

## PRITCHARD AS GOOD AS ELECTED

### EIGHTY-SIX VOTES IN BOTH HOUSES.

#### A Majority of All the Members in Favor of His Re-Election.

**AN EXCITING CONTEST**  
**Three Candidates and a Close Vote.**  
**MANY ELOQUENT SPEECHES**  
**STUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS OF JETER C. PRITCHARD.**  
**MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION**  
**THE VOTE COUNTED AND ANNOUNCED.**

The Legislature Will Meet in Joint Session and Take a Vote Which Will Ratify the Choice Indicated Yesterday.

While the balloting in the Legislature yesterday did not result in the actual election of an United States Senator, it settled the question of the succession to the seat now held by Hon. Jeter C. Pritchard by deciding that he should succeed himself for the term of six years, beginning on the fourth day of next March.

The net result of the balloting in both branches of the Legislature was as follows: Pritchard, 86; Thompson, 42; Doughton, 34.

Promptly at twelve o'clock Lieutenant-Governor Reynolds called the Senate to order and announced that the hour had arrived for going into the election of an United States Senator. Without further formality, nominating speeches began forthwith.

Mr. Smathers (Rep.) of Haywood was recognized first to nominate Hon. Jeter C. Pritchard, and spoke as follows:

**SPEECH OF SENATOR SMATHERS.**  
MR. PRESIDENT AND SENATORS: This being the day and hour fixed by law for the general Assembly of North Carolina to proceed to the election of a Senator to represent her in the Congress of the United States for a term of six years beginning on the 4th of March next, I rise to place in nomination for that high and exalted position a man who, I am sure, if the members of this body and the House of Representatives will vote to elect him, will be his own successor.

Jeter C. Pritchard was born in Washington (now Union) county, Tennessee, on July 12th, 1837. His father, who was a brave Confederate soldier, died soon after the surrender of Vicksburg, Mississippi, at Mobile, Alabama, and was buried among the unknown.

He determined to start out and battle against life's waves. He learned that there was a man at Bakersville, in Mitchell county, that wanted to employ a printer, and with the great Iron Mountain that divides Tennessee and North Carolina between him and his objective point, he, in company with a boy friend, with 15 cents and a small quantity of cold rations, started on their cold journey across this great ledge of mountains, a distance of 35 miles, while at that time the path of their journey across the mountain was more frequently trod by the wild bear and deer than by man.

They reached Bakersville in due time, and young Pritchard soon secured a contract with the Rev. W. C. Bowman to run the printer's department of the Bakersville Independent, a paper afterwards known as the Roan Mountain Republican. Young Pritchard soon became a half owner and associate editor of the paper.

It was in Mitchell county where he made his debut in politics. For at an early age he imbued the principles of the Republican party and commenced fighting for the people of North Carolina to maintain local self government and for a free ballot and a fair count.

He made his first canvass in Mitchell county for the Republican party in 1876, and then again in 1878, and has ever since battled for the cause of Republican principles.

In the fall of 1878 he moved to Madison county, and it was in this county that he carved out his political destiny. In 1880 he canvassed Madison county as a sub elector on the Republican ticket, and again in 1882.

By this time his merits were fully recognized, and in 1884 he was nominated by the Republicans of Madison county and elected a member in the House of Representatives; was re-elected in 1886 and took a leading part of the General Assembly of 1887 with such men as Ewart, Pearson, Overman, Crawford and other distinguished gentlemen of that body.

In 1888 he was nominated for Lieutenant Governor on the Republican ticket. His joint canvass with the Hon. Hezekiah Gudgeon, who made the canvass for the Hon. Thos. M. Holt, candidate for Lieutenant Governor of the State, will be remembered as one of the most brilliant canvasses that was ever made for that office in the State. It was this canvass that gave to Jeter C. Pritchard a State reputation.

In 1890 he was elected President of the North Carolina Protective Tariff League, which was organized under his inspiration and leadership. He also took an active part in politics that year; and although not aspiring to a nomination in any office, he accepted the nomination in his county for the House at the urgent request of his political friends for the sake of party harmony.

He was nominated by the Republicans of the Ninth District for Congress in 1892, his opponent being the Hon. W. T. Crawford. They, too, made a joint canvass, with immense crowds to hear them. When the spreading was over, both sides proud of their man, claimed the victory in discussion.

In 1894 he was elected to the United States Senate to fill out the unexpired term of the Hon. Zebulon B. Vance.

In 1878, soon after Mr. Pritchard moved to Madison, he began the study of law, and working on the farm during the day and reading law at night. Without even a preceptor to instruct him, he continued his studies from year to year until he obtained a license to practice law in 1887, and at once began the practice of law, and it was only a few years before he took his position as one of the leading attorneys of the 12th Judicial district.

Mr. President, Mr. Pritchard, although defeated for Lieutenant Governor, in 1888, and for Congress in the Ninth district in 1892, never faltered. He had an abiding confidence in the ultimate success of the Republican party; and while some despaired and fell faint and weary, by the wayside, Jeter C. Pritchard marched at the head of the Republican column, with such brave leaders as Russell, the Settles, Dockerys, Motts, Boyd, and other distinguished Republicans, bidding the Republican hosts press forward, boldly declaring that the party was right, and would ultimately succeed.

The leadership of the minority of the State House of Representatives by Jeter C. Pritchard in 1890, was equal to that of Thomas B. Reed in the 53d Congress.

If any one man more than another is entitled to the credit of the success of co-operation in 1894, it was Jeter C. Pritchard. After the election in 1892, with his keen eye he detected the advantage of co-operation, and it is to him that the large majority of Republicans and Populists in the General Assemblies of 1895 and 1897 are indebted for their election.

earnestly, forcibly and impressively. He was not abashed by the fact that he was a minority, but was all the prouder that he was a Democrat.

Mr. Wakefield (Pop.) of Caldwell spoke seconding the nomination of Mr. Pritchard as follows:

**SPEECH OF SENATOR WAKEFIELD.**

MR. PRESIDENT: I am a plain, blunt man, and speak my sentiments. But in speaking them I do not desire to affront any of my fellow Senators. I am reminded of one of the old prophets, Ezekiel I believe, who when contemplating the providences of the great God, spoke of them in the similitude of a wheel in a wheel. The Populist party, it is true, has principles which may fitly be represented by Ezekiel's wheel within a wheel; but whatever has been accomplished in North Carolina by the Populist party has been done by dependence upon the great outer wheel—the principle of co-operation.

There is a pivotal point in the history of all parties. Caesar had his on the banks of the Rubicon. Arnold Winkelreid, the Swiss patriot and martyr, had his when he charged the Austrian phalanx, of whom the doer has said: "Make way for liberty, he cried; Make way for liberty, and died."

Our revolutionary sires, the patriots of Mecklenburg (and I am glad that their descendants are on the floor of this Senate Chamber today) had their when they met at Charlotte on the 20th day of May, 1776, and declared: "That this country is, and of right ought to be, a free and independent nation."

Today the Populist party in North Carolina is on trial, and the burning question is, shall it keep faith with its allies, who have stood by it so nobly in the past; or shall it break faith, and thus become an ingrate?

When I came to the city of Raleigh at the opening of the Legislature, I came a co-operationist, I have been one since 1894. I came here pledged to the nominee of a joint caucus of Populists and Republicans; came here believing that the contract entered into, as I understood it, by both parties, two years ago, would be faithfully carried out, and that a Republican, under a pledge for free silver, would be elected to the United States Senate without a dissenting vote.

I cannot speak for my fellow Populists, but for myself I will say, when I made the campaign in my district I promised my people that I would vote for the joint caucus nominee of the Populist and Republican parties. Upon arriving here I found the joint caucus to be a nullity—a nonentity. I consider myself then, Mr. President, subject not to a second caucus, but to the hearts of my constituency, five out of six of whom are Republicans. And I am satisfied that my action will meet the approval of my Populist friends, since I told them in my canvass that I would vote for a Republican under a pledge for free silver. I believe that the highest duty of any public man is to carry out the wishes of a majority of the people whom he represents.

And just here, Mr. President, I recall that the lamented Poek, who, just before he crossed the mystic river, said that "when he mingled with its dark waters, he longed to cast one lingering look behind, upon a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

He, as well as the other leaders of the Alliance and the Populist party in North Carolina, have always taught that the demands of the people are more sacred than the ties of the party caucus. The Republicans have marched loyally to the ballot box in two campaigns, and have deposited their ballots for Populists through the length and breadth of the State; as a result of which we have gained two grand victories. Those victories carried with them grand results to the Populists as well as to the Republicans, giving to the former one United States Senator, five Congressmen, one half of the State officers, fifty eight members of the General Assembly of the present session, and one half of the county officers throughout the State, without mentioning the much needed legislation that has come through co-operation.

Mr. President, it does seem to me that it would be self-his gone to send for the Populists to demand, or even expect, the Senatorship in this contest.

An attempt has been made by threats and otherwise, to coerce men and deny them that liberty and freedom of conscience that burns within the breast of every free man to shake that spirit of liberty that moved our Pilgrim fathers to brave the mad waves of the Atlantic, that they might find a refuge where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences; to smother that God given inspiration that was in the bosom of our forefathers which served them to add the marchless deeds of Concord, Bunker Hill, King's Mountain and Yorktown to the already glorious pages of our illustrious history. Mr. President, we know our rights, and knowing we dare maintain them.

There is a phase of this Senatorial question that some seem to have forgotten. It is its geographical relation. We must look to the interest of our entire State. All sections must be represented—from the sandy beach on the east to the forest clad mountains of the west. There is a precedent that must not be ignored. The honest people of the west—the sturdy mountaineers—are calling for a man to succeed Vance who is to the manor born. They are calling for a man as

lofty in character, honor and worth as the mountain up whose crest the noble Vance now sleeps, keeping a silent vigil over the people he loved. Well may it be said of him:

"Sleep, for thy name is cherished By the bravest and the best; And freemen's hearts and woman's love Are with thee in thy rest."

Co-operation has given to the East one Senator, the Hon. Marion Butler, a Populist of whose record we are all proud. Let co-operation now answer this call from the West by electing a Republican—a man in every way worthy to wear the mantle of Vance. That man is the Hon. Jeter C. Pritchard, of Madison county, whose nomination I rise to second.

Mr. Anderson (Rep.) of Henderson spoke of the early trials and battles of Jeter C. Pritchard, told of his services to the State in the United States Senate, and said that in two short years he had laid the sure foundation of enduring fame. He said that there was a chapter of history that had never been recorded, referring to the trials and struggles of the Republican party in North Carolina. When Jeter Pritchard linked his fortunes with the Republican party it required courage of a high order. Speaking of the Populist party, he said that it was like a stone cut out of the mountain without hands, that had crushed the clay feet of the Democratic idol and had broken its head of gold. The Populist party, he said, was now where it would have to decide between a new era of prosperity and the pall of darkness that has hung over the country during the present administration. He spoke with force and fervor.

Mr. Utley (Pop.) of Wake made a stirring speech seconding the nomination of Dr. Thompson. He was unsparing in his denunciation of political opponents, and in a cause that had a chance of success would have aroused enthusiasm.

Mr. Parker (Dem.) of Alamance; Mr. Justice (Dem.) of Rutherford; and Mr. Anthony (Dem.) of Cleveland, made short speeches, seconding the nomination of Mr. Doughton.

Mr. Ashburn (Rep.) of Surry, made a speech seconding the nomination of Mr. Pritchard and appealed to the Populists to keep faith with the Republicans.

Mr. Atwater (Pop.) of Chatham, having been a leader of the Populist party from its birth, thought that it would not be proper for him to fail to testify his devotion to the principles of the party and his admiration for Dr. Thompson. His speech was brief, but to the point.

Mr. Yeager (Populist) of Washington seconded the nomination of Mr. Pritchard. He said that when some men get out of a hole they forget that they were ever in it. There were Populist Senators present in the chamber who would not have been there except for Republican votes. He would support Pritchard for Senator.

**SPEECH OF MR. GRANT.**

Mr. Grant (Republican) of Wayne said that they who made history knew it best. When he conceived the idea of co-operation with the Populists, he wrote a number of letters to prominent Republicans throughout the State, broaching the subject to them and requesting an expression of their views. The first favorable response he received was from Jeter C. Pritchard, who gave the clear, strong and best reasons for co-operation that he had ever seen.

The circumstances surrounding a white Republican in the east, Major Grant said, were entirely different from those with which western Republicans are familiar. It was not necessary to speak of them in detail, but he spoke of Democratic frauds, the judgment of the ballot box, declaring that the Democratic party was raising up a generation of thieves.

Speaking of the understanding between the Republicans and Populists regarding the Senatorship, he declared in the most positive terms that there was a definite agreement that Butler should succeed Ransom for the long term; that Pritchard should succeed to the unexpired term of Vance, and that the Populists should vote with the Republicans at this session of the Legislature to re-elect him for a term of six years. Raising his hand impressively he said: "If there is a God in heaven, what I state about this is the truth."

Major Grant said that as a Republican he was in favor of the free coinage of silver, that as a delegate to the National Convention at St. Louis he occupied the same position; that he voted with a majority of the North Carolina delegates for the Teller substitute for the financial plank of the platform, and when that was lost he accepted the judgment of the party as expressed by the Convention. He could not do otherwise than remain in the Republican party. The position of Mr. Pritchard was substantially the same as his own. The course of Mr. Pritchard in the Senate had been honorable, but by reason of slanders most foul he had found it necessary to make statement after statement to vindicate his position.

The shackles of political slavery, long endured by Republicans and Populists in the east had been stricken from their hands by the joint efforts of the two parties. To continue co-operation, but honor, was willing to sacrifice everything but honor. The Republican party was bound by every honorable consideration to support Mr. Pritchard for re-election, and the Populists were equally bound to support him to carry out in good faith the understanding made two years before. Mr. Pritchard was the candidate of the Republican party before a single Populist was nominated for the Legislature, and any promise made by a Populist to support the nominee of a joint caucus was a pledge to support Pritchard, and was so understood by all Republicans and most Populists voting for such candidates. The Republican party had kept all its pledges to the Populists.

or sacrifice these virtues at the behest and dictation of any man.

The balloting then began and proceeded as follows: For Pritchard—Anderson, Ashburn, Barker, Cannon, Dickson, Early, Grant, Henderson, Hyatt, Maulsby, McCarthy, McNeill, Newsome, Odom, Person, Ramsey, R. L. Sharp, Sharpe of Wilson, Sharpe of Irrell, Smathers, Shore, Wakefield, Whedbee and Yeager—24.

For Thompson—Alexander, Atwater, Butler, Clark, Geddie, Hardison, Lyon, Maxwell, Mitchell, Moye, Merritt, McCaskey, Parker of Randolph, Patterson, Roberson, Shaw, Utley and Walker—18.

For Doughton—Abell, Anthony, Barger, Justice, Parker, Ray, Spales—7.

Mr. Earnhardt (Pop.) was absent on account of sickness.

**PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.**

It was exactly 12 o'clock yesterday when Col. Sutton of Cumberland arose on a point of order in the House of Representatives and cut short the dispatch of routine business with the declaration that the hour had arrived for the ballot for United States Senator.

The Speaker sustained Col. Sutton's point of order, and declared nominations for a United States Senator to succeed Jeter C. Pritchard in order. Immediately thereupon Representative V. S. Lusk of Buncombe arose, was recognized by the Chair, and proceeded to nominate Senator Pritchard to succeed himself.

**MR. LUSK'S SPEECH.**

MR. SPEAKER: The much discussed and long expected time for the election of a United States Senator for the term beginning March 4th, 1897, to succeed Jeter C. Pritchard in the United States Senate, has arrived.

Could the people of North Carolina have heard the announcement from that Chair that the election of a United States Senator was in order, and could this House have heard the great outcry for the favorite son of North Carolina this would have rolled up, this House would be so unanimous for Jeter C. Pritchard that he would be nominated and elected by acclamation.

This self-imposed work is not to me a task, but a pleasure. I shall deviate from the prescribed custom in making nominating speeches, by saying that I now present to the House the name of Jeter C. Pritchard as his own successor in the United States Senate.

I will be as brief as possible, because the history of Senator Pritchard is well known in this State.

It is a biography that might well be repeated for the instruction and edification of the rising generation. He is not a native born citizen of North Carolina, but was born in Tennessee in 1837.

His father was a valiant Confederate soldier, who lost his life for the Confederacy. His mother, a noble Christian lady, was left with four children to support, one of whom is the subject of this nominating speech.

This was reared with meagre school advantages and at poverty's very door. His dear mother scarcely able to keep the family together.

Young Jeter was early put out to an apprenticeship to learn the printer's trade. It is no disgrace to have been brought up thus and to have risen thus from a poor apprenticed printer to one of the first men of this country. His, however, is only one of the many examples of phenomenal American enterprise.

The able Lincoln was a rail splitter. U. S. Grant a tanner, Blaine a school teacher, Garfield a canal boy, and Jeter C. Pritchard a poor printer.

When a young man we find Mr. Pritchard in Bakersville, Mitchell county, without a penny; but fortune was kind to him and threw in his path a great hearted man who placed him at the head of a large printing business.

In the course of time he moved to Madison county where he was married. Here he read law by night and by day he cultivated a small farm.

At this time Madison county was Democratic by a large majority. Republicans were casting about for a leader, and recognizing the worth and ability of young Pritchard, turned to him to espouse their cause. He went forth without money and won Madison county for Republicanism, and each year has been distinguished by a decided gain in the Republican majority, until now she rolls up more than a thousand strong.

Jeter Pritchard made a brilliant fight for the Republican cause in the ninth district against Mr. Crawford, one of the most astute Democrats in North Carolina. He is grown to be a star of the first magnitude, and our hearts have swelled with pride as we have watched his ascendancy.

It has been the custom of the people of North Carolina to have one Senator from the east and one from the west. It is a custom whereof the memory of man remembereth not to the contrary. We now have an honored Senator from the east. Republicans and Populists put him in office. I have never regretted that I cast my vote for Senator Butler, and I trust that I may never have occasion to do so.

Now all we ask of the eastern people is that you give us your support for our western man in the United States Senate.

Divisions have grown up in the allied parties since the last Senatorial election. I tell our Populist friends that fusion shall not be broken up. If we would have good government in the Old North State we must be friends and must continue to stand together.

Two years ago Mr. Pritchard declared for the free coinage of silver, and today he stands right where he stood two years ago—just as strong a friend of silver as ever. Now, then, my friends, such is the record of Jeter C. Pritchard, and in him rests the greatest hopes of the people of this State.

We are on the eve of an era of great prosperity, and only need Senator Pritchard in the United States Senate to reach the greatest possible prosperity.

Let us, then, see to it that Jeter C.