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PEOPLE'S PARTY OF KANSAS.

### A DOUBLE-HEADER.

#### Two Sets of Officers Trying to Run the Lower House in Kansas.

### WORKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES

Most Complicated Situation Ever Known in Kansas Politics---The Senate Organized, but Doing No Business.

Now exists the most peculiar condition ever known in a Kansas legislative body. Two houses of representatives are holding forth in representative hall waiting to be recognized by the senate and the governor. At this time, Thursday morning, all the members, contestants and both sets of officers are in their seats waiting to hear the result of a conference between the party chairmen, Broidenthal, Jones and Simpson, with little hope of a settlement of the difficulty.

#### THE HOUSE.

At noon on Tuesday the interior of representative hall presented the appearance of a well-regulated church conference with no politics attached. The galleries were filled with well behaved spectators, and the members-elect kept gliding in to the floor in little bunches of two, three and four, all looking the picture of quiet determination. Outside the hall the corridors and stairways were a solid mass of humanity from the doors to the lower floor. Men and women crowded and jostled as though their life depended on their getting very near the entrance, for most of them knew well that there was no hope of their getting inside. The secretary of state's office had been besieged for hours by those who wanted admission tickets. But they were told that the tickets had all been issued to the members, and to them was the place to go for tickets.

The minutes glided away and the people on the floor became restless. They gathered in groups, talked in low but earnest tones, held miniature conventions, separated and gathered again. Some of them looked distressed. The republicans dreaded what was coming and the Populists did not seem anxious to force the action. A dozen reporters sat at the table yawning and writing stuff that was soon thrown away because it was too mild for the occasion.

At 1:25 p. m. Secretary of State Osborn appeared near the speaker's desk and met with a round of applause. Each member-elect seemed to clench his teeth

and draw himself together for business. The dreadful suspense was at its highest when the secretary mounted the stand and seizing the huge gavel, brought it down with a force that jarred the windows. It sounded like business. The audience became quiet.

Mr. Osborn said in pursuance of the duty imposed on him by the statutes, (quoting a part of the statute) he had come to lay before this body a list of the members-elect of the house of representatives. It had been the custom for

City, followed in the line of Douglass' objection, and relieved himself of some eloquence.

Secretary Osborn was equal to the occasion. He listened with calmness and fortitude until he was satisfied as to the course the insurrectionists intended to pursue. Then he dropped his gavel on the desk and left it there. With the assurance that he meant to adhere to the announcement he had made in the start, and that he was ready to lay before the house a list of the members-elect

but Cubbison remained at the desk. The republicans crowded to the front and continued making motions which only their chairman seemed to understand. They occupied the south side of the hall and the Populists the other side. During the confusion which followed, Cubbison's voice could be heard above the din, as he declared J. B. Remington to be elected temporary clerk, and later, Geo. L. Douglass permanent speaker.

It would have been strange if during all this racket the Populists had not become excited too. Their enthusiasm and indignation did reach a very high mark, by reason of the revolutionary methods their opponents were pursuing, but with the exception of one or two members, reason and good judgment held sway on that side of the house.

The situation was canvassed quickly. The republicans had refused to receive the roll of members from the secretary of state, and had made the first attempt at arbitrary organization. Now was the time to effect an organization that would be recognized by the senate, the governor and the people of the state. Republican members were crowding around their side of the speaker's desk to be sworn in. The noise was like that of a cyclone.

Mr. Dunsmore nominated J. B. Ryan, of Miami county, for temporary speaker, and Semple put the motion. Ryan was elected and was soon in the speaker's desk beside Douglass. Ben C. Rich was elected chief clerk, and soon afterward J. M. Dunsmore was elected and installed permanent speaker. Leroy Dix was elected sergeant-at-arms, other necessary officers were elected and the Populist organization of the house was completed.

Before the real organization was effected, the republicans had got so far along as to be introducing bills, but no one could tell what they were doing without getting one ear very close to the side of the speaker's desk and holding the other shut. By that means, one could hear Douglass say (as he took the papers that were handed up): "The gentleman from Marion introduces the following bill," and "First reading of the bill." The republicans flattered themselves that they had made the quickest time on record getting the law-making power in working order. Scarcely half an hour had passed since Osborn called the assembly to order, but most of the members and spectators present saw more excitement and confusion during that time than they had seen in a "deliberative" body during their lives.

The thing began to assume a ludicrous appearance, and the signs of bad humor disappeared from the faces of those who had shortly before shown an inclination to fight. The two speakers were making

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L. D. LEWELLING.

Inaugurated Governor of Kansas, January 9, 1893.

secretaries of state to act as temporary chairman at the organization of the house and senate, but as that was not required by law he would not attempt to do so except by unanimous consent of the members.

George Douglass, of Sedgwick, addressed "Mr. Secretary" and objected to his acting as chairman. He made a five minutes speech and was cheered by the republicans.

J. M. Dunsmore, of Neosho, talked in favor of the secretary as temporary chairman. He said it was true that the secretary had no constitutional right to preside over the house, but this was not the house. It was only an assembly of the men who claim to be members-elect of the house which is to be. He said when Mr. Douglass arose and addressed the secretary he recognized him as the chairman. He said it was necessary for the secretary to call the roll so that the members might determine who should be members. Douglass replied that the question of who were members had already been determined by the state officials. J. K. Cubbison, of Kansas

whenever the house was ready to receive it, he pocketed his roll sheets and left the hall.

For a moment the republican members were stunned, but their opponents were not swift to take advantage of the situation. The leaders of both sides left their seats, and in a moment more the house was in wild confusion, the leaders trying to hold conference and the other members wondering what would come next.

In a minute after the secretary left R. H. Semple, of Franklin, made for the speaker's desk, and capturing the gavel, began using it in a very businesslike manner. But it was no use, the Populists were not yet ready to push for an organization.

At this juncture the republican members lost their head and made their fatal mistake. J. K. Cubbison, of Wyandotte, took a position beside Semple and plied another gavel. Then Hoch, of Marion, moved that Cubbison be made temporary chairman. It will never be known how many voted on this or any other motion that was made during the next hour,