

strength, therefore, will be thrown to Clark on the first ballot.

I do not feel free to discuss the situation as it relates to Clark and Wilson, because I have not expressed a preference between them.

W. J. B.

MR. BRYAN EXPLAINS HIS RESOLUTION

Baltimore, June 27.—The day has not been a full one, notwithstanding the fact that there was very little business to do. The afternoon session was devoted to the argument of the South Dakota case. The question was so complicated that men voted more according to their opinions of its effect than upon the merits of the case. The Wilson delegates had a plurality at the primaries; this was not denied, but the Clark delegates claimed the right to represent the state on the ground that there were two Clark tickets and that the combined votes for these two tickets exceeded the vote for the Wilson ticket.

The trouble was that one of the Clark tickets was headed, "Bryan, Wilson, Clark," and it was impossible, therefore to determine how many of the votes cast were really cast for Clark and how many of them were influenced by the fact that Wilson's name was combined with Clark's.

At least this was the answer made by the Wilson delegates to the claim presented by the Clark men. When the roll was called the Wilson delegation had a considerable majority in its favor.

During the progress of the debate there were demonstrations first for Clark and then for Wilson. At the evening session I introduced the following resolution:

"Resolved, That in this crisis in our party's career and in our country's history, this convention sends greetings to the people of the United States and assures them that the party of Jefferson and of Jackson is still the champion of popular government and equality before the law. As proof of our fidelity to the people we hereby declare ourselves opposed to the nomination of any candidate for president who is the representative of, or under any obligation to J. Pierpont Morgan, Thomas F. Ryan, August Belmont, or any other member of the privilege-hunting and favor-seeking class."

As introduced, the resolution contained another paragraph, or rather, a second resolution, as follows:

"Be it further resolved, That we demand the withdrawal from this convention of any delegates constituting or representing the above named interests."

The second resolution was attacked more fiercely than the first on the ground that each state had a right to send as delegates whom it pleased and that to demand the withdrawal of a delegate would be an infringement on the rights of the states. Seeing that this second resolution would be made an excuse by those who did not want to vote for the first resolution I withdrew it before the vote was taken.

Then, too, objection was urged by some with perfect sincerity, and I did not care to put them in a position where their reason for voting no would become a matter of discussion.

In a short speech supporting the first, or main resolution, I called attention to the extraordinary situation and the menace of these influences to our party's success, insisting that we must convince the country that our candidate was free from alliance with the predatory interests. To the suggestion that such a resolution disturbed the harmony of the party and endangered our candidate, I replied with a Bible quotation, "If the right hand offend thee, cut it off," and contended that the

same principle that would lead one to cut off his hand to save his body, should lead us to free the democratic party from the influence of these men and those associated with them in schemes of exploitation.

I first asked unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the resolution. When objection was made, I worked to suspend the rules and proceed to the consideration of the motion. The motion to suspend the rules requires a two-thirds vote for its adoption, and I was afraid that I could not secure a two-thirds, but as a majority would answer the same purpose; that is, that it would become the sense of the convention, I thought it would make no difference whether it received two-thirds or not, and even if it failed to receive a majority, it gave a chance to put the democrats on record on the proposition.

The adoption of the resolution by a vote of 889 to 196 eliminates all reactionaries and narrows the contest down to those about whose progressiveness there can be no doubt.

If the convention puts up a progressive, on a progressive platform, and our candidate secures such a reorganization of the national committee as to make that organization worthy of the confidence of the country, we can enter upon a winning campaign. The nominations are now being made to a crowded house and the names of those presented are being cheered by their partisans.

It is impossible to make any forecast as to the result. It seems unlikely that a nomination can be made on the first ballot, and as no one can tell how long instructed delegates will regard their instructions as binding or what they will do when they are free to vote as they please, a guess upon the situation is hazardous.

One thing is certain, the convention is more entertaining than was expected. The feeling is not as tense as it was at Chicago, and the delegates and visitors seem to be enjoying themselves. I can not say so much for the dominant element in the national committee. W. J. B.

PARTY CRISIS AT HAND

Baltimore, June 28.—I am writing this report before a nomination is made and I can not, therefore, discuss the candidate. The four ballots have not resulted in as many changes as were expected. Rumors have been rife as to what this delegation or that delegation was going to do. Most attention, of course, is given to New York because of its large vote, controlled under the unit rule by Murphy. It was reported that New York would vote on the first ballot for Harmon, and on the following ballots for different candidates, but so far Harmon has been the only one to receive the vote. This in itself would ruin Harmon's chances if he were otherwise available. The old doctrine that a man is known by the company he keeps applies in politics as well as elsewhere.

Murphy is in absolute control of the delegation. He is the keeper of New York's conscience. God save the mark. Now that the line has been drawn between the sheep and the goats, New York, in spite of her efforts to disguise herself, is among the goats.

When I offered to withdraw the second resolution of last night, the one demanding that Belmont and Ryan leave the convention, New York not only refused to make the request, but demanded a vote on that resolution. I saw that Murphy and his cohorts were looking for an excuse to vote against the resolution, and it was partly to deprive them of any cause that I withdrew the resolution, even without their

request, and in this connection I may add that the "sovereign state" argument is sometimes overdone.

At Denver, four years ago, Colonel Guffey of Pennsylvania marched down the aisle and inquired whether the convention would disregard the action of a sovereign state and throw him out and the convention said "yes" with an emphasis that shook the rafters. He went back to Pennsylvania and in stentorian tones repeated the question. This time about 400,000 Pennsylvania democrats trampled on him and stampeded around until they nearly caved in the mines. I have not had a chance to consult Colonel Guffey, but I am satisfied if he had been a delegate he would have been opposed to interfering with any "sovereign state," provided it would let Wall street use it to work its representatives into the convention.

It will be remembered that some of Mr. Lorimer's friends became touchy on the "sovereign state" idea, but the senate is going to send him back home in spite of the fact that his credentials are regular.

If a national convention has no right to purge itself of such men as Ryan and Belmont it had better change its rules and secure the right. However, the chastisement which it gave to these two notorious representatives of the interests will probably protect future conventions from a repetition of what has occurred here. In calculating on the nominee New York should be counted as a liability rather than an asset. No democrat can afford to accept a nomination if New York's vote is necessary to give him two-thirds.

There is no disguising the seriousness of the situation which confronts the democratic party. It is on trial before the country. It took a long step in advance last night when it had the courage to mention by name three of the most prominent faces of the country, and pledge the nation that its nominee be free from entangling alliances with them.

But this resolution is only the beginning. It fixes the standard, but the candidate must measure up to it. The New York delegation is closely connected with the predatory interests, containing as it does, trust agents, attorneys and officials, and it would cost a candidate hundreds of thousands of votes to owe his nomination to the delegation. Certain obligations are associated with the acceptance of political aid. A candidate big enough to be president would not be guilty of securing the support of the New delegation under false pretenses, and he would not get the support without promises, express or implied. There is a growing movement among the progressives in the direction of insisting that the best test of a progressive candidate is whether he is going to decline a nomination unless it comes to him without the aid of New York.

There are progressives enough in this convention to nominate. They ought to get together and pool their issues. They ought to put the interests of the cause above the personal ambition of candidates. The platform must be a progressive one, if it is to meet the approval of the country, and the candidate must fit it.

With a progressive candidate running upon a progressive platform, and independent of the Morgan-Belmont-Ryan interests there is just one more thing necessary to establish confidence in the country, the reorganization of the national committee. This committee would drag down to defeat any candidate who would be foolish enough to allow it to present him in a campaign. The convention, therefore, ought, before it adjourns, make some provision for the retiring of the men who have

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