

CONNER FOR CONGRESS

THE BRILLIANT AND ELOQUENT DENISON ATTORNEY WILL SUCCEED SENATOR J. P. DOLLIVER IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS. THE CONTEST FRIENDLY BUT KEEN AND EXCITING. HIS FORCES WERE LOYAL THROUGHOUT AND LOYALTY BROUGHT VICTORY. NINETY-SIX BALLOTS TAKEN.

THE STORY OF THE CONVENTION!

J. P. Conner's Statement

THE convention was a remarkable one. It brought together the best politicians and workers in the district, and in addition, a large number of prominent politicians from other parts of the state. The contest between the several candidates was conducted in a spirit of friendly rivalry. While the struggle was intense, it was at all times free from acrimony and bitterness.

I feel very grateful for the enthusiastic support of the republicans of Crawford county, not only in the county convention, but also at Ft. Dodge. I am sure that no candidate in the convention had better or more effective workers than I had.

The delegation from Crawford county was composed of men who are expected to secure something when they go after it. While this is true, the same credit should be given the delegations from Greene and Webster counties and later on to Calhoun, Emmet, Kossuth, Humboldt and Pocahontas, which counties aided me in securing the nomination. My special thanks are due to the delegation from Greene county, whose unswerving support was given me from first to last, and stood like a Gibraltar against all opposition. It could neither be flattered nor frightened into wavering in its loyalty to me. It was indeed most gratifying to have such generous and loyal support from counties other than Crawford. I have no fault to find with the fact that other delegations were loyal to their candidates. They did the same by their home candidates as Crawford did by me, which is certainly commendable.

The candidates opposed to me were all high-minded gentlemen and eminently qualified to represent the District in Congress. It is unfortunate that out of the list of so many able men, but one candidate could be selected. I entertain for them all, and trust they do for me, the most friendly feeling. I feel that I have no enemies among the Republicans of this District. If elected to the office for which I have been nominated, it shall be my endeavor while ever faithful to the principles of republicanism, to be a representative of the whole people of the District without regard either to their party or factional affiliations. I expect and believe that I shall have the loyal support of every republican in the District, and with their aid I have no fear but that the old 10th District will maintain its proud position as the great stronghold of republicanism in this great republican state.

I desire in this manner to thank all my friends for their cordial aid in my behalf.

Yours sincerely,

J. P. CONNER.

Greene County Happy.

The result is the source of satisfaction, pure and unalloyed, to the Bee. And this satisfaction is the deeper because of the fact, generally admitted, that without minimizing the splendid support of other counties, it was the unswervingly loyal and determined votes of the twelve delegates from Greene county, given through ninety-six tedious rounds of balloting, and given through times of hope and times that far from hopeful, that finally won the day for Judge Conner. It was an old and true adage that constant dropping will wear away a stone.—Jefferson Bee.

STORY OF THE CONVENTION.

HON. J. P. CONNER, of Denison, was nominated for Congress at the Ft. Dodge convention on the ninety-sixth ballot. The great victory was due to the strength of Judge Conner's magnificent personality, and the absolute loyalty of his friends. Hence Denison rejoices and is glad to-day over the promotion of its honored and beloved citizen. The contest was not an easy one; eleven men were in the field, each having strong claims upon the consideration of the republicans of the district; each having valiant friends who left no stone unturned to secure their nomination. The honor conferred upon Judge Conner is all the greater because he was selected from such a field. While the republicans of this county are jubilant over the victory, they have no bitterness in their hearts toward those who honestly endeavored to secure the nomination for their various candidates. Especially does Crawford county remember with the warmest gratitude their valued friends in other counties, who for nearly one-hundred ballots, withstood all attempts to estrange them from Judge Conner and to vote for other candidates. No one will know the strain which they withstood, but we assure them that their loyalty and fidelity is appreciated to the fullest extent. For more than forty-eight hours the battle raged incessantly, keen minds and cool organizers were at work, and it was a task, not only upon the mental capacity of the workers but upon their physical endurance.

The story of the convention, like the story of any other great contest cannot be told, for each man saw it from a different view point, and each man's experiences were different. The real contest began on Monday when the delegates and supporters of the various candidates arrived. The hotel lobby filled with workers, and every room was the scene of some quiet conference. It became apparent as soon as the convention commenced balloting, that Judge Conner had an absolute voting strength of fifty-six; Greene and Crawford stood as a solid phalanx with twenty-three votes for Conner; Webster county plainly indicated its intention of casting its entire vote for the Crawford county candidate when it should be needed, while Emmet and Calhoun indicated by their votes that while they would support their own candidates if possible to nominate, they were for Conner for second choice.

During Tuesday afternoon seventy-five ballots were taken the seventy-fifth ballot being almost identical with the first. There was no break in the ranks of any candidate, and when adjournment was taken it was evident that the situation was almost as it had been before the convention was called to order. Before the session of Tuesday evening, it was evident that many propositions and counter-propositions had been made, in an effort to unite on various candidates; Kossuth county gave its fourteen votes in turn to the various northern candidates in the hope that when they saw the futility of their efforts, they might in turn come to Ingham, in this way DeWolf became for several ballots the leading candidate and for some time Ingham led in the balloting. No candidate received, however, more than forty-

seven votes, or thirty votes short of the nomination. At the close of the ninetieth ballot, the convention adjourned to meet again in secret conferences at the hotel; it was then that the contest rose to fever heat. Kossuth had intimated its intention that if no north-end candidate could be nominated it would go to Conner and this led to a secret caucus lasting until three o'clock in the morning, in which all the candidates except Conner, Ingham, McVay and Crim participated. It was agreed at this caucus that each one of the seven candidates should for three successive ballots receive sixty votes, thus leaving it with the opposition forces to select the nominee. This system was to be repeated four times, and if no nomination was secured, another caucus was then to be held; lots were drawn to determine the order in which the candidates were to be the recipients of these sixty votes. It must be confessed that when between three and four o'clock in the morning, Mr. Conner's friends became advised fully as to the results of the conference, they experienced about as bad a quarter of an hour as they ever care to go through with again. It was announced that eighty-three men had agreed that they would not under any circumstances vote either for Conner, Ingham, McVay or Crim. This left these gentlemen with a total strength of seventy votes, seven less than a majority. The weakness of this organization was in the impossibility for the caucus candidates to unite upon any one man, and so long as those outside the caucus refused to nominate the convention could be continued indefinitely, and as soon as an attempt was made by the caucus forces to unite in order make the nomination themselves, it was felt that there were many votes which would go to Judge Conner rather than to any other man save their county candidate. This was the strength of Judge Conner's position, but it required absolute loyalty on the part of the anti-caucus forces and this, we are glad to state, was forthcoming without a break on the part of any man. It was reported in the morning that four Greene county delegates had agreed to the caucus plan, but it was found upon a poll of the delegation that this was untrue. The reiteration of this statement by various papers is an injustice to Greene county's fidelity and its glory should not be tarnished by these false reports. The formation of the pool by the caucus candidates served Judge Conner's purpose in several ways. Firstly, it served to strengthen and solidify all the anti-caucus delegates; secondly, it served to unite the interests of Crawford and Kossuth; thirdly, it met the indignant protest of many individual delegates who were not willing to have their votes thrown hither and yon without their consent, and who preferred the nomination of Judge Conner as their second choice candidate. The caucus candidates were extremely confident of the success of their plans and were jubilant and rather inclined to be boastful of what they had accomplished during the night.

When the convention was called at nine o'clock Wednesday morning, both sides were eager for the fray; for the first time Judge Conner showed his real strength in the convention, on the ninety-first ballot he received five votes from Calhoun, eleven from Crawford, six from Emmet, twelve from Greene and sixteen from Webster. Kamrar, according to the caucus plan, also received fifty votes, the failure to secure sixty being due to the fact that Humboldt