

BUTLER'S PARTY REVIVED

WITH A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PLATFORM.

DELIBERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL UNION CONFERENCE AT CINCINNATI—THE PEOPLE'S PARTY AND THE PRINCIPLES IT WILL ADVOCATE.

CINCINNATI, May 20.—At noon to-day, after a morning session in which there were some curious manifestations of feeling, the National Union Conference revived the name of the "People's Party" for the organization that is to be the third in the great political contest of 1892. While taking the name with which Gen. B. F. Butler made his campaign of 1884, the party began business with a platform of a much more comprehensive description. There is a plank for everybody except the Prohibitionists, and the Prohibitionists were disregarded, not because there were not many Prohibitionists in the convention, but because it was feared that votes would be lost from many organizations by making prohibition a test of loyalty to the people's movement.

The members of the committee that made the platform, and who have reiterated the St. Louis, Ocala, and Omaha platforms with planks for inflation, for money enough to do the business of the country "on a cash basis," free silver, against alien ownership of lands, against class legislation, for national supervision and perhaps ownership of transportation lines, and for elections of President, Vice President, and Senators by direct vote, may have formulated too much. The wonder is, considering the elements of the convention, that more of the notions entertained by delegates were not put in shape. The Committee on Resolutions was dominated by the visionary Ignatius Donnelly, but Gen. Weaver, who is a practical politician, exerted a regulating power that undoubtedly kept many extravagances out of the declaration of principles.

It might not have been thought difficult to get a convention of farmers and other toilers together at 8:30 o'clock, to which hour this morning an adjournment had been taken last night. As a matter of fact, it was, and it was not until 10 o'clock that the Rev. D. Delamatyr, formerly a Greenback representative from Ohio in Congress, was making the opening prayer to about half the delegates. Then came Capt. Power, who gets the credit for having made this conference, with a report of \$36 collected and \$365 expended in the cause, when, at the suggestion of Representative Wilkin of Kansas, hats were passed to make up a purse for the service, which Mr. Wilkin declared could not have been secured for \$500. While the silver pieces were clinking in the hats, the Committee on Credentials made a report showing that there were present 1,418 delegates. The apportionments were interesting. The four States of Kansas, Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska had nearly a thousand of these delegates.

A South Dakota delegate created an uproar by attempting to secure consideration of a resolution to give a vote to each State, and an additional vote to each fifty delegates present from any State, but his proposition went to the Committee on Resolutions after a great deal of uproar. There was presently another tumult of a very sensational sort. An invitation was given by Con Burkhauser of the Committee of Arrangements to the entire convention to eat a lunch. There was a breeze at the edge of the convention. Presently it blew clear. Helen D. Gougar, who discovered the convivial horrors of the Hearst funeral train, loomed up over the edge of the stage with her hands clasped behind her and her strong, confident face defiantly set forward. She repudiated the offer of a Secretaryship of the convention in which she was not a delegate because she had found a liquor dealer on the Reception Committee. The convention gave her some applause as she indignantly left. Sam Woods of Missouri explained that the lunch to which the convention was invited was not in a brewery, but in a broom factory, and that there was little danger of getting "full" of brooms.

After this exhilarating incident came the report of the committee on permanent organization, with Senator W. A. Peffer of Kansas as permanent Chairman, and a long list of subordinate officers. Mr. Peffer is not an electrical speaker. His words were a serious warning to the old parties to get out of the way at the same time that they expressed concern about the discordant elements of which the new party is composed. He likened the new party to the Kansas men who went into the army desiring to be cavalry. They had no horses; so they decided to go in the infantry and come out as cavalry.

Mrs. Marion Todd of Chicago was allowed to take the rostrum to present a basket of flowers to the Chairman, and her little speech, soulful with the earnestness of the practiced platform orator, soon led many of the sturdy delegates to mop their eyes with their bandana handkerchiefs. Ben Carvin of Saginaw, who had found a smart negro politician named Savage, who had come all the way from North Carolina to be with "the people," secured a place for him on the rostrum, and he made a "slick" speech, while "Ben" passed the hat for another collection wherewith to pay Savage's fare home again. The clinking of coin was kept up for an hour, suggesting that there was not an absolute scarcity of ready money in the convention.

When the rules were reported one provision only gave rise to hot discussion. That was the rule giving a vote to each delegate and directing that all votes should be by call of States. Several efforts were made to modify it, but it was carried as proposed. The Committee on Rules really usurped the function of the Committee on Plan of Organization, for by providing for the election of a National Executive Committee it created the new party without giving it a name. Chairman Peffer let the speechmaking go on until a tedious delegate from Massachusetts wore out the patience of the convention, and there was a call for the previous question. Mr. Peffer then betrayed his lack of familiarity with parliamentary practice by proposing the main question, but he was helped out, and at 12 o'clock the convention was shouting to celebrate the birth of the third party. Then there was a recess for the lunch at the broom factory.

Soon after reassembling there was another stage ceremony in which a lady figured. The wife of the Rev. Dr. Foster, who publishes a paper in the interest of the new party, made a little speech, and after pushing aside Chairman Peffer's patriarchal beard she pinned upon his breast a badge presented by the Committee on Arrangements. Then came a lot of communications of a suggestive and congratulatory nature, and at last Ignatius Donnelly, with the report of the Committee on Resolutions. Mr. Donnelly prefaced the report with a little speech, in which he told how the committee had worked all night and that the sun rose on its members still at work. This, he hoped, would be a happy augury. The report of the committee was then read. It was as follows:

1. That in view of the great social, industrial, and economical revolution now dawning upon the civilized world and the new and living issues confronting the American people, we believe that the time has arrived for a crystallization of the political reform forces of our country and the formation of what should be known as the People's Party of the United States of America.

2. That we most heartily indorse the demands of the platforms as adopted at St. Louis, Mo., in 1889, Ocala, Fla., in 1890, and Omaha, Neb., in 1891, by industrial organizations there represented, summarized as follows:

(a) The right to make and issue money is a sovereign power to be maintained by the people for the common benefit; hence we demand the abolition of national banks as banks of issue, and as a substitute for national bank notes we demand that legal-tender Treasury notes be issued in sufficient volume to transact the business of the country on a cash basis without damage or especial advantage to any class or calling, such notes to be legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, and such notes when demanded by the people shall be loaned to them at not more than 2 per cent. per annum upon non-perishable products, as indicated in the Sub-Treasury plan, and also upon real estate with proper limitation upon the quantity of land and amount of money.

(b) We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

(c) We demand the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land, and that Congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by alien and foreign syndicates, and that all land held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the Government and held for actual settlers only.

(d) Believing the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand that taxation—national, State, or municipal—shall not be used to build up one interest or class at the expense of another.

(e) We demand that all revenues—national, State, or county—shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the Government economically and honestly administered.

(f) We demand a just and equitable system of graduated tax on income.

(g) We demand the most rigid, honest, and just national control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and if this control and supervision does not remove the abuses now existing we demand the Government ownership of such means of communication and transportation.

(h) We demand the election of President, Vice President, and United States Senators by a direct vote of the people.

3. That we urge the united action of all progressive organizations in attending the conference called for Feb. 22, 1892, by six of the leading reform organizations.

4. That a national central committee be appointed by this conference, to be composed of a Chairman to be elected by this body and of three members from

each State represented, to be named by each State delegation.

5. That this central committee shall represent this body, attend the National Conference on Feb. 22, 1892, and if possible unite with that and all other reform organizations there assembled. If no satisfactory arrangement can be effected, this committee shall call a National Convention not later than June 1, 1892, for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President.

6. That the members of the central committee for each State where there is no independent political organization conduct an active system of political agitation in their respective States.

The following additional resolutions were also offered:

Resolved, That the question of universal suffrage be recommended to the favorable consideration of the various States and Territories.

Resolved, That while the party in power in 1869 pledged the faith of the nation to pay a debt in coin that had been contracted on a depreciated currency basis and payable in currency, thus adding nearly one billion dollars to the burdens of the people, which meant gold for the bondholders and depreciated currency for the soldier, and holding that the men who imperilled their lives to save the life of a nation should have been paid in money as good as that paid to the bondholders, we demand the issue of legal-tender Treasury notes in sufficient amount to make the pay of the soldiers equal to par with coin, or such other legislation as shall do equal and exact justice to the Union soldiers of this country.

Resolved, That as eight hours constitute a legal day's work for Government employes in mechanical departments, we believe this principle should be further extended so as to apply to all corporations employing labor in the different States of the Union.

Resolved, That (his conference condemns in unmeasured terms the action of the Directors of the World's Columbian Exposition on May 19 in refusing the maximum rate of wages asked for by the labor organizations of Chicago.

Resolved, That the Attorney General of the United States should make immediate provision to submit the act of March 2, 1889, providing for the opening of Oklahoma to homestead settlement, to the United States Supreme Court, so that the expensive and dilatory litigation now pending there be ended.

The following resolution, introduced by Mason A. Green of Massachusetts in behalf of the Nationalists, was referred to the various reform bodies for their consideration:

Resolved, That when in the course of business consolidations in the form of trusts or private syndicates it becomes evident that any branch of commerce is used for the behoof and profit of a few men at the expense of the general public, we believe that the people should assume charge of such commerce, through their National, State, or municipal administration.

There were occasional outbursts of applause while the resolutions were read, those touching the money question stirring the convention most deeply. The criticism of the World's Columbian Exposition Managers for neglecting the propositions of the labor organizations for an eight-hour day was gratifying to the representatives of industrial organizations, and they shouted lustily as it was read.

It remained for Texas to get up the scene of the greatest dramatic interest. A tall, slim man in a butternut suit—James Davis, who is called "Methodist Jim" at home—made a shake-hands-across-the-bloody-chasm speech as a member of the committee. "Jim" was not born until 1854, and was but six years of age when the war broke out; but he was hailed by the convention as a reconstructed rebel, and he helped out the illusion by prefacing his speech with a terrific "rebel yell," performed in full sight of the audience, which screamed with childish delight. He was in favor of printing \$350,000,000 of money as soon as the third party took possession of all the branches of the Government. This strengthened "Methodist Jim's" hold.

Wadsworth of Indiana, a former Union soldier, was put alongside of Jim, and presently there was a flag in the hands of each. The flags were waved vigorously. The people in the hall went wild with cheering, and there came on one of those scenes witnessed only in enthusiastic conventions. The placards were torn from their places in the hall and carried upon the long poles to which they were attached. They were soon held aloft in a semicircle behind and above the Chairman. All the delegates stood up in their places and yelled. Everybody on the stage stood upon chairs or tables and longed for something higher upon which to climb. Chairman Peffer pounded his desk a long time before he finally restored order. One old man was so affected by the fraternal scene under the flags that he wept copiously.

Speeches were then made by representatives of nearly every one of the organizations taking part in the convention, that of General Lecturer Willetts of the Farmers' Alliance being most important, as indicating the full concurrence of the Alliance in the movement for a third party.

The Prohibitionists here determined to get in a plank committing the convention as an opponent of the liquor traffic. G. M. Miller of California, after persistently claiming a hearing, offered a prohibition amendment and spoke on it. He was received with every manifestation of disapproval, and was only heard after a special plea for fair play by Chairman Peffer. When the amendment came to a vote, Kansas was solidly opposed to it. The People's Party already had political sense enough to see that it would do better by not meddling with prohibition. The vote for the amendment was ridiculously small. The report of the Committee on Resolutions, including the resolutions not made a part of the platform, was then adopted by a rising vote. The approval of the platform was practically unanimous. The number of negative votes was too small even to provoke a remark of contempt.

Chairman Peffer begged to be excused after the platform was adopted, so that he could leave for Washington by an afternoon train. Gen. Weaver was put in his place, and he conducted as expeditiously as possible the collection of names of the National Executive Committee. The convention went to pieces during that process, and when it formally adjourned the attendance was reduced to a mere handful in the great hall.

The following is the National Committee:

Arkansas—L. P. Featherstone, Isaac McCracken, Jo A. Bush.

California—Marion Cannon, H. C. Dillon, A. G. Hinkley.

Connecticut—Robert Pique.

Florida—W. D. Condon, L. Baskins, J. D. Goss.

Georgia—C. C. Post.

Iowa—J. B. Weaver, M. L. Wheat, A. J. Westfield.

Indiana—C. A. Powers, Leroy Templeton, J. D. Comstock.

Illinois—S. N. Norton, A. J. Streater, H. E. Taubeneck.

Kansas—P. H. Elder, Levi Dumbauld, R. S. Osborn.

Kentucky—D. L. Graves, S. F. Smith, T. G. Fallin.

Louisiana—J. J. Mills, Dr. B. B. Paine, John Pickett.

Massachusetts—G. F. Washburn, E. G. Brown, E. M. Boynton.

Michigan—Ben Colvin, Mrs. S. E. V. Emery, John O. Seabel.

Minnesota—Ignatius Donnelly, O. N. Perkins, Andrew Stevenson.

Missouri—Paul J. Dickson, J. W. Rodgers, W. O. Atkinson.

Maine—H. S. Hobbs, F. A. Howard, D. W. Smith.

Nebraska—J. H. Edmonston, William Dysart, W. H. West.

New-York—Jacob H. Studer, Joel J. Hoyt.

Ohio—Hugo Prior, J. C. H. Cobb, H. F. Barnes.

Oklahoma—Samuel Crocker, A. E. Light, John Hogan.

Pennsylvania—R. A. Thompson, E. R. Agnew, Lewis Edwards.

South Dakota—J. W. Hardin, H. L. Loucks, Frederick Zeph.

Texas—W. E. Lamb, Thomas Gaines, J. H. Davis.

Tennessee—H. P. Osborne, J. W. J. Kay, John W. James.

Wisconsin—Robert Schilling, Alfred Manheimer, A. J. Phillips.

West Virginia—Luther C. Shinn, George W. Harnment, Thomas C. Keeny.

Wyoming—H. B. Setenstein, James A. Smith, H. D. Merritt.

District of Columbia—Lee Crandall, S. A. Blard, H. J. Schulteis.

The 1,400 delegates are going home from this convention confident in the immediate success of the People's Party. The less sanguine men, who are politicians, do not really see the way to the election of their candidate for President. Most of them are indifferent about the fate of the candidates of both the old parties. Sam Wood of Missouri expressed the feelings of many of his associates when he said: "We will carry Kansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Iowa, perhaps Minnesota. Yes, the Alliance in the South will be Democratic. The old party candidates will be Harrison and Cleveland. We may hurt the Republicans, by defeating Harrison, but it will not be because we want to elect Cleveland. It is none of our concern who is elected if we cannot elect the candidate of the People's Party."

The alliance effected to-day may turn out to be more dangerous to the old parties than this talk would indicate. Gompers, the head of the Federation of Labor, has been here observing the course of events. He does not predict, but it is surmised that the federation may decide to join the People's Party in the campaign. That reinforcement would be a menace to the old parties that would make the leaders fearful of the results, as the Federation of Labor is an organization of greater numerical strength and political power than the Knights of Labor, who make much more fuss.

Here in Cincinnati, where a convention of sentimentalists is apt to provoke sneers, the intense earnestness of this one, notwithstanding the fact that "Boss" Power of Terre Haute had so much to do with getting it up, is realized, and the People's Party is accepted as a political force that will give the leaders—particularly the Republican leaders—much trouble. The movement may be guided by schemers, but it is a movement of enthusiasts who do not mind being called "cranks" or "fanatics" or "sentimentalists." The Ohio farmers have not yet been stricken with the Alliance fever, but it is in the air. When the Farmers' Union of the State meets, as it will in a few days, it is predicted by veteran observers that it will be found to have been infected.

ALL ABOUT A BOTTLE OF MILK.

Cornelius W. Roe, the policeman who was caught by Roundsman Conboy, on the morning of May 13, stealing a bottle of milk from the store of F. H. Withers, at 1,197 Third Avenue, near Sixty-seventh Street, and who prevented Conboy from arresting him by pulling a revolver, was put on trial before President MacLean in the courtroom at Police Headquarters yesterday morning.

Roe presented an unruffled demeanor and denied every charge absolutely. He showed that he could not get a milk jar into his coat-tail pocket, although Mr. MacLean and two policemen put the bottle in their pockets easily enough, and he showed further that his revolver was so badly rusted that he could scarcely pull it out of its holster.

Roundsman Conboy swore just as hard the other way and decision was reserved. Roe has a very bad record.