

THE CONVENTION.

An Omnibus Platform Composed of the Ocala, Chicago and all Others.

A DIRECT PRIMARY GIVEN.

Evans Delivers a Lecture on "Democracy."

The State September convention of so-called Democrats met in the hall of the House of Representative yesterday at noon and was in session almost continuously till half past midnight. It was a busy day. The efforts of the delegates were directed to asserting their Democracy.

A omnibus hybrid platform was adopted embracing the Chicago, Ocala and nearly every other variety of platform.

A new constitution of the party was adopted giving a direct primary election two years hence.

The demands of the true Democrats were turned down without ceremony, and practically ignored as far as immediate action was concerned. But every delegate took good care to assert the "undigibility" of his Democracy, and the nominee for Governor devoted his speech to an effort to prove that Democracy and Ocalism were one and the same thing.

There was quite a crowd of spectators in the gallery when the convention was called to order and it was increased during the day. Among the spectators were a good many negroes, some of them being well known Republicans. J. H. Johnson, the secretary of the State Executive Committee of the Republicans, was there. Senator Butler came in and took a seat in the gallery soon after the convention had begun its work.

At 12:11 o'clock Senator Irby as State chairman, called the convention to order, and the proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. S. M. Smith, of this city. Dr. Smith invoked the Divine blessing on the body. He prayed that all passions be calmed and that all should be done for the good of the commonwealth; that peace and harmony should be permitted to come in and reign, and that, if divisions of men should come, others should accord to others the right of their opinions. He earnestly prayed that prosperity might fall on the State; that there should be an unlifting of character.

Senator Irby then called for the nomination of candidates for temporary chairman. Mr. A. H. Patterson, of Barnwell, was nominated by Mr. Shuman, of Greenville, and was escorted to the chair by Senator Mayfield and others.

Mr. Patterson, on taking the chair, thanked the convention for his election. He said this was one of the most important conventions ever held in the State. Aside from all else, they were called upon to act upon issues that strike at the very existence of the Democratic party; he begged them to be dignified, calm and cool in their discussion of these questions; must meet the questions bravely and squarely and remember above all that white supremacy is more important than the success of a faction.

Mr. H. H. Brunson, of Orangeburg, and Col. F. M. Nixon were elected secretaries of the convention.

The roll of delegates was then made up. The appointment of the usual committee on credentials was dispensed with, there being no contesting delegations.

Mr. O. R. Lowman, of Orangeburg, then nominated Senator C. M. Efrid, of Lexington, for permanent chairman. He was elected, an effort to make the temporary organization permanent failing. Senator Efrid was escorted to the chair by Messrs. Buist and Smith.

Mr. A. H. Patterson then moved that a committee on platform and amendments to the constitution be appointed, consisting of one member from each delegation, which should report back to the house. This was adopted. The committee was appointed as follows:

Aiken, W. N. Marchant; Abbeville, J. C. Klugh; Anderson, S. N. Pearman; Barnwell, A. H. Patterson; Beaufort, Jos. S. Reed; Berkeley, J. B. Morrison; Charleston, W. Huger Fitz Simmons; Chester, J. A. Henry; Chesterfield, R. E. Rivers; Clarendon, B. J. Bradham; Colleton, L. E. Parler; Darlington, J. E. Miller; Edgefield, W. B. Timmerman; Florence, R. F. McCown; Fairfield, J. R. Purlee; Georgetown, R. J. Donaldson; Greenville, S. W. Scruggs; Hampton, W. S. Gooding; Horry, J. P. Durham; Kershaw, C. L. Winkler; Laurens, H. D. Gray; Lancaster, H. J. Gardner; Lexington, W. A. Goodwyn; Marion, J. E. Ellerbe; Marlboro, J. R. Sampson; Newberry, Jno. T. Duncan; Oconee, J. R. Earle; Orangeburg, J. Wm. Stokes; Pickens, Jno. T. Boggs; Richland, Willie Jones; Spartanburg, T. L. Gantt; Sumter, W. A. James; Union, D. P. Duncan; Williamsburg, J. P. Gamble; York, W. N. Elder.

The convention then took a recess till 3:30 p. m., and the committee retired.

The convention reassembled at 4 o'clock. A sergeant-at-arms was appointed—Mr. Stansell.

Col. D. P. Duncan then presented the report of the committee on plat-

form, of which he was chairman. He said that the committee had received a communication from the convention which met Monday last, which had been received as information and laid on the table. Mr. Jervy asked that the paper be read. Col. Duncan said that it had been laid on the table, but he did not suppose there would be any objection to its being read. It was not read, however.

Col. Duncan then reported the following platform of principles, an omnibus, hybrid paper, which embraces in a few words pretty nearly every existing platform except that of the National Republican party:

PLATFORM.

1. The representatives of the Democratic party of South Carolina in convention assembled, do reaffirm their allegiance to the principles of the party as formulated by Jefferson and exemplified by Madison, Jackson and Calhoun, and their successors in Democratic leadership.

2. We reaffirm our allegiance to the platform adopted by the Democratic national convention at Chicago in June, 1892.

3. We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1 and insist upon its immediate enactment without waiting for international agreement. We insist upon it for the protection of our farmers and laboring classes, the first and most defenceless victims of unstable money and fluctuating currency.

4. We reaffirm our allegiance and adherence to and advocacy of the principles set forth in our State Democratic platforms adopted in 1890 and 1892.

5. Recognizing the great evils of intemperance and the curse of bar-rooms and their corrupting influences, we heartily endorse the dispensary law as the happiest and best solution of the vexed whiskey problem and we call upon the Christian men and women of the State to see that the law is fairly tested and to assist in its enforcement.

6. We urge upon all good Democrats to vote for the calling of a Constitutional convention at the general election in November.

7. We endorse the present Democratic administration of our State as wise, prudent and just and fully exemplifying our motto of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Mr. FitzSimmons, of Charleston, announced that as a member of the committee he wished to make a minority report. The chair held that he could do so after the committee had completed its report.

Mr. George Evans then presented the committee's report as to the constitution of the party. He read the following new constitution, which it will be seen, provides for a direct primary:

Constitution of the Democratic party of South Carolina as adopted by the State convention, Columbia, S. C., September 10, 1893; amended at State convention in Columbia, S. C., September, 19th, 1894.

Article 1. There shall be one or more Democratic clubs organized in each township or ward, each of which clubs shall have a direct title, "The Democratic Club," and shall elect a president, one or more vice presidents, a recording and corresponding secretary and a treasurer, and shall have the following working committees, of not less than three members each, viz: A committee on registration, an executive committee and such other committees as each club may deem expedient.

Article 2. The meetings of the clubs should be frequent after the opening of the canvass and some member of the club or invited speaker, deliver an address at each meeting, if possible.

Article 3. The president or five members shall have power to call an extra meeting of the club and one-fourth of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article 4. The clubs in each county shall be held together and operate under the control of a county executive committee, which shall consist of one member from each club, to be elected by the respective clubs. The executive committee, when elected, shall appoint its own officers, who shall not necessarily be members of said committee, and fill all vacancies which may arise when the convention is not in session; provided that any officer so elected, who is not a member of the committee, shall not be entitled to a vote on any question, except the chairman, and then only in case of a tie vote. The tenure of office of the executive committee shall be until the first Monday in May of each election year at which time the county conventions shall be called together to reorganize the party. Every Presidential election year county conventions shall be called by the county executive committee on the first Monday in May and shall elect delegates to a State convention called for the purpose of electing delegates to the national Democratic convention, and to elect the members of the national Democratic committee from this State. The State convention shall be called by the State executive committee to meet every Presidential election year on the third Wednesday in May and every State election year county and State conventions shall meet on the first Monday in May and

the third Wednesday in May, respectively. Each county shall be entitled to double the representation as it has in the General Assembly in State nominations.

Article 5. County Democratic conventions shall be composed of delegates elected by the several local clubs, one delegate for every twenty-five voters, as shown by the club lists made at the preceding first primary election, and one delegate for every fraction thereof, with the rights to each county convention to enlarge or diminish the representation according to circumstances. The county conventions shall be called together by the chairman of the respective executive committee, under such rule, not inconsistent with the constitution nor with the rules adopted by the State Democratic executive committee, as each county may adopt, and when assembled shall be called to order by the chairman of the executive committee and the convention shall proceed to nominate and elect from among its members a president, one or more vice presidents, secretary and a treasurer. That any county convention may permit the formation of a new club or clubs by a majority vote of its members.

In all cities with a population of 5,000 and over, there may be two clubs in each ward; they shall be organized in obedience to this constitution, as are the clubs elsewhere in this State, and in organizing such clubs they shall have representation in the county conventions respectively, as said conventions shall declare in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

Article 6. For the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and all other State officers, including solicitors, in their respective circuits and Congressmen in their respective circuits, and Presidential electors and United States Senators by the popular vote, and all county officers, except trial justices, masters and supervisors of registration, a direct primary election shall be held on the last Tuesday in August of each election year, and a second and third primary each two weeks successively thereafter. At this election only white Democratic voters who have been residents of the State twelve months and the county sixty days preceding the next general election shall be allowed to vote, and such negroes as voted the Democratic ticket in 1876 and as have voted the Democratic ticket continuously since, to be shown by the certificate of ten white Democratic voters; provided that no person shall be allowed to vote except his name be enrolled on the particular club list at which he offers to vote at least five days before the day of the first election. The club rolls of the party shall constitute the registry list and shall be open to inspection by any member of the party and the election under this clause shall be held and regulated under the act of the General Assembly of this State, approved December 22, 1888, and any subsequent acts of the Legislature of this State. The State executive committee shall meet on the Friday after each primary, or such other time as may be designated by the chairman, to canvass the vote and declare the result as to all State officers, Congressmen, Presidential electors and United States Senator. All contests shall be heard first by the county executive committee of the county in which such irregularities may have occurred and may be reviewed by the State executive committee whose action shall be final; provided that no vote shall be counted for any candidate who does not file with the chairman of the State executive committee, or with the respective chairman of the county executive committee, a pledge in writing that he will abide the result of such primary and support the party nominees, and that he is not, nor will he become the candidate of any faction either privately or publicly suggested, other than the regular democratic nomination; provided, further, that no candidate shall be declared nominated unless he receives a majority of the votes cast.

Article 7. The officers of the State convention shall be a president, one vice president from each Congressional district, two secretaries and a treasurer.

Article 8. The State executive committee shall be composed of one member from each county to be elected by the county conventions on the first Monday in May of each election year. When elected said executive committee shall choose its own officers, not necessarily members thereof, prior to said election; provided, that any officer so elected who is not a member of the committee shall not be entitled to a vote on any question except the chairman, and then only in case of a tie vote. The State executive committee shall meet at the call of the chairman or any five members and at such time and place as he or they may appoint. The member of the national Democratic executive committee from South Carolina shall be elected by the May State convention in 1896 and every four years thereafter, and when elected shall be ex-officio a member of the State Democratic executive committee. Vacancies on said committee by death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the respective county executive committees. The State executive committee is charged with the execution and direction of the policy of the party in this State, subject to this constitu-

tion, principles declared in the platform of principles and such instruction by resolutions or otherwise as the State convention may from time to time adopt, not inconsistent with this constitution, and shall continue in office for two years from the time of the election, or until their successors have been elected. If any vacancy occur in the State ticket or of electors by death, resignation or other cause the committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy by a majority vote of the whole committee.

Article 9. The vote in the respective counties for all of the State officers, Congressmen, Presidential electors and United States Senator shall be transmitted by the chairman of the respective county executive committees to the chairman of the State executive committee as early as practicable after each primary, who shall proceed to canvass the vote and declare the results.

Article 10. When the State convention assembles it shall be called to order by the chairman of the State executive committee. A temporary chairman shall be nominated by the convention, and after its organization the convention shall proceed immediately to the election of permanent officers and to the transaction of business. When the business has concluded it shall adjourn sine die.

Article 11. Before the election in 1896, and each election thereafter, the State Democratic executive committee shall issue a call to all candidates for State officers to address the people of the different counties of the State, fixing the date of the meetings, and also inviting the candidates for Congress, United States Senate, delegates to the State convention and for solicitors in their respective districts and circuits, to be present and address the people. At such meeting only the candidates set forth above shall be allowed to speak.

Article 12. It shall be the duty of each county executive committee to appoint meetings in their respective counties to be addressed by the candidates for the General Assembly, and for the different county offices, all of whom, excepting trial justices and masters, shall be elected by primaries on the last Tuesday in August of each election year under the same rules and regulations hereinbefore provided.

Article 13. Each county delegation to a State convention shall have power to fill any vacancy therein.

Article 14. This constitution may be amended or altered at the regular May convention of the State or at any convention called specifically for that purpose, which call shall specify the changes to be made.

Article 15. Any county refusing or failing to organize under the provisions of this constitution shall not have representation in the State Democratic convention.

Just here it might be said that the platform handed to the committee for its adoption, had the following section therein, which was knocked out of the document by a vote of 15 to 14.

"Section 5. We denounce the action of President Cleveland in appointing Republicans to office; joining forces with Republican leaders against the majority of his party in the demonization of silver; his veto of the seignorage bill; the invasion of States' rights, and his efforts to improperly control the House of Representatives and Senate by the use of patronage to influence legislation, as undemocratic, unworthy of the successor of Jefferson, Jackson and Madison, and betrayal of the platform upon which he was elected."

Col. Duncan then read the following minority report of Mr. FitzSimmons, on the matter of the platform:

1. Resolved, That, we as representatives of the Democratic party of the State of South Carolina do hereby renew and declare our unswerving allegiance to the principles of Democracy as set forth in the platform adopted at Chicago by the National Democratic Convention of 1892.

2. Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that no one is a Democrat and entitled to represent us as Democrats who is not in full accord with the principles and platform of the National Democracy, nor one who advocates the principles of the Populist party or seeks to force the demands of the Ocala platform upon Democrats as the test of political principles or action.

3. Resolved, That, we condemn as undemocratic and subversive of the principles of the party the platform adopted and promulgated by the Reform Democratic Convention at Columbia, 19 August, 1894.

W. HUGER FITZSIMMONS.

Mr. R. E. Hill, of Abbeville, offered the following amendment to the section of the Constitution, applying to the qualifications of voters:

"All white Democratic voters who should be entitled to vote according to the laws of this State at the next succeeding general election." (All the amendments made are included in the copy published above.)

A motion to lay this on the table was made.

A delegate from Oconee asked that some member of the convention explain to the convention the changes from the old Constitution.

Mr. George Evans proceeded to explain the Constitution, saying that the principal change was in the manner of nominating officers for State positions, provided for in section 6. The committee had changed it so as to let all white Democratic voters who shall be entitled to vote have a say in the selection of the party nominees. They wished to stop this clamoring and charges of cliques and rings, by sub-

mitting to the white people of South Carolina, the question as to who shall be their nominees, by a direct primary. They wished to stop all this wire pulling, resulting in getting some men into office who are not the choice of the people. In other respects the Constitution was pretty much the same as the old one.

Mr. Timmerman interrupted, calling attention to the fact that the reference to white voters had omitted the word Democratic before the word voters.

Mr. Evans said it was an accidental omission. Mr. Evans said that when they arranged for a general primary it was their aim to let no man say he had been defeated by a clique or ring. Mr. Evans also explained that a man who voted in the general election for the nominees should not be allowed to vote in the primary, unless he was qualified to so vote in the general election.

There was much discussion then on the Hill resolution.

Mr. Lowman offered as a substitute "All white Democrats, who have been resident in the State for twelve months, of the county for sixty days."

Mr. Buist made a motion to lay the Hill resolution on the table. This was lost. The substitute was then adopted.

Then Mr. Appelt brought up the matter of the reorganization of Democratic clubs by the various county conventions. It was explained that the time of reorganization had been changed so that it would take place in May. Mr. Klugh called attention to the fact that any new club could be admitted by a majority vote of the county convention delegates.

But all this was not what Mr. Appelt was after. He wanted to know how all those Democrats who failed to vote in the last primary could vote in the next primary. There was a large number of them, and some provision ought to be made covering the case.

Mr. Klugh said those clubs failing to vote in the last primary could come forward and ask for readmission as new clubs. He offered an amendment covering the case. "That any county convention can permit the admission of new clubs by the vote of a majority of the delegates." There was much talk and an effort was made to refer the matter back to the committee. Klugh's amendment was then adopted.

An amendment, offered by Mr. Appelt, that the language "club lists at the preceding primary" be substituted for poll lists, was adopted.

The Constitution was then adopted as a whole as amended.

Mr. McCown then moved the adoption of the majority report of the committee on platform as a whole.

Mr. Jervy arose to a point of order that the minority report had precedence for consideration.

Mr. McCown moved to lay the minority report on the table, but withdrew the motion.

Mr. Jervy then moved the adoption of the minority report, as a substitute for the majority report, under the ruling of the president.

Mr. Jervy made a lengthy speech in favor of the minority report. He was followed by Mr. Watson, of Anderson, and Dr. Wyebe, of Newberry, in opposition. Mr. FitzSimmons, of Charleston, spoke in favor of the minority report. He was frequently interrupted, and few of the delegates paid much attention to what he said.

The minority report of the committee was then put to a vote and promptly laid on the table, only about twenty votes being cast in favor of it.

The majority report was then put to vote and adopted by a rising vote, the proportionate vote being the same as on the minority report, reversed of course.

The resolutions adopted by the Straightout Convention were presented and after having been read, were received as information.

Mr. Patterson then moved that the convention go into nominations, and that all nominations, for which there were no contests, be made by acclamation.

Mr. Gantt moved as a substitute that the nomination for Governor and Lieutenant Governor be made by acclamation, and a block ticket be printed for the rest. There had been charges of a ring and what not. There was no ring. The convention had adopted the direct primary plan. Why not put it into practice in the convention. Mr. Gantt temporarily withdrew the substitute and Mr. Patterson did the same with the original motion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.

Something New and Nice.

From the Barnwell People.

With this communication I beg leave to hand you a small vial XX corn (not whiskey) but syrup, manufactured and sent you by J. S. Still, (better known as "Uncle Jud,") of Georges Creek. This syrup was made from corn stalks after the roasting ears had been used, and Uncle Jud says that one acre of stalks planted 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 each will produce 12 to 14 gallons of syrup like the sample sent you. He also says that a man some where in Georgia from 3 acres, after selling the roasting ears to the causing company sold 2 barrels of syrup for one hundred dollars and kept one for home use.

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Congress can hold 12 months session, Cleveland can get mad and go fishing, Tillman can be Governor, U. S. Senator or an Edgefield farmer, Texas may raise cotton for the world, New England may look up her gold, men may go West, but in a few years methinks I will hear the cry:

"Take me back to the South, my own sunny South,
Where the orange bud blooms in the morn.
Take me back from the North, East and West
toward the South,
Take me back to the place I was born."
W. W. HART.

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June 16.

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Clarence D. Crockett

spread over his neck and we thought he would be blind. The doctors failed; we gave him Hood's Sarsaparilla. Several bottles cured him after we had despaired of his ever getting well. He is now a bright and healthy child. D. M. CROCKETT, JR., Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

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