in the House a body controlled by the master minds of Democratic strategy leading ever onward the policies of the nation.

Long have we suffered under Republican mis-rule, long labored in bondage under this or that Tariff, each one more iniquitous, more vile and more injurious than the one before, but now we come united and determined to put an end to the domination of such tyranny and to free ourselves and the nation from such infamous servitude.

The people of the United States have shown their willingness already to return to the fold of the fathers and need only the right man to lead them on. But that leader we must have. One in whom the people believe, one whom the masses can trust, that's the timber for our nominee. The man who can govern well and wisely the policies of so great and varied a nation, the man who has the confidence of the nation before the election and who is honest, strong and true enough to retain it after his term of office is closed and his days of service over.

Choose then, delegates, well and wisely choose. Select the man who in the face of the opposition or the Big Interest, Big Stick, and overfed elephant of militant Republicanism, can carry the votes of the nation for himself and for Democracy, can control the faith of the nation for Democracy. Take the opportunity as presented by the very condition of things and choose the man to meet the conditions. Wisely choose and well, and be sure that the fate of the nation

hangs perhaps on the vote of a single man. Vote wisely, then vote well.

Our Nominee

(Continued from page two.)

of this paper and from the daily press they are ever before the public attention. Who has not heard of Wilson, Underwood, Harmon, Clark, Gaylor, Marshall or the other good men and true who would be willing to give their time and attention and most wisely well so to give to the cause.

But we cannot have all of them. One of them and the strongest one must be chosen. You, Mr. Delegate, are the one to select him. Choose you well and seriously for the fate of a nation may hang on your choice. Let no one say of you that you lost the nation. It might be—for the loss of a vote, the pilot was lost; for the loss of the pilot the ship was lost; for the loss of the ship the cause was lost; for the loss of the cause the nation was lost; yet all for the loss of a misplaced vote.

Select wisely and with deliberation then and as one on whom the destinies of the nation rest. Mr. Delegate, you are a man of the people and for them. You are a patriot and must answer the pleading of the folks at home who sent you to do their work. You are the one to secure back to them the rights which have been taken away by the harpies of modern practices and by the iniquitous conditions which prevail in these days of greed and avarice in high places.

Choose then and wisely choose—the pilot who can steer the good old ship of state when he is President and the man who can successfully turn the stories of this Democracy's opportunity from talk into votes when the glad news comes that the triumphant rooster crows aloud from the pinnacle of Washington monument. Then the shade of the great departed, the Father of His Country to whom that pile is erected will be made all the happier to see that things are moving as they should go.

Washington Herald: President Roosevelt declined to prosecute the Harvester Trust, and President Taft has shown no indecent haste to do so.

Albany Argus: The fact that the Republicans are looking about thus early for a compromise Presidential candidate is a confession that the party leaders realize the party is doomed to defeat regardless of who is nominated if either Taft or Roosevelt gets the nomination. A compromise candidate is a forlorn hope, and a mighty slender one at that. There will be no Moses this year to lead the G. O. P. out of the wilderness of disruption into which its own folly has plunged it.

Philadelphia Times: Mr. Taft's retirement is the next logical step. It will probably be preceded by talk about a third candidate. We shall see a renewal of the endeavor to get Hughes into the situation.

It has been figured by a Taft Republican that the President needs but 47 more votes to get the nomination and that Roosevelt is 311 votes short.