

The National Progressive Party at Chicago

NOMINEES OF THE CONVENTION

President—Theodore Roosevelt, N. Y.
Vice President—Hiram W. Johnson, Cal.

The "national progressive party" was called to order at Chicago at 12 o'clock, Monday, August 5th. Former Senator Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana acted as temporary chairman. The convention was largely attended.

On the second day Theodore Roosevelt delivered his speech.

A telegram was received from Colonel W. R. Nelson, owner of the Kansas City Star, as follows: "Lord, how I wish I were with you. What a great day, the launching of a party of imagination, hope and prospects. We can afford to give the other fellows their memories and disappointments. The past has no interests for us. The future is our fruit. Give Colonel Roosevelt my love. I have never missed a chance to place a bet on him and have never lost when there was a square deal. The Lord is surely with us. He has given us the men as well as the opportunity. I can not help but feel what a narrow escape we had in the June convention. Roosevelt might have been nominated there. My congratulations to everybody, and regret that I can not be with you."

Wild applause followed the reading and the entire audience rose and sang "America" under the leadership of a musical director especially engaged.

Many of the leaders joined lustily in the song, James R. Garfield of Ohio being one of the most earnest in the cheers.

Great enthusiasm was shown when Colonel Roosevelt entered the convention.

The convention adopted the report of the credentials committee unseating both white and negro delegates from Florida, and unseating the negro delegates from Mississippi. In one of the speeches Colonel Roosevelt upheld this action, saying that they intended to avoid the mistakes the republican party had made. He made it clear that the new party in the south was to be a "white man's party."

Jane Addams has announced that she will cooperate with the new party.

A United Press report says: Jane Addams of Hull house, upon invitation from Chairman Beveridge, pushed her way through the crowd and was assisted to the platform, Roosevelt advancing clear to the front of the stage to greet his most prominent supporter among the women of the country.

Miss Addams bowed and exhibited her confusion as the crowd let out a special whoop of approval in her honor. The band struck up "Onward, Christian Soldier," as Miss Addams was escorted to a seat directly behind Roosevelt.

A fully uniformed boy scout took position in the rear of the speakers' platform with two American flags in his hands. Roosevelt saluted the colors and then turned again toward the crowd as though to speak.

But just then a very old lady, Miss Kate E. Sutherland, aged seventy-four, of Los Angeles, the woman who had sent the handkerchief to Roosevelt, came forward and, with the assistance of a policeman and two newspaper men, was helped to the platform. Roosevelt greeted her with a characteristic handshake and the crowd cut loose again.

After thirty minutes of cheering, Beveridge tried to quiet the crowd down with a few raps of his gavel, but only succeeded in stirring up more noise.

Meyer Lissner, of California, carried the big bear pole of California up on to the stage and then came a regular procession of women, all of whom were greeted with a typical handshake, which added to the enthusiasm.

It was both the delegates and the gallery that were doing the cheering and every time that Beveridge tried to get order he was driven back to his seat by a perfect wave of cheering. Throughout the entire demonstration the cheering was continuous and devoid of the spasmodic outbursts that always mark the "planted" demonstration.

For thirty-five minutes not a delegate resumed his seat and for the most part the audience continued to stand and cheer.

So far as the delegates, at least, were concerned, the demonstration was genuine.

An extremely prepossessing woman, with a

small "Teddy bear" in her arms, pushed forward and shook hands and there was a lingering suspicion among some of the delegates that the colonel did not drop her hand quite as quickly as he had some of his male supporters who had preceded his fair follower.

Senator Funk, of Illinois, mounted the platform, amid cheering, and literally "threw his hat into the ring." He had an old felt sombrero which he sailed far out into the auditorium. After the cheering had lasted forty-five minutes, Colonel Chauncey Dewey, sergeant-at-arms, and the police began a determined effort to quiet the audience, only to be met by the long drawn out chant, "We want Teddy."

Mrs. Davis, the Chicago woman who started the Roosevelt-Hadley demonstration at the republican convention, was escorted to the front of the balcony railing behind the stage by Meyer Lissner and the California totem pole. She waved a bandana and Roosevelt responded by giving her the "railroad high sign" with his bandana. Mrs. Davis responded and, escorted by Senator Dixon, came over to the speaker's stand and received a Roosevelt handshake that was not only cordial but delightfully lingering.

Mrs. Roosevelt was finally discovered by the delegates sitting in a box just to the right of the stuffed bull moose head that decorated the side balcony rail. She was cheered to the echo as the colonel gallantly threw a kiss to her, while the delegates gave her the chautauqua salute with their bandanas. Mrs. Roosevelt finally arose and bowed a graceful acknowledgement of the ovation.

At 1:40, after the demonstration had been on for fifty-two minutes, the delegates and visitors resumed their seats and a semblance of order was restored which gave way a moment later to a wave of hand clapping which swept the entire coliseum.

At 1:43 order was restored and then Beveridge asked for quiet so that a picture could be taken.

Mr. Roosevelt's speech on the second day laid down the plan of battle to be waged by the national progressive party. He discussed those principles under twelve subdivisions, namely: "The Helplessness of the Old Parties," "The Right of the People to Rule," "The Courts and the People," "Constructive Control of the Trusts," "Rights of the Wage Worker," "The Farmer," "The Tariff," "The High Cost of Living," "Currency," "Conservation," "Alaska and International Affairs."

"The old parties," he declared, "are husks, with no real soul within either, divided on artificial lines, boss-ridden and privilege-controlled, each a jumble of incongruous elements, and neither daring to speak out wisely and fearlessly what should be said on the vital issues of the day."

"This new movement is a movement of truth, sincerity, and wisdom, a movement which proposes to put at the service of all our people the collective power of the people, through their governmental agencies, alike in the nation and in the several states. We propose boldly to face the real and great questions of the day, and not skillfully to evade them as do the old parties. We propose to raise aloft a standard to which all honest men can repair, and under which all can fight, no matter what their past political differences, if they are content to face the future and no longer to dwell among the dead issues of the past."

"We propose to put forth a platform which shall not be a platform of the ordinary and insincere kind, but shall be a contract with the people; and, if the people accept this contract by putting us in power, we shall hold ourselves under honorable obligation to fulfill every promise it contains as loyally as if it were actually enforceable under the penalties of the law."

"The prime need today is to face the fact that we are now in the midst of a great economic evolution. There is urgent necessity of applying both common sense and highest ethical standard to this movement for better economic conditions among the mass of our people if we are to make it one of healthy evolution and not one of revolution. It is, from the standpoint of our country, wicked as well as foolish longer to refuse to face the real issues of the day. Only by so facing them can we go forward; and to do this we must break up the old party organizations and obliterate the old cleavage lines on the dead issues inherited from fifty years ago. Our fight is a fundamental fight against both of the old corrupt party machines, for both are under the dominion of the plunder

league of the professional politicians who are controlled and sustained by the great beneficiaries of privilege and reaction.

"How close is the alliance between the two machines is shown by the attitude of that portion of those northeastern newspapers, including the majority of the great dailies in all the northeastern cities—Boston, Buffalo, Springfield, Hartford, Philadelphia, and, above all, New York—which are controlled by or representative of the interests which, in popular phrase, are conveniently grouped together as the Wall street interests. The large majority of these papers supported Judge Parker for the presidency in 1904; almost unanimously they supported Mr. Taft for the republican nomination this year; the large majority are now supporting Professor Wilson for the election.

"Some of them still prefer Mr. Taft to Mr. Wilson, but all make either Mr. Taft or Mr. Wilson their first choice; and one of the ludicrous features of the campaign is that those papers supporting Professor Wilson show the most jealous partisanship for Mr. Taft whenever they think his interests are jeopardized by the progressive movement—that, for instance, any electors will obey the will of the majority of the republican voters at the primaries, and vote for me instead of obeying the will of the Messrs. Barnes-Penrose-Guggenheim combination by voting for Mr. Taft. No better proof can be given than this of the fact that the fundamental concern of the privileged interests is to beat the new party. Some of them would rather beat it with Mr. Wilson; others would rather beat it with Mr. Taft; but the difference between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Taft they consider as trivial, as a mere matter of personal preference. Their real fight is for either, as against the progressives. They represent the allied reactionaries of the country and they are against the new party because to their unerring vision it is evident that the real danger to privilege comes from the new party, and from the new party alone.

"The men who presided over the Baltimore and the Chicago conventions, and the great bosses who controlled the two conventions, Mr. Root and Mr. Parker, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Murphy, Mr. Penrose and Mr. Taggart, Mr. Guggenheim and Mr. Sullivan, differ from one another of course on certain points. But these are the differences which one corporation lawyer has with another corporation lawyer when acting for different corporations. They come together at once as against a common enemy when the dominion of both is threatened by the supremacy of the people of the United States, now aroused to the need of a national alignment on the vital economic issues of this generation.

"Neither the republican nor the democratic platform contains the slightest promise of approaching the great problems of today either with understanding or good faith; and yet never was there greater need in this nation than now of understanding, and of action taken in good faith, on the part of the men and the organizations shaping our governmental policy. Moreover, our needs are such that there should be coherent action among those responsible for the conduct of national affairs and those responsible for the conduct of state affairs; because our aim should be the same in both state and nation; that is, to use the government as an efficient agency for the practical betterment of social and economic conditions throughout this land. There are other important things to be done, but this is the most important thing. It is preposterous to leave such a movement in the hands of men who have broken their promises as have the present heads of the republican organization (not of the republican voters, for they in no shape represent the rank and file of republican voters.) These men by their deeds give the lie to their words. There is no health in them, and they can not be trusted. But the democratic party is just as little to be trusted. The Underwood-Fitzgerald combination in the house of representatives has shown that it can not safely be trusted to maintain the interests of this country abroad or to represent the interests of the plain people at home. The control of the various state bosses in the state organizations has been strengthened by the action at Baltimore, and scant indeed would be the use of exchanging the whips of Messrs. Barnes, Penrose and Guggenheim for the scorpions of Messrs. Murphy, Taggart and Sullivan. Finally, the democratic platform not only shows an utter failure to understand either present conditions or the means of making these conditions better, but also a reckless willingness to try to attract various sections of the electorate by making mu-

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