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WHY not let the next Democratic State convention nominate the United States Senator, who is to be elected by the next Legislature?

"We favor the election of United States Senators by the people" is the wording of a plank in the platform adopted by our last Democratic State convention, but that cannot be done until the constitution of the United States is amended. Therefore, until that amendment is made, the Legislature must elect the Senator. That being so, the question arises how can the Legislature best express the will or choice of the people in electing a Senator? It was thought two years ago that this could best be done by a primary election, but after that experience nobody now seems disposed to repeat it.

Then, why not let the Senator be nominated by the State convention just as all other high officers are nominated? Why not let the State convention nominate the Senator just as it nominates the Governor and other State officers? Why not let the next State convention nominate the Senator just as it will nominate the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices of the Supreme Court? The office of Senator is surely of no greater importance than our Supreme Court. On the contrary all must admit that it is far more important to the people of North Carolina to have our best men on the Supreme Court bench than occupying seats in the Senate.

If then, the State convention is a fit and competent body to select candidates for Governor and Supreme Court Judges, why is it not equally fit and competent to name the candidate for the United States Senate? Would not the State convention nominate the Senator if the constitution now allowed the people to elect him? Had you thought of that?

There are two objections thus far suggested to the convention nominating the Senator. One is, that the choice of the people might not be fairly expressed, because the friends of one aspirant might be better able to attend the convention than the friends of another aspirant. Of course this same objection might be made to the convention nominating a Governor or Judge or any other officer. This objection can easily be obviated, if there is any foundation for it, by the friends of that aspirant having their respective county conventions to instruct for their choice. This has frequently been done in nominating a Governor and other officers, and could of course be done in nominating a Senator. There would be a larger and more enthusiastic convention if it was known that it would nominate a Senator, and it would help the campaign greatly if the State convention was attended by large and enthusiastic delegations from all parts of the State.

The other objection is that the defeated Senatorial aspirants would not take any interest in the campaign after their defeat in the State convention. If that be so, then they deserved defeat and were not worthy of the nomination, and the convention would have made a lucky escape in not nominating such men!

Such an objection is an insult to and a slander upon the true and tried Democrats who are said to be aspirants for the Senate.

If the Senator is nominated by the State convention then that question is eliminated from the campaign and there will be no discussions among Democrats as to whom the Legislature should elect. Then the county conventions may and will nominate their legislative candidates without regard to the choice of Senator, and there will be no dissension in our party ranks. If the Senator is not nominated by the State convention, then many county conventions may nominate their legislative candidates merely because they are in favor of some particular Senatorial aspirant, and thus disregard every other consideration or question, which may be of far more real importance than the election of any particular Democrat to the Senate.

This is written without the knowledge of any Senatorial aspirant and without the writer knowing the views of any aspirant on this question. It is not written for the purpose of promoting the interests of any aspirant, but solely for the purpose of promoting harmony in the Democratic party and preventing any possible dissensions, and at the same time give the people in convention assembled a right to express their choice for Senator.

THE Republican majority in Congress deserves the condemnation of all fair-minded men by its persistent refusal to admit Cuban sugar to this country free of duty. It is admitted that the growing crop in Cuba will be at a loss unless this duty is materially reduced. It is the Cuban planters will be worse off after a time than the sugar planters in South Carolina, and of course you will be responsible for the unhappy Cubans to think that the United States had waged war for their benefit, but had left them to "painful disappointment."

THE trial of the Indian judges has at last been officially published, as directed by the Indians, and further action will be taken. The witnesses [illegible] much sponge [illegible] counsel [illegible] are published. [illegible] price is [illegible]

The Outlook is Gloomy.

Washington, Feb. 8. The Philippine question will continue to hold the first place in the calendar during the entire session. But there is little prospect that the Philippine question will come out of it in such shape that the Democratic members will require several days in which to consider the proposition. The majority in the House, however, is prepared to speed the bill by a good majority, and it will be passed, with more or less amendments, probably will command a larger vote than the bill received in the last session. The amendments are not to be offered in the House, but will be considered in the Senate. The majority in the House will be able to pass any bill they may think proper, but the Senate is a different body. The majority in the Senate is not so large as it was in the last session, and it will take a good many votes to pass any bill. The Senate will be occupied for a long time with the Nicaragua canal question, and it will be some time before the Philippine bill is taken up, and it will take a good deal of time to pass it