

COLONEL ARNETT

Nominated by the First District Democrats.

FIVE BALLOTS WERE NECESSARY

To Effect a Choice—Pendleton and Brannon Ranked Next in Strength—Ohio County went Solid to Arnett on the Fifth and the Other Counties Fell in Line and the Nomination was Made Unanimous—Brannon was Dangerous.

Yesterday morning and afternoon in the pavilion at Mozart park the Democrats of the First district met in convention for the purpose of nominating a congressional candidate. The convention was a lively assemblage, interest lagging at no time. A day or two before the convention there was much uncertainty as to the probable nominee.

The fight in the convention was in reality between Pendleton and Arnett, and the latter won on the fifth ballot, after having divided her votes on various candidates throughout four ballots.

On the fourth the permanent chairman of the convention looked gloomy, and the beginning of the fifth when Gilmer and other counties changed to him, Brannon looked decidedly dangerous. Then it was that Ohio county saw that in order to bring the nomination home the county's vote must go to one candidate.

Col. Arnett is so well known in Wheeling that it is hardly necessary to print even a brief sketch of his career. His success as a lawyer, especially in criminal practice, has given him a state reputation.

Opinion as to the strength of Colonel Arnett as an opponent of Captain Dwyer differs, some believing that he is the strongest man the Democrats could have nominated, while others, some of them Democrats at that, say the other Pendleton, Sperry or Brannon would have been stronger candidates.

THE CONVENTION IN DETAIL.

How the Delegates Ran the First District Political Show—Brannon Looked to be Dangerous on One Occasion, but Harrison Spoiled His Chances—Fifth Ballot Settled the Contest.

At 11:45 o'clock Major Blair, of West Union, the chairman of the congressional committee, called the convention to order in a few words. The convention, he said, is made up of true and loyal Bryan Democrats. It seemed right and proper that the Democrats of the First district should meet to plan for the redemption of the district. His allusion to the Bryan "golden cross and crucifixion" and "knights of the silver shield" were received with applause. He introduced Mr. F. Snider, of Doddridge, as temporary chairman, and L. H. Kelly, of Braxton, as secretary.

Mr. Snider thanked the convention for the honor conferred upon him in being selected to open the deliberations of so grand a gathering of First district Democrats. Proceeding he emphasized the party, claiming it has always been the party of the people. All great measures of reform, he said, have been the work of the Democracy. He said the silver issue is not an issue of the politicians, it is of the common people of the country. Four months ago it looked as though the Republicans would carry the election, but there has been a great change. The people have made the issue; they arose in their might and overcame the politicians who ran pell mell to get on the side of the people. The people of this country never decide more than once a question at a time. They have made up their mind to decide the issue of the free coinage of silver and the convention is assembled to carry out the people's wishes. The Republican leaders are now dismayed and Bryan is sweeping on to the white house. He was most confident of the success of the "boy orator" who received the most magnificent reception at Pittsburgh, which he had witnessed.

Fifty years ago, said the speaker, the farmers were a prosperous class, but today the farmers are an oppressed class. This has been caused, he claimed, by the war of the rebellion, attendant legislation, and subsequent legislation in favor of corporations and national banks. The issue of national bank notes was denounced by the speaker in unmeasured terms. Loan and trust companies, building and loan associations, life insurance companies and other financial institutions are controlled by the national banks, and the wealth of the country is centered in a few places out of the hands of the people. He antagonized the corporations and national banks, but not only the national bank system but other corporations have recently sent out circular letters favoring the gold standard. The people in their might will say that the corporations can go so far and no farther. The crime of '73 was next referred to and the speaker was confident the people will remedy the legislation of that year. The Republicans cry "anarchy" but anarchy has never found on the farms. In the clover fields. Anarchy, on the contrary, is found in the great buildings of the great corporations of the country. Concluding, he asked the convention to choose a man worthy of the great leader of the party, Bryan. Chose a man who is not afraid to stand on the principles of the Democracy; chose a man of the people who will stand unwaveringly for the people's cause.

Credentials—John Miller, Basis of representation—L. D. Lawther. Committee on executive committee—Joseph Brown. Gilmer. Chairman—William H. Jack. Resolutions—W. N. Arnett. Rules and order of business—W. H. Jack. Permanent organization—Joe N. Craddock. Credentials—F. M. Van Horn. Basis of representation—George Rhodes. Committee on executive committee—Joe M. Craddock. Hancock. Chairman—W. M. Lee. Resolutions—Dr. A. M. Anderson. Rules and order of business—D. W. Donald. Permanent organization—G. W. Ralston. Credentials—W. M. Lee. Committee on executive committee—W. B. Stewart. Basis of representation—L. S. Bannback. Harrison. Chairman—Orman Randolph. Resolutions—Howard Smith. Rules and order of business—William Hood. Permanent organization—M. G. Sperry. Credentials—Orman Randolph. Basis of representation—A. J. Michener. Committee on executive committee—Cred Preston. Lewis. Chairman—W. M. Brannon. Resolutions—P. G. Alford. Rules and order of business—Frank Whelan. Permanent organization—R. L. Bland. Credentials—C. E. Barb. Committee on executive committee—W. B. Metcalf. Basis of representation—D. Dilworth. Marshall. Chairman—Thomas Deegan. Resolutions—L. S. Newman. Rules and order of business—Quincy Cresap. Permanent organization—T. L. Davis. Credentials—J. E. Barnett. Basis of representation—Lewis Yeater. Committee on executive committee—D. A. Duray. Ohio. Chairman—J. A. Wood. Resolutions—F. H. Lange. Rules and order of business—William W. Johnston. Permanent organization—Dr. E. C. Myers. Basis of representation—J. J. Farrell. Credentials—A. G. Wilson. Committee on executive committee—G. C. Criss. Tyler. Resolutions—A. L. Colby. Basis of representation—Dr. E. M. Sellers. Permanent organization—A. C. McCormick. Rules and order of business—Boren Smith. Committee on executive committee—H. W. Furbee. Wetzel. Chairman—G. H. Unstead. Rules and order of business—B. J. Wade. Permanent organization—H. L. Smith. Credentials—B. M. Welch. Basis of representation—H. Chany. Committee on executive committee—A. T. Blair.

A resolution to take a recess until 2:30 p. m. met with vigorous opposition and the hour of 1:30 p. m. was substituted, after which the resolution was passed. The various committees then met and prepared their reports to the convention.

Some of the delegates or spectators left the park during the noon recess. Dinner was served to all comers in the park restaurant. During the recess the various candidates were busy at work on the delegates. Everywhere there was a feeling of uncertainty as to whom the convention would nominate. It was said to have been decided among the Ohio county friends of Colonel Arnett and Mr. Howard that the latter's name should be placed before the convention only in the event that it became apparent that Colonel Arnett could not secure a powerful support in the district outside of Ohio county. Naturally, therefore, the doughty colonel's friends were stirring about with great activity and it looked as though he would become the leading candidate, although it was not claimed that he had nearly a majority in sight. Mr. Pendleton was actively at work and had many warm admirers who did their best to advance their chief's interests. Colonel Kincaid, Mr. Kidd, Mr. Sperry and other candidates were also very much in evidence. It was nearly 2 p. m. when the convention reassembled.

Afternoon Session. The committee on credentials was not quite ready to report. Later the committee reported the regularly elected delegates from the eleven counties. These were no contests. Persons holding proxies, recommended the report of the committee, shall not be allowed to vote when there is objection from regular delegates.

The committee on permanent organization reported as permanent officers: Chairman, W. W. Brannon, of Lewis county, permanent chairman and Mr. W. E. R. Byrne, of Braxton county, vice chairman; Mr. W. H. Peck, of Ohio county, secretary, and representatives of the Democratic press assistant secretaries.

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agregational district of West Virginia in convention assembled, this 11th day of August, 1896, hereby adopt the following resolution. Resolved, That we heartily endorse the platform of principles enunciated at Chicago by the last national Democratic convention and endorse the candidates nominated at that convention for President and vice President.

The committee on basis of representation reported the following: Braxton county—Brooke 8; Doddridge 12; Hancock 12; Harrison 18; Marshall 12; Tyler 12; Wetzel 12. Total 84. The committee on congressional committee reported the following committee: Brooke county—Henry Zilkken, chairman. Braxton county—S. W. Moore. Ohio county—Frank C. Cox. Marshall county—D. A. Dorsey. Tyler county—G. V. Blair. Doddridge county—J. Blair. Harrison county—C. W. Johnson. Gilmer county—Joe N. Craddock. Lewis county—W. B. McGary, secretary. Hancock county—W. B. Stewart. Wetzel county—Benjamin Welch.

On motion nominating speeches were given for minutes and seconding speeches to five minutes. Nominating speeches for candidates for congressional nomination were then in order. Nominating speeches. When Brooke was called, Mr. M. P. Dryden, of Wheeling, was given the floor and proceeded to make a rattling speech, reviewing the issues of the campaign. In effect it was a claim that after thirty years of battling with protection at issue, the Republican party is compelled to meet the true issue, the money question. He likened Bryan to Lincoln, he would place in nomination a man who was borne on Democratic soil, was reared in a Democratic cradle, a man who has been true in victory and defeat, a man whose name would represent the people, a man who will represent the people, a man who will represent the people.

When Doddridge county was called, Major "Jack" Blair stepped up to the platform. In a vigorous speech he played off John O. Pendleton, of Ohio county, before the convention. He had redeemed the First district in 1890 and it took a Republican house to count him out. In 1892 he was triumphantly re-elected. He said his silver record could not be better; had he not voted for Bryan and silver bill and voted against to pass over the President's veto? He hoped the convention would seriously consider Mr. Pendleton and that it would be the pleasure of the convention to nominate him.

When Harrison county was called, Hon. Ira D. Post came forward and was accorded a magnificent reception. He would discuss the issues of the campaign. He would make a performance of duty of pleasure in presenting the name of a candidate, in behalf of the solid delegation from Harrison county. His candidate's intellectual circumference and measures up fully to "sixteen to one." His candidate had been an unwavering advocate of free coinage; he had been born and reared on a farm, and by the plow and the industry of the law, of which he is an honored member. In an eloquent peroration Mr. Post nominated Mr. M. G. Sperry, of Harrison county.

Woodford for Arnett. When Lewis county was called, Colonel Woodford, the original "sixteen to one" man of West Virginia, spoke. He had been himself a candidate, and some of the delegates were no doubt surprised to find him on the platform. With so many state candidates in his party of the First district, he had come to the conclusion that A. W. Woodford had no chance for a nomination. Anyhow, he was not familiar with the manipulation of politics. He had therefore, withdrawn. One Harrison county man had already been named; he had expected to nominate his friend Post, but Post himself had nominated Sperry. Therefore, he could not nominate Post. There was not in favor of giving preference to recent converts to the "sixteen to one" idea. The man he would nominate was Colonel W. W. Arnett, of Ohio county. If the convention has to take an Ohio county man, he felt sure no mistake would be made in nominating Arnett.

When Ohio county was called, Mr. E. H. Lange, seconded the nomination of Colonel Arnett. Mr. Lange's was one of the best speeches of the afternoon. At this point Hon. John O. Pendleton appeared on the platform and declined to continue as a candidate. He was glad to appear before such a magnificent gathering of Democrats who are willing to battle from now until November against monopoly and oppression. He asserted that at no time had he been a candidate for the congressional nomination this year, until within the past few days, when he had consented to accept the nomination in response to urgent solicitation from all parts of the district. It did come out at this late day only because he did not know that he was not afraid at any time to lead the Democracy of the First district. He would have accepted the nomination only in the event that timber of the proper calibre did not appear. He would, if this should have happened, have picked up the standard of the Democracy and tried to carry it to victory. Finding as he had, that there are four or five candidates of ability and character in the field, he could withdraw his name. He promised to be as active as the nominee of the convention in work for the Democratic ticket.

Mr. Carlin, of Braxton, seconded the nomination of Sperry, as did Mr. A. Wood "on behalf of the Ohio county delegation." Mr. Lytle Robinson, of Wetzel, seconded the nomination of Colonel Arnett.

A ballot was then ordered and was taken amid considerable confusion. The first county called, Braxton, created a surprise by giving two-thirds of her vote to candidates who were not formally before the convention. Pendleton, of Ohio, and E. P. Kidd, of Gilmer. Gilmer cast her ballot twelve for her favorite son, Harrison's twenty-two went to Sperry. All the counties after Lewis, Marshall, Ohio, Tyler and Wetzel counties held back their votes and there was much log-rolling and who pulling out. The Democratic candidates had had voted gave Arnett twenty-five, thirty-five, Pendleton fifteen, and Kidd twenty-five votes. Ohio county had a glorious opportunity to nominate Arnett. The twenty votes he had added to Ohio's fifty-two and what he had in sight in Wetzel, Marshall and Tyler would have nominated the Ohio county lawyer. Marshall finally reported, giving Arnett 84 votes and the balance to Pendleton and Sperry. With Ohio, Tyler and Wetzel still out, there was another long delay. Finally the chairman threatened to rule for the nomination without the votes of the three counties that had not announced their votes. Ohio county, in endorsing her strength almost equally between Arnett and Pendleton. Finally the vote was completed. It was:

Table with columns for county names and vote counts for various candidates.

no motion to close nominations had been made the delegate was in order. He earnestly sought the delegates to support the Gilmer county man. Second Ballot. The second ballot was taken with just as much delay as the first. A new man figured in this ballot, Chairman Brannon, of the convention, Arnett and Pendleton both had some strength. When Ohio was about to announce its vote, 31 votes being for Arnett, the secretary was called back and the delegation retired to "think it over." Both Pendleton's and Arnett's friends were trying desperately to swing Ohio's powerful support to their favorite. The delegation "camped out" on the hillside, and finally Sergeant-at-Arm McNeel would orderly bring the delegation back to the pavilion. To add insult to injury Ohio was not ready to vote when the delegation had returned. It was a case of "hit" with Tyler and Wetzel. Chairman Brannon threatened to close the ballot without the three "delinquents." This brought Tyler to time. Finally Mr. Byrne, who assumed the chair, said he would wait two minutes longer for Ohio to announce her vote.

Mr. B. P. Hall, of Braxton, moved that Ohio county be excused from voting until the next congressional convention. Another delegate wanted Ohio to hold another convention by itself to-morrow. Mr. Byrne then declared Ohio had forfeited its right to vote on the second ballot. Finally Wetzel reported its vote, giving 16 to Arnett and 2 to Pendleton. A delegate challenged the result and Secretary Peck called the roll of delegates with this result: Arnett 12, Pendleton 6. The result of the ballot was thereupon announced as follows:

Table with columns for county names and vote counts for various candidates.

The third ballot was attended by the same confusion as the first and second, only more so, and Chairman Byrne had a difficult time in managing affairs. The surprise of the ballot was the vote given Howard, 114. Before the ballot was announced, Colonel Woodford moved that the hindmost man be dropped. The motion was not entertained. The result of the ballot was as follows:

Table with columns for county names and vote counts for various candidates.

The fourth ballot was then taken. Gilmer was the county that held back the result this time. Ohio voted as it did on the third ballot. A feature of this ballot was the gain made by Brannon.

Table with columns for county names and vote counts for various candidates.

The fifth ballot was called for by the chairman. Gilmer broke from Kidd, casting her 12 for Brannon. Ohio finally came around to Arnett solid. Then Braxton changed almost her entire vote to Brannon, and Tyler voted solid for Brannon. Then Doddridge deserted Pendleton and divided her vote equally between Sperry and Brannon. Braxton changed again, the vote going solid to Brannon. Harrison set the tide in Arnett's direction by changing from Sperry to Arnett. At this change Arnett had 107 votes, with 7 to the nomination. Wetzel was the only county not voting and her 18 would nominate Arnett if cast for him. A great mass of humanity surged around the Wetzel delegation and for a time nothing could be done, but finally the chairman announced 18 for Arnett and the Ohio county man was nominated with votes to spare. Gilmer backed Brannon and went to Arnett. The ballot this stage of the proceedings was as follows:

Table with columns for county names and vote counts for various candidates.

Mr. Sperry moved that the nomination be made unanimous, and Mr. Brannon seconded the motion. Nothing could afford him more pleasure than to aid the election of Colonel Arnett. Mr. Pendleton said the action of the convention meets with the hearty approval of his friends throughout the district. Delegate Jack, of Gilmer, seconded the nomination of Arnett by acclamation. Mr. Howard was called upon, but Chairman Byrne asked for order and declared the nomination of Arnett unanimous. Mr. Howard had started from the rear of the hall in response to the call, but was kept in the foot of the aisle and kept from seconding the motion to make the nomination unanimous.

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