

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

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second Mr. W. H. Kinlaw wanted to know if there was a county executive committee. He had understood that the chairman of each township committee constituted the executive committee and that if that was so he had seen elected secretary, and he wanted to know where they were "at" since that had been questioned.

Dr. Norment wanted to know if it was a Republican convention.

Chairman Culbreth said that was hard to answer. There was difference of opinion as to what a Republican is. Is the opinion of one or two better than the opinion of the majority? Been a Republican 20 years and attributed present prosperity to Republican party, but don't believe Taft is the man—denied that must support Taft. Came to nominate ticket. About 1 per cent. say must vote for Taft, other ten per cent. say must not.

Then Dr. Norment opened the big blade. He made a rousing peripatetic speech—wandered all about. It is a fundamental principle, said he, that if you belong to a party you must support the principles of that party. If you are not a Republican, for God's sake get out of the Republican party; if you can't support the principles of the party, for God's sake go in peace. Don't believe we can have good government by Democrats, but if we can't win we must scare the Democrats so they will give us good government. Have tried both. Under Republican rule no graft, no unnecessary offices, did not have to reward a man with an office paying \$2,600 per year to figure a sheriff out of a deficit. You say Roosevelt was cheated out of nomination at Chicago. Roosevelt had nothing. Compare attitude of Clark and Roosevelt. Clark clearly had the nomination, but Bryan, the unconscious tool of Democratic bosses—pardon, friends, while the reporter laughs at the absurdity of that proposition—forced the nomination of Wilson. Say who you're for, for God's sake, and let's not have straddling. Compare conditions when Taft was elected President with conditions during panic brought on by Roosevelt—the first time, by the way, this reporter ever heard a Republican admit that a panic was brought on by a Republican, when as a matter of fact the three panics since the Civil War were brought on by Republicans.

Mr. Pat McEachern said they had been invited to leave the Democratic party when Cleveland was President—pretty much the same way and he moved they go.

Mr. Giles Davis said that they had worn out the old Republican bat and he was in favor of a new party.

If an attempt were made to report all that was said it would take a book. Most were of the opinion of Mr. L. E. Tyner of Lowe, who said that while he believes in the principles of the Republican party he can vote for whom he pleases for President.

Mr. Pat McEachern insisted on his motion that they go into organization of the new Progressive party. W. H. Kinlaw said he thought that if parties present wanted to organize a new party they ought to have the manhood to call a mass meeting for that purpose and not to try to use a Republican convention for that purpose. Mr. Albert Stone of Rowland agreed with Kinlaw.

Mr. S. L. Parker moved that the Republican convention adjourn and a mass meeting be immediately convened. Voted. Dr. Norment counted 9 for motion, 10 against. Spabble over this. Mr. Kinlaw pleaded some more. Another vote on same question. Dr. Norment counted 7 for and 9 against. Vote questioned. McEachern moved that vote by townships, while Kinlaw and Norment exult over apparent victory and Norment asks if those who were out-voted are going to support the ticket. Chair rules that will vote by townships. Dr. Norment rises to the occasion. He wants to know by what right the chair makes such a ruling, and says that if the chair does not know any more about parliamentary rules than that the chair ought to vacate itself.

A snag was struck here. It was 2:30 o'clock, an hour and a half had been spent in discussion that got nowhere at all and nothing had been done, and it was time for court to reconvene. Necessary to adjourn somewhere, so the convention adjourned to

meet in an upper chamber, where the squabble was renewed.

Mr. Pat McEachern and Mr. H. F. Purvis of Orum submitted remarks. Mr. Purvis thought it was plain that this was not a Republican convention.

Dr. Norment broke out again in a final spurt. He declared that the Progressive party would not last till sunrise if Roosevelt should die, that it was a one-man party. He denounced the ruling of the chairman that another vote should be taken to decide where the convention stood as the most arbitrary and unfair ruling he had ever heard, and said that if that convention was not Republican he would walk out. The chair remarked sotto voce that nobody would care and the convention would be better off if he would walk out. Dr. Norment, who is deaf, asked what the chair said. Mr. Culbreth toned down the remark and repeated it louder. Dr. Norment said it was useless for the chair to get mad about it, but later remarked that for the sake of harmony he would take the recommendation of the chair and retire; and he had nothing more to do with the convention.

Mr. Culbreth explained that he had ruled that another vote should be taken because the first two votes had not been taken fairly and a Democrat had voted. Mr. Purvis moved that a vote be taken as to whether this was understood to be a Republican convention or not, and the chair declared the vote decided the convention was Republican.

Then a resolution, offered by Mr. S. L. Parker, endorsing the candidacy of Roosevelt and Johnson, was adopted. Then they proceeded to nominate a full ticket, as follows:

For Senator—Troy Barnes of Lumberton.

For House—E. G. Johnson of St. Paul; Albert Stone of Rowland.

For sheriff, J. W. Hall, of Lumber Bridge, who had already announced his candidacy, was at first endorsed, and then for fear that would not be regular, nominated, and then for fear that would lose him Democratic votes, endorsed.

For register of deed, A. B. Mercer, Howellsville.

For treasurer, J. C. Atkinson of Back Swamp.

For county commissioners, L. E. Tyner of Lowe, Robt. Inman of Fairmont, W. J. McLean of Smith's, Joe Allen of Rozier, J. J. Shaw of Lumber Bridge.

For coroner, Dr. N. A. Andrews of Pemroke.

For road commissioners, district No. 1, W. K. Culbreth of Taft Swamp; district No. 2, H. F. Purvis of Orum; district No. 3, A. McLean of Alford; district No. 4, Make Culbreth of Maxton; district No. 5, D. McNeill of Red Springs; district No. 6, M. D. Howard of St. Paul.

Some of the candidates, it will be observed, are among those nominated by the convention held here last Friday.

The question now is, which of these conventions is regular and which is not? Some are of the opinion that the whole question will have to be taken up to Chairman Morehead to decide.

One thing is certain, and that is that certain of the Republicans of Robeson are tooth and toe-nail in favor of Taft and will not be budged; and the other thing that is certain is that certain other of the erstwhile Republicans of Robeson county are tooth and toe-nail in favor of Roosevelt and will not be budged from their position by any amount of steam-rolling or bluff.

It seems certain also that the supporters of Col. Roosevelt outnumber the supporters of Taft in Robeson by a considerable majority.

It seemed to get under the hide of Mr. S. L. Parker whenever he was accused of working in the late Democratic primary and he did not hesitate to use the short and ugly word so often used by his great prototype.

Mr. Pat McEachern said that he had been informed that the oath was not administered to many voters in Smith's township in the Democratic primary and that left the voters free to vote as they pleased in the general election, and that many votes had been lost by not changing the name to Progressive party, for many who would not vote a ticket called Republican would vote some other ticket; and he said that he was in Maxton on election day and knew that the oath was administered to some while it was not administered to others. Some others expressed the same understanding and conviction, and thought that votes had been lost by not changing the name to Progressive.