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## THE DEMOCRACY IN COUNCIL.

### FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The State Democratic Convention assembled last evening, in pursuance of the call of the State executive committee in the hall of the House of Representatives, at 7 o'clock.

Shortly after this hour, on motion of Gen. Butler, Col. D. Wyatt Aiken was called to the chair as temporary presiding officer.

On motion of Gen. Butler, Mr. T. C. Gaston, of Chester, was requested to act as temporary secretary.

The proceedings were then opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. E. J. Meynardie.

On motion of Mr. M. P. O'Connor, of Charleston, the State Democratic executive committee were invited to participate in the proceedings, without the privilege of voting. This courtesy was also extended to the county chairman of the party.

On motion of General Butler, the secretary proceeded to call the roll of delegates. [The list of delegates is omitted for want of space.]

Mr. J. S. Richardson, of Sumter, offered a resolution that the convention proceed to permanent organization by the election of a President, six Vice-Presidents, and two secretaries; that nominations be made from the floor of the convention, and that the election be by ballot.

Major Meetze, of Lexington, offered an amendment to strike out "by ballot," and insert "viva voce."

The amendment was adopted, and the resolution agreed to.

A motion to postpone the election of permanent officers until to day was almost unanimously voted down.

General Gary offered a resolution that the sense of the convention be that the representation of each county in the convention be twice the number of its members in the Legislature.

This resolution was explained by General Gary to mean that the members in the Legislature included Senators and Representatives, and said that the secretary of the State executive committee erred in his report of the resolution adopted by the committee by limiting the representation to double the numbers in the lower branch of the General Assembly.

The resolution elicited a discussion, in which Messrs. Butler, Gary, Mullins, Lipscomb, McQueen, Tillman, Wallace, Richardson and others participated.

During the discussion, Mr. Mullins was ruled out of order, and on appeal to the convention, the chair was unanimously sustained, when Mr. Mullins withdrew from the convention.

General Gary then withdrew his resolution.

It was then agreed that a majority of the votes cast should decide each election.

The permanent organization was then proceeded with.

General Butler then nominated General J. B. Kershaw, of Kershaw, for permanent President, which was unanimously adopted by acclamation.

General M. L. Bonham, of Edgefield; Col. T. Y. Simmons, of Charleston; J. A. Hoyt, of Anderson; J. A. McQueen, of Darlington; ex-Gov. B. F. Perry, of Greenville; and Gen. Johnson Hagood, of Barnwell, were unanimously elected Vice-Presidents.

Mr. T. C. Gaston, of Chester, and Mr. J. J. Fox, of Colleton, were elected secretaries.

On motion of General Butler, the chair was requested to appoint a committee of three to wait upon the President elect, and escort him to the chair.

The chair appointed General M. C. Butler, Captain W. B. Stanley, and Colonel J. B. Moore as the com-

mittee, who escorted Gen. Kershaw to the chair.

General Kershaw, upon taking the chair, briefly addressed the convention. He assured the gentlemen of the convention that it was as much a surprise as gratification to him at being called upon to fill so distinguished a position. He felt that the most distinguished position that any man in the State of South Carolina can occupy at the present time is to be the presiding officer of that class of ostracized citizens whose voice should always be heard in shaping the destinies of the State. He excused himself from saying more than assuring the convention of his heartfelt thanks for the honor conferred. He felt that this was not the occasion, if it was otherwise proper, that he should offer measures or counsel for the consideration of the convention, when the battle for the redemption of the State, in which the Democracy expected to be victorious, was so far distant. As a military man, he should not indicate his plan of battle until the enemy has somewhat developed his plan of campaign. He said it would be a presumption on his part to indicate what should be the course of this convention, of which he was incapable, and, therefore, would announce that the chair was ready to entertain the business of the convention.

Gen. Johnson Hagood, of Barnwell, offered the following preamble and resolutions:

The Democratic party of South Carolina having met in convention, after being without active organization for several years, this convention will address itself exclusively to the work of the re-organization of the party in the State and the selection of proper representatives in the National Convention of the party. The following shall be the order of business of this convention:

1. The first business of the convention shall be the election of delegates to the National Convention of the party, to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, on the 27th day of June. There shall be fourteen (14) delegates elected—two (2) for each of the Congressional Districts into which the State is divided, and four (4) for the State at large, and an equal number of alternates for each Congressional District and for the State at large.

2. The next business shall be the election of the State executive committee, consisting of fifteen (15) members, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

3. That the convention then to go into secret session.

A discussion ensued upon the resolution, during which Mr. Tillman, of Edgefield, freely discussed the policy of the party, when there appeared to be a desire to debate the resolutions in secret session, and it was indicated that if there should be a division of counsel, it should be kept from the public until a plan of party organization and action had been fully developed and was made harmonious.

To obviate further debate of so important a set of resolutions, Gen. Butler offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a committee of fifteen, to consist of three from each Congressional District, be appointed by the convention to be known as a Committee on Business, whose duty it shall be to prepare business for the convention, and to report a plan of action, to whom all resolutions shall be referred.

Resolved, That said committee report to this convention at 10 o'clock Friday morning, to which hour this convention shall stand adjourned.

In the discussion of this resolution, Colonel Aiken said he opposed it, and believed it was only the duty of the convention to elect delegates to

St. Louis, elect a State executive committee, and then go home. Time had been taken up in the discussion of a subject which the convention had no right to take up. He should vote against all measures except the two above mentioned.

General Butler advocated his resolution, and said it was of the utmost importance to the people of South Carolina that the organization of the Democratic party should be discussed and some plan of action be submitted to the people. If the campaign was worth making it was worth preparing for.

The resolutions of General Butler were laid on the table.

The President of the convention was made ex officio Chairman of the State executive committee.

The resolution for secret session elicited some debate, when a motion was made and carried, at 11:30 P. M., to adjourn to 10 o'clock this morning.

### LAST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The State Democratic Convention reassembled in the hall of the House of Representatives yesterday (Friday) morning, at 10 o'clock. Gen. J. B. Kershaw in the chair.

The President called the convention to order, and announced the first business before the convention to be the consideration of the third of the resolutions introduced the previous evening—that the convention go into caucus.

Gen. Gary moved to amend by striking out "caucus," and insert "secret session."

Col. Haskell opposed a secret session, as he was willing that his friends and opponents alike should know what he had to say and do, and what were the intentions of the convention.

Gen. Gary said he was not the author of the secret session, but made the motion in accordance with an agreement had with the author of the resolution for a caucus. He showed the necessity for a consideration of the circumstances surrounding the delegates from those counties in which the Democrats are in a hopeless minority. As for his county, Edgefield, they not only hoped, but were determined to carry the next election on a straight-out Democratic platform.

Col. Ball, of Laurens, thought the matter of a caucus or a secret session should come up for consideration hereafter, and the first thing in hand for the convention was the discharge of those duties for which they were especially sent here—the election of delegates to the St. Louis convention and the choice of a State executive committee. The caucus or secret session should be the last thing brought before the convention.

Gen. Bonham urged that it was contrary to parliamentary usage for a convention or a deliberative body of any character to go into caucus; and suggested that the object desired could be attained by going into a committee of the whole.

Col. Haskell then offered a resolution that the convention adjourn to meet again at 12 m. this day.

This resolution was adopted, and at 10:30 the convention adjourned to meet at 12 m.

Col. Haskell then took the chair, and requested the delegates to the convention to remain for the purpose of holding a caucus, and upon his motion, Col. H. Simonton, of Charleston, was called to the chair.

The reporters of the press, and others not members of the convention were then requested to withdraw.

The caucus was then held, in which the plans and policy of the Democratic party of the State were fully discussed, but no definite plan of action was agreed upon.

At 12 m. the convention re-assembled, President Kershaw in the chair.

The third resolution of the series introduced by Gen. Hagood—that the convention go into caucus—was laid on the table.

Col. Simonton moved that one from each delegation be appointed by the President as a committee to whom all resolutions shall be referred, without debate.

The previous question was called; and the motion adopted.

In accordance with the foregoing motion, the President appointed the following members as said committee, Messrs M C Butler, of Edgefield; J S Cothran, of Abbeville; Paul F Hammond, of Aiken; J A Hoyt, of Anderson; Johnson Hagood of Barnwell; J W Moore of Beaufort; J B Cambell of Charleston; W A Walker, of Chester; A McQueen of Chesterfield; John L Manning of Clarendon; Allen Izard of Colleton; J A Law of Darlington; T W Woodward of Fairfield; B H Wilson of Georgetown; B F Perry of Greenville; F I Sessions of Horry; J D Kennedy of Kershaw; B W Ball of Laurens; H A Meetze of Lexington; W W Harlee of Marion; Y J Pope of Newberry; J C Keith of Oconee; J F Izlar of Orangeburg; R E Bowen of Pickens; A C Haskell of Richland; J H Evins of Spartanburg; T B Frazer of Sumpter; I G McKissick of Union; James McCutchen of Williamsburg; and J S Bratton of York.

Mr. M P O'Connor of Charleston introduced a series of resolutions, charging the prevailing misgovernment and corruption in the State upon the Republican party, urging that they be hurled from power at the ballot box, that the national Republican party be overthrown at the next election, that the Democratic party of this State align themselves with the national Democratic party, that they stand on the platform adopted at Baltimore, and that they pledge themselves never to attempt an interference with the present relations of the citizens of the State as guaranteed by the laws now of force. Referred to the committee on resolutions.

Mr. Sheppard, of Edgefield, offered a resolution from the Democracy of Edgefield, pledging themselves to sustain only well known Democrats for office, both Federal and State.—Referred to the committee on resolutions.

Mr. Edward McCrady, jr. of Charleston, offered a preamble and resolutions, proposing a plan of organization and defining a course of action for the Democratic party of South Carolina. Referred to committee on resolutions.

General Kennedy, of Kershaw, offered a resolution that the action of the convention in electing the President of the convention, chairman ex officio of the State executive committee be rescinded, and that the committee, when selected, elect their own chairman.

The rules were suspended, the resolution considered immediately and adopted.

This action was taken in deference to the wish of the President, Gen. Kershaw.

Col. J N Lipscomb, of Newberry, offered a series of resolutions from the Democratic convention of Newberry, urging immediate and perfect organization of the Democratic party of South Carolina. Referred to the committee on resolutions.

Mr. G B Lartigue, of Barnwell, offered a resolution deeming it inexpedient for this convention to adopt any specific plan of action until the meeting of the national Democratic convention at St. Louis, in order that the democracy of South Carolina may act in harmony with the national Democratic party, but urging a preservation of township and county clubs, for the purpose of being prepared for prompt and decisive action

and that when the convention elects delegates to St. Louis and State executive committee, it stands adjourned subject to the call of five members of the State executive committee.—Referred to the committee on resolutions.

Colonel Keitt, of Newberry, introduced resolutions, which had been read in caucus, and was submitted for reference to committee on resolutions without reading.

The President announced the business before the convention now to be the nomination and election of delegates to the St. Louis convention, to be composed of two from each congressional district and four from the State at large—fourteen in all.

On motion, it was agreed to vote first for the four delegates to the State at large.

The President announced his readiness to receive nominations.

The following nominations were then made:

General M C Butler, of Edgefield; ex-Governor B F Perry, of Greenville; Generals, John Bratton, of Fairfield; W A Evans, of Chesterfield; M L Bonham, of Edgefield; Colonel D Wyatt Aiken, of Abbeville; General J D Kennedy, of Kershaw; Hon J B Campbell, of Charleston; E W Moise, of Sumpter; James A Hoyt, of Anderson; William Wallace, of Richland; and Honorable W D Porter, of Charleston.

Mr. Sheppard, of Edgfield, moved that the four nominees receiving the majority of votes be declared elected delegates from the State at large, and the four receiving the next highest number of votes be declared alternates. Agreed to.

Mr. Richardson, of Sumpter, moved to reconsider the motion just adopted, for the reason that there were twelve nominees, and five or six of them may get all the votes necessary to a choice, and there would be no election, necessitating a second ballot; therefore, it would expedite the business before the convention by electing the delegates first and then the alternates afterward.

On being put to a vote, the motion to reconsider was lost.

The President appointed Messrs. Woodward, Bacon, Ball, Sheppard, Keitt and Brooks as tellers, when the convention proceeded to vote by ballot, as agreed upon.

General Harlee, of Marion, moved that the delegation from each Congressional district nominate two delegates and two alternates, who shall be voted for by acclamation.—Adopted.

General Harlee moved a recess for fifteen minutes, which was laid on the table; Mr. Murray of Anderson, making the point of order that the members could not nominate delegates and alternates from their congressional districts until they had been informed who had been elected as delegates from the State at large.

General James Connor, of Charleston, then addressed the convention briefly, stating that he had supposed that the caucus held earlier in the day was for the purpose of ascertaining from the delegates the desires and views of their constituents as to the course to be pursued by the Democratic party of South Carolina; but as such a purpose had not been developed, he moved that the convention, when it shall deem proper, to go into a caucus for an interchange of views and to give expression to the opinions of their constituents as to the proper course to be pursued by the Democratic party of the State and that speeches be limited to five minutes. Agreed to.

An amendment to make the time for speeches ten minutes was voted down.

Col. McKissick, of Union, solo voice—Five minutes is enough time for gas: There are too many of us for ten minutes time.

On motion of Gen. Connor, the convention, at 1:30, went into caucus under the rule adopted, while the ballots were being counted.

Colonel Simonton was called to the chair.

Exit reporters and spectators. The caucus remained in session until 3 p. m., when the convention re-assembled, and the following result of the balloting was announced:

Delegates from the State at large—General John Bratton, of Fairfield; Hon. W. D. Porter, of Charleston; Col. D. Wyatt Aiken, of Abbeville; Gen. John D. Kennedy, of Camden.

Alternates—Gen. M C Butler, of Edgefield; Col J A Hoyt, of Greenville; ex-Gov B F Perry, of Anderson; ex-Gov M L Bonham, of Edgefield.

The convention at 3:15 p. m. adjourned to 5 p. m.

At 5 p m a majority of the delegates were present in the hall, but the time was consumed by the delegates from the Congressional districts in making their selections of two delegates each until six o'clock, when the President called the convention to order.

The proceedings were opened by the President announcing his readiness to receive nominations for two delegates and two alternates from each Congressional district to the St. Louis convention.

The following nominations were made and unanimously confirmed by acclamation:

1st District—J. R. Richardson, of Sumpter, and J. G. McLucas, of Marion. Alternates—E R McIver, of Darlington; J B McLauren, of—

2d District—M. P. O'Connor, of Charleston; John F. Pickett, of Charleston. Alternates—John L Manning, of Clarendon; J F Izlar, of Orangeburg.

3d District—Gen. S. McGowan, of Abbeville; W. B. Stanley, of Columbia. Alternates—B W Ball, of Laurens; Sampson Pope, of Newberry.

4th District—J. H. Evins, of Spartanburg, and Gov. B. F. Perry, of Greenville. Alternates—W H Wallace, of Union; Gabriel Cannon, of Spartanburg.

5th District—J. C. Sheppard, of Edgefield; William Elliott, of Beaufort. Alternates—J J Fox, of Colleton; Paul F Hammond, of Aiken.

Governor Perry declined as alternate at large, and Col. William Wallace, of Richland, was elected to fill the vacancy.

The convention then proceeded to the election of three members of the State executive committee from each Congressional District, with the following result:

1st District—W. W. Harlee, J. A. Law, T. B. Fraser.

2d District—T. Y. Simmons, J. F. Izlar, Jas. Connor.

3d District—A. C. Haskell, J. N. Lipscomb, J. B. Moore.

4th District—W. D. DePass, T. Stobo Farrow, B. H. Massey.

5th District—A. C. Izard, G. T. Tillman, T. J. Counts.

The committee on resolutions requested further time in which to complete their report, which was granted.

On motion of General Connor, the convention, at 6:30 P. M., again resolved itself into a caucus.

At 8:40 P. M., the convention re-assembled.

The President stated that Captain R. O'Neal, Jr., of Richland, had been appointed Treasurer of the convention to receive contributions for defraying the incidental expenses of the session.

The President announced that the State Executive Committee would meet in the Judiciary Committee room immediately after the adjournment of the convention.

The committee on resolutions submitted the following report on the resolutions referred to them:

The committee of one from each county to whom was referred the resolutions of the gentleman from Charleston, Mr. O'Connor, the gentleman from Newberry, Lipscomb and Keitt, and of the gentleman from Edgefield,

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]