

THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

When the roll was called in the convention yesterday seventy-seven members answered to their names. The convention assembled at 10:30 o'clock, under the leadership of Mr. Lindsay Tuesday, something to do with the rather minutes earlier. The early hour may have been due to the fact that the attendance was so good.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. R. P. Kerr, of the Presbyterian church. There was very little routine business transacted during the morning hour. The convention seemed hurrying on to the calling of the standing committees.

When the calling of standing committees began, Mr. Walter Watson, of Norfolk, arose to answer to the call of the committee on Executive Franchise. Questions for office, and Basis of Representation. Mr. Watson represented of what is popularly termed the Suffrage Committee, but who was unavoidably absent. Mr. Watson stood in the main aisle facing the president's chair, and just opposite Mr. Daniel, chairman of the Suffrage Committee, who was to present the minority report.

Mr. Watson made a brief statement in presenting the report. He was heard all the while by the galleries, though he spoke in very low tones. Everybody wanted to hear. He was applauded as he sat down.

The reading of the report and plan by the secretary required about twelve minutes. In accordance with Mr. Watson's motion the report was ordered to be printed and laid on the table for future consideration.

When Mr. Wysox sent up the report signed by himself. It was read by the secretary and ordered to be printed and laid on the table for further consideration. At 11:30 o'clock Mr. R. Walton Moore, chairman of the Committee on the Legislative Department, moved that the convention go into Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the report of his committee, the motion prevailed, and Mr. Moore, who had the floor when the committee was called, moved in reply to the speaker of the General Assembly in passing the Wharton bill, which had had the effect of driving out the Southeastern Tariff Association, and seemed to think Mr. Newton a friend of the association. The latter declared he was glad the association had been expelled. But he declared that he was not in favor of depriving individual insurance men of their rights.

Referring to the charge that he advocated exempting money from taxation, Mr. Newton said he did advocate a form of taxation which should bring more revenue to the State, but he was not in favor of any such tax. He spoke with great earnestness and deliberation on the subject, and was loudly applauded.

Committee's report providing for sessions of the Legislature every four years. He made a strong argument for quadrennial sessions. The proposition was distinctly in the line of advancement. Virginia had in times past led the way, let her lead now. Mr. Parkes voted against the arguments advanced by the opposition.

Mr. Watson advocated biennial sessions and quadrennial elections. He said he would at the proper time offer to amend the report making the Senate composed of twenty-five members and the House of seventy-five. He made a powerful speech and was enthusiastically applauded.

Mr. Moore, chairman of the committee, was the first man to call for the question, and it was ordered. The vote was taken at 12:45, after a debate of six hours. Mr. Moore's motion prevailed, and the convention adjourned for quadrennial elections. The amendment was overwhelmingly defeated, the vote standing ayes, 21; noes, 41.

By unanimous consent the vote was then taken on the question whether the sessions of the General Assembly should be biennial or quadrennial sessions. The Harrison amendment was adopted, and the convention adjourned for quadrennial sessions. The committee then proceeded to the consideration of succeeding sections of the report, and adopted several. There was an amendment proposed to section 5, prohibiting any salaried officer from occupying a seat in the Legislature, but it was lost. The report as submitted was adopted as far as section 9, when, at the request of Chairman Moore, the amendment was allowed to allow the Legislative Committee to select the members of the report.

Mr. Glass offered a resolution directing the Committee on Executive Franchise to report a provision allowing women to hold the office of notary public. The convention adjourned at 1:50.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

Thursday, September 26, 1901. The Convention met at 10:30 o'clock A. M.

Prayer by Rev. R. P. Kerr, D. D., of Richmond. The PRESIDENT: The Secretary will call the roll of members. The Secretary called the roll, and the following delegates answered to their names:

Messrs. George K. Anderson, W. A. Anderson, Ayers, M. H. Barnes, Blair, Boaz, Bouldin, Braxton, Bristow, Brown, Cameron, Clarence J. Campbell, P. W. Campbell, Chapman, Cobb, Criswell, D. W. D. Flaherty, Orr, Parks, Pedigo, Phillips, Pollard, Portlock, Richmond, Nives, Robertson, Stebbins, Stuart, Summers, Thurston, Turnbull, Waddill, Walker, Walter, Watson, Criswell, W. H. W. W. Wood, and the enemy in Eastern Virginia and at the same time leave untouched the worthy but illiterate Anglo-Saxon of the mountain-side and to the west.

The PRESIDENT: It appears from the roll call that eighty-one members have answered to their names. The Secretary will read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings. The Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved.

Mr. HANCOCK: I notice in the stenographic report of my speech on yesterday that I said the Hon. William E. Cameron was elected Governor of Virginia in 1857 and that the extraordinary called by him was called in 1853. I should have said that he was elected Governor in 1851 and that the extra session was called in 1854. I desire to have this correction made in my speech referred to that extent.

I wish further to say that the stenographer is not at all to blame. It was a mistake on my part. LEAVE CHAIR FOR THE SECRETARY. Mr. FLOOD asked and obtained leave of absence for the Secretary (Col. Joseph Patton) for one day.

LEAVE CHAIR FOR THE DOORKEEPER. Mr. BOAZ asked and obtained leave of absence for the doorkeeper (Mr. A. O. Sullivan) for four days.

MEMORIALS. Mr. POLLARD presented two memorials from the Junior Order United Mechanics remonstrating against the appropriation of public funds to any institution or association, whether or not controlled by the Legislative Department.

Petitions praying for the adoption of the Constitution of the State. The no license to manufacture or sell intoxicating liquors shall be granted to any person except upon the written request of a majority of the registered voters in the precinct, town, or county in which such manufacture or sale is proposed to be conducted, were presented and referred to the Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights.

Mr. HAMILTON, from fifty-six citizens of Petersburg. By Mr. KEEZELL, from fifty-seven citizens of Rockingham county, and Mr. WATSON, from Rockingham and adjoining counties; and By Mr. MEREDITH, from nineteen citizens of Richmond.

Mr. MEREDITH: I present a petition signed by fifty-five ladies of Virginia, praying for a change to the law now in force, which gives to the father the paramount right to the children in cases where the husband and wife are divorced to live apart, to present the petition by request and I presume it will be referred to the Committee on the Legislative Department.

The PRESIDENT: The petition will be referred to the Committee on the Legislative Department. Mr. JAMES W. GORDON presented a memorial of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, remonstrating against the appropriation of public funds to any institution or association, whether or not controlled by the Legislative Department.

The PRESIDENT: The petition will be referred to the Committee on the Legislative Department. Mr. WATSON: Mr. President, in the absence of a distinguished member of this body, who was expected to have assumed this office, I have the honor to state that the Committee on Executive Franchise, Qualification for Office, Apportionment, and on Elections, has had under consideration the various subjects committed to its judgment, and that on so much thereof as relates to the franchise I wish to say that it is ready to make its report.

I would crave indulgence, Mr. President, to express to this Convention, to the people of Virginia and to the people of the United States, the gratitude of the kindly patience and sympathy so generously accorded the committee throughout its arduous labors, extending over many months.

Political, economic and social conditions, and the different sections of the State, have greatly complicated the undertaking and protracted the investigation beyond the anticipation of many wise men. I desire to express to you, Mr. President, the clock of time and to undo the work of thirty years of mistake and crime was not, Mr. President, the work of an hour, or a day, or a week, or a month, or a year, or a generation, but the enemy in Eastern Virginia and at the same time leave untouched the worthy but illiterate Anglo-Saxon of the mountain-side and to the west.

Those who have served in time of war in the army and navy of the country are excused from the payment of this poll tax as a prerequisite to voting, in order to the high duty which is owed to the State. As the State is, in a most generous way, and as the present efficient system of public education has existed in the State for nearly a century, it is not just to require an educational prerequisite to voting of those persons who shall register subsequent to the year 1901, and who shall register after January 1, 1904, not only as a just requirement, but also as, in some measure, a just acknowledgment of a possible corrupt admission to registration at some time in the future of persons not possessing the necessary requirements of an educated citizen.

The committee has endeavored to duly consider all the qualifications for suffrage other than those finally adopted. Section 1. The committee has considered the suggestion of property and its modifications as a basis of suffrage; but, being of the opinion that such a basis is not only inadvisable and impracticable to present to the Convention, but also that it is a mere educational test, it has earnestly considered a mere educational test, by which is meant a test involving the capacity merely to read and write.

In the opinion of the committee, the evidence whatever of fitness for the exercise of suffrage. Under modern conditions, the minimum educational requirements of citizens can both read and write. This means nothing unless accompanied by intelligent comprehension of the meaning of the words which are written. It would be necessary to add to this mere form of education, the practical duties and obligations of citizenship. It is proper to note that under the plan now submitted to the Convention no worthy citizen of Virginia who is intelligent and of legal age, and who is not excluded from the privilege of suffrage; and further, that this measure, approved, will, in the opinion of this committee, be a thoroughly efficient remedy for the evil now existing in the suffrage of Virginia and affecting its people.

In framing the Article suggested the committee has been inspired by the purpose to elevate and purify the elective franchise, to invest with value and dignity, the citizenship of this republic so far as resident in this State is concerned. It is the purpose of this committee to invest with value and dignity, the citizenship of this republic so far as resident in this State is concerned. It is the purpose of this committee to invest with value and dignity, the citizenship of this republic so far as resident in this State is concerned.

He shall offer to vote at least one year, and of the precinct of which he shall offer to vote at least thirty days, next preceding the election at which he shall offer to vote, who shall have been lawfully married, and who shall have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

He be a person who has served in time of war in the army or navy of the United States, or of the Confederate States, or of any State of the United States.

OR, He be a person who, or whose wife, shall have paid to the State taxes, for the year preceding that in which he offers to vote, amounting to as much as one dollar (\$1), on property owned by, and assessed against him or his wife.

OR, He be a person not embraced in either of the foregoing alternatives, who, when he offers to register, shall be able to give a reasonable explanation of the general nature of the foregoing provisions, under the laws then existing, be entitled to vote, and who, if physically able, shall have indicated his substantial attachment to, or identification with, the laws of the State, by being regularly employed or engaged in a lawful trade, profession, business, calling, work or service, for at least one-fourth of the time during the year next preceding that in which he shall offer to vote.

And provided further, that the provisions hereinbefore contained as to the payment of a poll-tax as a prerequisite to voting shall not apply to the first day of January, 1903, and that no person who has served in time of war in the army or navy of the United States, or of the Confederate States, or of any State of the United States, shall, at any time, be required to pay a poll-tax as a prerequisite to voting.

And provided further, that no person otherwise qualified to vote according to the provisions of this Constitution shall lose his right to vote in the precinct from which he has removed to another precinct in the same county or city until after the expiration of thirty days from the date of removal.

And provided, further, that any person otherwise qualified to vote according to the foregoing provisions, who shall register after the first day of January, 1903, and who shall not register in his own hand-writing, in the presence of one of the registrars, according to such form and to be verified on oath or affirmation in such manner as the Legislature may prescribe, shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence in this State or in any county or city within the State, or a temporary station or location therein.

Section 2. Any person who, in respect of age or time of residence, when the last registration before any election, or to attend any court as a juror, or witness, and shall not be subject to arrest under any civil process during his attendance at election, or in going to or returning therefrom.

Section 3. Electors in county and city elections shall possess the qualifications and be subject to the disqualifications prescribed in this Article, and shall be eligible to vote for members of the General Assembly for electors in any county or city of this State, as prerequisites for voting in any election for county or city officers.

Section 4. There shall be no educational test of reading or writing prerequisite to registration or to voting applicable to persons who shall register prior to the first day of January, 1904, and all persons who shall register prior to that date shall remain, during life, qualified electors, unless disqualified by other provisions of this Article.

Section 5. There shall be for each magisterial district and ward in this State, a board of three commissioners of registration to be appointed by the Circuit Court having jurisdiction over the district or ward, except that the first board under this Constitution shall be appointed by ordinance of this Convention.

An appeal shall lie to such Circuit Court from the decision of such board at the instance of any person who shall be denied registration.

The General Assembly shall enact laws to be necessary to prescribe the manner and terms of such appeal and generally to carry into effect the provisions of this section.

Section 6. All elections by the people shall be by ballot, and all elections by representative bodies shall be viva voce. The ballot-box shall, at all times during elections, be kept in view of the electors, and no ballot shall be counted in secret.

Section 7. The General Assembly shall provide by law for ballots without any distinguishing mark or symbol, and for the use of such ballots by the people.

Section 8. Judges of election shall be appointed for each precinct in the State by the judge of the Circuit Court having jurisdiction over the precinct, or in any county, city or town thereof, shall be appointed as commissioner of registration or as judge of election.

Section 9. The General Assembly shall provide by law for the fair and orderly conduct of all elections by the people in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 10. No voter, during the time of an election, at which he is entitled to vote, shall be compelled to perform military service, except in time of war or public danger, to work upon public roads, or to attend any court as a juror, or witness, and no voter shall be subject to arrest under any civil process during his attendance at election, or in going to or returning therefrom.

Section 11. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

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Section 45. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

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Section 47. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

Section 48. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

Section 49. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

Section 50. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

Section 51. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

Section 52. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

Section 53. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five months before any election, file with the clerk of the Circuit or Corporation Court of his county or city a list of the names of all persons who have paid in person to the State, at least six months prior to the election at which he shall offer to vote, a poll tax of one dollar, or the equivalent thereof, in the preceding year except as hereinafter provided; otherwise, shall be entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elected by the people; provided, that he shall be able to read and write.

Section 54. The treasurer of each county and city of the State shall at least five