

# REFORM FORCES MEET.

## NEBRASKA FUSION SOUNDS THE BATTLECRY.

Three Great Conventions With One Voice Declare for Col. William Jennings Bryan.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—The reform forces assembled at Lincoln in three separate conventions, but no single convention ever got together with more singleness of purpose. The delegations were more complete from every section of the state, and each and every man showed more fight than at any previous convention in the history of the fusion forces.

The contests for the positions of the delegates were in nearly every instance practically settled before the conventions were called to order, the threatened spectacular clash between the regular populist organization and the middle-of-the-road following did not materialize. The latter evidently realized that they were up against it, and did not even put in an appearance at the convention hall. The convention sent them word that it was organized and ready to hear their grievance, if they had one, but no response was received. The recalcitrants were thereafter ignored.

After D. Clem Deaver's place on the national committee had been declared vacant and E. E. Thomas of Douglas elected to fill the vacancy, Deaver mustered his followers and made a perfunctory declaration in favor of the Cincinnati convention and went through the form of electing a delegation to go there.

Some effort was made in the morning hours to make a show by sending out parties wearing a badge marked "On to Cincinnati," but it occasioned no interest, and the effort was given up, the only badges of this kind to be seen anywhere during the afternoon being around the Deaver headquarters at the Grand.

An incident of the democratic convention was the noteworthy compliment tendered Richard L. Metcalfe, editor of the World-Herald, whose selection as delegate-at-large was made in the unusual manner of a rising vote, in which all the delegates joined, expressing not only a preference for an individual, but a distinguished honor, as the recipient of the favor expressed it, to the entire corps of newspaper men of the state.

### SESSION OF THE POPULISTS.

The populist convention was called to order in the new auditorium by Chairman J. H. Edmisten at 7 o'clock p. m., an hour later than the time designated by the committee. The delegates arose to their feet while the invocation was pronounced by Rev. R. A. Hawley of Lincoln.

Chairman Edmisten, before the calling of the roll, made a brief speech, in which he eulogized the populist party as "the greatest in the state of Nebraska." The sentiment was loudly applauded.

For temporary chairman, Judge W. H. Westover of Rushville was nominated by General P. H. Barry. The nomination was seconded by M. F. Harrington of O'Neill and Judge Hale of Butler county. Judge J. R. Thompson of Hall county nominated in behalf of the fifth congressional district, R. H. Rohr of Furnas county as the "old soldier candidate," the nomination being seconded from two or three quarters of the house.

The roll call on the nominations resulted: Westover, 60 1/2; Rohr, 56 1/2. Judge Westover was declared elected and made the unanimous choice of the convention.

### WESTOVER CHERISHED.

A storm of applause greeted the temporary chairman as he mounted the platform. In taking the chair Judge Westover declared that the populist party stands for the Declaration of Independence and a strict construction of the constitution. It stood for the tolling masses, he concluded, and its principles, he was convinced, would ultimately be enacted into the laws of the country.

W. A. Bradbury of Stockville and Frank D. Eager of Lincoln were nominated for temporary secretary, and were elected to jointly serve in that capacity.

As a committee on credentials the chair appointed the following, one from each congressional district: J. N. Whitaker of the First district, Elmer Thompson of the Second, R. A. Tawney of the Third, Eric Johnson of the Fourth, C. F. Wheeler of the Fifth and M. F. Harrington of the Sixth. Mr. Harrington took the platform and explained that the seat of Elmer Thomas of Douglas county was contested, together with that of all the others of the Douglas delegation. He expressed his opinion that it was the purpose of the contesting delegation to get a decision from the federal court declaring that the "simon pure populists." For this reason he wanted the convention to be careful, and moved that Thomas be relieved of his duty on the committee and some delegate named in his stead whose seat is not contested.

This course of procedure was concurred in by Mr. Thomas, and the chair named in his stead C. A. Whitform of Washington county.

### SIXTH GETS TIME TO CAUCUS.

General Barry moved a recess for one hour to enable the various congressional districts to caucus and agree on delegates to the national convention. J. H. Tibbles protested that General Barry's district, the Sixth, was the only one that had not already attended to this work. He protested against one further delaying the work of the convention. The motion was lost. It was then decided to devote the next thirty minutes to speeches, during which time the Sixth district might have been heard, which ran into an hour, and the speaker by then

# GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE.



mitted, called the democratic convention to order at Bohannon's hall, and after brief remarks presented Thomas J. Nolan as temporary chairman. Before this the district delegates had caucused and selected their delegates to the national convention.

The First district delegates held the last of the congressional conventions meeting just prior to the assembling of the big convention. It developed a combination of the other counties in the district against Lancaster. The district delegates named were Joseph H. Miles of Falls City and C. E. Cotton of Syracuse. The alternates were Albert George W. Berg of Lincoln, Secretary of State Porter, Land Commissioner Wolfe, who was greeted by an irreverent delegate as "a true representative of the Nebraska hog," and Rev. Father Murphy of Seward.

The speeches were heartily received by the thousand delegates and as many more spectators that crowded the vast galleries of the auditorium.

The committee on credentials submitted its report, stating that the committee had met and notified the Douglas county contestants that it was ready to hear their case, but they had refused to appear before the committee and submitted no evidence in support of their contest. It was therefore recommended that the regular delegation from Douglas county retain their seats. The report was adopted with a whoop and the committee discharged. The temporary organization by a unanimous vote, was then made permanent.

### DEAVER THROWN OUT.

Martin Langdon of Douglas county moved that D. C. Deaver's position on the national committee be declared vacant, and his successor named. The motion was carried by a viva voce vote, without a dissenting voice.

John O. Yelzer of Douglas county placed in nomination as Deaver's successor Elmer E. Thomas of Omaha, Lancaster county nominated T. H. Tibbles, Nance and Butler counties seconded Thomas' nomination.

J. M. Whitaker did not believe that the convention had the power to fill the vacancy. Speaker of Colfax brought the selection of the committee man was the province of the national convention. Harrington of Holt negatived this proposition. The creature, he said, is not greater than the creator, and the convention now had the power to fill the vacancy.

### THOMAS SUCCEEDS.

The roll was called on the nomination of Tibbles and Thomas, "in place of D. C. Deaver, lately deceased," and resulted in Thomas' selection by a vote of 559 to 569.

Mr. Thomas was then declared the unanimous choice of the convention. The victory of the Douglas county man was loudly cheered, and the cheer was renewed as Mr. Thomas took the platform to pledge his fealty to the party and its principles.

The chair named as committee on resolutions Ed Fremant of Nemaha county, Warwick Saunders of Douglas, W. E. Bryant of Cedar, H. D. Rogers of Saline, Judge J. R. Thompson of Hall and C. A. Munn of Valley.

### DISTRICT DELEGATES.

The convention then proceeded to the election of delegates to the national convention. The roll of congressional districts was called and the following preferences indicated:

First District—Delegates, W. F. Moran, B. P. Allen, T. H. Tibbles, William Dalley, George A. Abbott, W. H. Talbot, W. G. Swan, alternates, E. S. Littlefield, James Clark, S. R. Hall, Edgar Fernan, James Whitaker, O. R. Hall, Scott Whitney.

Second District—Delegates, E. E. Thomas, George Magney, L. J. Quinby, C. A. Whitford, W. D. Schaaf, J. W. Fowler, Allen Root, alternates, J. H. Peabody, J. H. Woodby, Victor Wilson, C. R. Sprague, James Tannehill, D. A. May, J. H. Taylor.

Third District—Delegates, C. D. Jenal, J. H. Felber, C. L. Selke, F. C. Scott, J. E. Borchelmer, J. B. Gentry, C. L. Gerard, alternates, Charles Cruckett, Nell Nye, W. F. Porter, E. C. VanAllen, J. L. McKeever, M. N. Cruickshank, J. R. Anderson.

Fourth District—Delegates, W. H. Taylor, J. H. Edmondson, J. W. Stevenson, G. A. Wilkinson, Rev. William Murphy, Eric Johnson, H. M. Power, alternates, H. D. Rogers, W. J. Long, W. H. Barnes, Commodore Beaver, J. B. LaChapelle, J. M. Hamilton, W. H. Taylor.

Fifth District—Delegates, L. A. Beltzer, R. D. Sutherland, Ed. L. Adams, Thos. Mann, F. Houchin, M. M. Burgess, C. W. Jester, alternates, M. M. Chase, J. Higgins, R. L. Evans, A. J. Shaffer, William Dunn, L. M. Graham, F. T. Dunn.

Sixth District—Delegates, J. H. Edmisten, M. F. Harrington, P. H. Barry, J. J. Adams, M. S. Eddy, F. J. Taylor, W. H. Westover, alternates, C. A. Munn, W. L. Hand, G. F. Copper, B. H. Gross, H. M. Matthews, C. M. McClure, H. T. Carson.

Under a suspension of the rules, W. V. Allen and W. A. Poynter were unanimously elected delegates-at-large. Governor Poynter was called to the platform, and his brief speech of thanks and eulogy of Bryan was loudly applauded.

The following telegram from Senator Allen was read:

"Hon. J. H. Edmisten: Please extend greetings to the conventions and say for me that I hope harmony will characterize their deliberations. Danger lies in division and success in united action. Cheers for Bryan and success." Mr. F. Harrington, in response to persistent calls, made a speech that roused the convention to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. His advocacy of government ownership of railroads, denunciation of the eastern corporation democrats, and advocacy of Bryan and Caldwell met with particularly hearty responses.

### NOLAN WIELDS THE GAVEL.

It was 12:30 when James Dahnman, chairman of the state democratic con-

Nelson of Johnson and G. W. Johnson of Pawnee.

The convention instructed its delegates in the state convention to vote for Judge A. S. Tibbets for delegate-at-large and for Frank Morgan of Cass for alternate-at-large.

The second district convention named as its delegates J. A. Creighton and Louis J. Platt, both of Omaha, and for alternates Dr. Paul H. Duesler of Washington county and P. J. Malia of Sarpy county. The convention instructed for R. L. Metcalfe for delegate-at-large.

The third district convention named Phil H. Kohl of Wayne and Jonas Welch of Columbus for district delegates, and for alternates J. W. Tanner of Fullerton and C. H. Collett of Bancroft.

The fourth district convention had some difficulty in determining upon its representatives, but a dozen ballots were required before a choice was declared. The successful aspirants were Harry Metzger of Aurora and W. H. Taylor of Exeter. The alternates selected were Brophy of Stromsburg and J. K. Geseke of Seward.

The fifth district convention named G. W. Tibbets of Hastings and Patrick Walsh of McCook as delegates, and for alternates A. W. Kelley of Beaver City and Fred England of Holdrege.

The sixth district convention selected as delegates M. C. Harrington of North Platte and T. P. Mahoney of Greeley Center, and as alternates S. M. Smyser of Alliance and Charles Barnes of Ainsworth.

### CALLED TO ORDER.

The democratic convention was late in assembling, as many of the delegates seemed to entertain the erroneous idea that it was to be held at the auditorium and did not reach Bohannon's hall until considerably after 8 o'clock.

When Chairman J. C. Dahman of the state central committee finally called to order the hall was crowded, the galleries being as densely packed as was the space on the main floor.

An announcement that Bryan would address the convention was received with much satisfaction by the hundreds who had manifested uneasiness lest the business of the convention would not be concluded in time to permit them to reach the auditorium in time to hear the scheduled address there.

### DAHMAN CONGRATULATES.

Chairman Dahman congratulated the convention on the presence of so many "fighting democrats," and said that it presaged a victory this fall not only to the state but to the nation. He pointed out that the democrats who left the party four years ago on one question were now back in the party on another question. They had had enough of republicanism, and this fall would help to roll up a majority for W. J. Bryan for president, and it would not be stolen from him as it was four years ago.

T. J. Nolan of Douglas was named as the choice of the committee for temporary chairman, and the announcement called forth a vociferous chorus of "yes" from a few personal opponents at South Omaha. The convention did not approve of the insults thus offered, and a motion was made to endorse the action of the committee. It carried by a tremendous shout of approval when put by the chair.

A committee was appointed to escort Mr. Nolan to the platform and he was accorded a most complimentary ovation, that was manifestly not alone a tribute to his standing with the state democracy, but a rebuke to the slur sought to be put upon him by a few members of his own delegation.

### SILVER REPUBLICANS.

The silver republican convention met at the Lincoln hotel at 8 o'clock and was called to order by Dr. Lyman, chairman of the state central committee. He delivered an address that was listened to with deep interest and was heartily applauded at times. Immediately after Dr. Lyman had finished W. J. Bryan appeared and was greeted with great applause, the convention rising and giving three rousing cheers.

Mr. Bryan's speech was punctuated with emphatic approval on the part of the audience and he was accorded an ovation at its close.

Mr. Fulton of Pawnee county was made temporary chairman of the convention, and Lawrence Burnam of Omaha temporary secretary. A moment later the temporary organization was made permanent. Mr. Fulton electrified the convention with a speech which was greeted with great applause.

A committee on resolutions was appointed and while it was at work the convention attempted to agree upon some method of selecting delegates to the Kansas City convention. Immediately there was a warm fight on and it lasted for nearly three hours. Finally it was decided to select the chairman of the county central committees as delegates and that all other silver republicans who could show their allegiance to the party should be certified as delegates.

It was proposed that on the night before the state nominating convention a dollar banquet be held and this was instantly agreed upon. The chairman and secretary of the state committee were instructed to make the necessary arrangements and empowered to appoint sub-committees.

County Clerk Burrows of Thayer county was elected temporary chairman of the state delegation and Frank T. Ransom of Omaha was elected national committeeman by acclamation. Pending the report of the committee on resolutions the convention took a short recess. The committee on resolutions reported at 11:30. The resolutions denounce the new currency law, imperialism, militarism and the trusts, opposed the proposed Puerto Rican tariff and the ignoring of the constitution, favored initiative and referendum, and the "open" and "closed" laws. At 12:30 the convention adjourned.

# BRYAN ON THE ISSUES

## SPEAKS AT THE CONVENTION AT LINCOLN.

### Tremendous Arrangement of the Administration on the Questions of the Day.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—William J. Bryan was accorded three ovations by three bodies of wildly cheering men composing the conventions of the fusion parties. At the Auditorium, at Bohannon's hall and at the Lincoln hotel his reception was alike enthusiastic.

Mr. Bryan's speech before the democratic convention dealt almost entirely with the three questions which he had been discussing in various parts of the country, the money question, the trust question and imperialism. He charged the republican party with practicing a deliberate fraud upon the voters in 1896 by holding out the hope of international bimetalism when the leaders neither expected nor desired the restoration of the double standard, either by independent action or by international agreement.

He said the republicans were opposed to the free coinage of silver at any ratio or under any conditions, and he pointed to the fact that the secretary of the treasury and the leading republican papers were talking in favor of the gold standard at the very time that the commission was in Europe trying to get rid of it. He said that the ratio of 16 to 1 was the only ratio that was discussed and the only ratio for which any considerable number of people were working.

### DENOUNCES FINANCIAL BILL.

He denounced the currency feature of the financial bill, and said that the republican party had never in a campaign advocated the retirement of the greenbacks, and that it would not be able to defend that bill before the country. He said that a national currency secured by government bonds could not be a permanent settlement of the currency question unless we had a permanent and increasing national debt.

### REPUBLICANS AND TRUSTS.

On the trust question, he reiterated his condemnation of the republican party, saying:

"The trust is so bad a thing that the president felt it necessary to denounce trusts in his message last December, but he did not recommend a remedy. The trust portion of his message might be condensed as follows: 'The trusts are bad; for the life of me I don't know what to do about them. I hope somebody knows more than I do and will suggest something.'"

### HOW CONGRESS REPLIED.

"A republican congress listened to the reading of the message and then proceeded to establish a paper money trust, which gives to the people a larger change of injury and to the banks a larger opportunity for profit than any other trust in existence."

He said that the republican party was powerless to interfere with the trusts because the leading republicans were connected with the trusts and the party had to rely upon trust contributions to carry on the coming campaign.

He presented and defended the remedy which he suggested at the anti-trust meeting in Chicago last fall, and which has been frequently discussed since that time.

### PUERTO RICO BLUNDERS.

Taking up the Philippine question he referred first to the Puerto Rico bill, and said:

"The desire to impose import duties on goods coming from Puerto Rico compelled the republican party to disclose its imperialistic tendencies. This bill has aroused a storm of protests from republicans in public and in private life. But why should any republican be surprised? Imperialism means that the people brought under the flag are not to share in the guarantees of the constitution. It is amazing that republicans have contemplated the present acquisition of the Philippine islands without stopping to consider the future status of the Filipinos."

### WHERE DO FILIPINOS STAND?

"Are the Filipinos to be citizens? Are they to be allowed to come to the United States with their oriental methods of living to compete with American labor? What good does it do to exclude a few Chinese and then bring in by force 8,000,000 of Filipinos? Are the Filipinos to expect to participate in our elections? Is a presidential contest to be determined by the returns from the Philippine islands?"

Are the questions which concern our own people to be decided some day by the senators and representatives in congress from the Philippine islands, and if the Filipinos are not to be citizens, are we going to change our constitution so as to hold them in a perpetual state of vassalage?

"Can we expect anything but their hatred so long as we rule them through carpetbag governors? The republicans have studiously avoided a discussion of the Philippine question. They have opposed the consideration of that question until the insurrection was put down."

### PUERTO RICO A LESSON.

"The Puerto Rican tariff bill, however, gives us some idea of the treatment which the Filipinos may expect, and Prof. Schurman, one of the president's commissioners, says that this bill will arouse suspicion in the minds of the Filipinos as to their future condition. He states his fears in the following language:

"At the very moment when we need to inspire confidence in the minds of the conquered Filipinos, shall we commit an act which will confirm their distrust of us, quicken their suspicions and breed new and perhaps ineradicable antipathies? 'God forbid,' Mr. Bryan continued, 'the only settlement of the Philippine question consistent with American interests and American principles is the settlement proposed by the democrats in the senate before war broke out in the Philippine islands, namely: a declaration of the nation's purpose to give the Filipinos independence as soon as a stable government is established. When that declaration is made hostilities will cease and it will be easy to establish a stable government.'"

### REPUBLIC AND FILIPINO.

"To independence should be added protection from outside interference. Not a protectorate such as European countries exercise for the spoilation of the protected, but protection such as this nation has exercised over the republics of Central and South America. It will be sufficient for the United States to announce that any molestation of the Philippines will be considered an unfriendly act."

"If our nation will stand erect and exert its great influence in behalf of peace and justice and liberty, no nation will dare to touch the Philippine islands, just as no nation has dared to disturb the republics which lie south of us."

Mr. Bryan devoted some time to the discussion of the trade argument made in behalf of the Philippine islands and quoted a letter written by Benjamin Franklin to Lord Howe in June of 1776. The extract from Franklin's letter is as follows:

### QUOTES BEN FRANKLIN.

"The well founded esteem and affection which I shall always have for your lordship make it painful to me to see you engaged in conducting a war the great ground of which, as described in your letter, is the necessity for preventing the American trade from passing into foreign channels. To me it seems that neither the obtaining or retaining of any trade, how valuable soever, is an object for which men may justly spill each other's blood. That the true and sure means of extending and securing commerce are goodness and cheapness of commodities, and that the profits of no trade can ever be equal to the expense of compelling it and holding it by fleets and arms. I consider this war against us, therefore, as both unjust and unwise, and I am persuaded that cool and dispassionate posterity will condemn to infamy those who advised it, and even that success will not save from some degree of dishonor those who have voluntarily engaged to conduct it."

### SYNDICATES' FINE WORK.

Mr. Bryan commented upon this letter and said imperialism had its inspiration in the desire of the syndicates to extend their commerce by conquest, and he said that he was willing to indorse the language of Franklin, and say that "cool and dispassionate posterity will condemn to infamy those who advised it."

He also read a letter written by Abraham Lincoln, November 21, 1864, to Mrs. Bixby of Boston, a mother who had lost five sons in the civil war. The following is an extract from the letter:

"I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming, but I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and the

lost and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

Mr. Bryan said that the English language contained no more beautiful expression of sympathy, and he contrasted it with the sordid assurances of those who say that the trade which we secure will be worth the blood that is shed for it, and asked why the people who wanted the trade did not purchase it with their own blood instead of the blood of other people's sons.

### TO THE POPULISTS.

At the populist convention Mr. Bryan commented upon the work of the fusion forces in Nebraska and said that the populists were now passing through the same ordeal that the democrats of Nebraska passed through in 1894.

"In that year," Mr. Bryan continued, "we had some democrats who wanted to elect the republican candidate for governor, and they insisted upon the democrats putting up a ticket in order to hold the democratic vote away from the populist candidate, but the democrats, realizing that a man is responsible for the natural and legitimate consequences of his own act, refused to aid in the election of a republican by running a middle-of-the-road democratic ticket."

"This was the beginning of fusion success in Nebraska. The middle-of-the-road populists now prefer to aid in the election of a republican president rather than by co-operation with the democrats and silver republicans to defeat a republican president and secure those reforms upon which the democrats, populists and silver republicans agree."

He pointed out that the natural and legitimate consequence of a middle-of-the-road ticket by the populists was its aid in the election of a republican president, and that those who gave their assistance assumed responsibility for the permanent maintenance of the gold standard, the destruction of the green backs and the establishment of the national bank currency, the continued domination of the trusts, the permanent increase of the standing army and the overthrow of the principles of self-government by the imperial policy to which the republican party is now committed.

To the silver republican convention Mr. Bryan spoke for twenty minutes, complimenting the silver republicans of Nebraska and of the nation. "Silver republicans," said Mr. Bryan, "thought themselves out of the old republican party. It is natural that men who advocated bimetalism because they were in sympathy with the cause of the common people should be today advocating other policies in the interest of the common people."

Mr. Bryan said that the constitution and the flag could not be separated; that there could not be such a thing as citizens and subjects in a free republic, and that the Declaration of Independence was still the foundation of principle upon which was builded this nation.

### LEE HERDMAN IS CLERK.

#### Receives Appointment as Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Lincoln, Neb.—(Special.)—The supreme court, before adjourning, announced the appointment of Lee Herdman of Omaha as clerk, by the vote of Judges Sullivan and Holcomb, Chief Justice Norval dissenting, giving as his reason therefor that the term of office of the present incumbent, D. A. Campbell, has not expired.

The appointment is to take effect on May 1, next, and is in the following terms:

"Ordered, That Lee Herdman be and he hereby is appointed reporter of this court in place of D. A. Campbell, the present incumbent, such appointment to become effective May 1, 1900. Norval, C. J., voting no because the office is created by the constitution and the official term is by that instrument fixed at four years, and inasmuch as the term of the present incumbent does not expire until July, 1902, the court has no power to now appoint a successor, and especially the appointment should not take effect until the close of the present term of court."

Elton W. Nelson, deputy land commissioner, on Monday last handed in his resignation as secretary of the populist state central committee, giving as his reason that he had been appointed deputy clerk of the supreme court. Coordinate with Nelson as deputy, it is understood, will be Wilbur F. Bryant of Harrington.

### REHEARING IN BARTLEY CASE.

The motion of the state for a rehearing in the case against the Bartley bondsmen was granted. This case was appealed to the supreme court from Douglas county, where Judge Fawcett instructed the jury to find for the state in the sum of \$644,000. The supreme court reversed and remanded the case, holding that the case should have gone to the jury. The granting of a rehearing is taken as indicating that the court may yet sustain the action of the lower court.