

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

What Was Done By the Meeting at Greensboro.

WALTER CLARK FOR CHIEF JUSTICE

Connor and Walker Nominated For Associate Justices—Beddingfield Is Named For Corporation Commissioner.

Greensboro, Special.—The Democratic convention was called to order by State Chairman Simmons in the opera house, promptly at 12 o'clock Wednesday. Rev. P. R. Law, of Lumber Bridge, Robeson county, was called upon by the chairman, and made an appropriate invocation.

State Executive Committee Secretary Pearsall then read the call for the convention, made at the last meeting of the State committee. The reading of the call developed the poor acoustics of the hall, as reported cries of "louder" greeted the reader.

A call of the roll of counties showed that every county of the State was present, through delegates, except Mitchell county, which was represented by Judge Avery as its proxy.

M. S. Thompson, of Greensboro, and George P. Pell, of Jefferson, were announced by Chairman Simmons as assistant secretaries.

Hon. Charles M. Steadman, of Greensboro, was introduced by the chairman, who is most cordial and eloquent terms made an address of welcome to the assembled hosts of Democracy of the State, and at frequent intervals there were loud expressions of approval and interests evinced by spontaneous bursts of enthusiastic applause, mingled with constant cries of "Hurrah for Steadman" as the distinguished speaker made happy hits. At one point of his speech, when he referred to the coming refrain of "Good-bye, my Pritchard, good-bye," the vast audience responded in a wild whoop of approval, which broke into pandemonium of enthusiasm, many rising from their seats, flourishing hats and making things lively with old fashioned war whoops.

Chairman Simmons, responding to the splendid address of welcome, formally extended the thanks of the committee to the city of Greensboro and the committee of arrangements for the excellent manner in which the convention had been provided for and the comfortable entertainment which had been found by all stating that if upon better acquaintance, Greensboro liked the convention delegates well enough to want them again, they might in future show a practical appreciation of the comfort of this occasion to come again.

Mr. Simmons spoke in part as follows:

When the Democratic State convention met in 1898 the people were confronted by two records, one the record of the Democratic party during its 23 years of ascendancy prior to 1894, and the other the record of the fusionists during the four succeeding years. In that campaign we had only to point to those two records as an object lesson and invite the people to compare and consider them. The confidence which we had from the beginning of the campaign in the result of the election of that year was predicted upon the conviction that the people of North Carolina possessed sufficient intelligence to distinguish between good government and bad government, and sufficient virtue to prefer good government to bad government.

When the Democratic State convention met in 1900 the dark cloud which for four years had hovered over the State had passed away. White supremacy had been temporarily at least restored and negro office-holding had been temporarily at least abolished. But the situation has evolved another duty, a paramount and overshadowing duty, the duty of State, society and civilization, to permanently provide against the possible recurrence of the awful and almost engulfing conditions which had followed the elevation of an inferior race to power in the State. Before this question every other question sunk into littleness. Patriotically we addressed ourselves to the duty of the hour. We appealed to the people to ratify the action of the Legislature in placing suffrage upon the broad basis of an intelligent understanding of the ballot and duties of citizenship. Their response was emphatic. By a majority of fifty thousand they said what all history and experience proves that the white man, whether lettered or unlettered, was inherently qualified for self-government and that the black man was inherently disqualified for self-government and could only become qualified, if at all, by education, and training.

The justice and wisdom of the amendment is no longer a question for debate. That has been settled, as I said before, by a majority of fifty thousand, and white supremacy has been written in the organic laws of the State. The question which now confronts us is, shall this decree of the white people remain written in the constitution or shall it be expunged from the constitution by whom and how? We constitute, by whom and how? We don't want another so-called negro campaign in North Carolina. If our adversaries will accept the amendment in good faith we will not have another. I hope this convention will invite and

challenge our political opponents to declare, officially and unequivocally in their platform, when they meet in this city next month whether they accept the amendment as a final settlement of the vexed and dangerous question of negro suffrage. We are told that the negro is out of politics. We are told that the Democrats have promised freedom of thought and action. If the negro is out of politics, he is out through the amendment. Whatever we have promised as to independence was predicated upon the assumption of the permanency of that measure, and we cannot and we will not permit the Republican party to appeal to and use the amendment to divide the white people so long as that party refuses to give the people a positive and straightforward assurance of its bona fide acceptance of that measure, for the refusal by them under the circumstances to give such assurance discloses a sinister purpose with reference to that measure which, for secret reasons, they are unwilling to admit.

We have the right, and it is our duty, in my judgment, in these circumstances to say to the Republican party, you are demanding a change of politics and political conditions in North Carolina on account of the amendment. We demand that you define your attitude towards that measure. If you accept it, say so. If you propose to attack its validity, now or hereafter, say so, and say so in terms that means yes or no. An answer which means either yes or no, or neither, as future expediency may suggest, will not be accepted.

Speaking of Republican policies, fostered and protected by Republican legislation, there has sprung into existence in this country during the past six years nearly two hundred great tariff protected combinations. They have monopolized for their private benefit nearly all the necessities of life. They control competition, they regulate production, they fix prices. By controlling the legislation of the country they control the markets of the people. They absolutely dominate and control the Republican party. That party dares to do nothing which they oppose, and it stands ever ready to do their bidding.

The domination of these tariff-protected monopolies over the Republican party has never been so plainly shown as during the present Congress by the course of that party in the matter of Cuban reciprocity; in the matter of its failure and refusal to enforce the Federal anti-trust laws; and in the matter of its refusal to permit the consideration or enactment of any legislation looking to the removal of duties on goods sold cheaper abroad than at home.

In conclusion Mr. Simmons said: Gentlemen of the convention, when I look upon their great gathering of representative Democrats from every section of the State, my heart swells with pride. You are, every one of you, free men. Not one of you wears the collar of any man. Not one of you represents a boss. Many of you have instructions, but they are the instructions of the sovereign people you represent, and you honor yourselves in representing them and in obeying their will.

There will assemble here in this hall in a few weeks another convention. It will be a convention of Federal officeholders, postmasters, revenue collectors, deputy marshals, etc. They will carry out to the letter the pre-arranged programme of the bosses, and they will close the farce by declaring the Democratic party a boss-controlled and machine-ridden organization. They would not think their role of hypocrisy complete without some such climax.

As your chairman, I have led the Democratic party in four hot campaigns. I have fought the battles of Democracy with all my might. I have won the reputation of being a partisan. I do not deny the imputation, if imputation it be. I am a partisan, but I am a partisan because I have believed and still believe, the welfare of North Carolina depends upon the Democratic ascendancy, and because I have believed and still believe, that I can best serve my State and country by serving best my party.

Gentlemen of the convention, I have the honor to introduce to you as your temporary presiding officer a young Democrat from the great piedmont section of North Carolina, a young Democrat who, by his life and his works for the State and the party, has shown himself entitled to this recognition. I present to you the Honorable A. M. Scales, of the county of Guilford. In the course of his speech Senator Simmons said that white supremacy had been written in the organic law of the State and the question now arises should that law be a verity or should it be expunged and, if so, by whom? Again he said, "We do not wish another negro campaign in North Carolina." "We ain't going to have it," shouted several delegates. "No," continued the Senator, "unless the enemy of Democracy and white supremacy force it upon us by efforts to destroy the present quietude brought about by the adoption of the amendment. We are not going to have it. Until, however, an emphatic positive expression is forthcoming from all parties that the principles of the amendment are accepted, I declare that it will be the duty of the white people in the State to again stand together."

Hon. A. M. Scales was made temporary chairman of the convention.

Hon. W. D. Turner was made permanent chairman of the convention.

Justice Walter Clark was nominated for Chief Justice of the Supreme court on 1st ballot.

Hon. H. G. Connor was nominated on 1st ballot for Associate Justice.

Hon. Platt D. Walker was nominated for Associate Justice on 3rd ballot.

Hon. E. C. Beddingfield was nominated for Corporation Commissioner.

Prof. J. Y. Joyner was nominated for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The following committees were appointed:

State Executive Committee: First district, W. G. Lamb, W. B. Rodman, L. L. Smith, George W. Ward; second district, M. J. Hawkins, E. L. Travis, W. H. Powell, L. V. Morrill; third district, E. M. Kounce, J. A. Bryan, S. O. Middleton, Nathan O'Berry; fourth district, J. R. York, E. C. Beddingfield, R. S. Hays, Ed. S. Abel; fifth district, J. S. Mauris, B. S. Royster, Jenken Reid, J. J. Nelson; sixth district, J. B. Underwood, E. S. Cowan, A. W. McLean, D. H. McLean; seventh district, D. E. McIver, W. L. Parson, J. R. Blair, N. G. Williams; eighth district, P. R. Mears, R. N. Hackett, T. C. Linn, J. R. Lewellyn; ninth district, C. R. Hoey, W. H. Williams, Heriot Clarkson, W. C. Erwin; tenth district, John C. Mills, M. L. Shipman, C. A. Webb, W. E. Moore.

Credentials committee: F. G. James, A. Roscoe, J. F. Foy, R. A. P. Cooley, D. C. Parks, H. L. Godwick, T. B. Bailey, R. N. Hackett, W. W. Zackery, A. Cannon.

Organization: T. G. Skinner, J. W. Grainger, F. A. Daniels, Armistead Jones, J. C. Biggs, G. H. Smith, L. D. Robins, W. C. Newland, W. A. Graham, S. L. Rogers.

Rules: John H. Small, Claude Kithin, R. A. Nunn, W. W. King, J. H. Curry, R. B. Redwine, E. F. Lowell, R. A. Ridout, M. W. Bell.

Platform: H. S. Ward, George Howard, Rudolph Duffy, H. A. London, John R. Webster, N. A. Sinclair, Cameron Morrison, R. A. Doughton, S. B. Alexander, W. D. Crawford.

Immediately upon the conclusion of this business the convention took a recess at 2:15 o'clock, until 3:30.

A Breezy Time.

Special to the Charlotte Observer. The biggest sensation of the convention was sprung Thursday morning at 2 o'clock when ex-Senator H. S. Ward, in discussing the minority report on the proposed platform, denounced Grover Cleveland as "an arch traitor to Democracy." In a second A. H. Boyden, mayor of Salisbury, who was in the rear of the hall, rose to his feet and cursed Ward for insulting gentlemen who were present. An immense cry rose up from the assemblage and repeated yells of derision greeted Ward's efforts to continue his speech. The ex-Senator grew white in the face and tried to scream above the clamor, but his voice was not heard distinctly.

For five minutes or more even after the large clamor on the hall had been modulated, Boyden still stood up and denounced Ward in the most bitter, caustic language. Ward had made a W. J. Bryan speech opposing the minority report of the platform committee, which recommended that "we reaffirm our allegiance to the Democratic party." He substituted: "We reaffirm our allegiance to the platform of the party," meaning the Kansas City platform.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Articles of Faith Declared By State Convention.

H. A. London reported for committee the following platform:

We congratulate the people of North Carolina upon the adoption of the suffrage amendment to our State constitution and upon the benefits that have resulted therefrom and we pledge the Democratic party to faithfully maintain it by every legitimate means and we demand that the Republican party shall declare its purpose either to accept or reject it, and until it is accepted as a finality by all parties we declare it the duty of the white people to stand together for its protection.

The Democratic party, representing the intelligence, the virtue and the manhood of the people of the State, recalls with pleasure the entire absence of scandals during its administration of public affairs and the gratifying advancement that has been made amongst us in all industrial lines. We have fostered agriculture and promoted manufacturing and have given to capital full security and have protected their rights of labor. We pledge the party to a fair and just system of taxation and we demand that all subjects of taxation shall bear the just and equal proportion of the burdens of government.

We renew our pledges for the extension and improvement of the public school system of the State, so that it may keep pace with the needs and conditions of our people and point with pride to the great impetus and progress in this great work during the last two years and call attention to the fact that this year, for the first time in the history of the State, every school district has been able to maintain a public free school for four months as required by the constitution. We believe that the permanent prosperity of the people of this State depends largely upon the construction and maintenance of good roads and we pledge the party to the hearty support of all wise measures to that end. We heartily commend and endorse the administration of Governor Charles B. Aycock and other State officials for their faithful execution of the party's promises in so far as the same has been possible thus early in their terms of office.

We likewise extend our appreciation and endorsement to United States Senator F. M. Simmons and to our Democratic Representatives in Congress and

congratulate them and the people of the State for their faithful and official services to the State in councils of the nation.

We affirm our allegiance to the Democratic party and its principles as enunciated in its national platform. We denounce the policy of imperialism as inaugurated by the Republican national administration and declare it to be obnoxious to our form of government and fraught with danger to the very existence of the republic. We denounce as oppressive and illegal those combinations of capital known as trusts and monopolies that stifle competition, throttle individual effort and destroy the generous spirit of rivalry that should exist in the commercial world.

We denounce the deceptive and sorry course of the Republican party in Congress in furthering existences of the trusts by its refusal to enact legislation restraining them and to enforce in good faith the existing laws against them, that party being in the full control of all branches of the government.

We denounce the present iniquitous, unjust and trust creating protective tariff, imposed upon the people by the Republican party, and demand its immediate revision, to the end that all unjust burdens shall be removed and especially upon the necessaries of life. Its provisions enable the trusts to extort from the people unreasonable profits and to sell their products to consumers at home at greater prices than are charged for the same goods to the foreign consumer. We demand, therefore, that all such trust made goods be placed on the free list. We favor the establishment of the Appalachian Park and urge that our Senators and representatives in Congress use their best efforts to secure its establishment.

We again appeal to the people with a confidence that it is only from the Democratic party that there can be expected an honest, capable and efficient administration of the government of the State, and point with pride to its past history in the administration of the affairs of State, and challenge a comparison with the inquiries of fusion and Republican rule. "We promise the people of the State a continuance of that honest, safe, conservative and economical government which has always characterized Democratic rule and pledge our best efforts for the advancement of the material prosperity and happiness of the whole people."

That we favor making all nominations by our party for State and district officers by primaries and the State executive committee is hereby instructed to formulate a system to regulate primary nomination for the United States Senate and all State and district nominations and we demand the enactment by the General Assembly of appropriate legislation for the regulation of such primaries; that an oath shall not be required of any voter in such primaries; that the State executive committee is instructed to call at such time as they think wise a primary to nominate a United States Senator to succeed Senator Pritchard but such primary shall not be held on the day of the general election.

Three members of the committee, to-wit, H. A. London, of Chatham; H. S. Ward, of Washington, and W. A. Sinclair, of Cumberland, earnestly favored the following as a part of the platform:

"The Supreme Court having recently decided that the school fund is required by the constitution to be apportioned between the races per capita, it is apparent that a much longer school term will result to the negro than the white race under such apportionment and we, therefore, demand such legislative action as will insure more equitable apportionment of the said fund between the two races."

The other members of the committee being personally in favor of the same were, notwithstanding, of the opinion that the matter ought to be referred to the Legislature without definite action by this convention.

A minority suggestion: Strike out all that relates to the nomination of United States Senator to succeed Senator Pritchard. W. T. Crawford, H. A. London, N. A. Sinclair.

Minority report: Substitute for the words "We reaffirm our allegiance to the Democratic party and the principles as enunciated in its national platform" the words, "We reaffirm our allegiance to the fundamental principles of the Democratic party."

When the minority reports relating to the primary and the substitute for affirming allegiance to Democratic principles were read there was a great shout of approval.

"Don't have any more free silver injected in our campaign," shouted C. M. Busbee and the fun began.

The reading of the minority report was greeted by shouts of approval, C. M. Busbee shouting: "We will have no more free silver in our campaign."

State Senator Ward, of the committee, made a red-hot Bryan speech, arraigning Cleveland and was called a damned liar from voices in the audience. He continued and much confusion and turmoil until he could not be heard. He was followed by C. M. Busbee, of Raleigh, who pleaded for the adoption of the substitute, so that no element in the Democratic party would have cause of offence, contending that it had no place in a State platform. Stevans, of Union, replied, stoutly asserting that the adoption of the substitute would be an insult to the faithful Democrats all over the county. He poured hot shot into men who ride free on railroads and live in hotel lobbies, declaring they did not represent the Democracy of the State. Congressman W. W. Kitchin made a fervid appeal declaring that the adoption of the substitute would not be making peace with party friends like Busbee and those he

represented, but would be a challenge to the Republican party and those who worshipped at the shrine of modern commercial Republicanism (Great applause.) He declared that some Democrats in the State were doing the party more harm than good. Senator Pritchard could do, had done or would do, with all his efforts without such aid. No man now has any fear of free silver, that fear is past, that issue is dead and the adoption of the substitute means simply a submission to the dictates of Republican influences, (applause) but, just as sure as a panic overtakes this country the free silver issue will come to life." Judge Avery, of the committee, made a strong demand for the adoption of the substitute, saying the majority had been begged not to throw this apple of discord into the convention. The issue is dead, as they declare, and while I subscribe to every line of the national platform, we have no business of re-affirming a dead issue, thereby endangering a live issue.

Morris, of the committee, urged the defeat of the substitute. Alternately the committee, said, as a Bryan elector he wanted to know what the national platform had to do with the election of Clark, Connor and Walker and urged the adoption of the substitute, and great liberal applause. Loud cries were made for Senator Simmons, but he did not respond. J. J. Laughlin said he spoke for the farmers, who composed 80 per cent of the Democratic vote and the adoption of the substitute would drive a dozen farmers off to one Pritchard Democrat won over. The previous question was demanded and the vote taken, resulting 535 for substitute and 568 against. Mecklenburg voted 25½ aye and 8½ no. Wake voted 8 aye, to 30 no. At 3 o'clock the contest over the primary began.

Big Demand for Miners.

Roanoke, Va., Special.—Employment agencies in this city are receiving inquiries for hands from the coal fields and agents from that section are scouring the country getting every available man to go to work. About 1,000 men have passed through Roanoke within the last few days en route to different works in the fields where they are paid to work immediately. The number of cars loaded is daily increasing and still the demand for coal is much greater than the supply. The unusual demand for men is due to two reasons, one, the usual demand for the coal, and the other that the operators are fearing some trouble about the 17th to 20th, and are desirous of catching up with orders and having a good force at work should a general strike of all bituminous miners be ordered this week.

HEART OF A THUNDERSTORM.

Its Resemblance to a Battle Fought in the Clouds.

An English aeronaut who made an ascent in his balloon was gradually borne by the wind into the very heart of a thunder storm. In Pearson Magazine he gives a vivid account of this unusual experience.

"But ere we were reluctantly compelled to admit that we were caught in bad weather there was a wild shriek in the air all around, and in less than a minute's space we were swallowed up in a pitiless onslaught of hail, which cut and bruised us, rattling with a furious patter on the silk above, and on the sides of our wicker car, bringing down, too, from the upper regions—from what height, who shall say—an ice-cold down draught, for which we were but ill prepared.

"And then the thunder broke out. Up to this moment we had had little or no premonitory warnings in the usual growling of an approaching storm. Indeed, the thunder, though appalling enough, proved not the most striking feature of the grand phenomena we were now about to experience—a fact, in accordance with the experiences of the mountaineers, already quoted. Moreover, the reverberations of the bomb which I now exploded a hundred feet below died away with unwonted quickness. This was remarked by all our party, and deserves further consideration. Certainly to our senses the rolling of the thunder was not prolonged. But again this may have been merely that its frequency and its nearness drowned the after sound.

"For crash now followed crash with the briefest intermission. It was like guns opening at short range, fast and furious as in some sham fight which one may watch at sea. The flashes which came from all sides were invariably somewhat above us, as though from batteries on commanding heights; and each was followed smartly with a burst, closely resembling the solemn boom of heavy ordinance. They were single shot from masked embrasures.

"On one flank would come a fork of light—for even in the home of the lightning the eye could not give it any other shape—which for a brief interval lingered painfully in the eye. Then the crash followed, and the black cloud closed up; a shot, as it were, with smokeless powder answered promptly by like discharges from opposite heights. It was all a wild, terrific war, to which the novelty of our situation lent a real terror. For it was borne in upon us that this was not a sham fight after all, but that all the sky around was a real battle ground and we were in its focus."