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CONVENTION IN SECOND DISTRICT

Four Strong Men Contest For Nomination.

95 BALLOTS ARE TAKEN

But Woodard, Kitchin, Gilliam and Peebles Still Struggle.

DARK HORSES SHOW LITTLE STRENGTH

No Nomination Probable Before Morning. Meanwhile the Determination That the Whites Will Rule is Shown by the Immense Convention.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Goldsboro, May 25.—(3 a. m.)—The largest and most interesting convention ever held in the Second Congressional District is tonight in session in Goldsboro. No one who looks in upon it can for a moment doubt that the people of this district are tired of being represented in the National Legislature by a negro and that they have sworn to put an end to it. The opera house is crowded to its utmost capacity. The seats on the floor are occupied by delegates, while the galleries are filled with spectators. Among these latter there were in the earlier hours a large number of ladies who showed intense interest in the proceedings. Music is furnished for the convention by the Wilson Cornet Band.

Before the convention contesting for the nomination are four strong candidates: Fred A. Woodard, of Wilson; Claude Kitchin, of Halifax; Donnell Gilliam, of Edgecombe and B. B. Peebles, of Northampton. That all of them have strong backing and devoted friends is shown by the fact that at this hour, 3 o'clock a. m., 95 ballots have been taken and the last ballot shows little change from the first one taken shortly after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Three dark horses were brought in, but they did not develop much strength. As the matter now stands there is no prospect of a nomination before morning. Certainly it will be one of the most memorable convention contests in the political history of the State.

The convention was called to order in the opera house at 4 o'clock in the afternoon by W. A. Dunn, of Halifax, chairman of the Congressional Executive Committee. In calling the convention together, Mr. Dunn made a short speech in the course of which he said: "I feel somehow that the eyes of North Carolina are upon this convention, and I know that the eyes of the world are upon North Carolina. (Applause.) It can not be doubted that some great deed is to be born in this State in this closing year of the nineteenth century. (Applause.) North Carolina has never before known such a campaign. We have made the issue; we have chosen our ground, and in making that issue the white people of North Carolina are asserting the principle that is born in them—the principle that says the Anglo-Saxon race must dominate the world. (Applause.)"

The Republicans charge that the amendment is in opposition to the United States Constitution. But what is the Republican party? It is the party that suspended the writ of habeas corpus and brought on such a condition of affairs that the Supreme court declared the judiciary exhausted. This is the party that declared in 1857 that it would reform the State, and when the reformation was finished it took a revolution to undo the infamous work. Then it was that the people of the State swore a mighty oath that they would no longer allow a negro or his representatives to rule over them. The solution to the problem that they offer you is the amendment.

"Who say that it will stand the test of the courts? The best lawyers in North Carolina; the best lawyers in the United States. Who say that it will not? Pritchard and Butler. Whom will you believe? But if we should fail in our purpose we will be none the worse. And I know the white men of North Carolina well enough to know that they will find some other means to assert and preserve White Supremacy. I believe our cause is just and honest. I know it is the only thing that keeps North Carolina in the forefront of the commonwealths."

Mr. Dunn closed by counseling harmony and caution and added: "This convention and this district is going to render it forever impossible that another negro shall stand up in the halls of Congress and slander the white women of the State, and by his vote forever disfranchise thousands of the good people of Western North Carolina. (Applause.) Then we are going to elect Wm. J. Bryan as our President. (Cheers and applause.) I tell you what I believe when I say that we are going to carry this amendment by a great majority; the people of Eastern North Carolina have not degenerated one whit from the proud standing of their ancestors." (Applause.)

Mr. Dunn then named John D. Gold, of Wilson, as secretary, and introduced to the convention as its temporary presiding officer, Mr. W. T. Dortch, of Goldsboro. On taking the chair Mr. Dortch made a splendid short speech in favor of White Supremacy, saying: "I see before me the militant Democracy of the Second district.

I assert that in you we have before us the grandest body of political fighters that is known in the present age." The ground and the issue are chosen and the time has come when the white race must assert its supremacy.

He depicted the condition of the towns and counties in Eastern North Carolina two years ago, and added amid great applause: "We stood it as long as we could. Patience was no longer a virtue. It was a question of whether we should stand by home and wife and child or be run over by a horde of ignorant vicious negroes. Do you ask which we chose? Are you surprised at the action of the people of Wilmington? When I tell you that the amendment will deprive no white man of the right to vote, but that it will take the ballot from eighty thousand negroes, can you doubt the desirability of its adoption?" (Applause and shouts of "No," "No.")

When the speaker referred to Mr. Aycock his words were greeted by a thunder of applause. He said: "I tell you the honor was worthily bestowed. He is a great and gallant leader, and if you half-way do your duty he will in August carry the Democratic hosts to victory." (Applause.) The temporary organization was on motion of Capt. Thos. L. Emery, made permanent.

The following Committee on Credentials was appointed, one from each county: Bertie, A. T. Eason; Edgecombe, J. E. Cobb; Greene, T. E. Barrow; Halifax, John O. Burton; Lenoir, H. W. Davis; Northampton, B. M. Pugh; Warren, D. M. Collins; Wayne, J. T. Hooks; Wilson, John R. Diddy. Committee on Platform and Resolutions: Bertie, C. W. Mitchell; Edgecombe, D. E. Cobb; Greene, Swift Galloway; Halifax, David Bell; Lenoir, W. D. Pollock; Northampton, C. G. Peebles; Warren, Dr. L. J. Picot; Wayne, W. R. Allen; Wilson, Dennis Worthington.

These committees having retired for consultation, Capt. Thos. W. Mason, was called on for a speech. Coming forward amid great applause, he thanked the convention for the honor done him and added: "When we were assembled in Raleigh looking for a leader the searching eye of Democracy found that man in this town. I know he will be the next Governor. I believe as the years go by and our children and our children's children read the history we are here making, they will say that day's work was one of the best we have done in a quarter of a century. (Applause.) We must stand by him. There must be no faltering or sulking in the Second district we have held the first convention, and we must set the pace."

Speaking of the amendment, he said: "It's not a question of party politics. It's a question born of the heart-beats of the white men of a proud State. (Applause.) Talk about disfranchising people. We don't want to disfranchise anybody, but we are determined that the Second district shall no longer be misrepresented in the halls of Congress."

"It is coming, I can hear it; you can see it. It has spread to other States, and even now Virginia, the mother of statesmen, is preparing for it. (Applause.)"

"We are not going to be laggarids. We have taken up this fight because the voice of the people of North Carolina demand it, and the votes of the people of North Carolina will carry it through in August, whoever this convention says shall bear the standard we'll wear his colors from our head to our heels. Aycock I regard as practically elected. The man we nominate today we'll elect."

"Good by, George White; you declared two years ago that the negro must hold office. How about it, George? You invited the issue of White Supremacy two years ago, George; now you've got it, and you, too, Marion and Jeter, George, Jeter and Marion, go together, stay together and sleep together if you want to."

At this point the Committee on Credentials came in and Mr. Eason for the committee reported that all the counties in the district were represented and no contest. The number of votes given in the convention to the various counties were: Bertie 27, Edgecombe 36, Greene 20, Halifax 40, Lenoir 32, Northampton 33, Warren 18, Wayne 54 and Wilson 31; total 291. This vote was apportioned on a basis of one vote for every fifty cast in the last gubernatorial election.

The question of allowing proxies being raised, the Chair ruled that under the Democratic rules and laws of organization proxies were not permitted.

The Committee on Platforms not being ready to report, the convention on motion of Capt. Thos. L. Emory, proceeded to the nomination of a candidate for Congress. The following names were placed before the convention: R. B. Peebles, by Dr. D. B. Zollieffer, of Northampton, seconded by C. W. Mitchell, of Bertie; Donnell Gilliam, by L. V. Bassett, of Edgecombe; J. M. Wood of Wayne; Claude Kitchin, by Walter E. Daniel, of Halifax; H. A. Boyd, of Warren; Fred A. Woodard, by Judge H. G. Connor, of Wilson; by L. V. Merrill, of Greene, Dr. E. G. Moore, of Wilson.

This completed the nominations and the Committee on Platforms made its report which was read by Capt. Swift Galloway. Following is the platform adopted by the convention: "Resolved, That we pledge our allegiance and devotion to the principles enunciated in the platform adopted by the Democratic national convention at Chicago in 1896, and in the platform adopted by the Democratic State convention at Raleigh, on the 11th day of April, 1900."

"Resolved, That we see in the recent unseating of the Hon. William I. Crawford, the duly elected representative of the Ninth Congressional District by the vote of George H. White, the negro representative from the Second District a new illustration of the dangerous power of the negro vote in North Carolina, and we hereby pledge the people of our State that we will do our full duty toward righting that wrong to the Ninth District and that disgrace to the Second."

Roll call for the first ballot commenced at 6:50 o'clock. It resulted: Bertie, 27 for Peebles; Edgecombe, 36 for Gilliam; Greene, 6-2-3 each for Woodard, Gilliam and Kitchin; Halifax, forty for Kitchin; (Continued on Second Page.)

ON TO PRETORIA A MERE PROMENADE

British Again Look For a Very Soft Thing.

RETREATING ON THE VAAL

Boers Fall Back Before French Now at Prospect Station.

GEN. BULLER INVADES THE TRANSVAAL

His Forces, However, Are Held at Bay by the Boers at Laing's Nek, Where Burghers Are Entrenching. Boer Reports of Fighting.

(By the Associated Press.)

London, May 24.—(2:05 p. m.)—General French has reached Prospect Station, about five miles north of Rhenoster River. The Boers are retreating on the Vaal.

A dispatch from Rhenoster dated Wednesday, May 23rd, 7:45 p. m., says:

"The general opinion is that we will arrive at Pretoria as fast as we can march, though the Boers announced to all the country that they intended to fight to the death."

"General Ian Hamilton is co-operating in the advance on the right. Thus Lord Roberts, who presumably is a few miles behind General French, will reach the Vaal before the end of the week."

Natives report that the Boers have buried two guns in the Rhenoster River.

In Natal General Buller's forces have crossed into the Transvaal near Ingogo, but are still held at bay at Laing's Nek, where the Boers are entrenching themselves. With the exception of this pass, Natal is clear of Boers. They have a big gun posted, but it is doubtful if they will be able to hold the position when threatened by a flanking movement from the force that crossed the Ingogo River.

A dispatch from Pretoria announced that the first train north entered Mafeking May 22nd and that the first train south is expected next week. It is said that the relief of Mafeking was due to a blunder of one of the Federal officers, by which General Delarey was foiled in his plan to cut off the relief force, after driving them away from the Molopo River.

It is added that the Federals have resolved to make a determined defense of the city of Johannesburg. Klimke, the State mining engineer, has been given six months' leave of absence, presumably for protesting against the proposition to blow up the mines.

A special dispatch from Newcastle, Natal, says the Russian Ambulance Corps with the Boers is disgusted with their conduct and has requested the Czar to recall it.

At a "stop-the-war Meeting" in London this afternoon, William Stead remarked that the Boer delegates now in the United States told him they were prepared to accept peace on any terms compatible with independence and asked if it was any good attempting to see Lord Salisbury, to which Mr. Stead said that he replied it was useless to do so, unless they proceeded to America, where they "have met with such coldness in officialdom as has excited the exultation of those who are determined to throttle the little States to death."

ROBERTS HELD BY THE SWOLLEN RIVER

A Referendum on Continuing the War Going on Among the Boers.

(By the Associated Press.)

London, May 25.—(3:30 A. M., Friday.)—Lord Roberts' infantry advance is delayed at the Rhenoster River for a day or two by the depth of the stream, which is not fordable. The banks, which are precipitous, are forty feet high. A pontoon and temporary bridge construction are under way.

The railway has not been damaged to any great extent between Kroonstad and Rhenoster. The Transvaalers have offended their splendid bridges when retreating to Kroonstad. They refrained from doing this on the retreat to Rhenoster, but now they are destroying the railroad and bridges almost completely north of the Rhenoster.

The British troops are in the form of a crescent, with horns thirty miles apart, with General French's cavalry on the left within twenty-three miles of the Vaal, and General Ian Hamilton's mounted men on the right, within thirty miles of the Vaal. The center of the crescent is about forty miles from the Vaal.

Boer telegrams say 3,000 British with guns, are now near Vreddefort which is close to the Vaal and close to Parys. One correspondent refers to the advance as a "promenade." Another describes it as a "Boer hunt." The Free Staters are pictured as "bolting like hares" at the first sight of the British. The latter, according to one writer, do not even find women and children, as the fleeing farmers take their families with them, in consequence of the reports current among the Transvaalers that the British kidnap all children over twelve years of age.

The Boer rear guard was of Russians to whom was committed the task of de-



Holton, Adams, Thompson & Co.'s Last Serenade.

stroying the bridges. They also looted freely.

What the Boers are doing is an absolute mystery. The embargo of news out of Pretoria for the last 24 hours has been complete. The movement toward Lydenburg, however, continues and a referendum on the question of continuing the war is going on among the Boer fighting men. It may be a fortnight before the results of this singular vote are fully before the Transvaal Government. If the English view of Boer discouragement is one-half right the Boers will vote to quit.

In Natal General Dartnell's volunteers occupied Mount Prospect Monday. Lord Dundonald's cavalry is at Firmstone near Ingogo. His infantry rests at Schoenschoogte. The names are all of famous memory in the first Boer war. The British face Laing's Nek where the Boers, through the range glasses of the British are occasionally visible. In the march across the Biggarsberg all the farms except one were found vacant. A temporary bridge has been finished at Waschbank. Trains now go to Dundee. General Buller said the best way to celebrate the Queen's birthday was to repair the railway to Newcastle and every man was put to work.

BUBONIC PLAGUE APPEARED.

South Africa has another affliction. An extraordinary issue of the gazette at Durban announces the death of an East Indian from the bubonic plague. The Government has put into force the most stringent preventive measures, but fears are expressed that the pestilence may get among the troops.

FIGHT AT SLEEPERS NECK.

Pretoria, Wednesday, May 23.—An official bulletin issued here today says:

"Sixty British cavalry came into collision on May 20th with eighty of the Swaziland commando at Scheepers Nek. The fighting lasted an hour. The British lost 27 killed, 25 wounded and 11 were taken prisoners. Twenty-five horses, two Maxims and a quantity of ammunition were also captured. The Federals lost one killed and one injured. They assisted to remove the wounded and bury the dead."

PROCLAMATION BY KRUGER.

Cape Town, May 24.—President Kruger, it is announced here, has issued a proclamation saying he will defend Johannesburg and calling upon all the Boers to fight to the bitter end.

Stephen Baptist to Hang July 10th.

(By the Associated Press.)

Richmond, Va., May 24.—At Boydton today the jury in the case of Stephen Baptist for the murder of Mr. Peter Jones brought in a verdict of guilty and Baptist was sentenced to be hanged on July 10th next.

VOTE FOR CALLING THE CONVENTION

Such Seems to be the Result in Virginia.

THE VOTE WAS VERY LIGHT

Returns Come in Slowly. Republicans Vote Against Proposition.

AT 10 P. M. THE ISSUE WAS IN DOUBT

AT 2:30 Richmond Telegraphed That it Appeared Certain the Convention to Frame the New Constitution Had Been Carried.

(By the Associated Press.)

Richmond, Va., May 24.—From a summary at 1:40 a. m., it appears that the convention has carried in the Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth and Tenth Congressional districts. In these districts are the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News, Richmond, Lynchburg and Staunton, which gave good convention majorities. The result in these districts with scattering majorities in counties in the other districts, and the majorities in their cities and some of their larger towns indicate that the convention movement has succeeded. Figures, however, are impossible at present.

MAJORITY FOR CONVENTION 1,124.

Danville, Va., May 24.—Danville, the cradle of the movement for a new State Constitution, gave a majority of 1,124 for convention out of 1,406 votes cast. Indications are that Pittsylvania and Henry counties have gone for convention by small majorities. Harry Wooding was re-elected to his fourth term as mayor with little opposition.

LYNCHBURG FOR CONVENTION.

Lynchburg, Va., May 24.—In Lynchburg today there was a majority of 565 for the Constitutional Amendment out of a total vote of 2,207.

PETERSBURG IS FOR IT.

Petersburg, Va., May 24.—Owing to inclement weather the vote here was small today. Democratic municipal ticket had no opposition. The vote in favor of calling a constitutional convention was 921 to 239 against it.

NEGROES SOLIDLY OPPOSE IT.

Lexington, Va., May 24.—In Rockbridge county twelve precincts out of twenty-two give 623 votes for and 625 against calling a constitutional convention. A rain-storm prevailed all day. There was a general apathy among Democrats. Negroes voted solidly against a convention.

About one-third vote will be polled in the county.

RICHMOND'S EARLIER REPORTS.

Richmond, Va., May 24.—An election was held today in this State on the question of calling a convention to frame a new constitution. At 10 o'clock tonight returns were coming in slow and the issue was very much in doubt. The vote was light and the Republicans generally voted against the measure.

At midnight the returns are still coming in slowly but the indications are more favorable for the calling of a convention. At 1 a. m. it appears probable that the convention proposition has been carried by a small majority.

CAST A LARGE VOTE FOR IT.

Newport News, Va., May 24.—This city voted for the constitutional convention by a majority of over 1,400 out of a total vote of about 2,300. Warwick and Elizabeth City counties went against the convention by small majorities.

York county returns indicates a majority for the convention. The entire Democratic city ticket was elected. Wards heretofore Republican, went Democratic today.

"BOXERS" DRILLING AT PEKIN.

Threat That the Powers Will Land Troops in China.

(By the Associated Press.)

Shanghai, May 24.—The members of the Chinese secret society, known as the "boxers" are now openly drilling at Peking, and many high Manchus, including members of the Imperial Clan, are joining the movement, which is becoming so threatening that diplomatic representatives are about to take action. B. J. DeColoman, the Spanish Minister, and Doyen, of the diplomatic corps, have made a demand upon the Tsung Li Yamen, (Chinese Foreign Office) couched in the strongest terms, for the immediate suppression of the "boxers" threatening that otherwise all the powers concerned would land troops in China.

RACE QUESTION IN M. F. CONFERENCE.

Agents of the Eastern and Western Book Concerns Named.

(By the Associated Press.)

Chicago, Ill., May 24.—This was a day of elections in the Methodist General Conference. Agents of the Eastern and Western Book Concerns were named. Samuel H. Pye and A. C. Jennings were the successful candidates for the Chicago and Cincinnati offices and Homer Eaton and George B. Mains were re-elected to the New York office.

The Conference abolished the office of Secretary of Epworth League and refused to allow another secretary for the Sunday School Union. It reconsidered its action of a week ago in abolishing additional secretaries of the various church benevolences so far as the Freeman's Aid and Southern Education Society was concerned. The debate resulting in this action was quite bitter at times, the race question being brought out prominently. The General Conference voted to adjourn sine die at 1:30 p. m. Tuesday next.

Richmond, Va., May 24.—The Peninsula Bank at Williamsburg was entered by robbers last night, the safe blown open and about \$10,000 of money taken. There is no clue to the robbers.