

## The Fight Against Guffey in the National Committee

May 21, 1832, and succeeding conventions acquired the Baltimore habit. The last one merely indorsed the Greeley and Brown ticket and platform of the liberal republicans. The convention of greatest historic interest was held in 1860, following an irreconcilable conflict between the factions of the party.

The convention first met at Charleston April 23. After wrangling for several days and nights over the slavery question the convention was unable to agree on a declaration of principles. Several southern delegations withdrew, and on account of the two-thirds rule those who remained failed to nominate a ticket. The convention adjourned on the tenth day to meet at Baltimore June 18.

There was a further secession of delegates from the border states following five days of wrangling. The remaining delegates nominated Stephen A. Douglas and Herschel V. Johnson. The seceders from the Charleston convention, joined by those from the Baltimore convention, nominated John C. Breckinridge and Joseph Lane. Both conventions reaffirmed the platform of 1856.

The only differences grew out of the slavery question. The Douglas platform left the question to the supreme court and agreed to abide by its decision; the Breckinridge platform declared the people of a territory had the right to decide the slavery question for themselves and also declared the citizens of the various states had the right to settle in a territory and carry their property with them without being interfered with by congressional action.

Opposing these two tickets in that campaign were two other tickets, one called the constitutional union ticket and headed by John Bell and Edward Everett, and the other the republican ticket and headed by Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin.

### SECRET CAUCUS ABOLISHED

The democratic members of congress have very wisely decided to abolish the secret caucus. The new rules do not go as far as they ought to but they are an improvement over the old ones. It is decreed that hereafter ONE-FIFTH of those present can demand a roll call on any proposition. The roll call ought to be made imperative, but so long as Mr. Underwood is leader the democrats must content themselves with minimum concessions and should feel duly grateful for small favors.

Most of the state constitutions provide that no measure can become a law without an affirmative vote on roll call of a majority of all the members of the body; this gives complete protection. The house democrats, however, have followed the more ancient plan of the federal congress and, without requiring a roll call, permit one when a fifth of the caucus demand it. The weakness of the plan lies in the fact that in the interest of "harmony" the majority—whenever there is a spirited contest—will appeal to the minority not to disclose the division in them by a roll call, and every one experienced in politics knows how potent the "harmony" plea is when backed by some powerful interest. The party will yet come to the imperative roll call, but the optional roll call is a beginning, and as said before, even a small concession, at this time is an occasion for gratitude.

### "FALSE ECONOMY"

The Stanley investigating committee has asked for an appropriation to enable it to pursue the work for which it was appointed. Objection to these appropriations have been made in certain democratic quarters. It is said that the democratic congress should keep down all appropriations in order that they may make a record for economy. The people want economy in public expenditures but they are not at all desirous of false economy. They are perfectly willing to expend money for the purpose of enabling an honest and determined investigating committee to probe affairs like those of the Steel trust. The Stanley investigating committee has won public confidence and the member of congress who votes against a proposition to strengthen that committee's arm and make thorough investigation on its part possible, will have to have some better excuse than a desire to "keep down expenditures."

The people would have their representatives watch appropriation bills very carefully. They would have them vote against all extravagant and needless expenditure but they will applaud every vote cast in behalf of such an appropriation as that asked by the Stanley committee.

Following is the report of the democratic national committee fight made to the Philadelphia North American by its special correspondent, Walter Darlington:

Washington, Jan. 8.—After William Jennings Bryan, with the full earnestness and force of which he is capable, had denounced the outcropping of toryism in the democratic national committee, and, standing over Colonel James M. Guffey, had put the mark on him as a representative of predatory wealth, the committee today accepted Guffey into its membership.

Guffey was seated and A. Mitchell Palmer, claimant, elected by the democratic reorganizers in the state, was defeated, 30 to 18, many of the committeemen who went along with the Mack-Taggart-Sullivan-McGraw group of reactionary manipulators, voting in shamefaced and apologetic manner to carry through the set-up proceedings.

The Pennsylvania fight supplied all the business the committee could handle today, and another session will be held tomorrow to fix the time and place for the national convention and dispose of the presidential primary question.

### BRYAN UPSETS TORY PLAN

Although realizing the strength of the Guffey rescue corps in the committee and the hopelessness of combating it successfully, Mr. Bryan hesitated not at all in taking the plunge. He upset the tory plan for disposal of the Guffey-Palmer case quietly through the action of a packed sub-committee and forced its consideration by the full body. His attack on Guffey was directed more at the scheming efforts of the reactionaries in the party, manifested in this particular case, than at the individual, but he made the oil colonel squirm occasionally by reference to him as "that man Guffey."

That Bryan from this time on will conduct a more active warfare than heretofore against the wirepullers for the special interests there seems to be no question. Their little temporary victory in the committee today has revealed their hand, and will prove costly to them, for Mr. Bryan, aroused, can be expected to gun for them from now until convention time, stirring the progressive democratic voters, whom they have defied, to the attack.

Among the democratic politicians assembled here, Mr. Bryan was the dominating man today, despite his setback in the committee room. Democrats in procession filed past Governor Wilson, of New Jersey, at his hotel headquarters, shaking hands and paying respects in formal, dignified manner; but wherever Bryan appeared he was quickly surrounded by enthusiasts as of old. When he took his seat in the committee he was cheered, and most of the members in the Guffey line-up showed eagerness to greet him. Only the reactionary members held back.

In his speech against the recognition of Guffey and the treacherous stripe of democracy for which he stands, Bryan repeated his denial of present presidential ambitions. He could talk with freedom, he declared, as one who is not a candidate and would not be.

Before the national committee assembled today, Chairman Mack, sympathetic with the Guffey defenders, was set in his ways and frowned upon the Pennsylvania progressives who asked information as to the nature of the proceedings they would have to face and protested against sub-committee suppression. Mr. Bryan took Chairman Mack aside and reasoned with him, and the chairman saw the need of dropping the sub-committee game. It delayed the meeting half an hour and kept the entire committee engaged on the Pennsylvania contest the best part of the afternoon, instead of allowing Guffey to be shunted into his seat quickly and without friction.

For three minutes the committee session was an open affair. Then the fireworks began, and the spectators who filled the room were shown the door. On motion of some enemy of publicity the lock was turned, with only the committee on the inside.

Congressman Palmer, contesting this Pennsylvania seat with Colonel Guffey, took precaution against possible ejection by nursing a proxy from

the Utah committeeman. No one attempted to put him out.

With the name of the very first state on the roll call, Alabama, hostilities began. The Alabama committeeman had been elected by the state committee to fill a vacancy, and Chairman Mack, acting under a rule that emanated from Roger Sullivan, of Illinois, at the national convention of four years ago, had caused his name to be placed on the roll.

Promptly Mr. Bryan challenged, and everybody knew that he had the Pennsylvania contest in view and meant to have his say about it. Chairman Mack decided that the Bryan objection was not good, and Mr. Bryan, speaking quietly, appealed from the decision. It was at this point that the crowd was marched out of the room.

Mr. Bryan resumed, arguing the necessity of the committee keeping control of its own membership. He held that the committee should hold the power to reject those unfaithful to the party, just as the United States senate or house is the sole judge of the qualifications of its own members.

The appeal was lost, 34 to 13.

On the vote on Mr. Bryan's appeal from the decision of Chairman Mack, seating the new Alabama member without action by the committee, the thirteen states which stood by Bryan were: Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and District of Columbia.

Call of the name of Pennsylvania brought responses from both Colonel Guffey, whose name the chairman had had placed on the roll, and Congressman Palmer, whom the state committee, at its reorganization meeting last spring, had elected as Guffey's successor.

Guffey's old political side partner, John T. McGraw, of West Virginia, made a motion that the colonel's name be kept on the roll, and Committeeman Daniels, of North Carolina, offered a substitute that it be replaced with that of Palmer.

Suggestion by Mr. Bryan, that the contestants be given thirty minutes each for presentation of claims, with further time for discussion by the committee, was accepted.

Congressman Palmer led off, stating his case in its legal aspect and holding that a state committee had the right to rescind its action in filling a committee vacancy. His own election to replace Guffey, he said, was the result of a successful revolution, and as such was entitled to recognition. Some of the details of Guffey's Allentown convention, the manipulation of which drove 30,000 democrats away from the nominee for governor, were offered for the enlightenment of the committee.

A statement by Palmer, that the election of Guffey in 1909 had never been ratified by state convention, as required by the party rules, brought Guffey to his feet, exclaiming, excitedly, "That's a lie!"

Palmer glanced at the colonel, and remarked that as he was an old man he would let the affront pass.

There were calls for the colonel to take it back, and he did take it back.

Senator Tillman suggested that Guffey owed the committee an apology, and an apology was forthcoming, too.

The explanation of the disputed point, it is said, is that P. Gray Meek, secretary of the old Guffey state organization, had in January of the present year, as an after thought, certified that the state convention of 1909 ratified the Guffey election, although Palmer, who was temporary chairman of that convention, has no recollection of such action, and Bruce Sterling, the permanent chairman, is reported likewise to be deficient in memory.

Colonel Guffey called in ex-State Senator Arthur G. Dewalt, of Allentown, his claimant for the state chairmanship, to speak for him, and Dewalt treated the national committeemen to a plea for the colonel in attorney style.

Dewalt was quite sure that when a state committee had elected one member of the national body, it exhausted its power and could not rescind its action or anything like that. He dropped the suggestion that if a recall of committeemen were sanctioned, no member of the body could feel secure in his seat. This line of talk, ap-