

# CAROLINA WATCHMAN-Extra.

## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION AND THE RESULT OF ITS PROCEEDINGS.

A Splendid Body of Men—An Honor to the State—Wise, Eloquent and Industrious—Saunders, Roberts, Bain, Davidson and Finger, Its Nominees.

At 12:15 Wednesday Mr. R. H. Battle, chairman of the Democratic State executive committee, stepped upon the stage at Metropolitan hall and announced to an audience which literally packed every part of the building, stage, floor and galleries, that there was not sufficient room for the delegates, and that they must be given, otherwise the convention must needs adjourn.

The delegates from Wake, New Hanover, Johnston, Orange and Warren went in the galleries, room being found on the floor for all the other delegations.

The hall presented a brilliant appearance. The stage was decorated very effectively with large flags, State and national, draped and festooned. Upon the chairman's table were brilliant bouquets of flowers, the cover of the table being a national flag. Looking from the stage at the audience the faces of nearly all the leading Democrats of the State were seen. It was in truth a brilliant gathering, and Mr. J. C. L. Harris, secretary of the Republican State executive committee, said that it was the finest convention he had ever seen in his life, and that the Democratic party was disintegrating in a very poor proof of it. The sight of such a gathering cheered every Democratic heart, and bright faces were everywhere, and hearts high with hope.

The gathering of members of the press was a large one, most of the prominent papers being ably represented.

At 12:30 Mr. Battle read the call for the convention, and called it to order. Mr. Battle requested that silence be preserved, a request to which the convention cheered and laughed. He then called to the chair as temporary chairman, Capt. Chas. M. Cooke, of Franklin, appointing Messrs. M. Q. Waddell and Richard Pearson to escort him to the chair. Capt. Cooke was received with cheers upon his introduction by Mr. Battle.

Capt. Cooke made a brief but forceful and well-timed speech. He congratulated the convention on the condition of the Democratic party in North Carolina. There are no dissensions, no differences, no distractions. He spoke of what the Democrats had done for the State and its people; the Western road, the schools, &c. He congratulated the people upon the administration of the State government, upon the University, now so well established, upon the growing regard for honest government. He asked the convention to discharge well its high and patriotic duty to-day; that church and Nation should have no weight. He commended to them the example of that grand old Roman, Samuel J. Tilden. (Cheers.)

Mr. R. M. Furman, of Asheville, and Capt. S. A. Ashe, of Raleigh, were made secretaries. Mr. H. C. Jones moved the appointment of a committee on credentials.

The roll of counties was called and it was found that all were represented. Mr. Joseph J. Davis asked that all questions be referred to the committee on credentials. This was agreed to. The counties announced the character of their representation by delegates, alternates, or proxies. Several of the counties claimed more votes than were upon the official allowance. Halifax claimed 14 instead of 12, and Warren 7 instead of 6. The secretaries reported that 89 counties were represented by delegates, 7 by proxies, the latter being Ashe, Clay, Graham, Mitchell, Watauga, Transylvania and Tyrrell.

Mr. H. C. Jones moved that a committee of one from each district be appointed on credentials, and a like committee on permanent organization.

The following compose the committee on credentials: 1st district, G. H. Brown, Jr.; 2d, J. B. Martin; 3d, C. W. McCammy; 4th, E. S. Parker; 5th, J. W. Reid; 6th, John Robinson; 7th, T. B. Bailey; 8th, B. C. Cobb; 9th, W. B. Strieffed.

Permanent organization: 1st, Harry Skinner; 2d, W. H. S. Burgwyn; 3d, A. J. Galloway; 4th, T. B. Womack; 5th, W. B. Glenn; 6th, V. V. Richardson; 7th, P. C. Carlson; 8th, W. H. Bower; 9th, H. A. Gudger.

During the retirement of these committees the venerable Mr. Maurice Q. Waddell, of Johnston, was called on and spoke. He bears well the weight of his more than eighty years, and made a good speech. An allusion to Cleveland was received with cheers. Allusions to Cooke and Seales were received with bursts of applause. He declared that the convention was the finest looking body he had ever seen.

Loud calls were made for Col. Walter L. Steele, of Richmond, who made a most felicitous speech, in which he said this convention would nominate the man to lead the "Sun of York" so in darkness. Allusions to Bayard, Cleveland and Tilden were well received, while one to Butler, whom the speaker said he scorned, was greeted with cheers and hisses. He made a plea for good government, National and State, and in conclusion highly complimented the Democracy of the State in having such a body as this to represent it.

Amid loud and long cheering, Hon. W. M. Robbins began a speech. He declared that seeing the convention he felt an added pride in the State of North Carolina. He said it gave him the greatest pleasure to know that in this State sectionalism was dying out; that we are forgetting that there is any east or west or center, but that at last we know that we are all sons of glorious old North Carolina. Men on the coast are for Seales, others on the mighty Blue Ridge are for Cooke. It is a good sign. Mr. Robbins went on to review, very ably, National politics. He gave a description of Blaine's tactics in awakening sectional strife and in feeling of his hatred of the South; of his charges of cruelty to Northern

prisoners. He painted Blaine's character vividly, and predicted his defeat in 1884, feeling assured that his hopes would be wrecked at this election. He said the true soldiers and people of this country would never elect such a man as Blaine. The business interests would not support him. He hoped that at Chicago the Democrats would nominate such a man as Cleveland.

The committee on permanent organization, through Col. V. V. Richardson made the following report: For chairman Hon. Thos. Ruffin, of Orange; vice presidents—1st district, J. M. Woodhouse; 2d, Thomas M. Mason; 3d, E. T. Boykin; 4th, A. M. Noble; 5th, D. F. Caldwell; 6th, D. B. Cowan; 7th, T. F. Klutz; 8th, R. Z. Linsay; 9th, Frank Cox.

Secretaries—H. A. London, chief; assistants—Samuel A. Ashe, R. M. Furman, P. M. Hale.

Hon. Joseph J. Davis made a very short but pertinent speech.

The report of the committee was adopted. The permanent chairman was then escorted to the chair by Messrs. W. B. Glenn and John E. Woodard.

Judge Ruffin was introduced by Capt. Cooke, who congratulated the convention upon having so fine a presiding officer. He was greeted with loud applause.

Judge Ruffin said he thanked the convention for this great honor, and as the best assurance of his gratitude, declared the convention now ready for business.

Mr. Womack moved the appointment committee of one from each district, on platform and resolutions.

The following were appointed as such committee: First district, C. R. Thomas, Jr.; second, W. A. Montgomery; third, E. J. Hale; fourth, J. S. Carr; fifth, J. N. Staples; sixth, W. L. Steele; seventh, John S. Henderson; eighth, W. T. R. Bell; ninth, C. M. McCloud; from the State at large, W. T. Dortch and H. A. Gudger.

Mr. Womack moved that all resolutions be referred to this committee, without debate. The motion prevailed.

Col. H. C. Jones said that each Congressional district was entitled to four members on the State committee and that the State executive committee be now organized to serve for four years.

At 2:30, a motion was made for a recess for dinner was "shouted down" and withdrawn.

Mr. W. H. Day, of Halifax, was called on. He said he could not express his thanks for the compliment. He said the Anglo-Saxons of North Carolina would carry the State certainly and surely. He pledged his services to the cause of Democracy. His remarks were well received.

Hon. W. H. Kitchin in response to calls said he was glad to see the great harmony here manifested, and that the high purpose to save the State and the Democratic party, which are one and the same, was plain. He pledged his aid. He urged action, saying there would be no walk-over.

Mr. J. W. Reid, chairman of the committee on credentials submitted his report. Granville was allowed 14 votes, Halifax 14, Pamlico 5, Pasquotank 5, Warren 9, by the committee. The report was all favorable save as to Montgomery, Clay and Transylvania, which were represented by proxy, but whose proxy was not upon the floor. He had delegated his right to another person. There was considerable discussion about this matter, participated in by Messrs. W. B. Glenn, H. A. Gudger, Geo. H. Brown, H. C. Jones and others.

Mr. Womack moved that all the report, save that relating to Clay, Transylvania and Montgomery counties, be adopted.

Mr. John Gray Bynum moved that the county of Montgomery be declared to be properly represented. This action was taken. It was announced that the proxy of Clay was present. Governor J. L. Robinson moved that the county of Transylvania be regarded as properly represented. That the county should not be deprived of its vote because of a failure to comply with the requirements of the plan of organization. There following quite a lively argument between Gov. Robinson and Col. H. C. Jones. Mr. F. H. Busbee poured oil on the troubled waters in a vigorous speech. Mr. E. S. Parker made an explanation of the matter before the credentials committee, saying the credentials from Clay were entirely irregular. Mr. Kope Elias at last said he had the proceedings of Clay convention, and read a letter from the clerk of Clay Superior court, saying to him (Mr. Elias) that he had seen two of the delegates and they desired him to represent them. Mr. E. S. Parker said this was most irregular and the authority tonight. After remarks by Messrs. John Gray Bynum and R. M. Furman, a vote was taken upon the question whether Clay and Transylvania be allowed votes. Mr. T. D. Johnston representing the latter, Mr. Kope Elias the former. Clay was then admitted, as was also Transylvania, and the report thus amended was adopted. The discussion of all this matter occupied about an hour.

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The next business was the serious business of the convention, the selection of a candidate for Governor. The president declared nominations in order.

Mr. Henry R. Bryan, of Craven, presented the name of Gen. Alfred M. Seales, of Guilford. The scene was a wild one, the house burst into cheers. Mr. Bryan said his name and fame were not confined to the State, he was the pride and the glory of his native land. He need not recount the services of General Seales to his people and to his country; as statesman, as North Carolinian, he had adorned all positions, and he would ably and fitly fill the office held by a Caswell and a grand line of governors. North Carolina had no son more worthy of honor than Alfred Moore Seales, and let us erect his standard to the breeze, and on the second day of November he will be the Governor of North Carolina. The report was received with tumultuous cheers.

Mr. H. G. Connor, of Wilson, in a speech of marked vigor and grace, seconded Gen. Seales' nomination, saying that he was a superb representative of North Carolina's noblest men and her best Democracy. For twenty years he had served his State, ever contributing to her honor and to her material worth and prosperity. He said such a standard bearer as Seales was needed now to assure Democratic success; a man who in every walk of life has won the grand old name of "gentleman."

Maj. Louis C. Latham, of Pitt, reviewed

the progress of Democracy in the State since the last convention. Marvels had been done, the State developed, east, west and center; the people brought closer together; the railroads extended; the schools put upon a firm and practical basis. He drew a beautiful picture of Western North Carolina and the east, now linked together firmly. He said Gov. Jarvis a high compliment which was applauded. He said the State now enjoyed a golden era of will and economic progress. He desired to inscribe upon the folds of the Democratic banner a name that would shine, a man whose voice would be heard all over the State, a man whose sympathy was co-extensive with North Carolina; a man whose efforts in our behalf deserve the thanks and love of every North Carolinian. This man, said he, is Octavius Coke. This announcement was greeted with cheering, which was renewed and revived again, lasting some minutes. Coke's name, said Maj. Latham, is the "open sesame" of success, and his administration would be a credit to every North Carolinian.

Mr. W. H. Bower, of Watauga, in seconding the nomination of Capt. Cooke, paid him the most graceful compliments, and said that he desired to express the reflection of the people of his section in saying that Coke was their choice. He said Coke's intellect was great, his knowledge comprehensive, and his purity and personal character remarkable. He alluded to Tyre York as the renegade from Wilkes, and said Coke was the man to meet and vanquish him. He denounced as a falsehood the statement that Capt. Cooke was the enemy of the Western North Carolina railroad, and said his support by the Western counties best disproved this. He paid his public services a high compliment and said that though born in Virginia he was all a North Carolinian.

Mr. R. Z. Linsay, of Alexander, made a most practical speech in supporting Gen. Seales, saying he had, upon the field of war and on the plains of peace, exhibited all those traits, those excellencies of character, which adorn and exalt a man. It is in the highest degree necessary that he should be the candidate. He is loved by his old soldiers and by the youngest voters. All love him and all unite in the belief that he is the man for Governor. He is possessed in a remarkable degree of those noble virtues, purity and patriotism. He would make one of the best campaigns ever made. The hour is due him.

Chas. M. Busbee, Esq., of Wake, in seconding Capt. Cooke's nomination, thanked the delegates who had so eloquently nominated him and those who supported him. He said that Coke would conduct a more successful, a more vigorous and a more earnest canvass than any man who could be nominated. He has imbedded himself in the affections of the people of North Carolina, and if he is named as the standard bearer, the county of Wake will be carried by the Democracy and that means five votes for Z. B. Vance. Coke is the strongest man into whose hands can be committed the standard of the party.

This closed the nominations. There was a call of "vote," "vote," and at 4:20 the roll of counties was called for the vote. There was a high state of nervous excitation visible in most of the faces. The ballot was proceeded with in tolerably quiet order. It was soon apparent that Seales was the favorite. When the county of Rutherford was reached his nomination was seen to be sure, and the convention went fairly wild with cheers and applause. There were motions to make the nomination unanimous, but the chair ruled that the roll call must proceed, and the call went on. The counties voting for Seales were cheered in short bursts of applause. It took some minutes to make the computation of the vote, and during this time the convention buzzed like a beehive. The hall was packed, all the aisles being full, and it is safe to say the building never held so many people.

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