

THEY SHOW THEIR HAND.

The Republican Party Proposes to Make the Tariff and Not the Money Question the Issue.

The money question is not to be the issue in the coming presidential campaign, after all. Senator Dubois and National Chairman Carter did not make good their boasts and threats. They did not secure a declaration in favor of silver, nor did they break up the convention in a row. The machine politicians of the twin franks have agreed to endeavor to again "drown the cries of an outraged and plundered people with the noise of a sham battle over the tariff." The silverites, however, were there in sufficient numbers to force the convention to entirely ignore all questions and issues of all kinds, in order to avoid a fight on the silver question.

As Moses P. Handy, correspondent of the Chicago Times-Herald, sums up: "After a session consuming the greater part of twenty-four hours in the labors of the committee on resolutions and its sub-committee, the members of the International League of Republican Clubs are happy in the belief that they have adopted sailing directions which will enable them to clear the silver shoals without even scraping the hull of their ship."

"The way was very easy after all, consisting simply in falling back upon the provision in the constitution of the National league which stipulates that the league shall fight campaigns but shall have nothing to do with planning them, that being the province of the national convention of the republican party. Both sides went into the fight with extreme views, gold monometallism being urged on the one side and silver monometallism on the other, the version of the opposition in either case being accepted. The silver state senators on the one hand and the eastern men on the other declared they would be satisfied with no half-way deliverance. The more they talked, however, the closer they found they were together until finally Senator Patton, of Michigan, framed and presented a resolution which unexpectedly met everybody's approval. To-night both parties are claiming victory, and a love feast is proclaimed in which all participate."

In consonance with this policy, a lengthy and carefully prepared address to the people was entirely suppressed and the only resolution adopted by the convention is one which reads as follows:

Whereas, Section 16 of the constitution of the United States says: "This league shall not in any manner endeavor to influence the national, state or municipal convention," the delegates of the Republican League of the United States in convention assembled do hereby renew their allegiance to the republican party and pledge their best efforts for the success of the candidates of that party. Believing that the convention has no instruction from the republicans of the United States or jurisdiction under our constitution to favor platforms, we refer all resolutions on public questions to the republican national convention of 1896, with entire confidence that its action will redound to the prosperity of our people and the continued glory and advancement of the country.

As the Kansas City Star says: "The action of the league was undoubtedly what a Yankee would call a smart thing to do, even if the silver men do feel that they have been quietly bamboozled. From out of this convention Gov. McKinley emerges on top. His friends saw that the old hubbub cry of 'the tariff is the issue' was vociferated, and then, just at the proper time, the governor bobs up to bear off all the glory and honors of the meeting."

But although the convention, as a body, failed to declare itself, ex-Senator Warner Miller, of New York, in the opening speech of the convention, struck the keynote of republican policy on the silver question. He said that his friends had told him to say nothing on this subject, but he declared silence would be un-republican cowardice. He demanded that the party meet the issue, favoring the conservative bimetallic policy as approved by previous national platforms.

This did not exactly please the western men, but they applauded when told they were certainly honest in their convictions. He favored international agreements on the question, believing that gold was too narrow a standard to act as a medium for the transaction of the world's commerce. He finished without any protest from the silver wing and the convention felt easier.

This means a finance plank similar to that adopted by the Ohio republicans, which is the same old straddle, consisting of a jumble of words about "parity," "ratio," "purchasing power," and "international agreement."

But the most remarkable and significant feature of the convention was the unanimity with which the assembled politicians declared that the tariff, and not silver, would be the issue in 1896.

Gen. John S. Clarkson, in his letter of regret, voiced the sentiment of all but the silverite minority when he wrote:

"I am sure this convention will be wise in its day and prudent in all its utterances. It is made up of men who know too well the way to victory for it to favor the smart democratic plan of diverting the republican party from the issue of the tariff, on which it was united, to the issue of the currency, on which it is at present somewhat divided."

The Cleveland World, edited by Robert P. Porter, formerly of the New York Press, and superintendent of the last federal decennial census, devoted most of its space recently to interviews with delegates and claimed that all with the exception of the west considered the tariff as the issue. Its headlines are:

HARK, YE REPUBLICANS,
—
Tariff Is the Issue.
—
Silver Is in the Background.
—
This Money Agitation Is a Democratic Scheme.
—
Strong Expressions From Prominent Republicans From All Parts of the Country for Protection as the Keynote.

The introduction to the article says: "The tariff will be the issue of the national campaign of 1896. This is the expression of the most prominent delegates to the national republican league

convention, not from any particular section of the country, but from east, west, north and south. World reporters made a careful canvass of the hotels and interviewed delegates and visitors who are known to be representative men of not only their state, but their section. The unanimity of the expressions declaring for a campaign on tariff lines was remarkable."

"It is a long time between this and election day and before that, I think, the tariff will assume its due importance and become the chief question at issue," said John Dalzell, of Pennsylvania.

A majority of those interviewed spoke in the same way.

The World concludes a long editorial in the same issue thus:

"The republican party is not likely to allow its hard-bested foes to thus hoist their sins upon its back and carry them off into the wilderness. It is not for the republicans to admit in platform or other utterances that an egg laid twenty years before has just hatched out a calamity that can be traced directly to the ugly creatures that laid it, cackled over it and warmed it into life. No, the mythical silver crime laid at the door of the republican party will not be the issue next year with the assent or consent of that party. It is put forward in order to hide the responsibility of the party that said it would make mischief with American industries and which would have been, had it dared to be, quite as bad as its word."

A special correspondent of the St. Louis Republic says:

"I heard an old-time republican from one of the Dakotas, who has reached the age where he thinks that the remonetization of silver is of much more importance than the maintenance of old party affiliations, say this morning that silver stood as much chance of receiving fair treatment in the republican national convention as a nihilist would before an imperial court in Russia."

"There is no manner of doubt that the free coinage element in the republican party is strong and very much in earnest. There is not a state west of the Alleghenies that has not a free coinage element in the republican party. In the far west—California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, Kansas and the territories—all the people, irrespective of party affiliations, favor free coinage, and the republicans declare that if the national republican convention declares against or ignores silver, thereafter there will be no republican party in the states named."

"The western men were ready to make good their threats to march out of the convention if the east and the southern darky forced a gold standard platform on them. The bosses knew this. They were, privately as well as publicly, informed that if there was a set of resolutions adopted that did not speak respectfully and liberally of silver, a break was inevitable. The western men left here, fully convinced that there was no hope for the remonetization of silver through the agency of the republican party. They will keep up the fight and appeal to the national convention, but they no longer hope for a majority in the high court of the party. Until this time, the western men fully expected assistance from the southern republicans. They did not look for a solid republican south for free coinage, but they expected a fair division. The combination between the east and south, the speech of Jack McClure, the glib talk of the darkies and the carpet-baggers for 'sound money' convinced them that the jig was up within the republican party and that cold evasion or square antagonism was all they had to expect in future."

Senator Dubois and Chairman Carter will have a chance to put their threats into execution and lead their silverite following out of the republican camp. The finance plank of the republican national platform, will be the straddle drawn up for the republicans of his state by that artful dodger, John Sherman, of Ohio. And when they arrive at the "parting of the ways," with the impossibility of getting a ticket in the field starting them in the face, Dubois and Carter and all honest money men will find a party ready to their bidding, organized in every state, with two million voters—the people's party.

Speaking of the result of the convention's deliberations, Senator Dubois said: "The people of the United States are opposed to the single standard of gold. A majority of the representatives in congress and United States senators have been in favor of free coinage of silver since 1878, including the members of the last congress. They have been cheated out of the presidency by false promises in party platforms. They will not be deceived much longer." But what are they going to do about it, senator? that's the burning question, just now. No new party, launched next year, can get a ticket into the field for the election of 1896. There is no way of escape open, except to join the people's party and use its splendid organization to accomplish the will of the people. Or perhaps you think that the silverites will capture the democratic convention and that silver republicans will have a chance to vote for a silver democrat upon a silver platform. It did begin to look that way, I must confess, and that is the view I took of it a month ago, but since the Kentucky primaries were held, I begin to doubt the ability of the silver men to capture the machinery of the party. There will be a bolt in the democratic national convention, but odds are even as to who the bolters will be, the silverites or the gold-bugs. At present, the indications are that the southern delegations to both the republican and democratic conventions will be solidly for "sound money," as the gold-bugs choose to call their system of spoliation. This will force the silver men in the south to go into the people's party to make their fight.

Just now the "sound money" democrats are doing their best to ridicule the silver men out of the party and into the populist camp, and each of

the twin franks are doing all they can to convince the people that the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 is exclusively a populist doctrine. Thus the Chicago Times-Herald says: "Pinch a free silver democrat and you will hear a populist yell;" while the Springfield, Ill., News says: "There is nothing to prevent W. H. Hinrichsen and his 16-to-1 sympathizers from securing a bel-lows, a brass band, some red fire and marching toward the populists' convention."

The people's party holds the age and has a royal flush. We must stand pat and raise the ante to the full limit. Let the heathen bluff. Bluffs don't go. See?
—
GEORGE C. WARD.

THE MEMPHIS MEETING.

As the Inside Facts Become Known It Appears That Populists Virtually Controlled It.

The Advocate was there, but at this late moment can't give as extended a notice of the many interesting events as it would like.

The meeting was one of more than national importance, and was well attended by delegates from the west and south who seemed prompted by an honest desire to see the crime of 1873 repeated.

A few populists were there by accident, and a few were there as delegates, but all were there with a determination to be loyal to the Omaha platform until our national convention in 1896 amended it, if amended it must be. It has often been suggested that the populists are ignorant and unable to cope with the learned leaders of democracy; at Memphis such men as United States Senators Jones, of Arkansas; George, of Mississippi; Harris, of Tennessee; a half dozen congressmen and governors and ex-governors, were forced to conclude that even a mere handful of populists were a quantity to be respected.

The committee on arrangements had agreed to give the populists a fair representation on the committee on resolution, therefore on the morning of the 12th, before the assembling of the convention, the populists held a meeting and organized by electing Hon. Marion Butler, of North Carolina, chairman and spokesman. A list of committeemen were selected as follows:

For Tennessee, J. H. McDowell; Missouri, P. Hackett; Alabama, George F. Gaither; Arkansas, W. L. Lancaster; Mississippi, S. H. Hall. At Large: L. K. Taylor, of Tennessee; William A. Guthrie, of North Carolina; B. G. West, of Mississippi; R. J. Rawlings, of Tennessee.

In the selection of committeemen on resolutions by the state delegations the populists secured Butler, of North Carolina; Weaver, of Virginia; Parker, of Kentucky; Fisk, of Colorado, and Delmar, of California; besides Stewart, of Nevada; Tillman, of South Carolina, and Sibley, of Pennsylvania, who are decidedly populist in their views.

The democrats and republicans would have had a majority but for the fact that many of their committeemen neglected to attend, so when it came to a vote on this important committee on resolutions of the much heralded Memphis bimetallic meeting, lo, the pops had a majority. Knowing as they did that they were in the majority by courtesy, and that the convention would refuse to follow such a majority report, and that no good could come to the cause of financial reform by throwing a frebrand into the convention, the populists let the minority down easy on a resolution requiring the appointment of a national committee, one man from each state, whose duty shall be to communicate with bimetallic leagues and financial reform organizations looking to the calling of a national convention of financial reformers for the purpose of devising some means of solidifying the anti-goldbug elements of all political parties.

The adoption of such a resolution was far from the purpose of the convention; it was a bitter pill for such men as Senators Harris, Jones and George, and the other lesser lights of the democratic high priests to swallow, but the accident had happened, the populists were too much in evidence, the committee on resolutions had literally been captured and the only way out was a concession or a fight on the floor of the convention. The concession was gracefully and wisely made, a unanimous report was sent in and adopted without a dissenting vote.

The populists gave the committee and the convention to understand that while they indorsed the declaration for bimetalism at 16 to 1, still it should not be understood that we were indorsing it as a cure for our financial ills, that we were merely indorsing the convention as far as it went.

A decided majority of the convention seemed to favor a union of financial reformers in a new political party.—Ripley (Tenn.) People's Advocate.

It may be mentioned, in connection with the above, that evidence is rapidly accumulating to the effect that the Memphis convention was virtually controlled by the pops. For instance: Thomas M. Spofford, of Kentucky, son of the late ex-Senator Spofford, of Louisiana, when in Kansas City a few days ago, said: "The free silver convention held at Memphis a few weeks ago, to counteract the influences of the convention which was addressed by Secretary Carlisle, was captured by the populists, and John Henry McDowell, who has made himself odious in Tennessee with the democratic party, which he deserted to become a populist, seemed to carry off the honors of the convention, much to the disgust of the democratic leaders."


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Even with a double standard the money kings would finally manage to corner the money market, but they would have a harder time doing it than now, and while they are getting the trap set the people will be getting educated more and more and may learn sense enough in time to establish for themselves a right kind of a monetary system; one with no metallic basis at all. At any rate give us the double standard for the present. Anything will be better than we have now.—Iowa Farmer's Tribune.

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