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Watson and Tibbles

The Ticket Nominated at
Springfield
Convention Proceedings.

THE TICKET.

For President—
THOMAS E. WATSON
of Georgia.
For Vice President—
THOMAS H. TIBBLES
of Nebraska.

The people's party national convention met in Springfield, Ill., July 4. A few delegates arrived Friday and Saturday, but the most of them came in Sunday and Sunday night, although there were some who did not get in until Tuesday on account of delayed trains. The Fourth of July, the exposition and the democratic convention at St. Louis mixed up the train service and many special trains were put on the roads on account of each.

The published announcement was

that the convention would meet at 12 o'clock noon on the Fourth. Whoever made that arrangement certainly forgot all the schooling he ever got in populism. Much more than half of the delegates were farmers and workingmen who were all accustomed to regular meals and the principal one at noon. The consequence was that at the hour announced, there was nobody around the Arsenal where the convention was to be held and it was 2 p. m. before they began to assemble. Springfield is a nice little town, made famous by having been the home of Lincoln. There are blocks in some sections of the town almost wholly composed of saloons. Here also is the seat of the state government and the home of the republican governor who has become famous as the only governor in the United States who sells offices for campaign subscriptions, all of which go to him and of which no public accounting is made. The convention was called to order and opened with prayer. It was an-

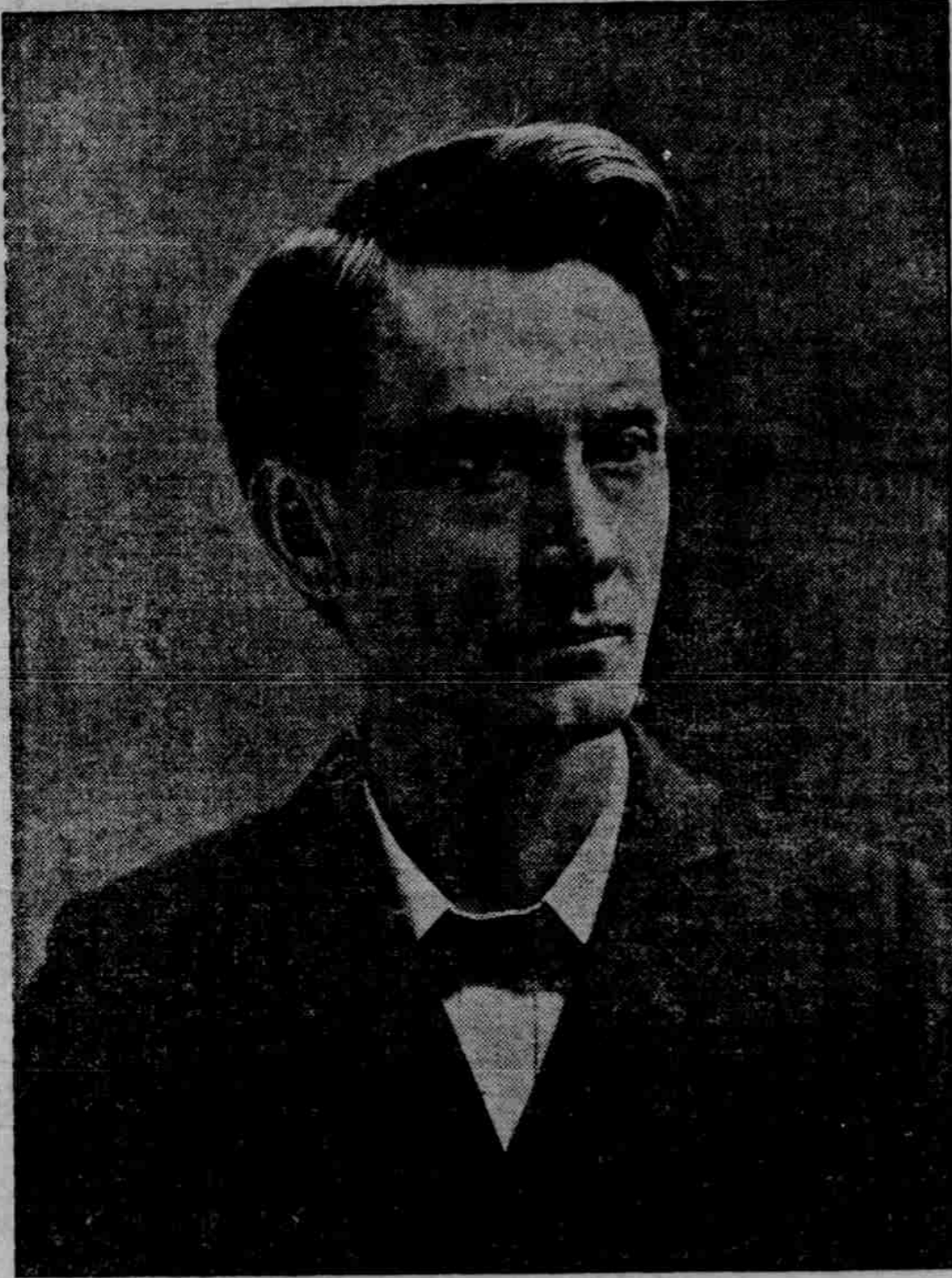
nounced that the mayor would make a speech of welcome, but he refused to put in an appearance or send a representative. He did not want to be disgraced by having it said that he even went inside of a building where such a set of men were assembled. The chairman of the Illinois populist state committee therefore, on behalf of the populists of the state, gave us all a hearty welcome. None of the leading citizens of Springfield would disgrace themselves by even becoming spectators in the hall, where standing opposite was the state house over which their boodling governor presides. In their eyes, it was respectable to support a boodling governor, but a disgrace to be seen associating with men who toil on the farms, do business in the cities, or honored members of the bar from other states, if those men insisted upon upholding the principles of the great Soul who made their city immortal by residing in it.

In the back seats of the convention hall there was a fringe of men who

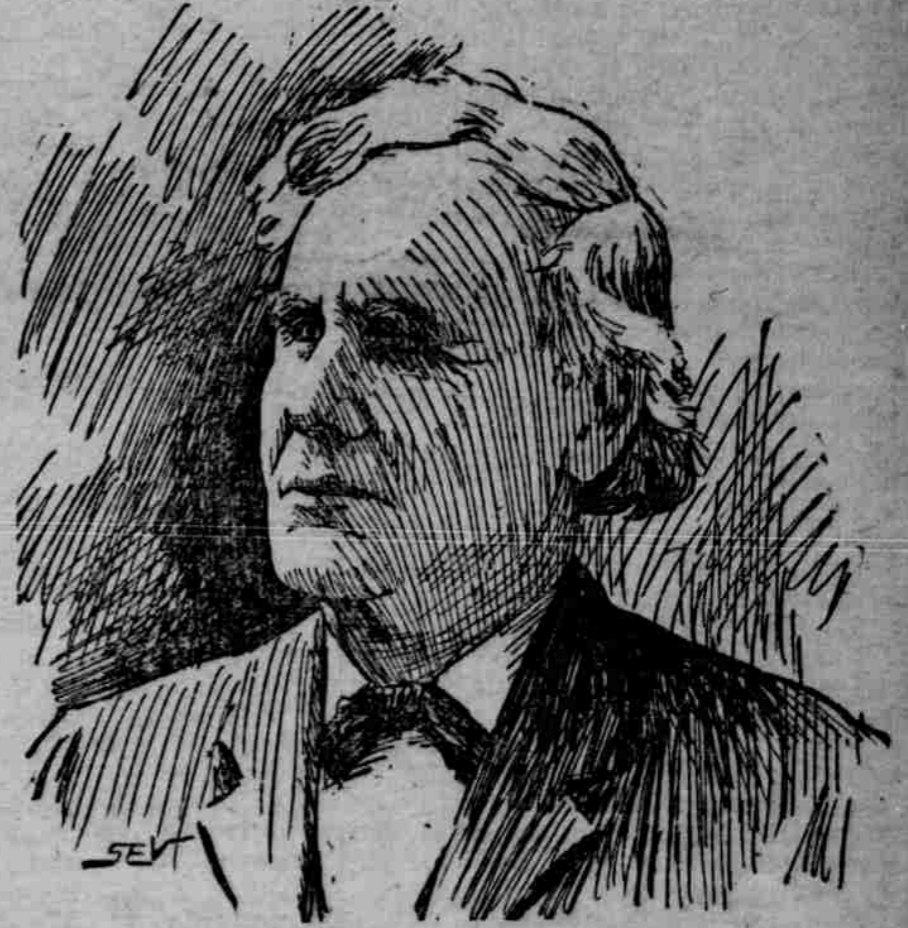
toil, "workingmen," as they called themselves. These men were very indignant at the action of the mayor in refusing to appear and one of them arose and said that on behalf of the workingmen of the city he wished to extend a hearty welcome to the delegates of the populist national convention. He assured us the workingmen of the city would extend a hand of greeting and good cheer to every man who had honored the city with his presence, for they were in large part, as he could see, men who were tollers like himself. He was greeted with a big round of cheers.

The two national chairmen of the two factions of the party flipped a penny to see which should call the convention to order, and Edmisten won. So he called the convention to order and Jo Parker read the call. Weller of Iowa was the temporary chairman.

We had some excellent instrumental music by a Springfield organization, and then Senator Allen delivered an



Thomas E. Watson



Thomas H. Tibbles

address which was of such high character that it should live in literature, entitled "Two Civilizations." After that the work of the convention was begun in earnest. The committees were appointed and given leave to retire. The remainder of the afternoon and evening was devoted to speech-making. Rev. Mr. Nelson of St. Louis being among the number.

The more serious work of course fell upon the committee on platform. It assembled at the St. Nicholas hotel and remained in session until 3 a. m. Early the next morning they were hard at it again, and it was 2 o'clock in the afternoon before it was ready for presentation. When it was finally presented to the convention, almost every sentence was received with a round of cheers and at the close of the reading the convention arose to a man, and gave it another round or two, almost duplicating the reception of the Omaha platform when it was presented in 1892. It was adopted

unanimously without "dotting an i or crossing a T." The statement of the money question was universally said to be the best that the populist party ever made, as it places the populist contention squarely upon constitutional grounds. The preamble came in for its share of commendation.

We were all in "the enemy's country" here sure enough. The idea of the citizens seemed to be that politics consists wholly in getting office and they express supreme contempt for men who align themselves with a party that has, in their eyes, no hope of getting the offices. A man who would spend his time simply advocating principles, they look upon as a lunatic. As for their part, they want no hand in such idiocy. Several men here have openly defended, during the convention, the sale of public office by Governor Yates. One of them said: "The appointive offices belong to the governor. They are part of the perquisites of his official position, and he

has right to dispose of them as he pleases. All governors have done the same thing and this cant is only indulged in by another set who want to have the power of doing the same thing themselves."

After the submission of the platform the question of candidates, which had been constantly discussed, came up for action. Senator Allen had persistently refused to become a candidate. All that he could be induced to say was that if there was a general desire on the part of the convention that he should undertake the responsibility and burden he would not refuse, but to make a contest he would not. The delegates from the north and west thought they could poll more votes with Allen at the head of the ticket and those from the south thought they could poll more with Watson in that position. Jo Parker made the nominating speech for Watson in which he made a strenuous plea for Watson's nomination. Ex-

Congressman Sutherland of Nebraska made a speech when the state of Nebraska was called. He went over the splendid record of Senator Allen, in the senate and on the bench, told how he was the only man in the senate who ever brought a trust magnate to bay and forced him into the courts as Allen had Havemyer. He recited the fact that of all the senators of the people's party, Allen was the only one that had stood true and was still a populist, that he was always ready to do the work of the party and was to be found in our county, state, and national conventions whenever elected as a delegate, doing the duty of a private in the ranks as cheerfully as in those high and most honorable positions which he had occupied, but he closed with the statement that Senator Allen would not permit him (Mr. Sutherland) to present his name as a candidate. Nevertheless, the convention persisted in voting for Senator Allen until he sent positive orders to