

The Herald of Freedom.

Lawrence, Saturday, Sept. 8, 1855.

To Our Friends.

The regular issue of this paper is now 2,000 copies ready, and it is respectfully requested of those who have not yet received their copies, to send us the amount of their subscription, or to send us the name of some person to whom we may forward a copy.

Free State Delegate Convention.

Agreeably to the published call for Delegates from each Representative District in Kansas Territory, to be appointed among the several Districts in the proportion of five Delegates to each Representative, to meet at Big Springs on the 5th inst., to take into consideration the present exigency of political affairs, the Convention assembled, called to order at 11 o'clock, and organized temporarily by appointing W. Y. Bonner, Esq., to the Chair, and D. Dodge, Secretary.

A committee consisting of John Hutchinson, R. Biddle, A. Hunting, P. C. Schuyler, P. Leach, W. Pennington, John Lee, A. G. Adams, John Hamilton, J. M. Tilton, R. Gilpatrick, J. M. Arthur, Isaac Wollard, were appointed on credentials, with instructions to report immediately.

Afternoon Session.

Met at the hour of adjournment. Judge Curtis presided, and adopted the following resolutions: That the Convention do hereby adjourn until the 10th inst., to be held at Lawrence, Kansas Territory.

Committee on Credentials.

1st District.—G. W. Smith, J. H. Luns, John Curtis, J. S. Emery, John Hutchinson, Turner Sampson, M. Hunt, R. G. Elliott, J. D. Barnes, Wm. Yates, A. Still, H. Barwick, H. W. Miller, W. Adams, James McGee.

2d District.—M. T. Tilton, J. A. Wakefield, A. Curtis, H. Y. Baldwin, H. Barton, Wm. Jesse, Samuel Walker, T. Wolston, J. C. Archibald, Charles Wright.

3d District.—Wm. Y. Roberts, Wm. Jordan, A. G. Adams, James Cowles.

4th District.—S. Mewhinney, J. F. Jarvis, E. G. Scott, A. J. Miller, W. Moore.

5th District.—A. P. Wyckoff, James Osborn, James M. Arthur, D. F. Park, W. G. Nichols, R. H. Gilpatrick, G. W. Partridge, Isaac Wollard, Chas. A. Foster, James Todd, Robert H. Brown, Emos Shaw, Wm. R. Vail, Emos Strawn, Hamilton Smith.

6th District.—John Hamilton, James Johnson, F. M. Roberts.

7th District.—P. C. Schuyler, Geo. Brown, Dr. J. D. Wood, Dr. A. Bowen, E. Fisk.

8th District.—J. E. Hohenack, Dan'l B. Hunt.

9th District.—S. D. Houston, Wm. S. Arnold, James P. Wilson, Luke S. Lincoln, Dr. Hunting.

10th District.—W. Pennington, J. H. Byrd, G. W. Warren, P. Dowd, R. H. Phelps, D. Dodge, H. M. Hook, James Salisbury, E. Casis, J. Parrott, John Wright, A. Guthrie, R. Riddle.

11th District.—M. F. Conway, C. Jenkins.

12th District.—James Wilson, John Anselworth, Nathan Adams.

13th District.—S. Collins, John Lee, P. Leach, N. Carter, Geo. W. Bryan, Benj. H. Brock, Wm. Poeppes, B. Harding, A. Grooms, C. W. Stewart.

14th District.—Wm. Crosby, H. J. Stout, J. C. Ridgway, Elijah Pierce.

15th District.—R. Mendenhall, D. W. Mendenhall, G. P. Lowry.

The Committee on a permanent organization, reported the following list of officers: President—G. W. Warren, Esq. Vice Presidents—John Lee, J. A. Wakefield, James Salisbury, Dr. A. Hunting, Secretaries—R. G. Elliott, D. Dodge, A. G. Adams.

The President on taking the chair made some brief remarks, and directed the Convention to proceed at once to business.

Mr. Roberts moved that five committees be appointed, each to consist of thirteen members, one for each Council District, whose duty shall be as follows: 1st, To report a platform for the consideration of the Convention. 2d, To take into consideration the propriety of a State organization. 3d, To consider the duty of the people as regards the proceedings of the late Legislature. 4th, To devise action on the coming Congressional election. 5th, On miscellaneous resolutions. The duties to be divided among the respective committees. The resolution was adopted.

The Delegates from the several Council Districts were instructed to meet in committee and report one person from each of their respective Districts for each of the above duties—to serve on said committees.

Rescess taken for half an hour for Delegates to prepare their report.

At the hour of adjournment the Convention was called to order, and the Delegates reported; and the Committees were made up as follows:

Committee on Platform.—P. Leach, S. Collins, J. A. Wakefield, J. H. Lane, A. Still, D. Dodge, J. H. Byrd, J. Hutchinson, W. Crosby, W. Y. Roberts, M. F. Conway, C. A. Foster, P. Gilpatrick.

Committee on State Organization.—B. H. Brock, A. Grooms, J. M. Yates, R. G. Elliott, R. Mendenhall, H. M. Hook, E. Casis, J. Hamilton, H. J. Stout, A. Bowen, S. D. Houston, J. M. Arthur, Isaac Wollard.

Committee on Late Legislature.—John Lee, N. Carter, W. Jesse, J. S. Emery, H. Barwick, W. Pennington, J. Wright, W. Duncanson, P. C. Schuyler, E. Pierce, Dr. Hunting, W. G. Nichols, G. W. Partridge.

Committee on Congressional Election.—G. W. Warren, H. Barton, Wm. Jesse, P. W. Warren, P. H. Phelps, J. Johnson, J. P. Wilson, J. Todd, D. F. Park, F. M. Roberts.

Committee on Miscellaneous Duties.—C. W. Stewart, W. Poeppes, C. Curtis, S. Mewhinney, J. Curtis, J. Parrott, R. Biddle, W. Jordan, J. P. Wilson, J. Todd, D. F. Park, F. M. Roberts.

The Committee on credentials reported rules for the government of the Convention during its deliberations, which after an animated discussion in which Messrs. Lane, Foster, Lowry, Conway, and several other gentlemen participated, and after sundry motions to amend, its report, the post-pone till to-morrow, upon the Convention, was finally adopted as follows:

1st. On all questions which shall come before this Convention for its action, the vote shall be cast by Representative Districts, each District being entitled to the number of votes to which it is entitled to representatives in this Convention.

2d. A majority of all the votes shall be necessary to elect a candidate.

3d. Parliamentary rules shall govern this Convention, and speeches shall be limited to fifteen minutes, and speakers shall speak but once on the same question.

Mr. Lane moved to reconsider the first rule, pending which the Convention adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Minutes of yesterday read and adopted. The motion to reconsider the first rule of the Convention, adopted last evening, was then taken up for consideration.

Mr. Lane made a motion to lay the pending motion to reconsider upon the table. The vote was taken, but as there was a difference of opinion upon the result the yeas and nays were called for. Mr. Lane said he would withdraw his motion to lie on the table. Mr. Conway moved to reconsider the first rule of the Convention, as the motion was the property, properly, of the Convention after being stated from the chair, and could not be withdrawn at the will of the mover. The chair over-ruled the objection of Mr. Conway. Mr. Foster took an appeal from the decision of the chair. The chair was sustained by the action of the Convention, and the motion to lay upon the table was withdrawn.

By motion the first rule of the Convention was then suspended.

REPORT ON PLATFORMS.

The Chairman of the Committee on a Platform, reported through Col. Lane the following resolutions, stating at the same time that twelve out of thirteen had agreed upon their adoption, and pledged to each other their unfeigned support.

Resolved, That the Free State Party of the Territory of Kansas, do originate an organization for the purpose of political action, in electing our own officers and moulding our institutions; and whereas, it is expedient and necessary that a platform of principles be adopted and proclaimed to make known the character of our organization—and to test the qualifications of candidates; and the fidelity of our members; and whereas, we find ourselves in an unparalleled and critical condition, and in a superior force of the rights guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Kansas Bill; and whereas, the great and overshadowing question, whether Kansas shall become a Free or a Slave State, must inevitably arise on all other issues, except those inseparably connected with it; and whereas, the crisis demands the concert and harmonious action of all those who from principle or interest, prefer free labor to slave labor, as well as of those who value the preservation of the Union and the guarantees of Republican institutions by the Constitution, therefore:

Resolved, That setting aside all the minor issues of partisan politics, it is incumbent upon us to prefer an organization for the purpose of political action, in electing our own officers and moulding our institutions; and whereas, it is expedient and necessary that a platform of principles be adopted and proclaimed to make known the character of our organization—and to test the qualifications of candidates; and the fidelity of our members; and whereas, we find ourselves in an unparalleled and critical condition, and in a superior force of the rights guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Kansas Bill; and whereas, the great and overshadowing question, whether Kansas shall become a Free or a Slave State, must inevitably arise on all other issues, except those inseparably connected with it; and whereas, the crisis demands the concert and harmonious action of all those who from principle or interest, prefer free labor to slave labor, as well as of those who value the preservation of the Union and the guarantees of Republican institutions by the Constitution, therefore:

Resolved, That we will endorse and submit to these laws no longer than the best interests of the Territory require, as the least of two evils and will resist them as a bloody issue as soon as we ascertain that peaceable remedies shall fail, and forcible resistance shall furnish any opportunity for explanation or reply, is as unfortunate and unfounded as the other; as it is a well known fact that Gov. Reeder had no participation in the laying out of the town; that it was laid out and located before his arrival in the Territory; and that his first connection with it was the voluntary and unadvised transfer by the original stockholders of an interest therein to the five Territorial officers who had then arrived, among whom of course was the Governor; that the town was then, and for some time before, and after outside of the Military Reserve, having been excluded by the experienced and intelligent officer in command at the Post, although since included by the Secretary of War.

Resolved, That the demand to answer to the vague charge of "other speculations in lands of the Territory," without further explanation or specifications, and the refusal of the President to state what was alluded to by him, or to give the name of the accuser, and his giving the specification only after the removal was made, are strong and unmistakable indications, that the removal was a foregone conclusion, and the demand of explanation merely an empty ceremony adopted because it could not be evaded.

Resolved, That the doctrine asserted in the letter of removal, that a public officer, when called on to explain accusations affecting his official tenure and private reputation, has no right to ask specifications—to ask such a statement of the facts as would enable him to collect and forward to the accuser, is as monstrous and unjust.

Mr. Lane said that not having the slightest knowledge of the facts cited in the resolutions, he was unwilling to express an opinion thereon; nor was he willing to enter into the quarrel between Gov. Reeder and the Administration.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Hon. Wm. Slannan, Governor of Kansas, and present him with a copy of the proceedings of this meeting; to ask the aid of the Executive in putting the same in active operation.

Resolved, That the Free State Committee take steps to collect such facts relative to the political Constitution of the Territory which will be valuable and needed in Congress at its coming session; and that each member of the Free State Party be requested to collect and forward to some member of the Committee all the well authenticated facts which they may collect.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES.

Moved that the convention proceed at once to the nomination of a Territorial Delegate to Congress. Mr. Conway moved that ANDREW H. REEDER, late Governor of Kansas, be our nominee. The motion was seconded, and carried by acclamation. Cheers followed upon cheer the announcement of the nomination, and every person present seemed to join in the cry for READER! READER! The late Governor appeared upon the

stands the right to regulate their own institutions and to hold and recover their slaves, without any molestation or obstruction from the people of Kansas.

The report was received with three hearty cheers, and adopted by acclamation.

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Emery, on the committee, having in charge the Legislative matters of Kansas, reported as follows:

Resolved, That the body of men who for the last two months have been passing laws for the people of our Territory, moved, counselled and dictated by the demagogues of Missouri, are to us a foreign body, representing only the lawless invaders who elected them, and not the people of the Territory—that we repudiate their actions as the monstrous consummation of an act of violence, usurpation and fraud unparalleled in the history of the Union, and worthy only of men unfitted for the duties and regardless of the responsibilities of Representatives.

Resolved, That having by numerical majority and want of preparation been compelled to succumb to the outrage and oppression of armed and organized bands of the citizens of a neighboring State—having been robbed by force of the right of suffrage and self-government, and subjected to a foreign despotism the more odious and infamous than that which involves a sacred compact with the States more solemnly treated, we disown and disavow with scorn and indignation the contemptible and hypocritical mockery of a representative government into which this infamous despotism has been converted.

Resolved, That this misallied Legislature by their reckless disregard of the organic Territorial Act, and other Congressional legislation, in expelling members whose title to seats was beyond their power to annul, in admitting members who were not elected, and in legislating at an unauthorized place—by their refusal to allow the people to select any of our officers—by imposing upon the most insignificant residents of Missouri at the time—by leaving us no elections save those prescribed by Congress, and therefore without their power to alter, amend, and even at this time, selling the right of suffrage at our ballot boxes to any non-resident who chooses to buy and pay for it, by compelling us to take an oath to support a United States law invalidly pointed out, by stifling the freedom of speech and of the press, thus usurping a power forbidden to Congress, have trampled upon the Kansas Bill, have defied the power of Congress, libelled the Declaration of Independence—violated the Constitutional Bill of Rights, and brought contempt and disgrace upon our Republican institutions at home and abroad.

Resolved, That the alleged cause for the removal of Gov. Reeder, and other Territorial officers, has no sufficient foundation in truth or probability; that the purchase of the land-lot lands was a fair and honorable transaction which can tarnish the reputation of no man; that it was for a fair and full consideration, and that the removal of the President; and as the President has refused to respond to the earnest and pointed request to say what law or rule has been transgressed, we are compelled to believe that it was in violation of no law or artificial restriction.

Resolved, That the specification of an interest in Kansas City, which was only transferred after the removal and taken place, and therefore precluded any opportunity for explanation or reply, is as unfortunate and unfounded as the other; as it is a well known fact that Gov. Reeder had no participation in the laying out of the town; that it was laid out and located before his arrival in the Territory; and that his first connection with it was the voluntary and unadvised transfer by the original stockholders of an interest therein to the five Territorial officers who had then arrived, among whom of course was the Governor; that the town was then, and for some time before, and after outside of the Military Reserve, having been excluded by the experienced and intelligent officer in command at the Post, although since included by the Secretary of War.

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Resolved, That the Free State Committee take steps to collect such facts relative to the political Constitution of the Territory which will be valuable and needed in Congress at its coming session; and that each member of the Free State Party be requested to collect and forward to some member of the Committee all the well authenticated facts which they may collect.

And, whereas, the Legislative Body lately sitting at Shawnee Mission were not at a place where valid laws could be made, and where, consequently, no valid provision for the coming election could be made; the people are driven to the necessity of meeting in their sovereign capacity to provide for said election; therefore:

Resolved, That by the citizens of Kansas, in Convention assembled, that an election shall be held in the several election Districts in this Territory on the 2d Tuesday of October next, under the regulation prescribed for the election of the 30th of March last, in reference to the

pleases and manner of holding the same, and the manner of making the returns, as well as all matters relating to the formula of the election, excepting the appointment of officers and the persons to whom returns shall be made, which shall be determined by this convention for the purpose of electing a Delegate to represent this Territory in the 34th Congress of the United States.

The reasons of policy which have induced your committee to recommend the separate election, are several. First to vote upon the same day at the same polls would be an acknowledgment of the right of the late Legislature to call an election. This objection might be obviated should we go to the polls in obedience to the decision of this convention, but then another difficulty occurs.

From evidence given before us, we are convinced that a large portion of the Free State Party will decline to vote at the expense of an oath to support specially named laws, nor is this sentiment confined to the opposers of the Fugitive Slave Law and others, mentioned, but extends to the believers in the justice and propriety of that enactment among whom are some members of your committee.

Second, Should we be disposed to vote at the day appointed by the Legislature, past experience tells us that we shall be prevented from exercising that right of free man, while by the adoption of a second day we avoid unnecessary disturbance and may send our Delegate to claim his seat, confident that the last fact, taken with the various legal grounds why the Legislature were incapacitated from making binding laws will claim the favorable attention of Congress. We would recommend the appointment of a committee to draft a memorial to Congress setting forth more elaborately the reasons which have induced this course, and which may be placed at each poll on the day of election, finally adopted by the Convention, so that it may be signed by every voter. We also recommend that duplicate copies of the returns be made and one copy presented to the Governor of the Territory for his signature and the seal of the Territory, and if he refuse, then the other duplicate copy may be sent to Washington.

If by resolution of the Convention the committee recommend the following:

Resolved, That this Convention vote for Delegate viva voce.

The resolutions and report were adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The committee on Miscellaneous Business reported the following resolutions which were read, and on motion of Mr. Houston—the late Free State Representative in the Legislative Assembly, from the vicinity of Pawnee, and among the first settlers in the Territory—were adopted:

Resolved, That the alleged cause for the removal of Gov. Reeder, and other Territorial officers, has no sufficient foundation in truth or probability; that the purchase of the land-lot lands was a fair and honorable transaction which can tarnish the reputation of no man; that it was for a fair and full consideration, and that the removal of the President; and as the President has refused to respond to the earnest and pointed request to say what law or rule has been transgressed, we are compelled to believe that it was in violation of no law or artificial restriction.

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stand in answer to the repeated calls, and at the moment appeared deeply moved, with this unexpected outburst of enthusiasm.

GOV. REEDER'S SPEECH.

He responded to say how much he thanked them for their encouraging and strengthening friendship; that such approval and approval would repay all the injustice that might be heaped upon a man that every man there would do him the justice to say that this nomination had been given calmly without solicitation by him or by his friends; that to accept it would seriously interfere with private engagements, and that he had continually refused it when urged until he had been told by men from all parts of the Territory that his name was essential to success. He would now accept it upon the condition that he be not expected to canvass the Territory in person. To do so would not be consonant with his feelings as well as that he desired to go into the halls of Congress and say "I come here with clean hands, the spontaneous choice of the sovereign squatters of Kansas." In giving him this nomination, in this manner, they had strengthened his arms to do their work, and he would not plead for them a steady, unflinching pertinacity of purpose, never giving industry, dogged perseverance, and all the abilities which God had endowed him to the righting of their wrongs, and the final triumph of their cause. He believed from the circumstances which had for the last eight months surrounded him, and which had at the same time placed in his possession many facts, and bound him heart and soul to the oppressed voters of Kansas, that he could do much towards obtaining a redress of their grievances.

He said that day by day a crisis was coming upon us; that in after times this would be to posterity a turning point, a marked period, as are, to us the opening of the revolution, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and the vote of the slave and the free man; that each step of progress, and that no violence be done to the right which binds the American people together. He alluded to the unprecedented tyranny under which we are and have been; and said that if any one supposed that institutions were to be imposed by force upon a free and enlightened people they never knew, or had forgotten, the history of the people of this country, and that each step of progress, and that no violence be done to the right which binds the American people together. He alluded to the unprecedented tyranny under which we are and have been; and said that if any one supposed that institutions were to be imposed by force upon a free and enlightened people they never knew, or had forgotten, the history of the people of this country, and that each step of progress, and that no violence be done to the right which binds the American people together.

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