

THE OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1896

E. J. HALE, Editor and Proprietor.

E. J. HALE, Jr., Business Manager.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

FOR PRESIDENT,
BRYAN, of Nebraska.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
SEWALL, of Maine.

STATE DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

THEY WILL BE ELECTED.

FOR GOVERNOR:
CYRUS B. WATSON,
of Forsyth.

FOR LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR:
THOMAS W. MASON,
of Northampton.

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE:
CHARLES M. COOKE,
of Franklin.

FOR STATE TREASURER:
B. F. AYCOCK,
of Wayne.

FOR STATE AUDITOR:
R. M. FURMAN,
of Buncombe.

FOR SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:
JOHN C. SCARBOROUGH,
of Johnston.

FOR ATTORNEY-GENERAL:
F. I. OSBORNE,
of Mecklenburg.

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICES SUPREME COURT:
A. C. AVERY,
of Burke,
GEO. H. BROWN,
of Beaufort.

THE ACTION OF THE STATE COMMITTEE.

Saturday's Charlotte Observer contained its usual Raleigh letter of the day before, which began in this wise:

"The Democratic party has taken the plunge. It has declared for electoral fusion with the Populists. At noon yesterday no man could say. At 8 o'clock it became pretty clear that a majority of the committee favored fusion; yet after all the quickness of it was rather a surprise, for many thought the committee would do as Maj. E. J. Hale said Wednesday night to do—that is wait until Bryan and Chairman Jones said what should be done. But Maj. Hale was one of those who changed their minds and so the quick action of last night came about. At 1 o'clock there was quite positive assurance that the committee would take a recess until this morning at 10 o'clock and so the tired, hot and waiting newspaper people on the outside were told. So they departed. It was a little after 2 o'clock when the resolution they had previously been assured would be adopted was adopted and the text of it given out by the censor."

The OBSERVER, having entire faith in the wisdom of Mr. Bryan and Chairman Jones, had counselled patience until they should make known the course they might adopt for solution of the perplexing condition into which the endorsement of Bryan and the rejection of Sewall by the Populists at St. Louis, had thrown the Democratic plans. The editor of the OBSERVER had given expression to the same view in Raleigh on the Wednesday evening preceding the Committee meeting in that city. This was telegraphed by Col. Olds to the papers for which he corresponds, and it is that to which he refers in the

extract quoted above from his letter in Saturday's Charlotte Observer. The cause for the change in Major Hale's mind and that of the other members of the committee who shared his views, is very simple. We presume there is no reason why it should not be stated, as the next morning's papers contained the news that the fresh information on which the committee acted was entirely correct. This was, in substance, that Chairman Jones was favorable to any proper fusion on the electoral tickets in States (as in North Carolina) where a division of the silver vote would result in the election of McKinley electors. Friday morning's papers, as intimated above, contained the following:

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, July 30

The Atlanta Constitution telegraphed to Watson:

In your statement sent out last night you say that unless Sewall retires you know of but two plans—first, two distinct electoral tickets, and second, electoral tickets composed partly of Democrats and partly of Populists. On the basis that neither you nor Mr. Sewall can nor will retire, how can fusion on electoral tickets be accomplished, and on the basis of what vote should apportionment between Populists and Democrats be made?

Watson replied as follows:
In event that Sewall does not retire Populists will put out full electoral ticket. There can be no fusion unless Sewall withdraws. I give you this as my own opinion merely.

THOMAS E. WATSON.

Senator James K. Jones, Chairman of the Democratic National Executive Committee, was informed of this and replied:

HOPE, ARK., July 30.

To the Atlanta Constitution: I cannot consider any proposition for the withdrawal of Sewall, but will entertain as far as I have power, and promote to the best of my ability, any just and fair proposition for fusion on electoral ticket.

JAMES K. JONES.

The condition which confronted the party was well stated by the Chatham Record in its last week's issue, as follows:

"While Bryan seems to be the choice of a large majority of the voters of the United States, yet it is by no means certain that he will be elected President.

"And why?"

"Because according to the constitution the people do not vote directly for the President, but in each State they vote for 'Electors' and these Electors meet in each State and cast the vote of their respective States. Therefore, if the Populists and Democrats of any State should all be in favor of Bryan and yet should have separate electoral tickets, the McKinley electors would probably carry that State by a plurality—not a majority—of the votes cast. Thus by a division among the friends of Bryan, although they may be largely in the majority, the vote of a state may be cast for McKinley.

"Shall this be done?"

"We cannot believe that the honest masses of the People's party are willing that their votes should thus be lost. It certainly would greatly delight Mark Hanna if the Populists and Democrats should run separate electoral tickets, and it would be the height of political folly. And yet it is much to be feared that this suicidal course may be pursued in some States, and the electoral vote of those states be given to McKinley, although a large majority of the voters may be for Bryan and free silver."

The condition so admirably described by Mr. London as prevailing in the country at large, was eminently the case with us in North Carolina. As soon, therefore, as the committee was apprised, as they were on Thursday night, of the views of the chairman of the national organization, they had no alternative but to hasten to put Chairman Manly in a position to carry out Chairman Jones's wishes. The committee would have been guilty of an unpardonable blunder if it had adjourned without giving its Chairman the power to enter upon the negotiations made necessary by the mixed action of the St. Louis convention. The issue of the campaign is the restoration of silver to equal privileges at the mints with gold. The success of the

Democratic party assures that. Those who desire such restoration will welcome any aid, that does not sacrifice principle, by which the party's success may be secured. Majorities, not minorities, win elections.

In North Carolina, there is not the slightest chance, by reason of the intervention of the electoral machinery prescribed by the Federal constitution, for carrying the State for Bryan if two sets of Bryan electors are put in the field. We are amazed that any one should object to what seems to us to have become the obvious duty of the committee as soon as the desires of the national chairman, the head of the party, were known.

With respect to the Vice Presidency, the settlement of the result as between Mr. Sewall and Mr. Watson is a matter of detail, which it strikes us is not difficult of accomplishment. For example, if Mr. Sewall secures the election of a number of electors greater than those secured by Mr. Watson, an agreement that the whole number should vote for Sewall is a very simple thing. And vice versa.

On the other hand, if no agreement should be reached that would cover all the States, the election of the Vice President would fall to the Senate. That body is required by the Constitution to choose from the two candidates who have received the highest number of electoral votes. They will almost certainly be Sewall and Hobart, and the Senate would choose Sewall.

It is immaterial what motive Mr. Butler may have had in using his balance of power to defeat the evident intention of the St. Louis convention to nominate or endorse both Bryan and Sewall. The fact remains that that convention met us half way in adopting the chief part of our ticket.

If we—certainly we of North Carolina, where the party is in the minority—had refrained from an adequate response, the Populists would have had us "in a hole." As it is now, the vantage ground is shifted. If the Populists decline our present counter offer, they will manifest bad faith, and themselves be put in a hole. We do not expect those who at heart would prefer to see the Democratic party defeated rather than that silver should triumph, to share our views. But the real lovers of the Democratic party will heed the calm words of their great leader, who gave out on Tuesday last from his home in Nebraska this appeal for rational behavior and for faith in his loyal leadership:

"He begs all friends of the cause in all parties to refrain from harsh criticism of those who, however much they may differ, agree in desiring the immediate restoration of free coinage. He feels sure that a solution of all difficulties will be found in due time and that the solution will be honorable to all parties, as well as satisfactory."

It may not be amiss, at this stage, to remind a certain faction of the party that the OBSERVER's hands are clean of whatever necessity for fusion the party may now find itself compelled to recognize. Even since the election of 1892 disclosed the fact that we were a minority party, the OBSERVER has urged that steps be taken to recover those whose defection had put us in that condition.

These urgings took a more concrete form after the committee meeting of the 20th of May, 1895, when we advocated the calling of a convention, if necessary, to authorize the opening of the primaries to all who would agree to support the State and county tickets in any event and the national ticket if it were for free silver. Our object was to prevent the necessity for electoral fusion, which we foresaw was inevitable if silver won (as we never ceased to believe it would) at the national convention.

In season and out of season the OBSERVER opposed fusion, and, so far as we

know, it offered the only practicable plan for its prevention. But, because that plan was not adopted, the OBSERVER does not propose to kick against the consequences—the inevitable consequences—which confront us today. Because its pet remedy was rejected, it does not therefore reject the only remedy that is left.

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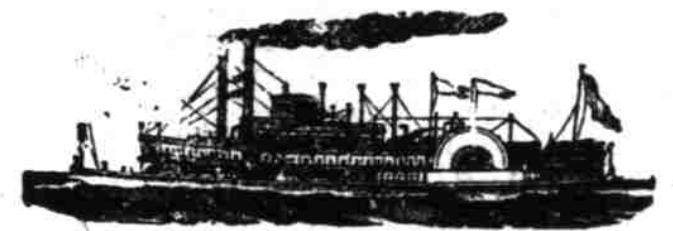
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