

HOLCOMB FOR JUDGE

NOMINATED BY THE THREE CONVENTIONS.

Populists, Democrats and Silver Republicans Unite on the Ex-Governor For Supreme Judge.

FUSION STATE TICKET.

Supreme Judge.....
SILAS A. HOLCOMB, Populist,
of Cass County.....
Representative of State University.....
EDSON RICH, Democrat, of
Douglas County.....
J. L. TESTERS, Silver Republican,
of Lancaster County.....

Divided in name, but united by an earnest purpose, the fusion forces of Nebraska, through the harmonious deliberations of their three state conventions, held Tuesday afternoon and evening in Omaha, effected the most complete and perfect fusion that has inaugurated any campaign in this state. With an eye solely to carrying into execution the reforms demanded by them they proceeded to the nomination of a ticket and the close cementing of all interests looking to its success at the polls with a precision and decision never before witnessed.

Compared with the former state conventions of the fusion forces, it was as the steady, sturdy, solid and irresistible advance of seasoned veterans compared with untried recruits. There was compelling and overwhelming force that brooked nothing that seemed for a moment to impede the desired end. The fusion was absolute; the enthusiasm unswerving; the success of the effort complete. The conventions afforded in unparalleled harmony of feeling, and fewer sore spots were carried away than from any convention, large or small, collective or single, held in Nebraska in many a year.

HOLCOMB NOMINATED.

Silas A. Holcomb was nominated for judge of the supreme court on the first ballot in each of the three conventions. Whatever of personal opposition has been manifested was swept away before the irresistible demand of the great majority, the democrats declaring by a vote of almost two to one for carrying out the implied agreement of two years ago, when the Populists gave the judgeship to the democrats.

HARRINGTON WITHDRAWS.

Ring resolutions were adopted and the enthusiasm of the occasion was the common property of each and all the conventions. Adding to the general satisfaction and enthusiasm for the fusion triumph all along the line was the statement of M. C. Harrington, democratic nominee in the sixth district, in the sixth district, made to the democratic convention at the close of his speech, in which he said that in the interest of the utmost harmony and success at the polls, he was ready to withdraw and assist in the election of the nominee of the populist convention, Judge Neville, if the state central committee and the democrats of the state desired this solution of the vexatious problem.

As the expression of Nebraska, it was a tremendous demonstration in favor of W. J. Bryan, a vigorous and unequivocal reaffirmation of the Chicago platform and the hopeful, eager little cry of Nebraska's new democracy, enlisted for the war.

Mrs. W. J. Bryan was a classically observed speaker at the entire proceedings. During the hour before adjournment she was joined by Mr. Bryan, and many delegates dropped down the aisle to pay their respects. Mr. James Creelman, special political correspondent of the New York Journal, was also an occupant of the box.

J. L. Testers of Lincoln and Edson Rich of Omaha were chosen university regents.

In the democratic convention the first ballot was: Holcomb, 637; Allen, 52; Kretzinger, 175; Maxwell, 12; Travis, 23; Thompson, 12.

In the populist convention the vote was: Holcomb, 238; Allen, 125; Kretzinger, 18; Maxwell, 5; Wheeler, 2.

In the silver republican convention the vote was: Holcomb, 160; Maxwell, 11; Allen, 14; Kretzinger, 8; Frank Ransom, 5; Ed P. Smith, 1.

But one ballot was taken in each convention and the election of Holcomb was made unanimous by all three conventions.

DEMOCRATS AT THE CREIGHTON.

The democratic delegates were late in assembling at the Creighton-Orpheum theatre for the evening. The state committee had met at noon at the Jacksonian club rooms, and agreed on certain recommendations, which included W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, for chairman; L. E. Fenner of Kearney, for secretary; Fred Conroy of Douglas for assistant secretary.

As soon as Chairman James C. Dahlman called the convention to order, Secretary Lee Herdman read the call, and Mr. W. H. Thompson was introduced as the temporary presiding officer.

The announcement of the committee's choice of chairman was greeted with applause, and Mr. Thompson was accorded a handsome reception as he assumed the gavel. In accepting the honor tendered him, Mr. Thompson said, in part:

CHAIRMAN THOMPSON'S SPEECH.
"In the coming battle of 1900 we will reaffirm the platform of 1896, re-nominate the same leader of democracy. We will be true to the pledge of our fathers. We will, as loyal sons reared to reverence their teachings, swear anew eternal allegiance and fidelity to the declaration of independence, its every precept, sacred as the memories of our heroes dead and loyal as the patriots living. To tear these from one of its sacred principles is to write the beginning of an endless ruin and decay.

"Fifty, party, what sins have been committed for the perpetuity thereof, in the years gone by, but it was left to the nineteenth century republican to announce from the rostrum and through the press, that this nation has outgrown the principles enunciated in this declaration. Yet the distance is only from a martyred Lincoln to the spreading policy of the present administration. Who will pull down the flag? No man or nation. But every patriot should join in lifting it up into the sunlight and every stripe glitter with new splendor. Peace upon earth and good will unto men. If to be a son of America is to be nobler than to have been a son of Rome, then America's sons must be kept on the march, and the right line of the Roman empire must be crossed and conquest must be made, then we should heed that the world should not be filled with the millions of slaves who were the result of the Roman empire."

FUSION FOR BRYAN.
At the conclusion of the address of the chairman there were calls for "Bryan," "Bryan," and the convention

broke into a tremendous cheer as the party fell into line in the Lancaster delegation. When the speaker was over Mr. Bryan declared that he was as anxious to talk to the convention as the delegates were to hear him, but he thought it should proceed with its business.

The delegates insisted on a speech, and Mr. Bryan finally said he would address the convention before it adjourned, unless the policy of government by injunction were interposed.

A motion to make the temporary organization permanent brought forth a protest from the chairman, who said that democracy believed in passing the honors around and a sharing of the labors.

A delegate put the motion, but the chairman declared it lost and a motion then carried to appoint a committee of seven on permanent organization.

The chair, on motion, appointed the following committee on resolutions: W. J. Bryan of Lancaster, Judge J. B. Robinson of Madison, Matthew Gering of Cass, Bob Oberfelder of Cheyenne, C. J. Smyth of Douglas, W. T. Windlaw of Dawson and J. M. Gilchrist of Otoe.

The following committee was appointed to notify the populist and silver republican conventions that the democratic convention was organized and ready for business: Senator Knepper of Butler, James Hughes of Colfax, James Mallon of Dodge, Ed Fallon of Richardson, M. F. Kilnes of Cherry.

A messenger from the silver republican convention announced the organization of that body.

It was announced that the conference committees would meet at populist headquarters at 1515 Howard street.

ALL TALK FOR FUSION.
A. J. Weaver of Richardson responded

to call for a speech. He said that silver republicans did not leave the party in order to form a rival party, but in order to best advantage the principles in which they believed, and he said that they now found the best avenue to carry those principles into execution through the democratic party.

Mr. C. Harrington, democratic nominee for congress in the Sixth district, next made a democratic speech, concluding with a statement that he was willing to withdraw from the congressional race in the interest of harmony and fusion success. He said he realized that it meant the election of a republican if he staid in the race, and he wanted it understood that he would not only withdraw, but would work for the success of the populist nominee if the central committee and democrats of his district and the state were in favor of it.

Mr. Harrington's statement was greeted with every manifestation of enthusiastic approval, while delegates personally congratulated each other on the prospect of a solution of the Sixth district and the election of a fusionist to congress instead of turning the district over to the republicans.

Word was received that the other conventions had adjourned until evening and after appointing McGuire of Lancaster, Rhodes of Thayer and Shallenbarger of Harlan a committee to take charge of the matter of organizing a chain of young men's democratic clubs throughout the state, an adjournment was taken until 7 o'clock.

It was nearly 6 o'clock when the gavel again sounded, and several minutes later when the convention got down to business. The report of the committee on resolutions was called for, but before it was ready a resolution was adopted indorsing the work done by W. H. (Coin) Harvey, and calling on all democrats to assist him in his work.

W. J. Bryan, chairman of the committee on resolutions, stepped upon the stage to read the report of the committee, and was greeted with a storm of applause.

ANTI-RAILROAD PASS RESOLUTION.
Edgar Howard offered an additional resolution to the effect that he pledge the people of the state of Nebraska that the nominees of this convention will forswear the republican practice of accepting railroad passes or every other form of corporation bribe.

The resolution was carried on a viva voce vote.

The central committee was authorized to fill lacy vacancies occurring on the ticket.

HOW THEY GOT TOGETHER.
The conference committee reported as the plan of procedure agreed upon that each convention proceed to ballot for judge of the supreme court, each convention to report to the other two conventions the result of each ballot as taken; when all three conventions shall have nominated the same person, he shall be declared the nominee of all three conventions; that the two parties who do not get the candidate for judge shall each be entitled to name one regent, and such selection shall be ratified by the other two conventions.

The report of the conference committee was adopted and word was received that the populist and silver republican had also adopted it.

Edgar Howard brought out the suggestion that he had been invited to address the populist convention and would address the democrats a little later in the evening.

An invitation was extended to Judge William V. Allen to address the convention.

Shoemaker of Douglas wanted to move the adjournment of Allen for judge, but the arrival of the ex-senator on the stage put a temporary stop to the proceeding.

JUDGE ALLEN'S DECLINATION.
Judge Allen said there was little difference between what has come to be known as "Bryan democracy" and conservative populism. He expressed the opinion that the trust question would never be satisfactorily settled until the government took charge of the great public necessities, the railroads and the telegraph.

Speaking, he said, solely for himself, he declared against engaging in alliances with any foreign power, prince or potentate. Touching on the matter of fusion, he said it meant carrying the state by 15,000 or 20,000. Union meant strength and success; disunion meant defeat and disaster. He said the middle-of-the-road who put personal spite or private ambition above party success or the interests of the state, were patted on the back by the republican press and called statesmen. He deprecated it and urged harmonious action.

Shoemaker insisted on his motion, when the chairman started in to read the report of the first ballot taken by the populist convention.

Shoemaker declared that Allen had no right to decline and had to be declared out of order a dozen times before a semblance of order was restored.

After a boisterous scene of several minutes' duration the chair read the result of the first ballot of the populists.

HOLCOMB BY ACCLAMATION.
Matthew Gering moved that inasmuch as the populists had by a practically unanimous vote sent the name of Silas A. Holcomb to be declared the choice of the democrats by acclamation.

The motion brought forth a wild demonstration of approval on the part of the convention, delegates rising to their feet, cheering and waving their hats.

Shoemaker protested and insisted that the vote be on the question of Allen's selection.

Edgar Howard took part in attempting to be heard, and the confusion was gradually overcome. Chairman Kelliger wearing out his voice, Edward Fallon was called to the chair.

To carry the desired result the delegates were permitted to express their choice on the roll call for each candidate as they pleased.

HOLCOMB LEADS IN BALLOTING.
The result as announced by the secretary, was: Holcomb, 637; Allen, 52; Kretzinger, 51; Smith, 175; Maxwell, 22; Travis, 23; Thompson, 12.

Amid tremendous cheering Holcomb was formally declared the nominee, having been the choice of the three conventions of the fusionists.

With the announcement of the result the calls for Bryan were renewed and he stepped to the stage to make his promise speech. He said he was devoted to the principles of the constitution and believed in co-operation in accomplishing the reforms that were demanded. He said all of the men who had received support in the convention were worthy companions to stand with him in which all were engaged, as it presented a united front to the enemy. The speaker expressed his gratitude for the support that had been given him for nine years, although he had been unable to carry it except by steady devotion to the principles for which the people stood.

During his first term in congress a republican president had stood in the way of any patronage, and during his second term a Cleveland democratic president had barred the way. He said he preferred to represent all his people rather than to secure postoffice for a few of them.

BRYAN REVIEWS FUSION.
Mr. Bryan spoke of what fusion had accomplished in the state, beginning with the election of Senator Allen, then a state ticket, next a supreme judge, and this fall it would be turning over the control of the supreme court. He said that discussion of candidates representing issues was belittling those principles. He briefly reviewed the history of the fight for silver in the state and later in the nation, beginning with the fiat money of the late president, which embodied in the national platform, and the speaker said he proposed that the principles of that platform should be written in the law of the land. He said the income tax and anti-government by injunction plans were a disgrace to the country throughout the country than in 1896.

The speaker declared that the trusts could be destroyed when the federal congress would decree that no corporation should do business outside the state, there being no exception except a license of the federal government. He congratulated the convention that it had not waited for the action of a national convention before declaring against a large standing army. With reference to the war in the Philippines, he said the policy of the administration would be a disgrace to a monarchy and far more to a republic. For a hundred years the republic had trod the pathway from the low domain of might to the lofty realm of right, and he protested against the retrograde. He demanded independence for the Philippines and said that when the American people had a chance to be heard on the subject they would warn McKinley that they would rather stand by the declaration of independence than support an administration that tramples on it.

The speaker was repeatedly interrupted by enthusiastic outbreaks on the part of the convention, the delegates voicing their hearty indorsement of the ideas and arguments advanced.

A committee from the populist and silver republican conventions reported the nomination of J. L. Testers, a silver republican, for regent of the state university.

The democrats promptly approved of the choice by acclamation.

BALLOT ON REGENTS.
For the other place Douglas presented the name of Edson Rich; Holt county, Dr. A. T. Blackburn; Madison county, Thomas Rawlings; Platte county, J. E. Hicks; Cass county, Edward L. Rouse.

The roll was called and Edson Rich of Douglas was declared the nominee. The committee appointed to arrange for the organization of young men's fusion clubs announced that it was ready to report the constitution recommended. The convention adopted it without reading and asked that it be published.

A committee was sent to ask Judge Holcomb to address the convention, and the nominee was cheered when he appeared on the platform. He thanked the convention for the honor of the nomination. He said he would know no full duty between man and man to the lightning before him. He said he wanted to say a word about free transportation. He declared that the platform on which he ran for supreme judge six years ago centered against the two

of passes by the judiciary. It was put there with his consent and approval and he said he would have adhered to it if elected. When governor he recommended that the subject be treated by the legislature, but that was not done. He did not feel that his action was ever influenced or swayed by the breadth of a hair by such favors, but he did not think it right for passes to be accepted by members of the judiciary.

POPULISTS AT WORK.
Delegates to the populist state convention began assembling in Creighton hall promptly at 2 p. m. The floor space was filled with chairs for delegates. These were quickly filled and four or five county delegations seated on the platform.

Judge Allen came in with the Madison county delegation and took a seat in the center of the hall, where he held an informal reception until the business of the convention began.

At 2:35 Chairman J. N. Gaffin called the convention to order and made a brief talk, in which he said he was prepared to address the convention as ladies and gentlemen. Chairman Gaffin said that, as conceded by the republicans, this campaign would settle this and that of next year, and he said it would break the last grip of the republicans on the state government.

Chairman Gaffin presented Congressman R. D. Sutherland, the temporary chairman, with the gavel, which he stated had been used by the presiding officer in the joint convention of the legislature in 1893, which preferred articles of impeachment against the republican state officers and also over the joint convention of the same legislature which elected W. V. Allen United States senator from Nebraska. In accepting the gavel the chairman said all disagreeable thoughts in connection with the history of the gavel were wiped out by the fact that Judge Allen had been elected senator.

JUDGE ALLEN CALLED OUT.
A delegate from Holt county complained that his county had only three chairs, and this created a little confusion, which, when it was quieted down, turned into calls for Allen. Judge Allen arose in his place and bowed and sat down, and the convention cheered and sang till louder for him. In answer to the repeated calls Judge Allen was forced to take the platform.

As Senator Allen took the stand a delegate called out, "The next judge of the supreme court, Judge Allen comes to us by saying in plain English that under no circumstances would he accept a nomination for that office."

Judge Allen counseled unity of action by populists and a curbing of the disposition to quarrel among themselves. He said that if the republicans were to create dissension in the fusion ranks, the republicans hoped to profit themselves by that if they could. The republican leaders were disposed to turn to partisan ends every unworthy move. They sunk patriotism and the interests were to be served. The speaker referred to the criticism by republicans of Governor Poynter's veto of an empty resolution which was composed of empty words of thanks to the First Nebraska, and then then the question was whether or not they would come down into their pockets and bring home those heroes of the Philippines they voted no. "But, thanks to the vigor of Governor Poynter and his assistants these young heroes were to be brought home with all the honors accorded to any regiment by its home state."

ALLEN FOR BRYAN.
Judge Allen announced that in 1900 he expected to champion the election of W. J. Bryan for president. This and his advocacy of the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine brought out a great deal of applause. The announcement of his antagonism to alliance with any foreign power brought out applause that shook the house. The convention from start to finish gave testimony of the high regard felt by delegates for Judge Allen and at the close of his speech gave him a loud ovation.

Closing his speech Judge Allen appealed to the convention to act in harmony and unite upon some strong man and then see that he is elected.

A. J. Weaver, from the silver republican convention, announced that congressional delegates from the populists might desire to lay before it.

Chairman Sutherland announced the following committee on resolutions: W. V. Allen, Madison; G. W. Berge, Lancaster; W. P. Brooks, John; James Peabody and E. E. Thomas, Douglas; W. K. Bryant, Cedar; H. C. Kessler, Boone; C. M. Lemar, Saunders; Dr. H. B. Cummins, Seward; R. H. Adams, Darnall; H. F. Carrin, Buffalo; H. M. Sullivan, Custer.

On motion of Johnson of Lancaster a committee was appointed to confer with democratic and silver republican conventions in regard to organizing young men's fusion clubs.

The chairman appointed the following as a committee to confer with the democrats and silver republicans: J. M. Wilson, Douglas; C. A. Whitford, Washington; W. D. Kelly, Dodge; W. H. Taylor, Butler; Nels O. Roberts, Clay; R. H. Henry and W. A. Garrett at large.

FIRST BALLOT FOR HOLCOMB.
The first ballot, an informal one, was taken on candidates for judge of the supreme court. This resulted in 839 votes being cast for S. A. Holcomb, 125 for W. V. Allen, 18 for Kretzinger, 5 for Samuel Maxwell, 2 for Wheeler.

The ballot was declared formal. Captain Ashby of Dodge opposed making it formal.

John Tierney of Douglas got on a chair and in a loud voice wanted to know where "the populists were when the governor had to let D. E. Thompson give \$2,000." Tierney with difficulty got a chance to be heard, the convention objecting to his evident desire to roast Thompson and the populists. He was followed by Mrs. Belle M. Bigelow and Mrs. D. E. King of Lancaster, who took up the cudgels in defense of Thompson, and had the crowd with them when they did this and to the arraignment of Melkiohn, the republican policy in this state and in the nation.

Lieutenant Governor Gilbert presented resolutions adopted by the republicans and asked populist concurrence therein. A motion was made to adopt the resolution and it was adopted.

Allen's motion prevailed and the platform as reported was adopted.

HOLCOMB UNANIMOUS CHOICE.
On motion of John O. Yeiser, S. A. Holcomb was declared the unanimous nominee of the populist convention.

Edgar Firman moved that J. T. Testers be declared the nominee of the populist convention as candidate for regent of the state university.

Mrs. King and Mrs. Bigelow were appointed a committee to escort ex-Governor Holcomb to the platform.

A resolution by V. E. Wilson, pledging the use of the Morrill and other agricultural college funds in the spirit intended was adopted.

Judge William Neville proposed that a committee be instructed to prepare resolutions of sympathy with the family of the late Congressman W. L. Greene.

Judge Allen prepared the resolution, which was adopted.

The state central committee was empowered to fill any vacancies that may occur on the ticket.

COIN HARVEY'S WORK INDORSED.
A motion of J. N. Gaffin indorsing the work of W. H. ("Coin") Harvey was adopted.

JUDGE HOLCOMB SPEAKS.
Ex-Governor Holcomb was introduced and spoke, expressing his appreciation of the nomination just given him. The speaker referred to Bryan as the grandest leader of the people the world has ever produced and whom "we will follow to victory in 1900." The speaker paid a tribute to the Nebraska volunteers of the three regiments, and specifically to the Third. There was no contest between Judge Allen and himself or other gentlemen voted for. He expressed his gratitude to the convention for the enthusiastic and unanimous expression of the choice of the convention.

BRYAN INTRODUCED.
At the conclusion of ex-Governor Holcomb's talk, Mr. Bryan was called upon and when he was introduced he was given an ovation. Chairman Sutherland introduced him as the next president.

Bryan, when quiet was restored, said that whether they had heard a speech from the next president or not, they had surely heard one from the next judge of the supreme court of Nebraska. The conventions had shown that the forces of fusion were stronger than ever. They ought to be stronger, for the republican policies were worse now than ever before. The speaker reviewed the declarations of the republican party from the days and doctrines of Abraham Lincoln to the present leaders and present policies. Mr. Bryan called for the populist farmers to come out this fall and vote, and he believed there would be no longer any reason for the republicans looking upon Nebraska as a doubtful state. The majority against republicanism would, with proper work, be so large there would be no more sending of republican campaign funds to this state. The speaker's denunciation of imperialism and militarism called out loud cheers.

After waiting quite a time for the democratic convention to name a candidate for regent, at ten minutes before 12 o'clock the committee from the democrats reported the selection of Edson Rich. The populists unanimously nominated Rich.

F. D. Hawksby and W. B. Flack were appointed to notify the other conventions and the populist convention adjourned. A number of delegates then complimented Chairman Sutherland on the universal satisfaction he gave as presiding officer.

The populist state central committee, at a meeting held just after the adjournment of the state convention, elected the executive committee and officers. J. H. Edmisten of Dawson county was elected chairman, receiving twenty-four votes, and J. N. Gaffin, the old chairman, thirteen. E. W. Nelson, at present deputy commissioner of public lands and buildings, was chosen as secretary by the chairman, and the choice was ratified by the central committee. S. J. Kent of Lancaster was elected treasurer without opposition.

The executive committee chosen was W. G. Swan of Tecumseh for the First congressional district; C. A. Whitford of Arlington for the Second district; J. C. Sprecher of Schuyler for the Third district; W. A. Wagner of Beatrice for the Fourth district; John R. Thompson of Cass for the Fifth district; and John A. Miller of Buffalo for the Sixth district. J. H. Edmisten had been elected member of the executive committee for the Sixth district, and when selected as chairman his place was filled by the election of Miller. Thompson headquarters will be at Lincoln. The committee passed a vote of thanks to the old officers of the committee.

SILVER REPUBLICANS' SESSION.
The state convention of the silver republicans was called to order at 2:35 p. m. by Chairman J. N. Lyman of the state central committee, who declared that the silver republicans had always been loyal to the free silver cause, and that if other reform allies had been as faithful W. V. Allen would today have been his own successor in the United States senate.

The state committee had decided not to name a temporary chairman, and therefore the convention selected one. The choice was W. M. Maupin of Douglas county, who made a speech of a few minutes, which was loudly cheered. He declared that the principles of the silver republicans were the principles first enunciated from the lips of Abraham Lincoln.