

The Republican Convention

The republican national convention for 1904 was called to order at Chicago, Tuesday, June 21, at 12 o'clock noon.

Henry C. Payne, acting chairman of the national committee, called the convention to order, introducing Rev. Timothy P. Frost of the First Methodist church of Evanston, Ill., who pronounced the opening prayer.

Elihu Root, former secretary of war, was presented as the temporary chairman. A temporary organization was then effected and the convention adjourned at 2 o'clock until Wednesday at 12 o'clock.

When the convention assembled Wednesday, the credentials committee reported and by its report refused to seat the La Follette faction in Wisconsin and seated the faction known as "Stalwarts" presented by Senator Spooner and others.

Joseph Cannon, the speaker of the house of representatives, was chosen permanent chairman of the convention. Mr. Cannon was given an ovation. He did not deliver the speech, advanced copies of which the Associated press sent out, but according to the Associated press, this is what Mr. Cannon did say:

"For the first time in my life I put in black and white enough sentences to contain 2,500 words to say to you. I have tried to memorize it (laughter), but I cannot. I have given it out through the usual channels to the great audiences and now I must either beg to be excused entirely or I must do like we do down in the house of representatives under the five-minute rule and make a few remarks. But that no man shall say that I have not made a great speech I will set that matter at rest by saying that from beginning to end I heartily indorse every statement of fact and every sentiment that was given you yesterday from the temporary presiding officer in the greatest speech ever delivered at a convention. (Applause.)

"Now let me go on and ramble (laughter) and first, they say there is no enthusiasm in this convention. Gentlemen, the great river that has its thirty feet of water rising in the mountains and growing in depth and breadth down to the ocean bears upon its bosom the commerce of that section of land that it drains and bears it out to the world. It is a silent river and yet the brawling that is like to the river Platte out in Nebraska (that is fourteen miles wide and four inches deep) makes more noise than the bigger river. (Laughter.)

"When we were young folks twenty years ago (laughter) we went to see our best girls. We were awfully enthusiastic if they would give us a nod of the head or the trip away, catch-me-if-you-can air (laughter) to enter upon the chase that was awfully strenuous and awfully enthusiastic. (Laughter.) But when she said 'yes' then good relations were established and we went on evenly through the balance of our lives. (Laughter and applause.)

"It is a contest that makes enthusiasm. In 1904 as in 1900, everybody has known for twelve months past who is to be our standard-bearer in this campaign. We are here for business. (Laughter.) I wonder if our friends,

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the enemy, would not be glad of a little of our kind of enthusiasm. (Prolonged laughter and applause.)

"I might illustrate further. I don't know that it is necessary. I see some of my former friends before me—my colleague, Colonel Lowden, and various others. (Applause.) Now there is not one of you that raises chickens as I do but what understands that when the hen comes off the nest with one chicken she does more scratching and makes more noise than the motherly hen that is fortunate with twenty-three. (Laughter.) Our friends, the enemy, will have the enthusiasm and we will take the votes in November. (Applause.)

"To be serious for a moment, the republican party is a thorough party and a thorough organization. You find people once in a while do not want any parties. As long as you have 80,000,000 of people competent for self-government they will organize and will call the organization a party. The republican party, born of the declaration that slavery is sectional and freedom national (applause), achieved its first success in 1860 with Abraham Lincoln. (Applause.) Secession, the war of the Union, you older men recollect it well. We have one of the survivors here. I was glad to see the convention give him the courtesies of the hall. He helped to make it possible that we could have this convention. (Applause.)

"Forty-four years ago just about now, what a contrast; divided country, bankrupt treasury. The republican party got into power and under its great leadership wrote revenue legislation upon the statute books and went back to the principles of Washington and Hamilton and legislation that would produce revenue while fixing duties upon imports was so adjusted as to encourage every American citizen to take part in the diversified industries and resources of the country.

"Will you bear with me for five minutes while I speak of the comparison as it was then upon the one hand of facts and the condition today?

"In 1860 we had been substantially dominated for many years by the free trade party, insignificant in manufactures, great in agriculture. Under our policy, which has been followed with the exception of four years from that time until this, the United States remains first in agriculture, but by leaps and bounds has diversified her industries until today we are the greatest manufacturing country on God's footstool. All the goods that come from the factory are made in the United States by the operation and co-operation of American capital and American labor and skill. Let us make one other statement. Our product every year is greater than the entire combined manufactured product of Great Britain, of Germany and of France. Where do we get the market for it? Ninety-seven per cent of this great product—one-third the world's product—finds a market amongst ourselves in the United States and yet of this product last year, we sold to foreign countries—I am speaking now of the manufactured product—more than \$400,000,000—29 per cent of our total exports—and our total exports made and make us the greatest exporting nation on earth. (Applause.) Made by labor? Yes, made by labor that works less hours than any labor on earth. Made by labor that, conservatively stated, received \$1.75 as against the average of the competitive labor in the world of \$1. (Applause.)

"Oh, gentlemen, it is not a few ranchmen who make markets. Nay, nay; it is the multiplied millions on farm, in mine and factory, that work today and consume tomorrow and with steady employment and good wages,

give us, with 80,000,000 of people, a market equal to 200,000,000 of consuming people anywhere else on earth. The farmer buys the artisan's product. The artisan, being employed, buys the farmers' product. The wheels go round. You cannot strike one great branch of labor in the republic without the blow reacting on all producers. Well, are you satisfied with the comparison from the manufacturing standpoint? If not, let me give you another illustration that will perhaps go home to the minds of men more quickly than the illustration I have given. Take the post-office department that reaches all of the people and no man is compelled to pay one penny. It is voluntary taxation. From March, 1860, the year that Lincoln came into power, to March, 1861, in that twelve months the total revenue of the postoffice department in all the United States was \$8,500,000. Keep that in your minds—\$8,500,000. How much do you suppose it cost to run the department? Nineteen million. It took all the revenue and as much and one-quarter as much more from the treasury to pay for the postal service. Why, gentlemen, the city postoffice of Chicago last year collected more revenues by almost \$1,000,000 than was collected by the whole department in the United States in 1860. (Applause.)

"How is it now? We have reduced postal rates over one-half since 1860. Last year the postal revenues were \$134,000,000 as against \$8,000,000 in 1860—keep that in your mind—\$134,000,000. The whole service only cost \$138,000,000. We had a deficit of \$4,000,000—3 per cent—and we would not have had that had it not been under the leadership of the republican party, looking out for the welfare of the people and conducting the government from a business standpoint, under the leadership of McKinley, followed by Roosevelt, there was established rural free delivery that cost \$10,000,000. (Applause.)

"Great heavens, the republican party, from 1860 to this moment, moves on—does what good, common sense dictates, and the country grows to do it. Well, now, I will drop that department. The republican party is a national party and believes in diversification of our industries and the production of American capital and American labor as against the cheaper labor elsewhere on earth." (Applause.)

After the committee on rules had made its report, the resolutions committee reported. The platform was read and adopted as follows:

Fifty years ago the republican party came into existence dedicated among other purposes to the great task of arresting the extension of human slavery. In 1860 it elected its first president. During twenty-four of the forty-four years which have elapsed since the election of Lincoln the republican party has held complete control of the government. For eighteen more of the forty-four years it has held partial control through the possession of one or two branches of the government, while the democratic party during the same period has had complete control for only two years. This long tenure of power by the republican party is not due to chance. It is a demonstration that the republican party has commanded the confidence of the American people for nearly two generations to a degree never equalled in our history, and has displayed a high capacity for rule and government—which has been made even more conspicuous by the incapacity and infirmity of purpose shown by its opponents.

The republican party entered upon its present period of complete supremacy in 1897. We have every right to congratulate ourselves upon the work since then accomplished, for it has added luster even to the traditions of the party which carried the govern-

ment through the storms of civil war.

We then found the country after four years of democratic rule in evil plight, oppressed with misfortune and doubtful of the future. Public credit had been lowered, the revenues were declining, the debt was growing, the administration's attitude toward Spain was feeble and mortifying, the standard of values was threatened and uncertain. Labor was unemployed, business was sunk in the depression which had succeeded the panic of 1893, hope was faint and confidence was gone.

We met these unhappy conditions vigorously, effectively and at once. We replaced a democratic tariff law based on free trade principles and garnished with sectional protection by a protective tariff and industry, freed from oppression and stimulated by the encouragement of wise laws, has expanded to a degree never before known, has conquered new markets and has created a volume of exports which has surpassed imagination. Under the Dingley tariff labor has been fully employed. Wages have risen and all industries have revived and prospered. We firmly established the gold standard, which was then menaced with destruction. Confidence returned to business and with confidence an unexampled prosperity.

For deficient revenues, supplemented by improvident issues of bonds, we gave the country an income which produced a large surplus and which enabled us only four years after the Spanish war had closed to remove over \$100,000,000 of annual war taxes, reduce the public debt and lower the internal charges of the government. The public credit, which had been so lowered that in time of peace a democratic administration made large loans at extravagant rates of interest in order to pay current expenditures, rose under republican administration to its highest point and enabled us to borrow at 2 per cent even in time of war.

We refused to palter longer with the miseries of Cuba. We fought a quick and victorious war with Spain. We set Cuba free, governed the island for three years and then gave it to the Cuban people, with order restored, with

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