

## A DAY OF DAYS IN THE HISTORY OF POLITICAL CONVENTIONS.

### Exciting Scenes Witnessed in the Coliseum at Chicago.

### A Speech by Senator Hill Aroused Great Enthusiasm.

### Remarkable Demonstration at the Close of Ex-Congressman Bryan's Address.

Bland, Bryan, Matthews, Boies, Blackburn and McLean Placed in Nomination.

### CONVENTION HALL, CHICAGO.

July 9.—This has been a day of days in the history of national political conventions. From early morning until late at night, with the exception of a three hours' intermission, the gigantic Coliseum, the largest hall in the world, was crowded to the doors with interested and enthusiastic spectators.

But great in number as had been the masses who attended the morning and afternoon sittings, they were as nothing in comparison to the tremendous, record-breaking audience that thronged the stupendous building at the evening session. Such a gathering had never before been seen at a national convention.

The floor and galleries formed one great mass of solid humanity. Where the narrow ribbons of aisles had marked the various divisions of the huge interior, there were gathered hundreds—perhaps thousands—of those who could not find other accommodations.

Every chair was filled, and some idea of the meaning of this may be gained by the knowledge that the Coliseum has a seating capacity of 16,000. And in addition to the myriads which pushed and crowded every available space, many more, estimated at 5,000 in number, were gathered about the entrances during the greater part of the evening, tickets in hand, fruitlessly clamoring for admission.

Like yesterday, this has been a day of remarkable demonstrations, but the climax of emotional enthusiasm was reached in a demonstration remarkable in its spontaneity and of considerable length. The vast assembly had listened to a speech by Senator Tillman, replete in passionate invective against Cleveland, and had shown approval and disapproval by cheers and hisses.

But when William J. Bryan of Nebraska, handsome, vigorous and magnetic, and not unlike McKinley in voice, inflection and facial expression, concluded the effort of his life in support of the free coinage platform, there occurred one of those scenes which sends the blood coursing fast through the veins of even the most passive spectator and remain fixed in the memory for a lifetime. Like the terrible premonitory rumbling that gives warning of the approach of 10,000 cattle stampeded, delegates and spectators began the ovation to the young Nebraskan. And then the volume of sound grew and grew until it could grow no more, and enthusiasm went mad as Bryan, in his passage down the aisle toward the Nebraska seats, was caught in the whirlwind of frenzied enthusiasm and lifted high on the shoulders of the delegates. From floor to gallery the waves of applause swept, and back again from gallery to floor, and when the mass fell back exhausted Bryan was seated among his delegation.

The attempt of Senator Tillman to have the convention condemn Cleveland and his financial policy had been frustrated by many protests from Senator Jones and Bryan, who though admittedly anti-administration in their views, decried any abuse of the man who had been twice the choice of their party. Senator Tillman, admonished by the cheering which gave commendation to the remarks of Jones and Bryan, withdrew his resolution.

At night the candidates for the nomination were named by noted orators, and the usual demonstrations held. Eland was cheered to the echo, and a scene of the wildest enthusiasm ensued when Senator Vest mentioned his name as the end of the nominating speech. Bryan, suddenly injected into the list of probable candidates by his speech in the morning, was put before the convention in the maiden effort of Delegate H. T. Lewis of Georgia, who established a reputation for natural oratory in the few brief moments he took for the purpose, and equal to the demonstration for Bland was that which followed the Georgia delegate's address.

A girl in white, frantic in her enthusiasm for Horace Boies, leaped to a chair in the gallery and waved a Boies banner with frenzied vehemence, and nearly every man in the vast hall, whether from gallantry or actual sympathy, rose and cheered with a right good will. And when the pretty young woman, swaying, jumping, clapping her hands and giving vent to her emotion in divers other ways, marched through delegates and spectators with the Boies standard borne above her head, the audience caught the full spirit of her enthusiasm and shouted with might and main.

Until late in the night these stirring scenes continued, and the thousands gathered under the vast expanse of iron

canopy never seemed to tire of using their lungs.

### CONVENTION OPENED.

### EXTENDED DEBATE OVER THE PLATFORM.

Participated in by Hill, Tillman, Vilas, Jones, Ex-Governor Russell and Ex-Congressman Bryan.

CHICAGO, July 9.—The delegates were slow in reaching the convention hall this morning, and it was nearly 11 o'clock before the fall of the gavel announced that another day's session of the National Democratic Convention had begun. There were at that time many empty seats in the part of the hall reserved for the delegates, but the seats of the spectators were all occupied.

Before the convention was called to order the principal subject of interest was the announcement that the Committee on Platform had added to the platform a strong plank against the A. P. A., and declaring that every citizen of the United States is entitled to civil and religious liberty.

It was just 10:52 o'clock when the Chairman called the convention to order. Senator White of California, Permanent Chairman, called the assembly to order. Prayer was offered by Rev. Thomas E. Green, who offered prayer yesterday. Representative Richardson of Tennessee was then called to the chair.

Senator Jones of Arkansas presented the report of the Committee on Platform and the various points in the platform were enthusiastically cheered as they were read.

When the Cuban plank was reached someone in the front aisle unfurled the flag and waved it. This effort at theatrical effect was promptly suppressed by the Chairman, who rapped sharply and commanded the Sergeant-at-Arms to "Haul down that flag," which was immediately done, and the incident was brought to an ignominious close.

The platform is substantially as printed yesterday.

Senator Hill presented a minority report to the Committee on Resolutions, which condemns free coinage of silver and advocates that all money be kept at a parity with gold. Another plank indorses the administration of Cleveland. Both these planks were enthusiastically cheered, especially the latter. Many of the delegates and the larger part of the audience sprang to their feet and waved hats and handkerchiefs, while the cheering and applause showed that Cleveland had not yet lost all his popularity.

Two amendments were then read by Senator Hill as follows: First amendment: "But it should be carefully provided by law that any change in the monetary standard should not apply to existing contracts."

Second amendment: "Our advocacy of the independent and free coinage of silver being based on the belief that such coinage will effect and maintain a parity between gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, we declare and pledge our sincerity that if such free coinage shall fail to effect such parity within one year from its enactment by law, such coinage shall thereupon be suspended."

### SENATOR TILLMAN

### Delivers the First Speech in Favor of the Majority Report.

Senator Tillman of South Carolina was the first speaker in favor of the majority report. When he ascended the platform he was greeted with cheers and hisses. He began by referring to the way in which the "lying" newspapers had misrepresented him when they called him the "pitchfork man" from South Carolina, and said that he came from the secession. He denounced these statements as an insult to South Carolina. There were there, he said, to inaugurate a war to liberate the white slaves. He did not know whether he could be looked on as the representative of the whole South. His listeners seemed to have the same doubt, for there were many cries of "No, no," and much confusion.

Tillman resumed: "We have been the heavers of wood and drawers of water in bondage to the States of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. This is purely a sectional issue."

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people and the great money oligarchy of the East, and asked, "Where is the New York leader now?"

This question again excited the galleries, and was greeted with laughter, cheers and hisses. Then one man called out, as an answer, "In the soup." Another called for Herr Most. And then there were cries throughout the audience for Hill; and for a while confusion reigned. Tillman became angry as the confusion increased, and said that he would have his say if he had to stand there until sundown.

Finally when quiet was restored, he said that the New York Senator would have his turn on the platform. Hill had forced the present issue, and would have a chance to explain his reasons.

To indorse the Administration of President Cleveland would be to write themselves asses and liars. He spoke of the home syndicate and denounced Cleveland for overruling his oath and invading the State of Illinois with Government troops. Cleveland has been the death of the Democratic party as far as he could be.

He offered a substitute to the Hill resolution, a resolution which read as follows: "We denounce the administration of President Cleveland as undemocratic and tyrannical, and as a departure from those principles prized by all liberty loving Americans; the veto power used to thwart the will of the people as expressed by their representatives in Congress; the appointment of Congress, over and above citizens in the free exercise of their constitutional rights as voters, and the plutocratic despotism thus sought to be established on the ruins of the republic. We repudiate the construction placed on the financial plank of the last Democratic National Convention by President Cleveland and Secretary Carlisle as contrary to the plain meaning of English words, and as being acts of bad faith, deserving the severest censure; the issue of bonds in time of peace with which to buy gold to redeem the coin obligations payable in silver or gold, and the use of the proceeds to defray the ordinary expenses of the Government as unlawful usurpations of authority deserving impeachment."

### JONES OF ARKANSAS

### Also Speaks in Favor of the Platform Reported by the Majority.

When Tillman had finished he was followed by Senator Jones of Arkansas, who, of course, spoke in favor of the majority report. This was not, he said, a question of section. He loved the whole of this great country, and would lay down his life for it. He loved it beyond all question of sectionalism. They were now engaged in an effort to restore the liberties of their fathers.

His reference to the John Sherman and Cleveland Republicanism was greeted with laughter and cheers. He said that they had repudiated him in the platform, but had not mentioned the silver. He denounced Cleveland as undemocratic and tyrannical, and offered an amendment to the platform to that effect. He denounced, moreover, the issue of bonds in time of peace as a usurpation of authority deserving impeachment.

As he left the platform he was greeted with mingled cheers and hisses, and the convention was a scene of confusion until Hill of New York made his appearance.

### DAVID B. HILL.

### The New York Senator Speaks for the Substitute Plank.

David B. Hill mounted the platform to speak for the substitute plank, and a scene that approached in enthusiasm that of last night, when New York cast her seven or two votes for the minority, began. Delegates stood on their chairs and waved hats, fans and handkerchiefs.

Speaking of the deficit of \$50,000,000 which had arisen because of the tariff, he said that the Democratic party had not "as yet" (as he said with emphasis) yielded enough revenue for the necessities of the Government, he said, this was a foolish idea to have raised. It put the Democratic party on the defensive in the eyes of the people of the Eastern States by this silver plank was all they could reasonably be expected to carry, without imposing on them all the additional issues. He did not believe in driving men out of the Democratic party (cheers) to make room for the free silver party, and Whigs and Populists who have never voted the Democratic ticket in their lives. (Loud cheering.)

"I tell you," he added, impressively, "no matter who your candidate may be, with one exception, your Populist ticket will nominate their own tickets, and your forces will be divided." (Loud applause.) A voice back in the hall cried "No."

Turning in that direction, Hill rapped, with bitter intonation, "My friend says 'No.'" Then raising his voice to its full pitch, he asked, "Who is there to stand for the Populists to a platform 'Contention'?" (Cheers renewed again and again.)

The Senator brought his speech to a close by a recapitulation of the defects he found in the platform, and said that there was still time to remedy them in part.

As he returned to his delegation he was cheered as no other speaker had been since the opening of the convention.

### SENATOR VILAS.

### The Wisconsin Delegate Supports His Colleague's Argument.

The demonstration over Senator Hill was at its height when Senator Vilas ascended the platform to support his colleague's argument, and his appearance there was less light of in the general opinion than that of the previous speaker, among the New York delegation was a series of handshaking. Even after the demonstration had ceased it was some time before order could be obtained.

Vilas was cheered as he began. He said the resolutions were introduced to make a protest against the attempt to revivify the platform. If the majority persisted in its revolutionary movements they were sure to meet a fearful penalty. This platform would not produce bimetalism. It was in direct contrast to the platform of 1892 which proposed honest bimetalism. It would shrink, not swell, our currency. The silver dollar was no new thing to the United States. The scheme of silver monometallism was no new thing to the United States. The MONY of 1891 was the real Democratic measure. It was created under Democratic leadership. That was distinctly a gold measure. The gold standard was now accused of responsi-

bility for all the prevailing ills, but it was never so credited when prices rose. "Would you," he asked, "stop the change of prices, stop enterprises, prevent transportation, take from the farmer the reaper and reaping machine—these would rise? Do such things as these and they would soon relieve you," he said, "of this curse of civilization."

Vilas told of the changes in the wages and prices during the decade just past. The foreign debt was pledged to be paid in gold and for every dollar debtor a creditor would be injured—one of our own people. He protested against the assumption that this was a nation of dishonest debtors. (Applause.) In the language of Lincoln, "You may fool all the people some of the time; you may fool some of the people all the time; but you cannot fool all the people all the time." (Laughter and applause.) He solemnly protested. Should this scheme ever win, it would result in universal distress; if it should ever come about it would result in dire calamity. If that calamity ever came, let us remember who were its authors. He appealed to the Southern Democrats to desert in their attempt to bring about a change in civilization at which the whole world stands aghast.

### EX-GOVERNOR RUSSELL.

### He Speaks for the Democracy of His Commonwealth.

Cheers for Vilas as he concluded were intermingled with cries of "Russell," and the ex-Governor of Massachusetts was given a hearty welcome as he began to speak.

The time had passed, he said, for debate on the merits of this issue. He was conscious, painfully conscious, that the mind of this convention was not and had not been open to conviction. He knew that the policy which juggled down rights and invaded the sovereignty of States was to be rigidly enforced. But the country, if not this convention, would listen to the higher protest. (Cheers.)

He spoke and he had a right to speak, for the Democracy of his Commonwealth. He had seen it in darkest days following the principles of Democracy with an abiding faith, and they had lived to see the day when for three successive years they had seen the banners of Democracy triumphant in Massachusetts, the cohorts of Republican protection.



EX-GOVERNOR RUSSELL.

This was one great national issue. He did not believe he had lived to see the day when these great principles would be forgotten in a Democratic convention, and that they should be invited under new and radical leadership and a new and radical policy, at the demand of a section, on the ground of expediency, to adopt a policy which he and those who thought with him believed meant dishonor and disaster. (Cheers.)

Then Governor Russell paid his respects to George Fred Williams. He said: "In these debates I have heard one false note from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is the name of anger, but in sorrow, and I appeal to you, my fellow-delegates, and ask, do I or do I not speak the sentiments of my State (Loud cries of 'Yes.') Do I speak the sentiments of my State when I say they and we utter our earnest and unflinching protest against this Democratic convention?" (Cheers.) Let me, following the example of the Senator from South Carolina, utter a word of prophecy. When this storm has subsided, and the dark clouds of passion and prejudice have worn away, and there comes a sober second thought of the people, then the protests of the minority here will be held as the ark of the covenant of the faith (cheers), where all Democrats will be united and go forth to fight for the old principles and carry them to triumphal victory."

### BRYAN OF NEBRASKA.

### Moves to Lay on the Table Resolutions Condemning Cleveland.

Cheer after cheer went up as Bryan of Nebraska, tall, smooth-faced, youthful looking, leaped up the platform steps two at a time to close the debate. Bryan was fanned from the free silver delegates, and handkerchiefs, newspapers, hats, fans and coats were brought into play by the enthusiastic crowd. At one time the applause became deafening and could not be suppressed by Richardson, who was still acting as Temporary Chairman.

When quiet had been restored Bryan began speaking clearly and precisely. He moved to lay on the table the resolutions in condemnation of the Administration. This was not a question that permitted descent into personalities. There had been a great contest; never before had so great an issue been fought out. It sketched the growth of the free silver idea in the Democratic ranks, and told of the zeal that had been injected into the party contest. The silver men had gone forth to victory after victory and were assembled now not to condemn, not to protest, but to enter up a judgment ordered by the people.

As individuals, he said, those whom he represented might have been willing to compliment the gentleman from New York (Hill). But they were unwilling to put him in a position where he could thwart the will of the Democratic party. (Cheers.) He claimed for his people that they were the equals of the people of Massachusetts (cheers), and when the people of Massachusetts came to the people of Nebraska and said, "You have disturbed our business," the people of Nebraska replied to the people of Massachusetts: "You have disturbed our business." (Applause.)

"We say," he continued, "you have made too limited an application of the definition of the word 'business man.' The man employed for wages is as much a business man as his employer. The farmer who goes out to till in the morning is as much a business man as the man who goes on the Board of Trade

to gamble in stocks. (Cheers.) The miner is as much a business man as the few official magnates who in a back room corner the money of the world." (Great cheering.)

Mr. Bryan said those who he represented were tired of submitting to the burdens which oppressed them. "We beg no longer, we petition no more, we defy them."

This denunciation, uttered in Mr. Bryan's most dramatic manner, was followed by a scene of wild excitement and cheering which lasted several minutes. "What we need," Mr. Bryan continued, "is an Andrew Jackson, to stand as Andrew Jackson stood, against the national banks. We are told that our platform is made to catch votes. We reply to them that changed conditions make new issues. The principles on which Democracy rests are as everlasting as the hills, but they must be applied to new conditions as they arise. "New conditions have arisen, and we are attempting to meet them. They tell us that the income tax question ought not to be brought in here; that it is a new idea. They find fault with our criticism of the Supreme Court of the United States. We have not criticized it. We have simply called attention to it. If you want a criticism of the court in the matter of the income tax, read the dissenting opinions of the Judges. They say that we passed an unconstitutional law. I deny it. The income tax was not unconstitutional when it went before the Supreme Court for the first time. It did not become unconstitutional until one Judge changed his mind. And we cannot be expected to know when a Judge will change his mind. (Cheers and laughter.) The income tax is a just law, and I am in favor of it. (Applause.) And when I find a man who is not willing to pay his share of the burdens of the Government which protects him, I find a man unworthy to enjoy the blessings of a Government like ours. (Loud cheers.)

"We say that we are opposing the national bank currency. It is true. Thomas Benton said that, in searching history, he could find but one parallel to Andrew Jackson; that when Cleary destroyed the conspiracy of Cataline and saved Rome, he did for Rome what Jackson did when he destroyed the bank conspiracy and saved America. We say in our platform that the right to coin and issue money is a function of Government. We believe that that power of sovereignty can no more with safety be delegated to private corporations than the power to enact penal statutes or to levy taxation. Mr. Jefferson, who was regarded as good Democratic authority, seems to have had a different opinion from the Senator from New York. They tell us that the issuance of paper money is the function of the banks, and that the Government ought to go out of the banking business. I stand with Jefferson and tell them, as he did, that the banks ought to go out of the governing business. (Cheers and laughter.)

"The Senator from New York says he will offer an amendment providing that the proposed change of law shall not affect contracts already made. Let me remind him that that is not the intention, where, under the present law, contracts are made payable in gold. But if he means to say that we cannot change our monetary system without protecting those who have loaned before the change is made, I want to know where in law or morals he can find authority for not protecting the debtors when the Act of 1873 was passed.

"The Senator from New York also asks about the consequence of a failure to maintain parity. My reply is that we cannot couple the platform with a doubt as to our own sincerity. He says he wants this country to try to secure an international agreement. Why does he not tell us what he is going to do if they fail to secure it. (Applause and laughter.) They have tried for twenty years to secure an international agreement for bimetalism, and those are waiting for it most patiently who do not want it at all. (Applause and laughter.)

"If they ask us why it is that we say more on the money question than on the tariff question we reply that if protection shall slay its thousands, the gold standard has slain its tens of thousands. (Cheers.) If they ask us why not embody in the platform all those things that we believe, my reply is that when

we have restored the money of the Constitution all other necessary reforms will be possible, and that until that is done there is no reform that can be accomplished. (Cheers.)

"Why is it that, within three months, a change has come over the sentiment of the country? Three months ago it was confidently asserted that those who believed in the gold standard would create a platform and nominate and elect a candidate, and they had no reason for the assertion, because there is scarcely a State here to-day asking for a gold standard that is not within the absolute control of the Republican party. Mr. McKinley was nominated at St. Louis on a platform which declares for the maintenance of the gold standard until it shall be changed into bimetalism by international agreement. Mr. McKinley was the most popular man among the Republicans, and three months ago everybody in the Republican party prophesied his election.

"How is it to-day? That man who was beat on the lonely shores of St. Helena. (Cheers.) Why this change? Ah, my friends, the change is evident to anyone who looks at the matter. It is because no private character, however pure; no personal popularity, however great, can protect from the avenging wrath of an indignant people. The man who declares that he is in favor of foisting the gold standard on this people, or who is willing to surrender the right of self-government and to place legislative control in the hands of foreign potentates and crowns, cannot hope for election to any office of the United States.

"We of the North," said the orator, "are confident that we shall win. Why? Because there is not a spot of ground upon which the advocates of the gold standard can meet us. You tell us the great cities are in favor of the gold standard. Burn down your cities and leave our farms and your cities will grow again. But destroy our farms and the grass will grow in every city of the Union. (Great cheering.)

"My friends," he continued, "we shall declare that this nation is able to legislate for its own people upon every question without waiting for the consent of any other nation on earth, and upon that issue we expect to carry every State in this country. (Great cheers.) It is the issue of 1875 over again. Our ancestors, when only three millions in number, declared their independence of every nation on earth. Shall we, when grown to 70,000,000, have less courage? If they say we cannot have bimetalism until some other nation assists, we reply that we will restore bimetalism and let England adopt it because the United States has led the way. (Cheers.) We shall answer their demand for the gold standard by saying to them: 'You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.'" (Tremendous cheering.)

### REMARKABLE SCENE.

### Extraordinary Demonstration for the Nebraska Orator.

Then ensued perhaps the most extraordinary scene of this extraordinary convention. As if by the magic touch of a wand, delegates after delegates rose in solid phalanx and gave vent to the most enthusiastic demonstration in honor of the Nebraska orator. Everybody stood up, even the Eastern men, who were at first disposed to remain in their seats. Westerners shouted, waved handkerchiefs, hats, flags, canes, umbrellas and anything else conspicuous and portable. Deafening cheers rent the air; articles of every description were thrown high above the surging sea of humanity. The staffs bearing the names of the States were held aloft with flame and other things.

When that pastime became too tame, led by Delegate Gatewood of Texas, nearly all of the silver States and Territories and some gold States joined in a procession bearing the State poles and marched in triumph around the floor. Some of the Eastern States kept their sign staffs in their places and confined their expressions to standing up and giving a mild cheer as individuals. This feature continued for a quarter of an hour and no efforts were made by the

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

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