

THE VIRGINIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT.

FIRST DAY—JUNE 12, 1901.

The convention was called to order at 12 o'clock, meridian, by the Honorable John W. Daniel.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.
Mr. Daniel—Gentlemen of the Convention: I have been requested by quite a number of our colleagues to call this convention to order and to place in nomination a temporary presiding officer. In pursuance of that request I beg to ask that the gentlemen will take their seats, and that silence be observed.

In further performance of such request I have the pleasure and the honor of placing in nomination for temporary chairman of this body the Honorable William B. Pettit, of Fluvanna, and I pause to see or hear if any other nominations are to be made before putting the question of his election, as presiding officer of this convention. Gentlemen, is there a second to Mr. Pettit's nomination? There being no further nominations Mr. Pettit was unanimously chosen as chairman.

Mr. Daniel: This body having unanimously chosen Hon. William B. Pettit, as its temporary presiding officer, I beg to request that Mr. Pettit come forward and take the chair.

Mr. William B. Pettit thereupon took the chair.
Mr. Daniel: Gentlemen of the convention, I have the honor to present to you the Hon. William B. Pettit, who has just been chosen as your temporary presiding officer. (Applause.)

Mr. Pettit (on taking the chair): Fellow-members and gentlemen of the convention: I esteem it a great honor that you have conferred upon me the honor to preside, even temporarily, over so august a body of delegates of the people of our grand old Commonwealth of Virginia.

I think happy auguries may be drawn from the fact that we are here assembled on the twelfth day of June, 1901, just one hundred and twenty-five years since the adoption by the first constitutional convention ever assembled in the United States of America of that grand chart of human liberties, penned by the immortal Mason, of Virginia. Gentlemen, I think I can best show you my appreciation of the honors conferred by at once invoking you to proceed with the business for which you are here assembled. I now call the convention to order.

The first business in order is the selection of a temporary secretary of the convention.

TEMPORARY SECRETARY.
Mr. J. H. Lindsay—Mr. Chairman: If I am in order, I would suggest that the convention open its proceedings with prayer by the Rev. Mr. McIlwaine, who is, I think, a member of this body.

The Chairman: Mr. McIlwaine will be called upon for that purpose as soon as the convention has elected its temporary secretary.

Mr. Flood of Appomattox: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Mr. Joseph A. Button as temporary secretary of the convention.

Mr. Button was unanimously chosen temporary secretary.

TEMPORARY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.
The Chairman: The next business in order is the election of a temporary sergeant-at-arms.

Mr. A. C. Braxton, of Augusta: I move that Mr. Wilson be designated by the Chair as temporary Sergeant-at-Arms.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Mr. J. T. Lawless—Mr. President: I have the honor to introduce the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth—Mr. Chairman: As required by law, I have the honor to transmit to this body a list of the members elected to the Constitutional Convention of Virginia, as ascertained and determined by the State Board of Canvassers at their meeting, held on the 3d day of June, 1901, the record of which is on file in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Secretary read as follows:
"Commonwealth of Virginia:
"I, J. T. Lawless, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, certify that the following is a true and correct list of the members-elect of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia, for the term beginning this day, as ascertained and determined by the Board of State Canvassers at their meeting, held June 3, 1901, the official record of which is on file in my office.

"Given under my hand and the Lesser Seal of the Commonwealth at Richmond, this 12th day of June, A. D., 1901. (Seal)
"J. T. LAWLESS,
"Secretary to the Commonwealth."

ROSTER OF MEMBERS.
A complete list of members of the convention follows. All are Democrats except the eleven indicated in parentheses:

- N. B. Wescott—Accomac.
- Hon. J. M. Quarles and A. C. Braxton—Augusta and Staunton.
- W. H. Boaz and J. H. Lindsay—Albemarle and Charlottesville.
- F. L. Smith—Alexandria city and county.
- Judge George K. Anderson—Alleghany, Bath and Highland.
- Hon. Clarence J. Campbell—Amherst.
- Hon. John Good and J. Thompson—Barnes—Bedford.
- James Mundy (Republican)—Botetourt.
- Hon. Rufus A. Ayers—Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise.
- Robert Turnbull—Brunswick.
- E. W. Hubbard—Buckingham and Cumberland.
- Hon. John W. Daniel—Campbell.
- Hon. H. D. Flood—Campbell and Appomattox.
- W. L. Cobb—Caroline.
- Hon. D. W. Bolen—Carrroll.
- Hon. D. Q. Eggleston—Charlotte.
- Hons. J. H. Ingram and B. A. Hancock—Chesterfield, Manchester, and Powhatan.
- Hon. D. C. O'Flaherty—Clarke and Warren.
- Hons. W. Gordon Robertson and James W. Marshall—Craig and Roanoke counties and Roanoke city.
- John S. Barbour—Culpeper.
- Hon. B. J. Epps—Dinwiddie.

J. W. Willis—Elizabeth City and Accomac.

J. A. Bristow (Republican)—Essex and Middlesex.

Hon. R. Walton Moore—Fairfax.

Hon. Epps Hunton, Jr.—Fauquier.

Nathan Phillips (Republican)—Floyd and Franklin.

Colonel William B. Pettit—Fluvanna and Goochland.

B. A. Davis (Republican)—Franklin.

Hon. T. W. Harrison—Frederick and Winchester.

Judge G. T. Garnett—Gloucester and Mathews.

T. L. Gwyn—Grayson.

E. H. Lovell—Greene and Madison.

Gordon L. Vincent—Greeneville and Sussex.

Joseph Stebbins and Wood Bouldin—Halifax.

Hill Carter—Hanover.

S. P. Waddill—Henrico.

A. L. Pedigo (Republican)—Henry.

Hon. John W. Lawson—Isle of Wight.

Hon. Claggett B. Jones—King and Queen.

Hon. Roger Gregory—King William and Hanover.

Rev. W. F. Dunaway—Lancaster and Richmond.

Hon. J. W. Orr—Lee.

Hon. Henry Fairfax—Loudoun.

Albert Fletcher—Loudoun and Fauquier.

R. L. Gordon—Louisa.

L. A. Hardy—Lunenburg.

Hon. Carter Glass—Lynchburg.

George P. Tarry—Mecklenburg.

Thomas L. Moore (Republican)—Montgomery.

Dr. Thomas H. Barnes—Nansemond.

B. T. Gordon—Nelson.

Hon. M. H. Barnes—New Kent, Charles City, James City, York, Warwick, Williamsburg and Newport News.

Judge D. Tucker Brooke and Hon. A. P. Thom—Norfolk city.

Judge W. N. Portlock—Norfolk county.

Judge Gilmer S. Kendall—Northampton and Accomac.

Hon. C. Harding Walker—Northumberland and Westmoreland.

Hon. Walter A. Watson—Nottoway and Amelia.

A. C. Walker (Republican)—Orange.

Hon. R. S. Parks—Page and Rappahannock.

H. M. Hooker—Patrick.

Hon. William E. Cameron and Alexander Hamilton—Petersburg.

Hon. Eugene Withers, Hon. Berryman Green, G. W. Jones, and C. E. Miller—Pittsylvania and Danville.

Goodrich Hutton—Portsmouth.

Jonathan Woodhouse—Princess Anne.

Dr. Richard McIlwaine—Prince Edward.

Hon. Timothy Rives—Prince George and Surry.

J. B. T. Thornton—Prince William.

J. C. Wysoor—Pulaski and Giles.

W. T. Yancey—Rappahannock.

Hon. George D. Wise, Hon. Charles V. Meredith, Messrs. Virginius Newton, John Garland Pollard and James W. Gordon—Richmond city.

Hon. W. A. Anderson and J. W. Gilmore—Rockbridge and Buena Vista.

George B. Kezell (Democrat) and George N. Earman (Republican)—Rockingham.

Henry C. Stuart—Russell.

Hon. J. B. Richmond—Scott.

Hunter B. Chapman—Shenandoah.

Joseph L. Barham—Smythampton.

H. F. Crismond—Spotsylvania and Frederick.

A. T. Lincoln (Republican)—Smyth and Bland.

Thomas J. Moncure—Stafford and King George.

A. P. Gillespie (Republican)—Tazewell.

Colonel John C. Summers (Republican), and P. W. Campbell (Democrat)—Washington.

Robert W. Blair (Republican)—Wythe.

Mr. George B. Kezell—Mr. President: I suggest that the Secretary call the roll in order to ascertain if there be a quorum present.

The secretary having called the roll, the Chair announced that a quorum was present.

Mr. McIlwaine thereupon offered the following prayer:
"Almighty God, the author of all good, the source of every blessing, who look to Thee in every event of life for Thy directing strength, and for Thy upholding strength, and more especially in these important events of life when great issues are at stake. We desire to acknowledge Thee, and Thy blessing may rest upon us as a body, and upon each one of us as individuals; that we may be guided by Heavenly wisdom; that we may be directed by the omnipotent spirit of God, in things that are true and right and just and of good report; that there may exist from the very beginning to the very ending of our meeting, the support of harmony, of fellowship, and of concord, which, animating every mind, shall enable us, consulting with one another, to come to those wise and just conclusions which shall be for the benefit of the whole Commonwealth, and for the blessing of every individual who lives in it. Oh, God of Grace, who alone art sufficient in Thine own strength, who art our helper, we look to Thee and pray that Thy Divine blessing may rest upon us in the work which Thou hast given us to do and upon the great work which is committed to us, so that in every thing the Divine glory may subsist, the best interests of mankind. All of which we ask, for Jesus sake. Amen."

Mr. A. C. Braxton—Mr. Chairman: I move that this body do now proceed to the election of a permanent presiding officer.

OATH OF DELEGATES.
Mr. A. P. Thom—Mr. Chairman: I rise to a point of order. I do not think that this convention should proceed to the election of any permanent presiding officer until the members first taking the oath required by the constitution.

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