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## THE BOLTING DEMOCRATS.

As a Republican Side-show Their Convention Proves a Daring Success.

The so-called democratic convention met in representative hall, Topeka, on October 7, as per the programme made out in the railway commissioners office several weeks ago. It was an event the like of which was never seen in Kansas before. There seemed to be a determination on the part of about six or eight disappointed office seekers, and on the part of as many more salaried railroad employes to make themselves heard and felt. How well they succeeded will be seen later.

But what a strange and unique collection of statesmen appeared at the convention, or whatever it might be called. (In the latter part of the proceedings the leaders denied that it was a convention.) There was the little crowd of self-appointed leaders who had called the meeting. On the morning of the great event they were alive to the importance of their position, and in the evening they were still on deck. In the morning they were busy fitting to and fro between the Copeland hotel, the Santa Fe general offices, the state house and republican headquarters, making arrangements for the successful carrying out of their plans. Beside them there were several other classes of men in the menagerie. There were the well dressed, sleek looking fellows who represented a dozen or so of the leading towns and cities in the state. They were a jolly, good natured set of fellows. When questioned as to the object of their visit they would return a sly wink, pull down the corner of their eye and say: "Don't you lay awake about us. When we see a chance to take in a free excursion and save the country at the same time, do you think we'll let it go by?"

Then there was the rag-tag and bob-tail—the hired men who had been induced to come in and help swell the crowd. They didn't pretend to understand the situation, they didn't know what all this "fuss" was about, but they were here to earn the cost of their ride and entertainment. These were corraled around at the cheap hotels awaiting orders, and when the time came they took their places in the convention but never uttered a word during the whole proceeding.

It must not be said that there were no honest men in the motley gathering, for there were. There were men who never suspected but what they were here to attend a bona fide party convention. They had not been approached with any inducements to come, because they were willing to come anyhow, believing it was a serious matter. They came, saw, and went away disgusted with the whole transaction. They were satisfied as soon

as they heard their leaders say they proposed to vote the straight republican ticket.

Finally the convention was called to order by Railroad Commissioner Mitchell, with 155 delegates in the hall, and the performance began. It was strange that the following named stalwarts, each of whom had taken a hand in calling the meeting, all rewarded themselves with an assignment to an important position:

A. A. Harris, of Ft. Scott, chairman; Chas. F. Spencer, of Topeka, secretary; J. S. Emery, of Lawrence, chairman committee on order of business; J. B. Crouch, of Hutchinson, the man with the capacious mouth, chairman committee on resolutions; Joseph G. Lowe, of Washington, chairman committee on address. Each of these statesmen made a speech whenever opportunity offered, but Railroad Commissioner Mitchell held his talent in reserve until the windup.

The valiant band of stand-up patriots dined sumptuously at the republican tavern on the corner opposite republican headquarters, and everything glided smoothly until the afternoon session. When the order of business committee came to report it was discovered that they had omitted to insert a number for the nomination of a ticket. This was as the bell-wethers had intended, but those who had come with an honest purpose began to open their eyes and were displeased. They wanted to know why "nominations" was not in the order of business. The chair explained that it had been decided not to make any nominations, and in order to quiet the indignation caused by this statement, Chairman Emery of the committee stated that in case they wanted to make nominations it could be done under the head of miscellaneous business.

The bosses then made some more windy speeches about the way they had been sold out in July (not mentioning the fact that they had since sold themselves to the republicans), and then proceeded to the selection of a state committee "just to keep up the organization."

When the order of miscellaneous business was arrived at C. K. Holliday, Jr., moved to proceed to the nomination of a state ticket. This brought the managers of the hippodrome to their feet in rapid succession, and they again pleaded that the programme should not be changed at this stage of the game, that this being a conference instead of a convention they had no right to nominate. Half a dozen young men who did not understand the game pleaded faithfully for the motion, but the railroad lawyers were too much for them and it was lost. A delegate from Greenwood county made the pertinent inquiry, "What are we here for?"

After a motion was made to adjourn Railroad Mitchell mounted the stand and

appealed for subscriptions to a campaign fund, saying he would start it with \$25. Lawyers Harris, Rosington and Lowe each said they would give a like amount, and a stalwart delegate from western Kansas asked: "What do we want with a campaign fund? Is it to help elect the republicans?" This uncalled for question dampened the ardor of the delegates who were going into their pockets, and the contributions soon ceased. The exhibition was over.

## THE NIGHT MEETING.

Thursday night the Grand opera house was thrown open for the stalwart ratification which had been advertised. Delegates were invited to seats on the stage, and the seats in the parquet were occupied by the most prominent republicans in the city. It was altogether a good looking audience and the distinguished statesmen had their speeches prepared to suit the occasion.

Orations were made by Chairman Rosington, Crouch (he with the capacious mouth), Lowe and Harris. The first three endeavored to impress the audience with the idea that they were still democrats, and it was left for Harris to overwhelmingly cap the climax. He did so with the dramatic utterance of a declaration that he intended to resent the action of the regular convention of his party "by voting the republican ticket from top to bottom." This declaration brought out a storm of applause from the republican audience, while the delegates on the stage turned pale with disgust. Even those who agreed with the speaker in sentiment did not want the scheme publicly exposed in this manner. After Harris subsided the meeting adjourned.

## NOTES.

The committees, the address, the resolutions and the order of business had all been prepared and printed before the convention began.

W. F. Petillon, the Dodge City kicker, was a member of the regular democratic committee, but that body demanded his resignation and got it. Pete then went to the bolter's convention.

There were not over twenty delegates who took any active part in the convention. The others were as mum as oysters and as unconcerned as if they were visitors from some other party.

The convention passed resolutions commending the Kansas City Times for the course it was taking in the campaign. This was very appropriate, for the public concedes the Times to the republicans.

Every stranger who made his appearance about the state house was offered a badge consisting of a white ribbon bearing the words "Stalwart Democracy" and urged to take a seat among the delegates.

## KANSAS POLITICS.

Straws That Show Which Way the Breezes are Blowing.

Gen. Alger is doing Kansas for the republicans this week. He is to be at Clay Center Saturday.

John W. Thurston, the celebrated Union Pacific attorney who presided over the Chicago convention in 1888, spoke in Topeka last Wednesday.

The death of Senator Puffer's son was the cause of some of the senator's dates being cancelled. Frank Herald, of Topeka, was called upon to take his place at the Kansas City fair.

Reports from Abilene say that the persecution of Chairman Breidenthal has changed 200 votes in Dickinson county to the People's party, and that Foraker's speech is good for 100 more. The Populists are to have a rally there on the 28th.

After taking a trip to Europe, G. W. Coles, of Abilene, became a Populist, so the ADVOCATE is informed by a citizen of that town. After buying \$29 worth of tableware and paying \$31 duty on it he came to the conclusion that the consumer pays the tariff tax in some cases at least. Mr. Coles made other observations in Europe that helped to change his political notions.

## Regular Democratic Committee.

The regularly elected democratic committeemen, those who are heart and soul in the movement to effect a change in the state government, held meetings at their headquarters in Topeka on the 6th and 7th. Every district in the state except two was represented, and each member reported as to the outlook in his district. These reports were all of the most encouraging character, showing that nine out of ten of all the democrats will not only vote for, but are working vigorously for the success of the Weaver and Lewelling ticket. Many of them gave the result of a poll of their counties, and in no case did it appear that more than a dozen dissatisfied democrats could be found in a whole county.

The committee paid its respects to the so-called "stalwarts" in an address which they will soon publish. A resolution condemning Railroad Mitchell's course was knocked out with the argument that as Mitchell is not a democrat, and never had been one, and as he is holding his office by republican appointment, he is beneath the notice of the committee. Chairman Jones is in high glee over the reports of the committeemen.

## Badges! Badges!

Aluminum watch charm. Fine portrait of L. D. Levelling, next governor of Kansas. Send at once. Only limited number. Twenty-five cents each; \$1.50 per dozen. Jno. W. BREIDENTHAL, Topeka, Kas.