

POPULISTS IN A QUANDARY

Middle-of-the-Road Faction Makes It Lively Enough for All.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FACES ITS TROUBLES

Conference Opens and the Fight is Started at Once by Milton Park and His Staunch Adherents.

The regular populist national committee, of which Senator Marion Butler of North Carolina is chairman, found a fight on its hands as soon as it began its session yesterday. It met in Crenshaw hall, but not until almost noon, because, all morning from a very early hour, the "middle-of-the-road" faction had been crowding the corridors of the Mercer hotel hounding the members of the Butler committee and endeavoring to induce them to commit themselves to a line of policy laid down by their Nashville committee of anti-fusionists, which has been denouncing the fusionists in general and the democrats in particular.

A little before 11 o'clock an informal conference was held by representatives of both committees at the Mercer, but nothing came of it. The Park conference committee had a set of resolutions which it wanted the Butler committee to accept. They were almost a political platform in themselves, but their main point was that the Butler committee should in the future desist from all further talk of fusion. They tried to cover various points of populist doctrine as the anti-fusionists set it, and when presented almost stunned the Butlers.

The "middle-of-the-road" were very much in evidence when the regular committee gathered in Crenshaw hall. For that matter, one of Missouri's members belongs to both committees, Paul J. Dixon; also one of Mississippi's, Frank Burkitt; two of the Texas delegation, H. L. Bentley and Harry Tracy, and one from Wisconsin, Robert Schilling. These were all on hand, and no sooner was the roll commenced than some of them or their friends bobbed up and either entered protests against the names of some delegation read by Secretary J. A. Edgerton of Lincoln or informed Chairman Butler that in this or that state there was an anti-fusionist committee.

It soon became apparent that in many states there were ugly contests which had to be settled one way or another, particularly Illinois, Iowa, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Both the Butlers and the "middle-of-the-road" in these states had delegations which they wanted to be seated. Senator Butler, explaining that he did not wish to take the responsibility of determining these contests, though it was the duty, ordinarily, of himself and the secretary to do this, appointed a committee of credentials to hear and settle the contests. He somehow managed to select a committee made up entirely of fusionists, namely, Senator Allen of Nebraska, ex-Governor Buchanan of Tennessee, Elwood Parsons of New Jersey, A. H. Cardin of Kentucky, and Congressman C. A. Barlow of California.

Proxies Largely in Evidence.

Between seventy-five and a hundred proxies are held in the convention, and there are a large number of absentees. Each state is supposed to be represented by three members, either in person or proxy, but many of the states are not represented at all. The "middle-of-the-road" through Wharton Barker of Philadelphia, their candidate for president in 1906, and an active bureau, have been working all winter and spring to secure as many proxies as possible, but many of the states are not represented at all. The "middle-of-the-road" through Wharton Barker of Philadelphia, their candidate for president in 1906, and an active bureau, have been working all winter and spring to secure as many proxies as possible, but many of the states are not represented at all.

The credentials committee met immediately after the noon recess and began hearing the evidence in the contests. The "middle-of-the-road" made a hard effort to have the sessions of the national committee open to every citizen. J. W. Breidenbach of Kansas, before the noon recess was taken, moved that when the committee reconvened it be in executive session, but Frank Burkitt of Mississippi got up at once and insisted upon the sessions being open to the credentials committee. The committee had some family affairs to fix up, and should not take the whole world into its confidence.

Waiting on Credentials.

The national committee was to meet again at 2 p. m., but Senator Allen explained that the credentials committee had not had sufficient time to hear all the evidence in the different contests and would not be able to make a report until all the proxies had been filed. Another hour's time was allowed. Then they could get on with the business. Butler suggested that the national committee take a recess until 8 p. m., when it was thought the credentials committee would be ready, which was done. Colonel Frank Burkitt, however, taking care first to have his name put on the roll, then went in so as to prevent any trifling with the rights of the "middle-of-the-road," who possessed credentials or proxies.

It was stated that in Arkansas and Florida all the members representing those states were present. It was also stated that the credentials committee had not had sufficient time to hear all the evidence in the different contests and would not be able to make a report until all the proxies had been filed.

Flery Orators.

Flery speeches denouncing Senators Butler and Allen and flaying the fusionists followed by W. B. Rogers, of Kansas, and the Pomery (Wash. Independent), N. M. Mosinger of the Shoals (Ind.) Referendum, W. F. Haughwout of the Carriage (Mo.) Laborer's Tribune and W. S. Morgan of the Louisville (Ky.) Buzz. Mr. Morgan, though advised by an adjutant, saying that the "enemy had left," he insisted that he would meet them tomorrow at Phillips. His motion to adjourn, nevertheless, was voted until after a while Al Steinhilber of the Grand (Kan.) Worker and others seized the occasion to make a talk in behalf of an organization of an international reform press association, in which he managed to refer to Commodore Dewey as a populist.

Little Use for Bryan.

There were several uncomplimentary allusions, indirectly, to J. Bryan. This is the second time the Nashville committee has met at this time and in the same place as the Butler committee. It eventually adjourned with the determination to stay with the regular national committee until it gets all its demands, namely, a pledge against fusion, and a list of the names of the officers of the national committee and a policy excluding legislators and office holders from membership. The early convening of the committee was due to the fact that the regular committee was expected to meet in Nashville.

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and hearty welcome. I think, gentlemen, I feel a little better when I get into a populist meeting, such as I am in here today, for among men there is a thing called friendship. Their religious and political views are according to the dictates of their own consciences. When they ascertain what is their duty, they do it. I am justifying to their own individual views.

I don't know but what I am justified in calling Nebraska the cradle of populism in the United States. Our party was born here on the broad prairie of Nebraska. It was here where the people became convinced that the old parties had departed from the original faith of the fathers, namely, that they created this new party, which has since grown to such magnificent proportions.

Nebraska has been the arena of an interesting progress of the populist party that we now have all the state executive officers, have secured the control of the legislature, and have the gubernatorial office. We bid fair to capture all the branches of the state government. I predict that we will be in full control of every branch of the government in the next election. (Loud applause.)

I welcome you here to the state which is the home of our party. I would like to see you at the convention in St. Louis in 1898, W. J. Bryan, whom I may be permitted to do so, I hope will be the candidate of our party in 1898. (Great applause.)

Get Something for Nothing.

Here the question dilated upon the birth of the people's party at the Omaha convention of 1892 and its objects and made the first intimation of any cognizance of the fact that the regular populist party had actually advised harmony in the following words:

The convention of 1892 at St. Louis had to face the conditions of the times under peculiar circumstances. I know that at that convention there was a contest between two interests and views—a contest that I believe is good for any party because it expresses the views of all elements and all parts of the country. That this contest of opinion will ultimately result in the attainment of the highest political goal it is my firm conviction. I believe that the purpose of the convention of the time was wise and in the interest of humanity and the furtherance of the great cause and objects of the people's party. I believe that the result of this contest will differ from this view of its acts, yet I feel that the results have been such that no one can look with displeasure upon them.

What ought to be done in the future is your duty to say. It is a most serious responsibility. The welfare of thousands, yes, millions of our citizens depends upon the union of the great party, and we ought to move forward and press onward in this great fight for humanity in honesty, truth, fairness and patriotism. It is my belief that the results have been such that no one can look with displeasure upon them.

About the War.

The nation is now engaged in a war which may have its particular effect upon the future destinies of the country—a war which will be the most glorious spectacle which this or any other generation has ever seen—the spectacle presented to us of a united people springing to arms in the cause of humanity, in the world's long, victorious march toward peace upon our banners, I trust. We are all agreed upon this war. We are a united country whatever may be our politics or whatever we may live under as respects the administration—the government—as a united people. But when the war is over, the most serious contest may be met with that we will not talk about fusion or anti-fusion, but good straight populism and continue the work on the stump. (Applause.)

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their resignation and would look less like a personal attack upon Senator Butler. The chairman, secretary and treasurer of the committee are all members of the executive committee, though the latter are not senators. The removal of the executive committee would naturally have the effect of ousting from office all the officers, including Secretary Edgerton and Treasurer M. C. Rankin of Terre Haute, Ind. The other members of the committee—those who do its voting, six in number—were George F. Washburn of Massachusetts, Dr. C. F. Taylor of Pennsylvania, H. W. Reed of Georgia, John R. Sovereign (formerly of Arkansas), J. W. Breidenbach of Kansas and John S. Dore of California. Colonel Burkitt said that four of the memberships were practically vacant anyway, inasmuch as Messrs. Taylor and Reed had already resigned, Mr. Washburn had promised to do so, and Mr. Sovereign had been removed.

Washburn Announces a Delay.

After the hour set for coming together had arrived George F. Washburn ascended the platform and called the national committee together. He had been requested, he said, by Chairman Butler to inform the committee that the credentials committee would not be ready to report before 3 p. m. The impression had already been gaining ground that Mr. Butler was simply trying, through his friendly Allen subcommittee, to gain time, and a suggestion to adjourn until today was favorably received. It will, it was pointed out, be the only consequence of the delay until the credentials committee had reported. In this respect Senator Butler held the best hand and the "middle-of-the-road" had to simply wait.

Washburn announced a delay in reporting the credentials committee, but he was not to be excused. L. H. Weller, the original "middle-of-the-road" made a proposition that the "pros" and "cons" take the matter up and turn about, but he did not make them. The matter was not discussed, so his suggestion fell flat.

Get Word from Kansas.

It was announced that J. W. Breidenbach of Topeka, Kan., had a message from the populist state convention of Kansas, which had been in session during the day. Mr. Breidenbach read it. The message contained a warning against fusion and a declaration that the populist party would support the populist one, the other populist convention having fused with the democrats. Mr. Weller is looked up to as the father of the "middle-of-the-road" and the populist committee had been recognized by Chairman Butler and Secretary Edgerton on the committee's roll had been W. H. Robb of Creston, S. B. Crave of Des Moines and J. E. Anderson of Forest City, neither of whom were present at the convention.

More Fighting.

Once again, it was almost 11 o'clock, the national committee came to order and again Chairman Butler informed the members present that the credentials committee still needed more time—the contests of Ohio and Pennsylvania were yet to be heard, but the credentials committee would promise to remain until it had finished its labors if it took until midnight. He suggested an adjournment until morning.

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More than 90,000 cases of obtinate female difficulties have been absolutely cured by this wonderful "Prescription." It heals, strengthens and completely rejuvenates the tissues and nerve-centers of a female organism. It is the only medicine devised for this special purpose by a regularly graduated experienced physician. It is the only medicine which can be positively relied upon to cure. Mothers and daughters may consult Dr. Pierce by letter without charge and the most absolute confidence. Their letters will be answered not by any mere nurse, but by an educated skilled physician. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Advice will be sent free if 21 cent stamps are inclosed to defray the cost of mailing only.

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EVENINGS AT 8:15.
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Presenting Nothing but Headliners in
HIGH CLASS VAUDEVILLE
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Specialties—Lizzie Raymond, Hobetta and Dorotta.
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American Plan—3 to 4 dollars per day.
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BE SURE THE INTERNAL REVENUE STAMP OVER THE CORK AND CAPSULE IS NOT BROKEN AND THAT IT BEARS THE NAME—W.A. GAINES & CO.
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