

# THE NEWS

ESTABLISHED 1865.

NEWBERRY, S. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1894.

PRICE \$1.50 A YEAR

## THE STATE CONVENTION.

### FULL REPORT OF ITS DOINGS ON SEPTEMBER 19TH.

Democracy Discussed, an Omnibus Platform and a New Constitution Adopted.

#### A DIRECT PRIMARY GIVEN.

The Nominations Made According to the State—The Demands of the "True" Democrats Ignored—Some Disappointed Candidates.

#### [Special to News and Courier.]

COLUMBIA, S. C., September 19.—There is a political stir in progress for the copyright to the word "Democracy" more aggressive and earnest than that of the nomination for the use of the word "Palmetto." With this contention and the touchiness over the use of the word "Democracy" it would be, perhaps, difficult to say in technical political terms which of the two conventions it was that met here to-day.

The majority of the delegates were Reformers, and they insisted that everything done was Democratic, platform and all, while the minority urged and acted, after the adoption of the platform, upon the principle that the Convention was not Democratic, that its nominees were not standing upon a platform built of Democratic timber. They declined to participate in elections.

The minority made a gallant fight for the adoption of the platform, undeniably and unequivocally Democratic, but the unyielding majority was wedded to its own. It did not do worship at its shrine as boisterously as it has done, but it could not, or would not, renounce it. The organic platform did not denounce Cleveland, that clause was killed in the committee on platform, but the delegates could not neglect the opportunity of imitating Governor Tillman and prod at his figurative ribs.

The resolutions of the Convention of the 17th were received as information, though they might have tempered the ardor of the Convention, for there was really less burrah than customary, but nothing more was accomplished. The news and Courier were prepared in advance by the leaders, and as indicated was practically adopted as it was prepared at the Jerome Hotel.

The most important action so far as the constitution was concerned is the provision for a direct State primary and the consequent abandonment of the State convention system.

The nomination of the State ticket was just about as everyone expected, except the surprise of the defeat of Jones.

The standard-bearers of "Reform" for two years will be: Governor, John Gary Evans, of Aiken.

Lieutenant Governor, W. H. Timmerman, of Edgefield.

Secretary of State, D. H. Tompkins, of Edgefield.

State Treasurer, W. T. C. Bates, of Orangeburg.

Comptroller General, O. W. Buchanan, of Fairfield.

Comptroller General, James Norton, of Marion.

Superintendent of Education, W. D. Mayfield, of Greenville.

John Gary Watts, of Laurens.

Railroad Commissioners, W. D. Evans, of Marlboro; H. R. Thomas, of Sumter; J. C. Wilborn, of York.

Nominee Evans made a long and vigorous speech, defending the platform adopted on the line that it was Democratic, and that with a single exception the Ocala demands were in the Chicago platform or had been in it in some shape by a Democratic Congress.

The proceedings of this Convention of Representative Reformers will no doubt mark an epoch in the political history of South Carolina, and the usual history of the Convention is below a full account of the proceedings. The work of the day, and it was a busy one, speaks for itself.

IREY AND BUTLER WERE PRESENT.

Both the senior and junior United States Senators were at the Convention. Senator Irby was in the gallery, and Senator Butler was in the gallery as a spectator. There were a great many Columbians present during the entire session of the Convention.

THE CONVENTION CALLED TO ORDER.

The Convention was opened by Chairman Irby shortly after noon. He called upon the Rev. Dr. S. M. Smith of Columbia to open the session with prayer. He delivered a fervent prayer, calling for unity of action and praying that the Convention work for the interests of the people.

Chairman Irby then called for nominations for temporary chairman of the Convention.

Mr. Shuman, of Greenville, started things going for the Piedmont by nominating Mr. A. H. Patterson, of Newberry.

The nomination was generally seconded and Mr. Patterson was elected by acclamation. When he assumed control of the Convention, he remarked that the important work of the Convention would be very much facilitated by all of the delegates co-operating with him.

PATTERSON ON THE ISSUES AT STAKE.

"This," he went on to say, "was one of the most important Conventions held in the State in many years. It was an important epoch in the Democratic history of the State. You are not only called upon to nominate your State officers and standard bearers, but you must set upon your own constitution as well as upon the issues that strike at the very life of the Democratic party in South Carolina. Let me ask you, what were their principles. He did not believe in doing the work of a Democrat, and if he was a Democrat then let him stand upon a Democratic platform. Indeed, he did not believe in the first election candidates and putting them on a platform without their knowing anything about it. First put up your platform and then your candidates.

Mr. Behre, of Colleton, who is quite as soon as Mr. Fitzsimons finished his talk. He was very vigorous in his style of oratory. Said he: "We are all Democrats. We are in a convention of Democrats and will elect none but Democrats to any office. What we want to do is to first nominate our candidates and put them on our platform, as it can be nothing but a Democratic platform when made by Democrats. We want to do it in a fair and square way, and we will not tie any man down to a platform, but he did believe in tying a party down with a platform." [Cheers.]

Mr. J. K. Henry, of Chester, said that he believed in doing the work of a Democrat, and if he was a Democrat then let him stand upon a Democratic platform. He said that there was only one correct way of doing the thing that the platform ought to be first adopted and that then

and Mr. Montgomery, of Marion, seconded the nomination of Mr. Efrid. A delegate from Sumter, who thought that the temporary officers were getting along very well, wanted them to be kept in their place. Mr. Patterson said that as far as he was concerned he hoped that the Convention would not want him as its permanent chairman, and that he would very much prefer to have some one else selected as its permanent chairman. Mr. Efrid was then unanimously elected by acclamation.

"NEVER SACRIFICE PRINCIPLES." Chairman Efrid was escorted up to the chair, and he begged to thank the Convention for the honor it had conferred upon him, and through him upon his country. He said:

"You have assembled as the organized Democracy of South Carolina. [Applause.] You are looked upon as the men who are the guardians of the lives and liberties and the property of South Carolina." [Applause.] The eyes of the whole State, as well as the country, he went on to say, were upon the Convention. The result of to-day's deliberations will be closely watched from one end of the land to the other and he hoped that the delegates would do what was for the good of the State.

He said that he felt that he expressed the sentiments of every man in the hall, that he was doing what he thought was for the good of the entire State. "Let me say that there is only one rule in politics and that is the rule of order and the rule of frankness. When men differ with in politics give them a patient hearing, treat them fair but never sacrifice principles for which you have fought and which you think are right."

VICE PRESIDENTS.

In conclusion he said that it was necessary for the Convention to cooperate with him in his work. Nothing could be done except the nomination for vice-presidents of the Convention. The following were selected:

First District—Thos. Tabird, of Beaufort.

Second District—S. G. Mayfield, of Barnwell.

Third District—Belton Watson, of Anderson.

Fourth District—J. D. M. Shaw, of Laurens.

Fifth District—Ira B. Jones, of Lancaster.

Sixth District—J. E. Ellerbe, of Marion.

Seventh District—D. H. Behr, of Colleton.

Messrs. Mixson and Brunson were elected as secretaries of the permanent organization.

PLATFORM OR NOMINATIONS FIRST?

There came a preliminary spat when the platform should be adopted, or whether the nominations should be made first. When it was suggested that the nominations had better be made after the platform had been adopted there was a great outburst of imagined indignation. The suggestion came from a Conservative and that seemed to strike fire from the anxious breast of the Reformers. Yet there were just plenty of the delegates who said that this was the only proper course to pursue, and that they would support it with what rapidly the latent Reform enthusiasm of some of the delegates burst forth.

The suggestion was made that the Convention take a recess at 10 o'clock as soon as the resolutions of the committee on platform and constitution was adopted.

Mr. Patterson moved that the committee receive and report back a platform and such amendments to the party as they might desire.

The committee was then made up as follows:

COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM AND CONSTITUTION.

Abbeville, J. C. Klogh; Aiken, W. N. Marchant; Anderson, S. N. Pearson; Barnwell, A. H. Patterson; Beaufort, Joseph S. Reed; Berkeley, J. B. Morrison; Chester, W. H. Henry; Charleston, C. H. Henry; Chesterfield, R. E. Rivers; Clarendon, B. J. Bradburn; Colleton, L. E. Farley; Darlington, J. E. Miller; Edgefield, W. H. Timmerman; Florence, W. H. Jones; Florence, E. W. McCowan; Georgetown, R. J. Donaldson; Greenville, S. W. Scruggs; Hampton, W. J. Gooding; Horry, J. P. Derham; Kershaw, C. L. Winkler; Lancaster, H. J. Gardner; Laurens, J. C. Wilborn; Lexington, A. Goodwin; Marion, J. E. Ellerbe; Marlboro, J. R. Sampson; Newberry, J. M. Duncan; Oconee, J. N. Earle; Orangeburg, J. W. Stokes; Pickens, J. M. T. Boggs; Richland, W. H. Jones; Spartanburg, J. M. T. Boggs; York, W. L. Gant; Union, D. P. Duncan; York, W. N. Elder; Williamsburg, J. P. Gamble.

A CLAP OF CHARLESTON THUNDER.

After the committee was named Mr. Magill moved to take a recess. Mr. Patterson, of Berkeley, said that this was a working Convention, and that it might be well to go on with the business.

Mr. Watson, of Anderson, suggested that the committee be made up of better men, and in the meanwhile the candidates who were without opposition might be elected.

Here came a clap of thunder. Mr. W. St. Julien Jerry, of the Charleston delegation, in the most important matter possible, made the point of order that the candidates could not first be elected and then the platform be adopted. Questions of principles were argued, and the delegates who were in and he hoped that the platform would be first adopted, and then it would be known whether the candidates would stand upon it.

Mr. Fitzsimons, of Charleston, who was on the committee, said briefly but eloquently that he did not believe that the men in a Democratic convention were afraid to say how they stood or what were their principles. He did not believe in doing the work of a Democrat, and if he was a Democrat then let him stand upon a Democratic platform. Indeed, he did not believe in the first election candidates and putting them on a platform without their knowing anything about it. First put up your platform and then your candidates.

Mr. Behre, of Colleton, who is quite as soon as Mr. Fitzsimons finished his talk. He was very vigorous in his style of oratory. Said he: "We are all Democrats. We are in a convention of Democrats and will elect none but Democrats to any office. What we want to do is to first nominate our candidates and put them on our platform, as it can be nothing but a Democratic platform when made by Democrats. We want to do it in a fair and square way, and we will not tie any man down to a platform, but he did believe in tying a party down with a platform." [Cheers.]

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the candidates should be nominated. Anything else would be irregular.

DR. WYCHE ON TRUE DEMOCRACY.

Dr. Wyche, who once ran for the Senate in Newberry County and is now doing his orating in the conventions instead of in the Senate, said that it was an insult to the Convention to suggest that any of the candidates before it was not a Democrat. White supremacy was a greater principle than anything in this State. As far as Democratic principles were concerned Democrats differed, and if his Democracy was to be measured by that of Grover Cleveland then he was not a Democrat.

Is not John Gary Evans a Democrat? [Cries of yes.] And hurray for Evans. Is there a candidate before this Convention who is not a Democrat? [Cries of yes.] There is I do not know him and I wait to hear his name. He passed for reply. None came. Then he went on to say that a number of men had any right to dictate to this Convention what they should or should not do. He said that a crisis had been reached in the history of the party and that the question was whether it would be passed without trouble. He was lustily cheered.

DUNCAN OBJECTS TO THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE.

Mr. John Duncan, who is also a member of the Newberry delegation, is a red-hot Reformer, but just as soon as Dr. Wyche had taken his seat he got up and said that there was no use for play. The delegates had come to work and the best way to get through with the work was to go about it in a regular way, and that was to adopt a platform and then to elect the candidates who were to run at the platform. There was no use to put the cart before the horse. "Let us do our work in a manly and straightforward way," he invoked.

Mr. Patterson explained that the suggestion was made merely to save time and with no idea in the world of forcing anything or of taking snap judgments.

Mr. Cowan moved that the Convention take a recess until 2:30 o'clock. Others suggested that it would perhaps be better to take a recess until 3:30 o'clock, and after a little talking, a motion was taken to recess until 3:30 o'clock prevailed.

MR. JERVEY'S INQUIRY.

Before adjourning Mr. Jervey inquired particularly whether resolutions should be introduced and read from the secretary's seat or whether they were to be introduced directly to the committee platform without being read. Chairman Efrid announced that resolutions or platforms should be submitted directly to the committee and that they were not to be read in advance.

The committee on platform met in the hall of the House, and the only Conservative to sit with it was Mr. Fitzsimons, of Charleston.

THE CONVENTION RESEMBLES.

It was not until after 4 o'clock that the Convention reassembled. The committee on the constitution and platform had finished its work at 3:30, and there had been a lively and vigorous contest on the platform, especially on the paragraph referring to Cleveland.

The original platform as presented to the committee, and which had been prepared by the leaders, contained this section:

"We denounce the action of President Cleveland in appointing Republicans to office, and joining the ranks of the Republican leaders against the majority of his party in the denigration of silver, his veto of the seizure bill, the invasion of State's rights and his efforts to improve the National Representatives, as unwarranted and unworthy of the successor of Jefferson and Madison, and the betrayal of the platform upon which he was elected."

In this paragraph that the big fight took place in the committee, and it is said that it was knocked out by a vote of 15 to 14. It was put in by the leaders. When the Convention met Chairman Efrid read the platform. It was a plain and unadorned paragraph of President Cleveland.

Upon reassembling Chairman Duncan, of the committee, was called upon for the report of the committee. He said that he had a platform, a new constitution and a new platform. He said that he had a platform, a new constitution and a new platform. He said that he had a platform, a new constitution and a new platform.

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and the views of those he represented would not be allowed a fair expression. He did not believe it. He did not believe that a convention of South Carolinians could use to allow a minority a full and fair presentation of the views of their constituents. Then taking up the majority report on the platform Mr. Fitzsimons said the first and second planks affirming allegiance to the National Democratic platform were correct and proper. The third plank was, he considered, undemocratic and violated the Ocala plank in the national platform. He said in the absence of an international agreement it would be impossible for the party to insist upon such a ratio. There could be but one unit of value. To stamp upon a silver dollar coined in such a ratio, in fact and intrinsically the silver was not worth so much, was to stamp a lie upon the face of the dollar.

A delegate asked whether the Chicago Convention did not provide for free coinage.

Mr. Fitzsimons explained his position. Larry Gantt said that Speaker Crisp had advocated free silver at the ratio of sixteen to one.

Mr. Fitzsimons said Mr. Crisp did not mean the Democratic party. He considered the platform proposed by the majority undemocratic and could not vote for it. The most vital objection was in insisting upon the Ocala demand, that the silver was undemocratic, as a test of true Democracy.

He, too, believed in white supremacy, and would, therefore, never enter an Administration which placed Charleston in the black district. Mr. Fitzsimons closed the brief debate as the Convention was impatient for a vote, and there were frequent calls for "Question" "question!" The Convention had long ago made up its mind, and the majority report was read it knew what was expected.

Mr. Earle, a "light in the West" man, renewed the call for the majority report. He was satisfied.

Mr. Gant, nominee for Senator of Georgetown, wanted some tone and force added to the voting, so he called for a rising vote on the majority report. The minority report went down easily.

It came the burrah over the Ocala plank, the Democratic dispensary, Constitutional Union-Tillman-hybrid platform.

All in favor of the majority report arose with the unanimity that hands were up in the campaign, and accompanied with a hurrah. All opposed to the majority report rose and stood until counted. Said Chairman Efrid, and up rose the members of the Charleston delegation. The vote was never announced, if the majority report got the votes, the minority had the satisfaction of knowing it had done its full duty, and of receiving the plaudits of the many spectators. Mr. Fitzsimons, after some readings and a few declarations, presented by the committee. Mr. Duncan said it had been agreed to read it.

The secretary then read the following: "To the Presiding Officer and the Delegates of the State Democratic Convention, we have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your resolutions and resolutions of Democrats assembled in Columbia, on September 17, 1894, we, the undersigned, appointed an executive committee, hereby present the following resolutions and resolutions of Democrats adopted by that body, and demand that you, claiming to be the regular Democratic party of the State of South Carolina, should accept of the same, and should declare of Democratic doctrine and as your purpose to stand by and fight for the Democratic platform as therein outlined, being as it is perfectly in line with the platform and principles of the party, and demanding the readjustment and the rescinding of the platform adopted by this Democratic Convention in 1892."

Signed: J. L. Carson, Mike Brown, S. B. Woods, E. H. Hogg, W. H. Jones, S. A. Allen, B. C. Wright, S. H. Townes, C. P. Quattlebaum, W. L. Gray, J. W. Johnson, Geo. E. Mower, M. O. Dantzer, John G. Capers, J. C. Singleton, N. T. Furst, M. T. Triplett, W. C. Fishburne, W. F. Stevenson, W. D. Coker, John Brant, J. B. Steele, W. E. Martin, John C. McDow, C. S. Bradford, W. A. Sparks, G. W. Prash, R. G. Gains, A. P. Butler, L. J. Browning, G. W. S. Hart.

The names were called for and when announced there were several "Oh my!" and "Oh ghee!" and such remarks. Mr. Fitzsimons called for the reading of the body of the resolutions. This was done. The following resolutions were then read:

AN OVERTURE FOR PEACE AND PARTY PURITY.

WHEREAS, men prominent in the affairs of the State, claiming to be Democrats, some of whom are now seeking nomination for high offices as Democrats, have declared themselves in favor of the principles announced at a convention held at Ocala, in the State of Florida, on the third day of December, 1890, as paramount to all other political principles whatsoever, which principles are centralizing in the Ocala platform; and

and opposed to those of the Democratic party; and

Whereas, others so now claiming to be Democrats have allied themselves with members of a new party styled the Populist party and have declared themselves ready to abandon the Democratic party whenever an opportunity favorable to the success of the so-called Populist party should present itself; and

it becomes the duty of the Democratic party in this State, through its official representatives in convention assembled, explicitly to declare its position in regard to these disturbing influences; and

Resolved, That this convention, composed of loyal Democrats from all parts of the State, demands of the Convention to assemble on the 19th instant, at Newberry, S. C., a new party committee of the Democratic party of the State, (as heretofore organized), explicitly to declare the true and loyal allegiance of the whole Democratic party of the State of South Carolina to the principles and organization of the National Democratic party, and to repudiate and rescind the action of the Ocala platform of 1892, adopting the Chicago platform of 1892, as the platform of this State.

2. That the Convention also demands of the said State Convention to be held on the 19th instant, to nominate one for office who is not in full accord with the principles of the National Democratic party, nor one who acknowledges allegiance to the said Ocala platform or to the principles of the Populist party.

3. That the nomination by the Convention on the 19th instant of any candidate for any office at the hands of the Democratic party holding allegiance to any other than the Democratic principles and policy shall involve all members of the Democratic party in the State from obligation to support such nominee at the general election,

and the views of those he represented would not be allowed a fair expression. He did not believe it. He did not believe that a convention of South Carolinians could use to allow a minority a full and fair presentation of the views of their constituents. Then taking up the majority report on the platform Mr. Fitzsimons said the first and second planks affirming allegiance to the National Democratic platform were correct and proper. The third plank was, he considered, undemocratic and violated the Ocala plank in the national platform. He said in the absence of an international agreement it would be impossible for the party to insist upon such a ratio. There could be but one unit of value. To stamp upon a silver dollar coined in such a ratio, in fact and intrinsically the silver was not worth so much, was to stamp a lie upon the face of the dollar.

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it becomes the duty of the Democratic party in this State, through its official representatives in convention assembled, explicitly to declare its position in regard to these disturbing influences; and

Resolved, That this convention, composed of loyal Democrats from all parts of the State, demands of the Convention to assemble on the 19th instant, at Newberry, S. C., a new party committee of the Democratic party of the State, (as heretofore organized), explicitly to declare the true and loyal allegiance of the whole Democratic party of the State of South Carolina to the principles and organization of the National Democratic party, and to repudiate and rescind the action of the Ocala platform of 1892, adopting the Chicago platform of 1892, as the platform of this State.

2. That the Convention also demands of the said State Convention to be held on the 19th instant, to nominate one for office who is not in full accord with the principles of the National Democratic party,