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Richmond Dispatch.

OF THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1873.

CONSERVATIVE STATE CONVENTION.

MORNING SESSION.

THE NOMINATIONS.

Withers Nominated Lieut.-Governor.

THRILLING SCENE OF FRATERNITY AND CONCORD.

RELEVANT SPEECHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

Panel Nominated Attorney-General.

ENTHUSIASM RECESS.

NIGHT SESSION.

ADOPTION OF A GLORIOUS PLATFORM.

OTHER BUSINESS.

ADJOURNMENT.

MASS-MEETING ORGANIZED.

Speeches and Final Conclusion.

SEPARATION OF THE MOST HONORABLE CONVENTION OF A DECADE.

BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES.

THE CONVENTION MET AT HALF-PAST 10 O'CLOCK.

THE CHAIR ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST BUSINESS IN ORDER WAS THE NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA.

COLONEL M. G. HARMAN, OF STAUNTON, UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED TO OFFER A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF THREE TO WAIT ON COLONEL ROBERT E. WITHERS AND INVITE HIM TO A PRIVILEGED SEAT ON THE FLOOR OF THIS BODY.

CONSENT BEING GIVEN, THE RESOLUTION WAS READ AND APPROVED BY COLONEL WITHERS.

MR. WALLACE, OF FREDERICKSBURG, MOVED TO AMEND BY INSTRUCTING THE COMMITTEE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER COLONEL WITHERS WILL ACCEPT THE SECOND PLACE ON THE STATE TICKET.

THE AMENDMENT WAS AGREED TO, AND THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED, ADOPTED.

THE CHAIR ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE UNDER THE RESOLUTION: MR. WALLACE, OF FREDERICKSBURG; COLONEL HARMAN, OF STAUNTON; AND MR. NOWLIN, OF LYNCHBURG.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

GOVERNOR McCALLIN rose to a privileged question. It had been stated in a morning paper that he had called Colonel Robert W. Hughes a "false, black-hearted apostate."

FARTY ORGANIZATION.

Major Bost, of Page (by unanimous consent), offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three from each congressional district on party organization in the State. Agreed to.

On motion of Dr. Quisenberry, of Caroline, a resolution was adopted for the collection of one dollar from each delegate for campaign expenses.

NOMINATION OF LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

On motion of Colonel Flournoy, further proceedings under the order for the nomination of candidates for Lieutenant-Governor were postponed until the report of the committee appointed to wait on Colonel Withers should be received.

Colonel Sken, of Alleghany, addressing the Convention from the dress-circle of the Theatre, suggested that the action taken in relation to Colonel Withers had not been fully expressive of the sense of the Convention. He believed it to be the unanimous desire of the Convention to relax in the nomination of Colonel Withers should have a place on the ticket. [Applause.]

General Early and others arose to second the motion of General Sken, but the demands for the previous question were so loud, and the enthusiasm was so great, that the Chair (Colonel Flournoy, Vice-President) was obliged to relax in parliamentary rulings, and was about to put the question to the House when General Walker, of Pulaski, hitherto the most prominent candidate for Lieutenant-Governor, gained the floor and was recognized.

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General Walker, although not a member of the Convention, begged permission to say one word, and that word was in indoration of the motion of General Sken, and in support of his brilliant friend Colonel Withers for the office of Lieutenant-Governor. [Great applause.]

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Cheer after cheer arose, and round after round of applause shook the house.

Colonel Withers stepped upon the platform, and, in the vice-presidential capacity, called upon the vice-president, in the name of the people of Virginia, to accept the place tendered him by their representatives in convention assembled—to respond now to the call of his mother State as he had in the great war of independence. [Applause.]

COLONEL WITHERS ACCEPTS.

Colonel Withers then came forward, and as soon as the applause which greeted him subsided, he spoke, his voice trembling with emotion. He felt totally incapable of giving expression to his feelings. When first approached upon the subject of accepting the second position on the ticket he peremptorily declined, although he intended to use every faculty he could command to promote, as he had heretofore done, the success of the Conservative cause. When he came into the building his mind had not changed, and he still expected to decline, but where friend after friend approached him, and that old war horse, said he, pointing to General Early, says it is my duty to do this intelligently. Conventions desire, can hold out no great inducement. If he would sell his heart and feelings he would still refuse to serve, but he was willing to work anywhere in the ranks of the Conservatives to defeat the enemies of his party. [Applause.]

GOVERNOR WALKER INTRODUCED.

At this point Major J. W. Daniel, chairman of the committee appointed to wait on Governor Walker and invite him to visit the Convention, reported that they had performed that duty, and that the Governor was present in acceptance of the invitation. [Great applause and three cheers for Governor Walker.]

In response to many calls, Governor Walker came forward and expressed his great appreciation of the compliment tendered him by the Convention. He could only thank them from the bottom of a heart that beats in full sympathy with theirs. [Applause.] He thought that the business of the Convention had been concluded; but what had already been done had been nobly and bravely done. He would not say a word, then there can be a talk about other matters. In the mean time he desired to say that his arm and voice were ready to serve the Conservatives in the coming campaign in stamping the State. [Cheers and applause.]

OTHER NOMINATIONS.

Mr. McGruder, of Albemarle, at this point nominated Captain P. W. McKinney, of Prince Edward, for Attorney-General.

Mr. J. Horace Lacy nominated Mr. R. T. Daniel, of Richmond.

Judge Allen, of Shenandoah, nominated General James A. Williams, of Frederick county.

Mr. Hundley, of Buckingham, seconded the nomination of Captain McKinney.

Colonel Harman, of Staunton, urged the claims of General James A. Walker.

Mr. J. N. Hopkins, of Henrico, nominated Mr. R. J. Holliday, but afterwards withdrew the nomination and seconded that of Captain McKinney.

Judge Ould delivered an able and eloquent address in favor of Mr. Daniel.

COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATIVE ORGANIZATION.

At this point the Chair announced the following Committee on Conservative Organization:

Chairman.—P. B. Bost, of Page.

First District.—William M. Walker, of Westmoreland; Joseph Mayo, Jr., of Northumberland; William Blair, of Essex.

Second District.—S. H. Boykin, of Nansemond; John W. Lawson, of Isle of Wight; B. J. Lacy, of New Kent.

Third District.—Dr. L. R. Chiles, of Chesterfield; W. P. M. Kellam, of Richmond city; J. B. Browne, of Hanover.

Fourth District.—General William Mahone, of Petersburg; F. R. Farrar, of Amelia; W. H. Jann, of Nottoway.

Fifth District.—W. W. H. H. of Pittsylvania; J. C. Nowlin, of Carroll; J. W. Riley, of Halifax.

Sixth District.—R. A. Coghlin, of Amherst; W. W. Berry, of Bedford; W. A. Glasgow, of Botetourt.

Seventh District.—H. H. Riddlebarger, of Shenandoah; George P. Hughes, of Gloucester.

Eighth District.—S. W. Thomas, of Warren; Zeph. Turner, of Rappahannock; J. H. Hudson, of Pulaski; J. G. R. Dane, of Washington.

NOMINATIONS PROCEEDED WITH.

Judge Allen, of Shenandoah, now withdrew the nomination of General Walker.

Mr. P. B. Bost urged the friends of Colonel Withers to support General Walker.

Mr. F. W. F. of the same Captain McKinney should receive the nomination.

Mr. Campbell, of Washington, wanted General Walker to have the nomination.

Mr. Blair, of Bland, also favored General Walker.

General Bagwell urged the claims of Mr. R. T. Daniel.

Mr. J. W. Daniel, of Lynchburg, had intended to support the gentleman for his own name who had been placed in nomination, but upon mature consideration he should cast his vote for General Walker.

At the previous question, but at the instance of Major Baker P. Lee withdrew the call.

Major Lee then nominated Colonel D. J. Godwin, of Portsmouth.

At 2:30 Mr. Patterson again demanded the previous question, and the call was sustained.

Colonel D. J. Godwin now came to the stand and declined the nomination made by Major Lee.

About 3 o'clock the secretary finished calling the roll. The vote of the delegates stood as follows: Daniel, 181; Walker, 177; McKinney, 124.

The called roll was announced to be: For Mr. Daniel, 46,236; for General Walker, 38,604; for Captain McKinney, 33,701. Total, 118,541. Necessary to a choice, 59,271.

The delegates from the counties of Botetourt, Buckingham, Halifax, Norfolk, Essex, Charlotte, and Orange now speedily changed their votes to Mr. Daniel, and amid the greatest enthusiasm Mr. Staples, of Patrick, moved to make the nomination unanimous; which was agreed to with deafening cheers and a unanimous AYE.

Loud cheers were now made for Mr. Daniel, who rose and gratefully thanked the Convention for the honor conferred on him, and assured them that he would ever labor for the Conservative cause and the success of the party.

On motion the Convention then took a recess until 8 P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

Long before the Convention was called to order the dress-circle and gallery were thronged by a large and fashionable audience of ladies and gentlemen, who had gathered to witness and hear the last night's proceedings of the Virginia State Convention.

At 8:40 President Bostock called the Convention to order, and McCann's splendid band inaugurated the proceedings by playing "My Down to Old Virginia," and other popular airs, which were received with bursts of applause which resounded from pit to dome.

THE CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM.

The Chair called for the report from the Committee on Business, and Mr. Barbour, of Culpeper, chairman of that committee, came to the stand and read the following as the report; which was unanimously adopted:

We, the representatives of the Conservatives assembled, do declare:

1. That a contrast of the condition of Virginia under Conservative government with the condition of those southern States which have been retrograded illustrates the fact that the people of Virginia in the adoption of this plan of State policy, and demonstrates the necessity of continuing the

powers of the State government in the control of the Conservative people of this Commonwealth.

2. That the chief purpose of the Conservative party of Virginia is to secure to every citizen the full enjoyment of the rights of citizenship, exact and impartial justice, and to promote by wise and beneficent legislation the prosperity of our whole people.

3. That the Conservative party of Virginia, disclaiming all purpose of capitious hostility to General Grant, will judge him impartially by his official action, and will cordially cooperate in every measure of his administration which may be beneficial to the people and to cultivate the friendly relations of good will between the different sections of the Union.

4. We recognize as a fundamental political truth that upon the intelligence and virtue of its people must rest the prosperity, power, and permanence of a State. We point with pride to the successful establishment and progress of the free-school system of Virginia, inaugurated and conducted under the auspices of pecuniary difficulty, for which we are indebted to the wisdom and liberality of a Conservative State Government. Liberal provision ought to be continued for the support and extension of the free schools for the white and colored races respectively.

5. The interests of a large section of this Union now in the hands of the slave demand the speedy enlargement and completion of the great James River and Kanawha water-line that should connect the waters of the Ohio with those of the Chesapeake, affording to the teeming population of the West cheap transportation of their products to the great markets of the East, and in the East, the completion by the Government of this great design of George Washington would be an additional bond of union between the communities whose products and commodities would pass over the line of this waterway.

On motion of Mr. Riley the Convention proceeded to consider the resolutions *seriatim*.

General Early said he could not give his sanction to the last resolution. He did not believe the United States Government had any power in the matter.

The resolutions were then agreed to with but one dissenting vote.

INTERNAL REVENUE TAX.

The committee further reported a resolution declaring that, in the opinion of the Convention, the internal revenue tax on tobacco and ardent spirits is onerous and ought to be repealed. This resolution was also agreed to.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

Mr. French, of Bland, presented a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three, whose duty it shall be to prepare an address to the people of the State. Laid on the table temporarily.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES.

Mr. Phlegar, of Montgomery, presented a resolution declaring that it is as much the duty of every Conservative voter in the State to vote against all independent candidates who profess to be Conservatives for the time being as it is his duty to vote against the Radical nominees. The rules were suspended, and Mr. Phlegar urged the importance of the resolution. It was adopted unanimously.

CAMPAIGN SPEECHES.

Mr. McMillin presented a resolution requesting the speakers of the West to address the people west of the mountains, and the speakers east of the mountains to visit and address the people east of the mountains. Retired to the Committee on Business.

Mr. McMillin said that he would take this opportunity to invite the speakers of the East and West, and the speakers of the East to visit the West. It would be indeed an error for us to underrate the strength of the enemy.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION.

Mr. P. B. Bost, from the Committee on Organization, submitted a report from that committee as follows; which was adopted:

1. There shall be a State Committee composed of three members from each congressional district. Such members shall be appointed by the President of the Convention, and shall have the same respective congressional delegations; provided that such nomination shall be made by at least a majority of such districts concurring; otherwise, and in default of such nomination, the president shall make the appointments for such districts.

Vacancies in any such delegation after the same shall be in any form shall be filled by the committee upon the nomination of the remaining members from such district.

The State Committee thus constituted is charged with the affairs of the party, and shall have power to perfect its organization and to direct the plans of the party in the declaration and policy of the party as the same shall be set forth by this Convention. It may decide all questions at issue which may arise in election districts calculated to affect the harmony and the interest of the party.

The State Committee shall meet at such times and places as they may themselves determine, but especially at such time and place as the Executive Committee may designate.

2. There shall be an Executive Committee, resident at Richmond, composed of three members from each congressional district of the Convention; and a secretary to be appointed by such committee.

This Executive Committee shall have no power to originate any measure. It shall be their express and single duty to execute and carry out the plans of the Executive Committee, as the same shall, from time to time, be laid down by that committee, under whose authority it shall act, and to whose revision all the acts of this Executive Committee shall be subject.

City and County Organization.

3. Each city and county, by popular meeting, after due notice or through the medium of existing organizations, may appoint a city or county committee, consisting of two members from each township or ward in such city or county, who shall be charged with the affairs and conduct of the party in such city or county, regulating and directing the same, either by wards and townships, or otherwise, as such committee may prescribe. Other committees shall elect a chairman, whose duty it shall be to appoint all meetings and regulate all affairs as to the party, which may embrace the city or county.

In the election of delegates to any election district convention it shall be the duty of the committee to see that the appointments shall be made by ward, township, city, or county meeting, and the number of delegates to which such ward, township, city, or county shall be entitled.

Resolved, That all nominations made by committees, senatorial or election districts, and all that may be heretofore made by delegates, already appointed, to any convention, or to any district convention, are hereby declared regular and valid.

THE OYSTER TAX.

The Committee on Business, through Hon. John T. Harris, presented the following; which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Conservative party disclaims any intention to impose any restriction on any section, and pledges to correct any erroneous or mistaken legislation disturbing the harmony and welfare of the tidewater section of the State, believing that all acts imposing a tax on any interest not general in the Commonwealth should be modified and adjusted to principles of equity and justice to all sections, reducing the tax imposed within reasonable and proper bounds.

RECESS.

On motion, the Convention, at 10:15, took a recess for fifteen minutes in order that the delegates from the several congressional dis-

tricts might meet and nominate members for the State Committee.

FROM GENERAL KEMPER.

When the Convention was again called to order, the Chair read a telegram from General Kemper:

"I accept the nomination with a profound sense of its great responsibilities, but without fear of defeat. Let all true Virginians stand together for the sake of Virginia."

(Signed) "JAMES L. KEMPER."

THANKS.

Resolutions of thanks customary on such occasions were presented and adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10:45 Mr. John D. McCann moved that the Convention adjourn *sine die*. The President put the question, it was carried, and he at once laid down his gavel and vacated the chair.

Conservative Rally.

Immediately after the adjournment of the State Conservative Convention, the Hon. Thomas S. Bostock announced that a mass-meeting would be held, and called Judge Ould to the chair. The whole of the immense audience remained in the hall, and loud calls were made for Colonel J. W. Hinton, of Norfolk. He appeared and was greeted with hearty cheers. He made one of his inimitable campaign speeches.

He was followed by the Hon. Raleigh T. Daniel, of Richmond, and Mr. Berry, of Bedford, and others, who dealt telling blows in behalf of the Conservative cause.

At 12 P. M. the meeting adjourned.

Colonel Robert E. Withers.

Colonel Robert E. Withers, who has received the nomination on the Conservative ticket for Lieutenant-Governor, was born in Lynchburg, Va., in 1831. He graduated at the University of Virginia, and became a practitioner of medicine, to which he devoted himself exclusively for nineteen years. He resided first in Campbell and then in Danville, going to the latter place in 1853, and there remaining until the late civil war.

Colonel Withers entered the war at its beginning, and in April, 1861, came to this city in command of a battalion. Here he was assigned the Eighth Virginia regiment, and participated in the battles of Manassas, Seven Pines, and Gaines's Mill. In the last-named he fell dreadfully wounded, while leading his regiment in the final charge, in which the enemy was routed. He received wounds through the right lung, the pelvis, an arm, and the head, and in the scalp. So fearful, indeed, was he wounded that his recovery was considered almost hopeless. He, however, so far recovered as to feel that he could return to the field. Several times he attempted to resume his command in the active service, but was so much disabled that he was obliged to retire. He was entirely restored from the effects of his fearful wounds.

He was before the close of the war assigned to the prison post at Danville, and held it until he surrendered to General Wright on the 22d of April, 1865.

The war ended, he was too much of a cripple for the country practice of medicine, and seeking some pursuit better adapted to his physical condition, he became editor of the Richmond *Enquirer*, a position which he held until the late fall of 1867.

He was also a student at the University of Virginia, in which institution he took A. M. At one time he was associated with Mr. Charles Coleman in the Hanover Academy, and was in command of the military academy. He was considered the best mathematician of his age in the United States at the time he left the University, and was the author of several works on geometry, and at the time of his death was an applicant for a professorship at Richmond College.

THIEVES ARRESTED.—Since last Sunday morning Captain Disney and Sergeant Hall have been quietly but busily working up the case of the theft of brass from the firm of Tanner & Co. They traced up the principal in the theft, Robert Thomas (colored), to a point up the river five miles from the city, and arrested him yesterday morning and brought him to the city. He was found working in a garden, and resisted arrest, but a few stout blows from the officer brought him to terms. He admitted a theft of a lot of iron, and said he helped a colored man named William Turner to put the brass in a wagon to be taken away. Turner was also locked in the station-house last night. Giles Cook and Joe Hill (both colored) are also under arrest for complicity in the theft.

ALMOST AN ACCIDENT.—The westward-bound express train on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad yesterday morning narrowly escaped a serious accident. As the cars were nearing Swoope's depot, a point about seven miles west of Staunton, two horses came suddenly upon the track in a cut, and killed outright. Both were valuable horses. One of the unfortunate animals in some way or other got under the baggage-car and threw it from the track. The train was delayed about three hours. A large number of the passengers were for the White Sulphur.

BISHOP GIBBONS'S APPOINTMENTS.—Right Rev. James Gibbons, D. D., leaves this city this morning on an episcopal tour. He will first visit Charlottesville, and deliver a lecture there to-night. To-morrow he will address the placement of confirmation in the church at that place. On the 10th he goes to Staunton, and in that city will also administer confirmation and preach. From Staunton he will proceed to the following places for the same purpose: Harrisonburg, 12th; Martinsburg, 17th; Harper's Ferry, 19th.

At Berkeley Springs, in West Virginia, on the 26th, he will dedicate the new church recently erected in that place, whence he will proceed to Baltimore to attend the pastoral convention of the North Carolina, the clergy of Virginia, and the clergy of the United States on the 29th and continues till the 2d proximo.

POLICE COURT.—Mildred J. Pote and Fannie P. P