

Mr. Bryan's Baltimore Letters

Baltimore, Md., June 25.—When the sub-committee acted on the temporary chairmanship we were all anxious to know how the full committee would stand on the question, and when the full committee presented Mr. Parker we awaited the action of the convention.

Our curiosity is now satisfied. We know what kind of a convention we have and henceforth we can watch its developments with the assurance that nothing will be done that has not the O. K. of Tammany's boss, and that he will not give his approval to anything until it has been submitted to Thomas Fortune Ryan for his consent. Unless these delegates hear from him and are frightened out of the plans which they now have in mind the platform will be disappointing and its nominee will be a reactionary or conservative who is satisfactory to the reactionaries.

There could be no mistake about the vote this afternoon. While the majority for Mr. Parker was not as large as the polls brought in to me in the forenoon indicated it would be, it was large enough for all practical purposes. The vote for Mr. Parker was 578 to 509 for me. It is safe to say that I did not have the vote of a single reactionary, and unless I have some better evidence than has thus far been presented I shall not believe that I lost the vote of a single progressive.

Of course there were progressives whose votes were cast for Mr. Parker under the unit rule, and these should not be classed with the reactionaries, but I do not know of any ground upon which a progressive could have voted against me, unless it were a personal ground. And it would be an unfair reflection upon the patriotism of any man to say that he would allow hostility to an individual to influence his vote on a question where a principle was involved.

Possibly account should be taken of another influence, the interest or the supposed interest of candidates. Mr. Underwood asked the Alabama delegation to vote for Judge Parker. I do not know whether similar requests were sent to Mississippi, Georgia and Florida or not, but Mississippi and Georgia voted solidly for Parker and he also received all but one of Florida's vote.

Mr. Harmon's Ohio vote was cast solidly for Parker, presumably in his interest, if not at his request.

Twelve of the fourteen votes of Connecticut went to Parker, and it is fair to answer that this was agreeable to Governor Baldwin.

North Dakota's ten votes were cast for me with the approval of Governor Burke, who announced in advance his opposition to Parker.

Governor Wilson came out strong against Parker and so far as I know I received all the votes of the Wilson delegates. There may have been exceptions, but if so, they have not been brought to my attention.

The Clark vote was divided. A number of the western states instructed for Clark cast their votes for me. Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Kansas, half of Colorado and half of Iowa were some of the delegates that voted against Parker. In the Oklahoma delegation the Wilson half voted for me and the Clark half for Parker. Missouri gave the larger share of her votes to Parker. It was understood that Mr. Clark himself was not taking sides, but his managers worked manfully for Parker. Mr. Bell of California, one of the leaders in the Clark campaign, took the floor in favor of Mr. Parker. Senator Stone and ex-Senator Dubois were among the most enthusiastic

of the Parker supporters. Kentucky, a Clark state, went so far as to instruct its committeeman to vote for Parker against James, who was first put forward as Mr. Clark's choice, and who received twenty votes in the full committee.

As Mr. Clark expressed his willingness to allow each of his supporters to follow his own judgment in this contest, it is evident that there are quite a number of men instructed for Clark who have no sympathy with progressive ideas, men who if they are ever released from the support of Mr. Clark may be expected to take up with a reactionary. This is an element that must be taken into account in making calculations upon the ticket that is to be nominated.

The lineup today is therefore important. It is also important in that it enables the folks at home to know what their representatives are doing at Baltimore.

A word as to the fight over temporary chairman. I, several weeks ago, advised the committee to insure harmony by selecting a chairman acceptable to Clark and Wilson, they together having more than half of the convention, if not two-thirds. As both have been running as progressives, the chief effort on the part of the friends of each being to prove him a better progressive than the other, I thought there would be no difficulty in securing an agreement in regard to a chairman, and this agreement would have insured the chairman's acceptance without a contest. The committee, however, brought out Judge Parker and pitted him against Congressman Henry, the choice of Mr. Clark. When the matter went before the full committee the Wilson men, on Governor Wilson's advice, threw their strength to James to allow the use of his name in the convention contest against Parker, but as Mr. Clark's managers were supporting Mr. Parker, even to the extent of having Kentucky's national committeeman vote for Parker, and the Kentucky delegation was also largely for Parker, Mr. James did not feel at liberty to enter the contest. I then asked Senator O'Gorman to allow the use of his name, but he felt it his duty to decline.

I then presented the matter to Senator Kern, who was loath to undertake the contest, owing to conditions in his state. However, he agreed last evening to take the matter under consideration. I did not see him any more until after the chairmanship fight was over. But I heard late last night that he had devised a scheme in the interest of harmony which I was glad to approve.

I think the reader, when he has fully digested this scheme, will admit that it is about as good an illustration as has been seen in many a day of the manner in which tact and patriotism can be combined. After I had put Senator Kern in nomination against Judge Parker he took the platform and made a most eloquent plea for harmony. He called attention to the great issues involved, and to the importance of presenting a united front. He then presented a list of names, including Senators O'Gorman, Culberson, Shively and Lea, ex-Governor Campbell of Ohio, ex-Governor Folk of Missouri and Representative Clayton of Alabama. He called upon Judge Parker, who sat just in front of him, to join him in withdrawing in favor of any one of these men in order that the convention might open without discord.

It was a dramatic moment. Such an opportunity seldom comes to a

man. If Judge Parker had accepted, it would have made him the hero of the convention. There was a stir in his neighborhood in a moment. The bosses flocked around him, and the convention looked on in breathless anxiety, but he did not withdraw. The opportunity passed unimproved.

Senator Kern then appealed to Mr. Murphy to induce Judge Parker to withdraw, but Mr. Murphy was not in a compromising mood. This was the only thing that Senator Kern did the good faith of which could be questioned. I am afraid that he had no great expectations of melting the heart of the Tammany boss. At any rate, nothing came of the generous offer made by Mr. Kern, except that it shifted to the shoulders of Mr. Parker and his supporters entire responsibility for any discord that might grow out of the contest.

Judge Parker was escorted to the platform after his nomination had been made unanimous and began to deliver his address, but it had such a moving effect upon the audience that the reading was suspended and the convention adjourned until 8 o'clock this evening.

Various explanations might be given of the action of the crowd. Probably the most reasonable is that it was half past three and many were hungry. There is another explanation, however, that is worth presenting for consideration. People will not remain in a large hall unless they can understand what is being said, and as Mr. Parker's speech was written in the language of Wall street only two or three hundred delegates could understand it, and the committee had been so busy oiling the machine that it had neglected to provide an interpreter to translate the speech into the everyday language of democrats. W. J. B.

ONE DAY OF TRIUMPH

Baltimore, June 26.—Today has been a day of triumph for the progressives. The men who voted for Mr. Parker for chairman have been trying to square themselves. They have been hearing from home. The telegraph companies have been reaping a rich harvest. No one has suggested that Mr. Parker was put up by the telegraph companies for the purpose of increasing their revenues through the protests his nomination would invite, but the money has poured in just the same.

The effect of these telegrams is already being seen. The resolutions committee wanted a progressive for chairman. I declined the position, although I appreciated the compliment involved in the offer, because I did not want to be hampered by any feeling of obligation to the committee in case I desired to present a minority report. And then, too, I felt that those who owned the ship ought to select the officers to command it.

The committee on permanent organization selected Congressman James of Kentucky for permanent chairman. This, however, was not a voluntary offering. A portion of the committee, less than half, attempted to rush the matter through last night and make the temporary organization permanent, but Governor Campbell of Texas got in just in time to demand an adjournment until morning in order to give all the members a chance to be present. When the full committee assembled the progressives were out in such force that the effort to continue Judge Parker was abandoned and the honor was given to Mr. James.

They then attempted to select Temporary Secretary Woodson as permanent secretary, but this was objected to by the progressives, and Mr. Grattan of North Carolina was

substituted for him. Thus the progressives had a series of victories.

Before passing from the subject of officers I may add that my refusal of the permanent chairmanship was based partly on the fact that I didn't regard it as a compliment to have the position tendered me by those who had defeated me for temporary chairman, and partly because I did not feel disposed to accept any responsibility for the conduct of the convention until it had done something to purge itself of its reactionary character. As soon as the resolutions committee was organized I introduced a resolution declaring it to be the sense of the committee that the candidate for president should be nominated before the platform was adopted, giving as my reasons that this convention was of unusual importance, and that our hope of victory depended upon our measuring up to the requirements of the occasion; that the platform would not amount to much unless our candidate stood squarely upon it and was able to defend it; that a joint debate between our platform and our candidate would be fatal to the prospects of our party, and that by changing the order we would be able to so space our platform utterances as to give force to his candidacy. To the argument that it was unprecedented, I replied that extraordinary conditions required extraordinary remedies. To the suggestion that any candidate who might be nominated would be willing to stand upon a platform prepared by the convention I replied that our candidate eight years ago amended our platform by telegraph and that method of amending a platform did not take well with the public.

There was considerable discussion but the sentiment soon turned so strongly to the proposition that it was adopted on roll call by a vote of 41 to 11. Senator Vardaman, who was one of the active supporters of the resolution, moved that a committee be appointed to notify the committee on rules. The committee on rules, after a short discussion, indorsed the proposition by a vote of 22 to 16, and if it is indorsed by the convention—the convention later indorsed the rule—nominations will proceed while the platform is being prepared, and we shall have the benefit of the suggestions of our nominee before putting the finishing touches on the platform.

The air is full of rumors in regard to combinations in behalf of different candidates. One thing is certain, that Mr. Harmon is no longer a possibility. With only nine instructed delegates outside of his own state opposing the unit rule, he can not be considered a factor. The vote yesterday afternoon shows that he can not secure one-third of the convention under any circumstances. Mr. Underwood might be a little better than Mr. Harmon, but the triumph of the reactionaries yesterday has so aroused the country that the convention is much less likely to nominate either of these men than it would have been had the machine been willing to allow the convention to begin harmoniously.

However, neither Mr. Harmon or Underwood had any chance of nomination before, and they probably thought that they had nothing to lose by making the fight that they did for Mr. Parker.

Governor Baldwin's vote is purely complimentary and will not stay with him more than a ballot or two. Governor Burke's vote is complimentary also, and will go to Governor Wilson as soon as the former's name is withdrawn. Governor Foss' name is not to be presented, except in a case of a deadlock. Massachusetts'