

Constitutional Convention.

THE SUFFRAGE CLAUSE FINISHED.

THE CRIMINAL CLASSES ARE BARRED OUT.

The Legislature Left to Arrange Election Details - Woman's Suffrage Meets Another Defeat.

When the constitutional convention assembled, the suffrage article was once more taken up. The proviso requiring the appointment of election managers from both political parties was struck out, and another fight over woman's suffrage proved unsuccessful.

Section 5 was taken up, and after several unimportant amendments were adopted as follows: "Any person debarred from registration shall have the right to appeal to the court of common pleas, or any judge thereof, and thence to the Supreme Court to determine his right to vote under the limitations imposed in this article, and on such appeal the hearing shall be de novo, and the General Assembly shall provide by law for such appeal and for the correction of illegal and fraudulent registration, voting and all other crimes against the election laws."

Section 6 related to the disqualification of voters, and after the addition of several crimes to those enumerated in the original section, it was passed in this form: "The following persons are disqualified from being registered or voting: First, persons convicted of burglary, or obtaining goods or money under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, robbery, bribery, adultery, bigamy, wife beating, housebreaking, receiving stolen goods, breach of trust with fraudulent intent, assault with intent to ravish, miscegenation and larceny or crimes against the election laws. Provided, that the pardon of the Governor shall remove such disqualification."

Section 7 was adopted without any trouble at all as follows: "For the purpose of voting no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost residence by reason of his presence while or absence employed in the service of the United States, nor while engaged in the navigation of the waters of this State, or of the United States, or of the high seas, nor while a student of any institution of learning."

Section 8 relating to the registration of the voters and the manner of holding elections caused an interesting debate. Mr. Sheppard offered the following amendment: "For the first registration to be provided for under this constitution, the registration books shall be kept open for at least six consecutive weeks and thereafter from time to time, at least one week in each month up to the thirty days next preceding the first election to be held under this constitution."

Mr. Sheppard said it would require a great deal of time to register and this amendment provided for six consecutive weeks, and thereafter one week in each month until the month next preceding the general election. He thought this time was needed and was amply sufficient. The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Gage moved to strike out the words "provided, further, that this section shall apply to all municipal elections." He said that it was impracticable to apply the section to municipal elections.

Mr. Bryan said that it was the idea of the committee that under conditions that will be brought about this provision was necessary. He thought it well to keep it in. If there are not two political parties, then the principle does not apply.

Senator Tillman said the best thing to do was to put a separate section applying to municipalities. Mr. Gage's amendment was then adopted.

Mr. W. D. Evans moved to strike out the entire first proviso of section 8, which allowed the two political parties representation on the boards of managers and canvassers.

Mr. Evans thought that it was best to leave the whole matter of details to the General Assembly.

Brown, J. S. Brice, T. W. Brice, Bryan, Derham, Doyle, Dudley, Fraser, Gage, J. L. Glenn, Harris, D. S. Henderson, Howell, Hutson, George Johnston, McGowan, McMahan, Meares, Miller, Mitchell, Mower, Otis, Patton, Prince, I. R. Reed, Sheppard, Sloan, Jeremiah Smith, B. R. Tillman, Wells, A. H. White, S. E. White, Wigg.

This section was adopted in the following shape: "The General Assembly shall provide by law for the registration of all qualified electors, and shall prescribe the manner of holding elections and of ascertaining the result of the same; provided, that the first registration under this constitution and until the 1st of January, 1898, the registration shall be conducted by a board of three discreet persons in each county, to be appointed by the advice and consent of the first registration to be provided for under this constitution; the registration books shall be kept open for at least six consecutive weeks and thereafter from time to time, at least one week in each month up to 30 days next preceding the first election to be held under this constitution."

Section 9 which has reference to the division of townships into election districts, was taken up. Mr. Sheppard moved to substitute "polling" districts for election districts. This was adopted.

Mr. Johnston offered an amendment at the end in these words: "but no elector shall vote except in the polling district in which he resides." After some suggestion he changed it so as to read: "Provided that a voter upon a change of residence may be transferred from one precinct to another."

Mr. Prince held that "change of residence" was not definite enough as one might change his residence in the same district. The amendment was, however, adopted.

Mr. Stanyarne Wilson offered this substitute: "There shall be established in the several counties in the State election precincts and each voter can be registered only at the nearest precinct and must there cast his vote. Any voter may be transferred from one election precinct to another upon his change of residence."

He said it was utterly impossible to make a geographical division of election districts unless there was a regular survey. As it is now polling precincts are drawn to suit the convenience of the people. It would cost an immense amount of money to divide the counties up exactly. The people ought to be allowed to vote at their nearest precinct.

Senator Tillman said with such a system it would be almost impossible to detect false registrations. It's an elastic margin that will give great play for fraud.

Mr. Bryan said that in many counties the school district and the election district were co-extensive and were well defined. His amendment would not suit a city at all.

Mr. Wilson said that the committee report was drawn for cities and his for the country. He moved to postpone debate in order to perfect amendments, which was agreed to.

Section 10 was passed as follows: "The General Assembly shall provide by law for the regulation of party primary elections and punishing fraud at the same."

was tabled by a vote of 67 to 29, as follows: Yes—Alexander, Anderson, Ashe, Austin, Barry, Barton, Bellinger, Bowen, Breazeale, J. S. Brice, Bryan, Buist, Carver, DeHay, Dennis, Douglass, Doyle, Eldred, Field, Fitch, Fraser, Gary, J. L. Glenn, Gunter, Hamel, Harry, Harrison, J. S. Henderson, Wm. Henderson, Houser, Hutson, T. E. Johnson, George Johnston, Keitt, E. J. Kennedy, McGowan, McKain, McWhite, Matthews, Mitchell, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Otis, Prince, I. R. Reed, Rosborough, Rowland, Russell, Sheppard, Jeremiah Smith, Talbert, Waters, W. B. Wilson.

Nays—Gov. Jan. Gary Evans, President; Atkinson, T. W. Brice, Cunningham, Derham, Dudley, W. D. Evans, Floyd, Gage, Gooding, Hay, Hemphill, J. B. Jones, Willie Jones, McCalla, McMahan, Meares, Miller, Moore, Mower, Patton, Prince, I. R. Reed, Russell, Sloan, Jeremiah Smith, Taylor, B. R. Tillman, S. E. White, Wigg.

Mr. Gage moved to insert the word "counties" wherever "cities" or "towns" occurred. He said that his idea was to protect the counties as well as to protect the cities, so that when counties voted for bonds only the voters owning \$300 worth of property should be entitled to a ballot. The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Jeremiah Smith moved to strike out all the words providing that any voter must own \$300 worth of property. It was unfair. As amended it means that no man except the one owning \$300 worth of property can vote on increasing the State or county indebtedness.

Mr. McCaslan said a great many men had transferred most of their property to their wives and they would be in a bad fix as neither can vote.

Mr. Bryan said there was a great necessity for such a provision. It was going too far to say that one who had no interest in the matter should be allowed to vote on the matter of bonds.

Mr. Prince said that he saw no justice in compelling a man who owned \$250 worth of property to submit to taxation without a vote in it.

Mr. D. S. Henderson said that if Mr. Prince's motion prevailed every elector, white or colored, could vote in such an election and add to the debt of the town. Many towns in the State have a colored majority, who own no property, but may be able to read and write and who would thus be enabled to saddle a large debt on such municipalities. Mr. Prince withdrew his amendment.

The eyes and noses were demanded on Mr. Jeremiah Smith's amendment, which strikes out the property qualification in the several counties of the provision requiring electors to have \$300 worth of property in order to vote on the question of issuing bonds by counties, cities or towns, but section 9, which was passed over, was taken up.

Mr. Stanyarne Wilson offered the following as a substitute to the section: "The General Assembly shall provide for the establishment of polling precincts in the several counties of the State, and those now existing shall so continue until abolished or changed. Each elector shall be required to vote at his own precinct, but provision shall be made for his transfer to another precinct upon his change of residence."

In public life lead to fraud in private life, and if this thing keeps on it will finally invade the jury and no man's life or property will be safe. By all means let the registration books be kept open.

Colonel Talbert thought the sections were all right, but the matter of registration should be left to the Legislature. Section 8 provides that the General Assembly shall provide for all these things. It is just consuming time to talk about fraudulent elections. Let us get along and let the Legislature arrange all details. Let us quit all this talk and oratory and get to work.

Mr. Johnston replied that he had no objection to the gentleman stopping his oratory, but he didn't see how fraud in registration could be prevented by the courts unless there was some way to show that frauds had been committed.

Mr. Talbert said he agreed fully with the gentleman in his idea, but he thought the convention should deal in principles and let the Legislature arrange for details.

Mr. Johnston's amendment was adopted.

Mr. Fitch's amendment as amended was adopted.

Mr. Fitch offered the following: Add to section 11, after the word "interim" on line 3: "or to correct any mistakes, errors, omissions or fraud." He thought that if any mistake or fraud was made a voter would be disfranchised for ten years or more. The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Johnston moved to amend so that the section shall read the books shall close at least thirty days before an election, except to register persons qualified in the interim. As originally drawn the exception applied only to persons coming to age.

Mr. Lee thought that if the word "omission" was left in Mr. Fitch's amendment it went too far and left the books open until the election.

The remaining sections were adopted as follows: Section 14. Electors shall in all cases except treason, felony, or a breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest on the days of election, during their attendance at the polls, and going to and returning therefrom.

Section 15. No power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage in this State.

Mr. Aldrich wanted to know what was meant by the last section.

Senator Tillman said it was put in as a kind of drag net, to prevent fraud or influence or general coarseness. He thought it was eminently satisfactory. (Laughter.) The whole article was then ordered to a third reading.

A WATERLOO FOR DEMOCRACY.

FAREWELL TO THE SOLID SOUTH.

Kentucky and Maryland Gave Glimmering - New York and New Jersey in the Republican Column - Ohio and Kansas Clear Out of Sight.

KENTUCKY.

Silver Democrats Denounce Cleveland and Carlisle and Hold Them Responsible for the Defeat.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov. 6.—Republican claims and Democratic concessions show tonight that not only has Kentucky elected the full Republican State ticket, but that the complexion of the Legislature assures a Republican successor to United States Senator Blackburn.

State Auditor Norman, the Democratic campaign chairman, admits that Blackburn's defeat is assured. "The Republicans, with the help of the Populists, will assuredly control the Legislature," he said, "and Blackburn is sure to be defeated. Kentucky is now a Republican State. The public wanted a change, and they took it. The Republicans being aided by both Populists and A. P. A.'s. No one could have carried Kentucky at this election—not even Carlisle."

Dr. W. G. Gunter, chairman of the Republican State campaign committee, refused to make any estimate as to majorities. "The Republican ticket is elected by round number pluralities," he said, "and the Legislature will be Republican on joint ballot, but I won't make any guesses. I am waiting for authentic figures."

elections were held. It was a Democratic Waterloo.

Tammany elected her local ticket by about 30,000 and New York City went Democratic for secretary of state by 41,000, but the Republicans came down to the Bronx with over 100,000 votes to spare.

In the Tenth congressional district, Amos Cummings, Democrat, was elected, but his success was plainly due to his personal popularity. Of the 50 senators in this State the Democrats elected only 16 and of the 150 assembly men only 46.

The senate elected today will have part in the selection of a successor to Senator David B. Hill and it is plain that he will not be a Democrat. Republican gains were general over the State. In this city and Brooklyn, Republican senators and assemblymen were re-elected where Democrats have been returned year after year. In Brooklyn a Democratic mayor pulled through by a narrow plurality. In Albany, Buffalo and other cities big Republican gains were made.

NEW YORK, Nov. 6.—There is no doubt that the Republican State of fairs have been elected by pluralities averaging about 50,000. The estimated pluralities above the Harlem are about 100,000. The Democrats carried New York City by fully forty thousand and the city of Brooklyn by something like 2,000 to 3,000, leaving a safe margin in the State at large of 50,000 votes in the Republicans' favor.

NEW JERSEY.

The Old Reliable Has Quit Its Ancient Moorings.

NEW YORK, Nov. 5.—The returns of the election in New Jersey indicate a sweeping victory for the Republicans in nearly every district, even in portions which have been for years strongholds of Democracy.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6.—As a result of the latest election returns, the Republicans gain five United States Senators—two from Utah and one each from Kentucky, Ohio and Maryland—and the Democrats lose three—two each from Maryland, Kentucky and Ohio.

OHIO.

interest was taken in the contest for Chief Justice. David Martin, Republican, was generally considered a sure winner, but the returns from the few precincts heard from indicate that the vote for Charles K. Holliday, independent, free silver candidate, will be much larger than was anticipated.

POPULISTS ARE GENERALLY VOTING FOR HIM. Martin's majority may be reduced to 30,000.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 6.—Kansas returns show that the Republicans made practically a clean sweep of the State, carrying a majority of the counties entire and electing many of the officers of the others.

MISSISSIPPI.

The Populists Made a Poor Showing Under the Mississippi Plan.

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 6.—The latest news from the election gives a Democratic majority of from 25,000 to 30,000. Reports from Webster County, which was in great doubt, says that county has been carried by the Democrats. This county has voted strongly against the Democratic party in nearly every election since the war.

UNITED STATES SENATE.

POLITICAL COMPLEXION AS A RESULT OF TUESDAY'S ELECTIONS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6.—As a result of the latest election returns, the Republicans gain five United States Senators—two from Utah and one each from Kentucky, Ohio and Maryland—and the Democrats lose three—two each from Maryland, Kentucky and Ohio.

THE FARM MOTOR.—While the electricians are anticipating the day when steam power will be largely, if not wholly, supplanted by their system, a genius is said to have discovered a novel force, or rather the successful application of an old one. The Philadelphia Record says:

A wonderful engine that will convert the carbon of coal directly into energy without the usual danger and waste of the present steam engine is said to have been invented under the mysterious title of "the thermic carbonaceous motor."