

# CONVENTION

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POPULIST CONVENTION.

## PATTERSON CHAIRMAN

Speeches By the Leaders of the Party Create Enthusiasm—Col. Bryan's Nomination.

St. Louis, Mo., May 10.—Temporary Chairman Ringdal rapped the populist convention to order at 9:45, three-quarters of an hour after the time set at last night's adjournment.

The committee on credentials presented its report declaring that there were no contesting delegations and recommending that the vote of Missouri be increased by two votes, that of Ohio by five votes and that of South Dakota by three votes.

The report, which was read by Governor Poynter of Nebraska, was adopted without a dissenting vote. The minority report threatened last night by Committee man Madden of Colorado did not materialize.

The committee on permanent organization reported the name of Thomas M. Patterson of Colorado for permanent chairman, T. H. Curran of Kansas, Leo Vincent of Colorado and E. M. Deisher of Pennsylvania as permanent secretaries. Mr. Patterson's name was greeted with great applause, which extended into vociferous cheering as he came to the front of the platform.

**PATTERSON ROUSES THEM.**  
In accepting the position, Mr. Patterson briefly sketched the history of the populist party and the causes which led up to its organization.

"The school of Hamilton, the school of doubt of the ability of the people to govern themselves," continued Mr. Patterson, "has completely dominated the councils of both the democratic and republican parties. The people's party was constituted to restore the landmarks of our fathers, to take up the struggle where the democratic party had left off, to prove that these people are capable of self-government and laws should be made for the people, by the people and protects the rights which the mere existence of the individual can be conferred on him."

The speaker gave a short history of the financial legislation of congress during the last administration of President Cleveland and that of President McKinley.

"During this controversy," he said, "the seed of the people's party, which had been sown in 1892, began to bear fruit. That party believed then, and believes today, in the right of the people to control the issue of their own currency without dictation of Wall street."

### WORK OF PEOPLE'S PARTY.

He then gave a history of the early successes of the people's party and went on: "To check the approach of the people's party throughout the whole south, the democrats of that section incorporated into their own creed the populist trusts and embodied in their platform of 1896 all the cardinal principles of the populist platform of nearly four years ago."

"The democratic party of 1896 nominated Mr. Bryan and later the people's party nominated Mr. Bryan. It has been said that we showed wonderful magnanimity in choosing the avowed candidate of another party. I say no. The people's party would have been able to all its avowed principles had it nominated any other man than Mr. Bryan. We never surrendered our rights as a party. We never could have nominated any other man."

Rounds of applause greeted the speaker's denunciation of imperialism and the heavy increase in the standing army following the "wars of conquest," and his comparison of the republican, democratic and populist platforms brought many of the delegates to their feet. "So dominant has the spirit of populism become in the democratic party," said the speaker, "that that party does not take issue with a single principle advanced in the Omaha or St. Louis platforms. The republican party takes issue with every vital question that is in the populist platform."

"The populist party stands as a mentor," he continued, "for other political parties less advanced and less progressive than we are. The people's party must and shall live, for it is the pioneer of every political reform that, by the consensus of American opinion, is essential to American free government."

### VICTORY IS CERTAIN.

"What is the outlook," asked the speaker, "for the coming presidential election. I cannot doubt the outcome. We will go before the country as we went before, with the principles we have already professed and under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan." (Cheers.)

Mr. Patterson then entered upon an extensive eulogy of Mr. Bryan as a man, a statesman and a soldier of the Spanish-American war.

He commended the ratification of the treaty of peace, not that he contemplated the holding of the Philippines or the annexation of peoples who did not desire to be annexed. He was anxious for peace that "the promise of abundant liberty made to 12,000,000 of people might be fulfilled."

"What had occurred since 1897," he said, "Mr. Bryan is recognized as the man whose name was recognized in the past and who is now the strength of the people's party."

the gold party are located, he is acknowledged a safe man and he will be the unanimous nominee of the democratic convention at Kansas City." (Cheers.)

The speaker then predicted a sweeping triumph for Mr. Bryan in November and that his election would mean that the rights of the people are advanced to a higher level than ever before.

"Whatever may be the glory of that victory," he said, "the people's party may claim the greatest share, and it will have been the great political power that brought about the great result."

A long continued round of applause greeted the chairman as he sat down.

After Governor Poynter had presented Chairman Patterson with a gavel made of seventeen different kinds of Nebraska wood, General Weaver of Nebraska was introduced to announce a meeting of state delegates to meet immediately after the session, "in order," he said, "to avoid any differences which may arise over the question which has been before us for several days."

The report of the committee on platform and resolutions was then called for, but the committee was not ready to report. A proposition to adjourn for three hours was voted down.

"I am now ready to entertain a motion for the nomination of president before the report of the committee on resolutions is presented," announced the chairman.

Cries of, "No, no; wait for the platform," came from all parts of the big tent. Considerable confusion ensued, but finally at 11:04 o'clock a motion for a recess until 2 o'clock was adopted to allow the various committees to complete their work.

### HEARS THE PLATFORM.

At 2 o'clock the convention heard the report of the committee on resolutions.

The long financial plank of the platform, including the denunciation of the recent banking law and especially the demand for free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 was received with wild cheering. The demand for an inheritance tax also received a round of applause. Vigorous cheering was also heard on the reading of the plank on transportation, the demand for abolishment of all tariffs on "trust" goods and the indorsement of the initiative and referendum. Cries of "good," "good," greeted the denunciation of the administration's Philippine policy and the Porto Rican tax.

When that plank extending sympathy to the South African republic, denouncing any alliance with foreign powers, was read, the convention broke into wild applause, lasting for some time. Indorsement of the municipal ownership of public utilities received but faint applause, but vigorous hand clapping, ensued when direct election of United States senators was demanded.

At the conclusion of the reading of the platform Jerry Simpson moved that the platform be adopted as read and the committee discharged. The motion received half a dozen seconds.

A delegate from Michigan objected as the platform carried no pledge of support to the candidate to be nominated. "There's no objection to any delegate offering a motion to that effect, I guess," said Mr. Simpson. "The committee would like to be discharged."

The motion was made. A standing vote was called for and amid great cheering every delegate in the tent arose, not a vote being recorded.

"The platform is adopted by unanimous vote," announced Speaker Patterson. "The next thing in the convention," said he, "is the presentation of names for the office of president of the United States."

### SENATOR ALLEN PRESENTED.

Then, without pausing or calling for any roll of states, he went on: "I have the pleasure of introducing Senator Allen of Nebraska—"

This could mean but one man, and that was Bryan, and before Senator Allen could come to the front of the platform the convention was on its feet cheering frantically, waving flags, hats and handkerchiefs.

### HE NOMINATES BRYAN.

The speech of Senator Allen was brief and to the point. He spoke as follows: "He embodies in his political convictions, in his life, all that is good in an American citizen, all that is pure and loyal, all that the most exacting could desire; a statesman of ripe experience, a philosopher, a patriot without a peer, either in this or any other continent. Peerless, bold, determined, thoroughly united to the interests of the great mass of his countrymen, who would make, and will make an ideal candidate for the exalted office of president of the United States. Since the result of the election of 1896 was known to the American people, among the fusion forces of the United States, there has been but one name connected with the office and with the nomination at this time. He is the embodiment of all that opposes plutocracy, that opposes greed, that opposes the exercise of criminal power in public life. He is, in my judgment, the most American citizen of the age. I think he is, as an orator, as a statesman, the equal of Webster and Clay, if not their superior. He was a Nebraskan, but belongs now to the world. Without further discussion, without further description of this man, I present to this convention this hero, statesman and orator, William Jennings Bryan."

The announcement of Mr. Bryan's name was the signal for another enthusiastic outburst. The Minnesota delegation hoisted a huge star, having the portrait of Mr. Bryan in the center, and the convention cheered again, more vigorously than before.

### GENERAL WEAVER SECONDS.

When his voice could be heard, Chairman Patterson announced: "I have the pleasure to introduce

General James B. Weaver of Iowa."

Another outburst of cheers rang out as the veteran from Iowa came forward to second the nomination of Mr. Bryan. He spoke, in part, as follows:

"I had the honor to present at St. Louis the name of the distinguished gentleman who has just been mentioned," said General Weaver. "I am glad that I can say here today that there has never been a moment from that day to this that I have regretted, or any populist in America has regretted, that he was the choice of that convention. The century past has produced but three great civic names—Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and William J. Bryan. The delegates in this convention are disciples of the first, many of them helped put the second in the chair, and we are followers of the third. Mr. Bryan is peculiarly a representative of American civilization. It is with peculiar satisfaction and with the most unselfish purpose that I arise before you to second the nomination of William Jennings Bryan as president of the United States."

Jerry Simpson was then announced, amid vigorous applause. It was enough, he said, to say of Mr. Bryan that he had risen head and shoulders above his compeers in the democratic party and that he had also captured the people's party as well.

Mr. Bryan, he declared, represented the struggle for human rights, and he wanted the populists to stand by him and do all in their power to elect him, thus taking the first step toward restoring the country to its old-time glory.

Mr. G. F. Washburn of Massachusetts added his testimony in behalf of Mr. Bryan. He said:

"I rise to second the nomination of William J. Bryan, because embodied in him is the spirit of many millions of free American people. He has the wisdom of Jefferson, the heroism of Jackson and the magnetism of Lincoln. The hope of the nation rests in that personality and I trust that he will be nominated by acclamation."

The chair recognized "Cyclone" Davis of Texas and a shout went up as the tall form of Mr. Davis loomed up on his way to the platform.

### TEXAS ENTHUSIASM.

Mr. Davis announced that at other conventions he had been a political opponent of Mr. Bryan, but had now come over to the ranks of the elect, and believed that in him lay the hopes of the nation and the only man who can "throttle the oppressors of the people."

"We have Bryan clubs down our way," said the speaker, "and I can promise you next fall a Bryan vote of 250,000 majority. We are with him heart and soul and we give him not only our love and admiration, but the hot blood of a noble surrender for the good of the American people. McKinley has been called the Napoleon of republican politics, and perhaps the title is not inappropriate, for we all know that Napoleon made a dash into the orient and it did not pan out very well."

Keeping up his Napoleonic simile, the speaker proceeded that the "Napoleon of republican politics would meet his Waterloo next November. There were loud calls of "Butler, Butler," and Marion Butler of North Carolina was greeted with cheers as he came forward.

Briefly, but eloquently, Senator Butler seconded Mr. Bryan's nomination. "I for one," said he, "will put into this fight all that is in my power. I know every populist in the United States will do the same in any capacity he may be told to act, and I appeal to you to make his election certain next November."

W. J. Thomas of Colorado, the next speaker, said that Colorado had never been behind in the espousal of reform measures, and that the state would again be found in the column of 1896 as a supporter of Mr. Bryan. "He had," he said, "found Mr. Bryan equal to all emergencies, and was confident he would be elected."

### HENRY CLAY SUPPORTERS.

Mr. Olds of Pennsylvania, "now 84 years old, who voted for Henry Clay in 1844 and is now for William J. Bryan," was the next introduced.

Mr. Olds, bent and white bearded, said that he had walked a thousand miles to vote for Henry Clay in 1844. "I came a thousand miles to see William J. Bryan nominated in this convention," said Mr. Olds, "and I hope you will not allow me to be defeated, as I was in 1844."

Cries of "We won't" greeted Mr. Olds as he sat down.

Mr. Jones of Illinois assured the convention that his state would give Mr. Bryan a majority in November.

Senator Allen of Nebraska stepped forward.

"Mr. Chairman," said he, "amid perfect silence, I move that the rules of this convention be suspended and that William Jennings Bryan be nominated by acclamation for president of the United States."

Amid the din that followed Senator Allen's motion and its seconding the speaker's voice was faintly heard calling on those delegates who favored the motion to rise and remain standing.

As one man, the convention arose, hats, canes, umbrellas, flags, were waved in the air amid deafening cheers, the uproar being increased by the band playing "Old Hundred." Some enthusiastic delegate tore loose a large picture of Bryan hanging in front of the speaker and tied it to the label, where, cheering for Bryan, he held it while the convention applauded frantically.

"I propose three cheers for William J. Bryan," cried George F. Washburn of Massachusetts. These were given with a will and the convention then quieted down.

"I announce the nomination by a unanimous vote of William Jennings Bryan for president of the United States," said Chairman Patterson as soon as he could be heard.

# COL. BRYAN

NOMINATED BY POPULISTS BY ACCLAMATION.

## BRYAN AND TOWNE.

The Convention Selects the Minnesota Leader After a Day of Debate Over the Action.

St. Louis, Mo., May 10.—(Special.)—William J. Bryan was nominated for president by acclamation and as the result of a steady drift of sentiment for the last two days, the populist national convention by a vote of two to one voted down all propositions intended to defer a vice presidential nomination, and then by acclamation, and amid greatest enthusiasm, nominated Charles A. Towne as Mr. Bryan's running mate in the ensuing campaign. Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas stood almost solidly to the end against a vice presidential nomination, but the sentiment of eastern and southern delegations was too strong to be overcome.

At a noon conference participated in by the chairman of all the state delegations, presided over by Governor Poynter, the Towne support was clearly indicated as controlling the convention and the fight thereafter was a hopeless one.

The opposition to Towne's nomination was made, of course, purely on grounds of expediency. To a man, almost, the delegates were for Charles A. Towne for vice president, the minority acting from a belief that his nomination by this convention might imperil his nomination at Kansas City. The majority, however, contended, and successfully, that his nomination here was essential to the continued existence of the people's party.

### UNANIMOUS FOR FUSION.

The great significant features of the session, overshadowing everything else, was the everywhere expressed determination that nothing that the Kansas City conventions may or may not do on the vice presidential question shall be allowed to hinder fusion in any way or take from Mr. Bryan populist support.

When Senator Butler, the leader of the Towne forces, declared in the convention that even should the democrats fail to nominate Towne the two vice presidential candidates would work together to secure Bryan's election, he voiced the unanimous sentiment of the delegates.

Although there was a grave and vital difference of opinion on an important question, factionalism and bitter feeling were noticeably absent. While two or three of the leaders clashed once or twice, the body of the convention was always calm, temperate and devoid of ill feeling.

### BRYAN'S NOMINATION.

Bryan was nominated for the presidency by acclamation by a wildly enthusiastic vote, the delegates rising, cheering and waving flags and Bryan pictures for full three minutes. The nominating speech by Senator Allen, eloquent and strong as it was brief, had started rolling a wave of enthusiasm that was but heightened and intensified by the seconding speeches of Jerry Simpson, General Weaver and George F. Washburn, "Cyclone" Davis, Marion Butler, W. J. Thomas of Colorado, and A. D. Olds of Pennsylvania. The last named gentleman was a gray and venerable patriarch of 86, who declared he had voted for Henry Clay, John C. Fremont and Abraham Lincoln.

The great demonstration following Bryan's nomination having subsided, there was intense stillness that presaged the coming storm when Chairman Patterson said: "The next order of business reads as follows: To take action on the nomination of a candidate for vice president of the United States. The chair awaits the pleasure of the convention."

### MOVE FOR TOWNE.

Then from the Massachusetts delegation arose the tall and spare and well-limbed figure of E. Gerry Brown. "I move," he said, "that the convention proceed to the nomination of a candidate for vice president by ballot. The motion was loudly cheered by the Towne men, and the cheering took on a deeper note when Senator Marion Butler took the floor, a "Bryan and Towne" badge conspicuous on his coat lapel, and seconded the motion, which, if it prevailed, would insure his re-election to the senate from North Carolina next winter.

George A. Washburn, the peace-maker of the convention, then amended the motion of his Massachusetts colleague to the effect that a committee from this convention, to consist of one member from each state and territory be empowered to present to the Kansas City convention five names which this convention should choose by ballot, as acceptable to the populists. If none of these should be nominated, then, his amendment provided, the committee, acting with the national populist executive committee, should proceed to nominate a populist for vice president.

General Weaver brought out the third proposition, moving, as a substitute for the amendment, that no nomination now be made for the vice presidency, but that a committee be sent to Kansas City, authorized to act with those conventions in nominating a candidate in all respects in harmony with the St. Louis platform, failing which, they should act with the populist executive committee in nominating a populist or silver republican.

### SIMPSON'S SOLUTION.

Jerry Simpson added his mite to the complication by offering an amendment to the substitute to the amendment to the original motion. Simpson's amendment left the whole matter of the vice presidency to the national committee, to be chosen by this convention. The possibilities in the nature of substitutes and amendments being now exhausted, the question reoccurred on Simpson's amendment to Weavers' substitute, which the Iowa announced he would for the time being accept.

Simpson was the first speaker. Grizzled, lantern-jawed, and saturnine, he abandoned his customary tones and words of sarcasm and irony and pleaded with the convention to take no hasty action. His amendment he declared, was offered for the purpose of assuring fusion and the election of William J. Bryan.

In the platform already adopted, he continued, the convention, without a dissenting vote, has invited fusion and co-operation. Let it now itself aid in the accomplishment of this desire. Let it avoid such action as would again tack two tails to the fusion ticket. This convention, he said, would soon appoint a national committee representative of its principles and its wishes. Let that committee meet the democrats and talk with them face to face at Kansas City, neither party dictating what the other should do.

Senator Butler opened the debate on behalf of those demanding a nomination. He declared that he had but little doubt of the result. He and his followers, he said, were anxious to insure Bryan's election. But they were also anxious to preserve the people's party.

"If the party is sacrificed and dies," he cried, "then reform dies with it. When you destroy the party you will find you have destroyed Mr. Bryan."

"If an one here wants to see the people's party die or make it a tail to the democratic party, he has no business in this convention. This is the people's party, and by the eternal, it shall continue to exist. These men at Cincinnati cannot trade it off, if we don't sacrifice it here."

Senator Butler spoke at some length, concluding: "We ought to nominate a vice presidential candidate here and now. And even if they refuse to indorse him at Kansas City, we can put their candidate and our candidate on the stump side by side, both pleading for Bryan's election, and with them and him we'll sweep the country."

### SENATOR ALLEN REPLIES.

There was intense silence as the tall form of Senator Allen arose to reply to his colleague from North Carolina. He declared that for the first time he and Senator Butler were disagreed, but that nothing that could be said or done here would destroy the strong personal and political attachment existing between them.

"I want to say," he continued, "that no man or set of men can destroy the populist party. It is built on principle and will live when you and I are dead and forgotten." Senator Allen then spoke strongly in favor of the Simpson substitute. It was simply, he said, a move to act with wisdom in this crisis. If the democrats and silver republicans should turn a deaf ear to the populist national committee, then it could nominate its own vice president.

"What do we lose by that?" he asked. "Does that destroy the party? Isn't that the part of wisdom?" (Cries of "Yes" and "No.") The senator then paid a high tribute to the character of his friend, Charles A. Towne. "But, I want to tell you," he said, "that the way to defeat Mr. Towne in election is to nominate him here today. Let us take counsel by our mistakes of the past and not make a mistake here today." (Cheers.)

### ILLINOIS FOR TOWNE.

Dr. Howard S. Taylor of Illinois was next recognized. He said that he realized that at this time no speaker could do more than voice opinions already formed. The Illinois populists, he said, had instructed their delegation to insist that this convention should perform the full functions of a national nominating convention. He questioned Senator Allen's "fine faith in the everlasting duration of the populist party." Pioneer parties before this had lived, accomplished great purposes and died. The one safe thing to do today, he said, was to "make an adequate, fit nomination for the vice presidency."

His reference to Towne as the "Chevy-chaser" of the great white hero of '96, brought out loud and long applause. Three months ago, he asserted, democratic leaders everywhere were conceding the second place on the ticket to the populists. They were willing then to have this convention nominate Bryan and Caldwell. What objection, he asked, is there to Towne as a substitute. "I know," he shouted, "that they object because Charles A. Towne is too fully the embodiment of the Chicago platform. They want a moderate man—a venerable man."

He brought out loud cheers by referring to the east as "the tory end of the country," and declaring it would never support Bryan on any terms. "Why not nominate Towne?" he cried. "God bless his honest face. He is Bryan's Fidas Acheson, he would die for him. When you have decided," he concluded, "then I have decided, for I will work and act with you." (Loud cheers.) At this juncture the convention adjourned until 8 o'clock.

The scene when the convention began assembling for the evening session was striking and impressive. Beams of lights illuminated the main portion of the great tent, but at the far end the cavernous depths were gray and sombre. Delegates were hurrying about, shouting and gesticulating, making the last herculean effort to convince the obtuse opposition on the stage. Several hundred ladies in the brilliant and variegated colors of summer, lent beauty and animation to the scene.

The Washburn resolution having been defeated by a vote of 270 ayes to 584 nays, the roll was called for nominating Bryan. After the several nominations and withdrawals, amid shouts, cheers and trumpets, Towne's nomination was made by a rising vote.

# BOER WAR.

ROBERTS SAYS BOERS ARE IN FULL RETREAT.

## STEYN READY TO FIGHT

The British Members of Parliament Wager That Pretoria Will Fall in Three Months.

London.—(Special.)—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Cable Cart, Zand River, May 10.—The enemy are in full retreat. They occupied a position twenty miles in length. Ours was necessarily longer. With the widely scattered force it will take some time to learn the casualties, but I am hopeful we have not suffered much. The cavalry and horse artillery are pursuing the Boers by three different roads."

In a short time afterward this message was received:

"Cable Cart Headquarters, at the Front, May 10 (2:10 a. m.)—We are now across the Zand river. The enemy are still holding a strong position, but we are gradually pushing them back."

The crossing of the Zand river by the British appears to have been effected sooner than even the most sanguine expected and this morning Lord Roberts' temporary headquarters is established in a cable cart on the north bank of the river.

### BETTING ON PRETORIA'S FALL.

Members of the house of commons were freely betting in the lobbies last evening that Lord Roberts would be in Pretoria in two months. The materialists are building confident hopes upon the comprehensive plans he had communicated to the war office.

Predictions are definitely made that he will be in Kroonstad next Monday and it is believed that his advance force is already reconnoitering in the vicinity of Venters, where the hilly country begins again.

Beyond Kroonstad is an intricate and difficult country, and if the Boers should elect to fight, it is possible they could check the progress of the British until the cavalry had had time to ride around their flank and threaten their rear.

From 15,000 to 20,000 is the highest estimate of the Boers under General Botha, who is said to have forty-six guns. Botha and General De Wet are reported to have quarreled.

Lord Roberts is pressing hard after this force with 35,000 men and 140 guns and 20,000 more men are easily available. Lord Roberts' summaries of results are not followed by any up-to-date press telegrams. The correspondents are confined to events two or three days old, so far as Lord Roberts is concerned.

### STEYN TO GIVE BATTLE.

President Steyn with 10,000 men is reported to have been east of Thaba N'Chu yesterday (Thursday) noon and a battle was then imminent. The advance troops of General Rundle and General Brabant were being fired on.

According to advices from Durban, dated Thursday, General Buller's army is "showing activity," but a complete embargo is placed on news from him. New Zealand scouts burned the home-stead of a farmer named Greyling, in whose house arms were found at Deering.

During a concert for the sufferers from the Begbie works explosion, given Saturday evening at Pretoria in the Gaiety theater, the doors were suddenly closed and every man in the audience was commandeered. All horses were taken from the conveyances outside.

President Kruger has released the Daily Mail correspondents, Hallowell and Hofmeier.

Half the foreign merchants at Lorenzo Marquez held an indignation meeting to protest against the new regulations, whereby blankets, clothing and "bully beef" was declared contraband. Twelve thousand cases are in bond there.

### DOES SALISBURY FEAR FRANCE?

The alarmist tone of Lord Salisbury's speech Wednesday has created the impression that the apprehensions of the premier are even more serious than he expressed. His utterances are ascribed to the recent successes of the nationalists in France, hatred of England being one of the weapons of the campaign. The revival of military glory, one of the ideals set up in France, is regarded as dangerous to England.

The Times publishes a letter from Bloemfontein describing the Koonr Spruit disaster. The writer says that it was due to a criminal neglect of the most primitive precautions in war, and he asserts that an advance guard of a single troop would have averted the mishap.

The Standard publishes the following, dated May 9, from Weigelien:

"The engagements on the Vet river caused the Boers to be disatisfied with their leaders. I learn from Pretoria that the Boers intend to retire to Lydenberg, leaving to the foreign mercenaries the task of defending Johannesburg and Pretoria. The foreign mercenaries are now advocating the sending out of guerrilla parties of from 300 to 400 strong rather than a persistence in operations on a large scale, but the Boers are not dashing enough for that kind of work. Whatever happens at Kroonstad, there is no doubt that the frontier will be strongly contested."