

THE STATE CONVENTION

The Independent State Convention in Session At Bohanan's Hall—722 Delegates Present.

Harmony, Enthusiasm and Earnestness Apparently Present in Large, Juicy Chunks—The Blue and the Grey Recognized.

Choosing Delegates to Omaha.

As early as yesterday noon the delegates to today's convention came drifting into the city with the same steady persistence and frequency that the original grasshopper colony invaded the Nebraska cornfields long years ago.

All the afternoon the coming continued until last evening at 10 o'clock it was estimated by those who ought to know that fully three-fourths of the delegations had arrived.

The Lindell hotel was made the headquarters for all delegates and members of the party, and to name all those worthy of mention who were to be found in the corridors last evening would be to mention almost every independent of any prominence in Nebraska. John H. Powers, Van Wyck, Van Dervoort, W. F. Wright, Poynter, Shrader, Mayberry, Leese, J. V. Wolfe, Thornton, Pirtle, Capt. Ashby, Judge Bush, D. Clem, Derver, and all the rest were on hand, loaded chuck full of good independence and enthusiasm.

Last evening the call for a meeting was set in motion by a large number of delegates and local members of the party. Marching in a body to Charley Gere's post office square, the band stand was taken possession of and an impromptu meeting opened up without corkscrews that beat any short order meeting Lincoln has seen this year. Several prominent independents climbed aloft to hold down the band stand and the meeting was touched off with a half hour speech from Capt. Ashby of Beatrice. He tickled the boys to laughter as well as spoke winged words of wisdom as to the position of the two old parties on the tariff and financial questions, alleging that they are identical in meaning and dictated by the same corporation influences.

The last came best. J. H. Davis, commonly called "Cyclone" Davis, independent candidate for attorney general in the state of Texas, held the board to the perfect satisfaction of every Roman present. Mr. Davis comes from Hopkins county, Texas, is slender in build, stands about six feet and a half high and is a logical, cutting, impetuous roarer from the state that makes a specialty of producing unequalled roars.

The gentleman said that he had been a democrat until Cleveland's stand on the silver question opened his eyes to the fact that the democracy of today is not what it was in the good old days of Jefferson and Jackson. He maintained that the independents will carry the state of Texas as well as several other southern states and that the "solid south" will be simply a matter of history after the November election. His narratives of the independent gains in that state and the defeat of the democratic candidate for congress in Roger Q. Mill's district by an independent called out many cheers. He said that some presidential candidate like Gresham would capture North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama as well as Texas. Mr. Davis' arraignment of the old parties was most effective. He will speak this evening at Bohanan's hall and there is no doubt that the hall will be filled.

To-day's events were prefaced by the side conventions held by the delegates from the First, Fourth, and Sixth congressional districts for the purpose of nominating district delegates to the national convention. The First and Sixth districts met simultaneously at 9

o'clock in the Lindell hotel. E. P. Ingersoll of Johnson county was chosen chairman and F. W. Moran of Otoe county secretary. Some confusion was caused by a desire of the Lancaster county delegation for two delegates. A compromise was brought about by allowing every county in the district either a delegate or an alternate and giving Lancaster county a delegate and an alternate. A recess of ten minutes was next taken and the following delegates and alternates chosen:

The morning session of the state convention was called to order by J. V. Wolfe of Lancaster county at 10:50 o'clock. Upon motion of Poynter J. V. Wolfe was chosen temporary chairman. J. A. Edgerton of Buffalo was led up for temporary secretary and C. H. Pirtle followed as temporary assistant secretary.

H. Cohen of Douglas county moved that a committee of six on credentials be appointed. The first district selected E. Baker, the second district pushed up T. C. Kelsey; E. O. Merrier was picked out by the Third district delegate, D. Collins was named from the Fourth, J. S. Kennedy from the Fifth and A. E. Sheldon from the Sixth.

The next move was to select a committee on permanent organization as follows: W. Steel, Hamilton county; Clem Deaver, Douglas county; E. P. Ingersoll, Johnson county; J. D. Hatfield, Antelope county; Daniel Freeman, Gage county.

After announcing that Carl Brown of California, a delegate to the national convention at Omaha, would give a panoramic display on O street and that various district delegates would meet in the hall's corners right after the session. Mrs. McCormick, president of the Women's state alliance of Kansas briefly addressed the convention in some happy and acceptable remarks, after which adjournment was taken until 2 p. m.

The afternoon session was hammered to order at 2:30 and as some of the committees were not quite ready chairman Wolfe announced some music. Col. W. A. Howard, assisted by Prof. Frank, sang a song entitled, "We Have the Tariff Yet," and at the close was greeted with loud applause.

Paul Van Dervoort then asked that all old soldiers who wore the blue stand up and be counted. The suggestion carried and amidst the wildest cheering and the greatest enthusiasm, one hundred and sixty-five of the old heroes stood up. In response to the request that all who wore the gray five delegates responded by rising to their feet, after which three cheers were given for the blue and the gray.

T. C. Kelsey of Douglas county, chairman of the committee on credentials, in response to a motion to that effect, stepped to the front and read the report of the committee on credentials. The report was accepted and adopted. The total number of delegates was 722.

The committee on permanent organization not being quite ready to report Brother Howard sang another taking song, being accompanied in chorus by S. M. Plumb.

The committee on permanent organization after a long time presented a short report to the effect that the temporary organization be made permanent. The report was accepted and adopted after which Chairman Wolfe returned appropriate thanks for the honor conferred upon him.

Paul Van Dervoort moved that the St. Louis platform be adopted or endorsed by a rising vote. One man thought that move a little too previous but he was cried down and the members of the convention arose as a body amid wild cheers. The chairman announced that the motion prevailed unanimously.

NATIONAL DELEGATES AT LARGE.

W. A. Poynter nominated C. H. Van Wyck, Paul Van Dervoort presented the name of J. W. Edgerton, Crane of Jefferson county presented the name of his old friend Jay Burrows, and Pratt of Merrick county nominated J. H. Powers and begged the convention not to make the mistake of leaving the old veteran in the cause at home.

Van Wyck arose and asked that his name be withdrawn on the grounds that others desired to go to the national convention and that he did not want to stand in the way of any one. The audience yelled for the Sen-

ator to sit down and a ballot was ordered by a roll of counties, each delegation being empowered to cast its full vote.

The call commenced, nearly every delegation casting its full vote for Powers. Van Wyck caught nearly all, but a complimentary number of votes were given to J. W. Edgerton. Burrows got none, the man who nominated him voting otherwise. When the Douglas county delegation was reached, it asked permission to retire to arrange its vote. When the 57 members of the delegation returned to the hall, Allan Root announced that the friends of J. W. Edgerton wished to withdraw his name and that the Omaha delegation wished to cast its vote solidly for C. H. Van Wyck and John H. Powers. Before the vote could be added up and announced, Paul Van Dervoort arose and moved that Van Wyck and Powers be nominated by acclamation. The motion prevailed with a shout that made the roof jingle.

Mr. Powers thanked the convention and assured all that he never would prove a traitor. Van Wyck was called for loudly and persistently. He had retired to his hotel but a committee was appointed to wait upon him and bring him into the hall.

B. F. Pratt of Merrick county moved a resolution that it was the sense of the convention that as far as possible seats in the Omaha convention should be allotted to old soldiers, both the blue and the gray.

W. H. Dech opposed the resolution because of the scarcity of seats. Half a dozen were attempting to speak in favor of the resolution when Van Wyck was announced. He was brought into the hall, borne on the shoulders of strong men, preceded by some enthusiastic fellow who bore a flag. The members of the convention yelled like troopers and order climbed the center pole. The old warrior caught his breath and stepped to the front of the stage. He said that nothing for years had so pleased him—that it was more than silver and gold to him, as it vindicated his good name which had been bitterly assailed for two years, and the renewed expression of confidence meant more to his heart than words could express.

As he left the stage J. M. Snyder, a hoary-headed old veteran from Sherman county, took the floor and spoke in favor of the resolution. He said that the republicans always made it a point to say a good word for the old soldiers and that if the independent party failed to do as much great capital would be made of it by the opposition. "I thought there was a brother here who wore the gray," continued the old man. "Where is he? I want to shake hands with him. Let all the old soldiers who wore the gray come forward."

The five confederates in the hall started for the stage. The foremost grasped the hand of the blue-coated, white headed old hero. The convention yelled and cheered and threw up hats. A call was shouted out for every old soldier to come onto the stage. The stars and strips were seized and thrown over the blue and the gray. The veteran blue coats commenced swarming over the stage. The band struck up a national air. The one hundred and sixty-five old soldiers, headed by Mr. Snyder and the five boys who wore the butternut, started on a march around the hall. The audience rose to its feet. Cheer followed cheer. Everything loose was thrown into the air. Hats were thrown to the ceiling. Strong men shook hands. Grey headed old heroes laughed while tears of joy ran down their cheeks. It was a grand and thrilling moment and when a voice rang out "no bloody shirt in ours, a wild and irresistible cheer went up from the thousand throats.

The resolution as presented by Pratt after that scene of course prevailed. After appointing a committee to notify W. A. McKeighan by wire of his election as a delegate, the convention adjourned at 5:30.

A full list of delegates will be found in the editorial columns.

"Cyclone" Davis of Texas spoke on the political issues of the day at Bohanan's hall to the largest crowd that has assembled in that place at a political meeting for years. A perfect sea of faces greeted the speaker. This eloquent and able address was greeted with an almost continuous round of applause.

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