

The Independent.

Vol. XV.

LINCOLN NEB., APRIL 14, 1904.

No. 47.

KANSAS POPULISTS

Elect 89 Delegates to Springfield—Recommend Hearst for the Democratic Nomination—Adjourn Nominations.

THE FIRST AND BIGGEST DELEGATION TO SPRINGFIELD, KANSAS.

AT LARGE—

W. J. Babb, Wichita.
J. H. Briney, Atwood.
J. H. Curran, Topeka.
J. W. Breidenthal, Kansas City.
G. M. Culver, Concordia

FIRST DISTRICT—

R. D. McClimar, Seneca.
F. H. Pettingill, Leavenworth.
H. B. Shaffer, Oskaloosa.
E. C. Fowler, Topeka.
Geo. Wagner, Topeka.
J. E. Vorhees, Leavenworth.
F. B. Barnes, Rock Creek.
F. Chase, Hoyt.
John Stowell, Seneca.
A. M. Harvey, Topeka.
Harry Shumate, Muscotah.
J. M. Hart, Topeka.

SECOND DISTRICT—

N. W. Wells, Miami Co.
D. W. Ramsey, Anderson Co.
A. F. Allen, Douglas Co.
J. W. Dingus, Linn Co.
J. P. Hineman, Johnson Co.
D. W. Hume, Franklin Co.
E. Taylor, Wyandotte Co.
A. C. Shinn, Franklin Co.
J. T. Little, Johnson Co.
Jas. Beck, Douglas Co.

THIRD DISTRICT—

S. E. Beach, Neosho Co.
J. M. Allen, Neosho Co.
W. T. Hyett, Labette Co.
F. M. Brady, Labette Co.
M. A. Housholder, Cherokee Co.
J. H. Ellis, Cherokee Co.
Henry Young, Montgomery Co.
G. V. Johnson, Cowley Co.
Ed. Green, Cowley Co.
E. C. Hitchcock, Crawford Co.
E. R. Ridgley, Crawford Co.
Jason Helmick, Chautauqua Co.

FOURTH DISTRICT—

E. S. Waterbury, Emporia.
Chas. Moss, Emporia.
Wm. Benson, Eldorado.
Green Saliards, Eureka.
Dallas Rogers, Marion.
Thos. Cain, Burlingame.
E. McKinsey, Council Grove.
Dow Busenbark, Eskridge.
E. V. Wharton, Yates Center.
S. Johnson, Cottonwood Falls.
F. B. Lawrence, Eldorado.

FIFTH DISTRICT—

J. N. Limbocker, Riley Co.
Wm. Gormley, Geary Co.
E. T. Collins, Republic Co.
J. S. Cobb, Saline Co.
W. D. Vincent, Clay Center, Clay Co.
Mr. Wanamaker, Marshall Co.
A. Wangrin, Washington Co.
F. C. Johnson, Ottawa Co.
H. M. Spalding, Cloud Co.
O. H. Truman, Dickinson Co.
David Ritchie, Saline Co.
G. W. Hanna, Clay Co.

SIXTH DISTRICT—

Wilson Heninger, Lincoln.
C. E. Dozey.
J. A. Wright, Smith.
Joseph Shelton, Phillips.
E. M. Coldren, Decatur.
John R. Connolly, Thomas.
Fred J. Close, Ellis.
L. D. Hotchkiss, Cheyenne.
W. A. Hunter, Norton.
J. C. Ruppenthal, Russell.
W. C. Cochran, Mitchell.
W. J. Robinson.

SEVENTH DISTRICT—

S. P. Gebhart, Pratt.
D. T. Armstrong, Anthony.
Harvey B. Hewitt, Stafford.
E. H. Epperson, Scott City.
S. A. Millen, Derby.
H. S. Fish, La Crosse.
L. C. Criner, McPherson.
O. P. Battorff, Kingman.
Isaac Calley, Danville.
Frank Neiswanger, Wichita.
E. P. Hodgins, Lyons.

Topeka, Kas., April 12, 1904.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—Reached here at 5 o'clock this morning. The politicians were then getting a short snooze after a stormy caucus or two last night. Before taking a short nap myself, I glanced at the Morning Capital. The headlines said: "Harris Says He Won't Run for Governor—He Declines to Neglect His Business—Dale Stock Goes Up," etc.

It seems that Major A. M. Harvey, who is treasurer of the populist state

committee, had said something for publication regarding the wisdom of tendering Senator Harris the gubernatorial nomination. The senator, under date of February 15, wrote Major Harvey, saying:

"I notice something from you in the newspapers on the subject of my running for governor.

"You know better than anyone how I appreciate the good words and kind feelings of my friends all over the state. You also know something of what I have sacrificed in politics. I am just beginning to once more get in touch with business affairs, and it would be absolutely ruinous for me to again sacrifice everything for my possible political preferment. At my age it would be hopeless for me ever to get on my feet again. There are others dependent upon me whose claims are imperative, so I can only repeat to you what I have said to others—that under no circumstances can I permit my name to be used as a candidate for any office.

"There are other men who ought to and can unite the opposition to the republican party, which is always the wolf even when masquerading in the stolen fleece. Sincerely yours,

"W. A. HARRIS."

Major Harvey replied to this, insisting that Harris is "practically the unanimous choice of the anti-republican forces for governor." To this Senator Harris rejoined, expressing regrets, but concluding, "I am absolutely forced to adhere to my resolve." Major Harvey made these letters public last night, whereupon a boom was started for David M. Dale of Wichita.

The Capital said this morning: "The populist state convention will be called to order at 10 a. m. today by Judge W. J. Babb, chairman of the state committee. About 300 delegates had arrived last night and it is expected that as many more will be here by morning. The call was for 500 delegates. The convention will be held in the Auditorium.

"Everything is in the air," said Secretary John H. Curran last night. And Mr. Curran had it about right. The delegates are talking four propositions, as follows:

"1.—Adjourn to meet August 3, the date of the democratic convention.

"2.—Recommend a ticket to the democrats.

"3.—Have an independent ticket supported by all anti-republican organizations.

"4.—Nominate a straight populist ticket.

"The fusion populists want to adjourn, but if they find too much opposition they will urge the recommenda-

tion scheme. Taylor Riddle of Marion, L. P. King of Cowley, A. M. Harvey of Shawnee, R. A. Lovitt of Saline, M. A. Householder of Saline and Sam Hale of Rush are leading fusionists.

"The middle-of-the-roaders are headed by John Mollison of Smith county. He is a candidate for the populist nomination for congressman in the Sixth district. His crowd had a caucus at the Fifth Avenue hotel last night and resolved to nominate a straight populist ticket, regardless of the action of the fusionists. Johnson of Decatur is backing Mollison. They say they can rally 100 delegates.

"Chas. H. Simmons, of Graham, wants an independent ticket named. He is working on his scheme, and expects to have a following in the convention.

"The fusionists had a caucus at the National last night. More than 100 delegates were present. No action was taken, but the sentiment was nearly unanimous for adjournment. A. C. Shinn of Franklin got into the meeting and made a speech against fusion, saying the democrats would 'turn the populists down.'

"Simmons also made a speech against adjournment.

"There is a strong sentiment among the delegates for David M. Dale of Wichita for governor. With Harris out of the way, Dale's stock has gone up.

"Ed S. Waterbury of Emporia is here with a proposition to indorse E. W. Hoch, but it had no takers last night.

"C. W. Kyle of La Crosse is here with a boom for state treasurer. He is the only candidate for that office, so far as known.

"Mrs. Annie L. Diggs was expected home from Europe last night, but she did not arrive. She likely will be here this morning.

"Among the well known populists who arrived last night are Judge J. E. Andrews of Rush, Fred Chase of Ellis and Dr. G. Bohrer of Rice."

Some three hundred and fifty delegates were in their seats when Chairman Babb rapped for order. After the usual formalities, Geo. W. Hanna of Clay, Fred J. Close of Ellis, and Maj. A. M. Harvey of Shawnee were nominated for temporary chairman. Close and Hanna withdrew, leaving the field to the Topeka man.

In his speech, Chairman Harvey recounted with telling effect some of the things populism had done for Kansas, and some other things that had happened under "republican redemption." He believed in making a frank statement of his position which is to nominate part of a ticket and await the outcome of the national con-

ventions before completing it. If the Bryan wing shall dominate, then he believed it the part of wisdom to co-operate with it.

Of course, co-operation in Kansas is not a partnership affair as we have it in Nebraska. Only one party name can go on the official ballot. And, as there are never any serious suggestions made that the ticket shall go on as a people's party ticket, but always as "democratic"—the opposition to co-operation is greater than it ever was.

After the election of Mr. Gebhart as temporary secretary, a motion was passed empowering each congressional district to select two members each for committees on credentials, organization, resolutions, etc. The selections being made, adjournment was had to 1:30 this afternoon.

After a hasty glance over the field I am convinced that those who favor a straight course are about equal in numbers to those who want fusion. But the fusionists have practically all of the speech-makers—and that counts in a convention! There is some ill-feeling, too, and some disposition to make charges and counter-charges. There are a number of Hearst men among the fusionists and they clear their own skirts by charging that there is republican money back of the straight-ticket crowd, and so on, and so on.

It would be rash to predict what will be done. A delegation to Springfield will be elected all right—part of them populists, part of them the semi-socialist Hearst admirers. But the hitch will come on the state ticket. I am inclined to guess that Major Harvey has donned the robe that Geo. F. Washburn, the great pacificator, always wears at national conventions, and that only part of a ticket will be named.—D.

Topeka, Kas., April 12.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—It was a "dog-fall," as we used to say in our school-boy wrestling matches where neither of the gladiators could put the other on his back, but both went to their knees and hands together. In other words, the result of the convention is and is not a victory for both fusionist and anti-fusionist. On the side, however, there was some very pretty slate-smashing done, over which nearly everybody rejoices—except the fellows who made the slate.

In order to understand the Kansas situation it must be considered that practically all of the Kansas populists are united in their admiration for Mr. Bryan, their implicit faith in his sincerity, and their desire to do nothing to impede the progress of the great reform movement in which he plays such an important part. But there is, very naturally, a difference of opinion among them as to what particular line of action will, in the long run, aid that movement. It is, of course, useless to deny that the personal ambitions of many tend to befog the situation; but this will always be a factor to be considered in calculating any political problem. There were many illustrations of this to be seen at Topeka. For example, a delegate in the Sixth district caucus urged a fusion course with great vehemence; after years of trying they had, in their county, finally, by fusion, succeeded in beating the republicans out of two county offices. A straight populist state ticket, he was sure, would mean the defeat of the two fusion county officers, and if mid-roadism should prevail—well, he would join the democratic party.

The populists of Kansas are alive to the fact that only one "middle class" party, of any considerable strength, can be permanently maintained. They know that the democratic party rank and file, as well as the populist rank and file, is a "middle class" constituency by a big majority. But they also know that, up to the time of Bryan's control in '96, not once in 25 years has the democratic party machinery been in the hands of middle class men and its policy dominated by them. Hence, those who believe that the old plutocratic element will again be domi-

Vanguard of Populism.

APPLICATION BLANK.

Charles Q. De France, Lincoln, Neb.

Please enter my name in the Vanguard enrollment, and send me blanks and other Vanguard printed matter. I shall do what I can to help out in the work

Grand Enrollment Day,
(April 30, 1904.)

Name.....

P. O.....

State.....

Precinct.....

County.....

(Cut this out, sign name and address, and mail to C. Q. De France, Lincoln, Neb. Let us add a thousand members to the roll, as the result of a little extra effort on Grand Enrollment Day—April 30, 1904. Speak to your populist neighbors about it.)