

NOTABLE VICTORY IS ACHIEVED BY PROGRESSIVE FORCES WHEN THEY COMPEL CONVENTION TO ABROGATE UNIT RULE

SPEAKER CLARK RECEIVING AID OF PLUTOCRATS

He Is Made Choice of Belmont-Murphy-Ryan Crowd.

THEY TAKE HIM IN ORDER TO WIN

Abandon Hope of Naming Harmon, Underwood or Any Other Conservative—Their Aim Is to Defeat Progressives and William J. Bryan With One Blow.

BY SAMUEL G. BLYTHE. (Copyright, 1912.) [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Baltimore, Md., June 26.—Politics worked overtime at its traditional trade of making strange bedfellows in Baltimore Wednesday, and by midnight had the most complete collection of oddly assorted conspirators bunking with one another any convention since the Bryan stampede in 1896.

Not Harmony That Does It. Do not misunderstand me. It was not harmony that brought about these combinations, coalitions and confederacies. It was the lack of harmony, congested with ardent attempts to get something in return for the associations. The plutocrats plied did not consort with the horny-handed because they liked to, but because they had to.

The announced reason for all the manoeuvring, plotting, trimming, trading, coaxing, threatening, cajoling, arguing, dealing, crossing and double-crossing was the good of the party. The real reason, of course, was to hope each intrigant had of getting something over he wanted himself.

The most interesting feature of the day was the condition of the plutocrats and the man who prey for them. They began trembling before the temporary chairman roll call was completed on Tuesday, and they hadn't stopped at midnight. The plutocrats are scared, have been scared ever since the discovery of how narrow was the margin by which they defeated Bryan.

Senator Clark, of Arkansas, opposed the change as a reversal of all precedents, but was antagonized by Senator Rayner, of Maryland, who, taking sides emphatically with Mr. Bryan, said the time had come for overthrowing undesirable precedents.

In refusing to accept the chairmanship, Mr. Bryan said: "I appreciate the compliment, but I am not willing to act as chairman. I am a believer in harmony, but I think that the committee in its officers ought to be in harmony with the convention, and I am not in harmony with the organization of the convention, nor of the national committee, which controls the organization of the convention."

Champion Clark Only Way. The only way they could discover is the Champion Clark way. They learned early in the week that they might as well abandon the plan of naming Harmon, Underwood or any other conservative. They learned that the tem-

BRYAN REFUSES CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Declines to Take Lead in Making of Platform.

AFTER REFUSAL KERN GETS PLACE

Nebraskan Wishes to Be Left Free to Bring in Minority Report if He Thinks Best—Declares Himself Not in Sympathy With Forces That Rule Convention.

Baltimore, June 26.—Because he is not in sympathy with the forces "seemingly in control of the Baltimore convention," William Jennings Bryan today declined to accept the chairmanship of the resolution committee, unanimously tendered him.

When the committee met at 10:15 o'clock, Mr. Bryan was not present. His absence was disconcerting. No one appeared to know what the Nebraskan's attitude was, but it was rumored that he had said to several friends that he would not accept the responsibility of directing the platform makers. Nevertheless, it was decided unanimously that the place should be proffered him.

After brief discussion, it was suggested that a committee of Mr. Bryan's friends should be sent to his room to urge him to assume what the committee declared to be a duty to his party. Senators Rayner, of Maryland; O'Gorman, of New York; and Culberson, of Texas, were sent next haste to Mr. Bryan's rooms. The committee arrived too late. Mr. Bryan had started to the convention hall. Not sure he can support platform.

The committee of Senators returned to the convention hall and entered the committee room just in time to hear Mr. Bryan conclude a speech refusing to serve as chairman. The Nebraskan said he was not in sympathy with the forces who appeared to be directing the trend of political events in the party, and that he was not sure that he could support the platform presented by the committee. He declared that unless the platform embraced his ideas of true progress he would submit a minority report to the convention. He emphatically declined the honor his colleagues unanimously wanted to bestow upon him.

Senator Kern was turned to at once as representing the progressive Democracy, and there was no nomination in opposition to him. His election was unanimous, and the committee began its preliminary to closing the doors for the actual work of making the party platform.

As soon as the committee organized Mr. Bryan moved that the presentation of the platform be deferred until after the convention had nominated a candidate for President. Senator Rayner seconded the proposition. He urged a progressive platform, and particularly in reference to the tariff and direct election of Senators, on which planks there was found to be a division of sentiment. The proposal was approved by the committee by the vote of 41 to 9.

Must Not Have Perpetual Debate. "We do not want and must not have a perpetual debate between the candidate and the platform," said Mr. Bryan, in advocacy of his motion postponing action on the platform until after the nomination of the presidential candidate. "And," he continued, "the only way to prevent such a result is to name your man first. Indeed," he went on, "in these days the man is the platform."



Senator-Elect Ollie James, permanent chairman.

LONG STEP TOWARD PROGRESSIVISM

Virginia's Vote on Abrogation of Unit Rule Is Significant—Delegates Recorded in Favor of Pro-Wilson Motion Who Never Will Cast Their Ballots for Jersey Man—Ryan and Flood Vote to Retain It.

BY ALEXANDER FORWARD. Baltimore, Md., June 26.—Defeat at midnight, after hours of debate and by a narrow margin, of the enforced unit rule in those States which have presidential preferential primaries put the national Democratic party one step further in the march toward progressivism. There is no sense in trying to disguise the issue here presented. A majority of the delegates voted to release the Ohio Wilson men from the operation of the unit rule, thereby upsetting all precedent, simply because they thought delegates elected by a vote of the people should be bound only by their own pledges to their constituents. It was simply a bringing of the people closer to the government, which is what progressivism means in the last analysis.

Virginia's part in the vote was significant. It cannot be said to indicate a turning to Woodrow Wilson, although the immediate effect is to allow six Ohio delegates to go to Wilson, instead of being forced to vote for Harmon under the unit rule. Some of the Virginia delegates who will to-morrow or next day throw their votes to Underwood, and perhaps later to Clark, and certainly never for Wilson, cast their lot with the progressive movement and voted for the report of the minority of the committee on rules and order of business. Among those who voted to abrogate the unit rule in the Ohio case was Senator Claude A. Swanson. Others who voted the other way were among the seven who were recorded as "absent and not voting," having indicated their choice and then leaving for the places of abode. They were not counted.

The three votes for retention of the unit rule were cast by Thomas Fortune Ryan, H. D. Flood, John S. White, of Albemarle, and Granville Craddock, of Halifax. Mr. Flood and Mr. Ryan have but half a vote each.

Virginia's Part Is Conspicuous. Virginia's part in the voting was the most conspicuous of all. It was the only State to ask to be passed when the roll was called, and, as it is near the bottom of the list, this was unexplainable. When the roll was completed and the secretary called Virginia again, there was another delay asked for by Chairman Swanson. Alfred B. Williams and H. M. Smith, Jr., yelled frantically for an individual roll call of delegates from Virginia. At last Senator Swanson, mounting a chair, announced that, according to a poll made by Secretary John W. Price, Virginia voted fourteen ayes on the minority report and three noes, with seven absents.

Triumph of Pro-Wilson Motion Follows Wild Demonstration of Thirty-Three Minutes For New Jersey Governor, and His Stock Mounts Higher.

MANY DELEGATIONS NOW MAY BREAK, LEAVING RESULT IN GREATER DOUBT

Speaker Clark's Wave Seems to Have Reached Its Crest and Sentiment Is Crystallizing in Favor of Wilson, But Nomination on First Ballot Is Impossible—Friends of Bryan Practically Have Abandoned His Boom and Much Talk of "Dark Horses" Is Heard—Clark Delegates Are "Hearing from Home" for Their Votes Against Progressive Chairman and There Is Bitter Feeling Between Them and Adherents of Nebraskan.

Baltimore, Md., June 26.—The progressives in the Democratic National Convention claimed a notable victory to-night when they carried a motion abrogating the rule by which some State delegations were bound to cast their votes as a unit.

The fight for and against the unit rule was waged particularly about the State of Ohio, where eighteen district delegates had been instructed by primaries to vote for Woodrow Wilson, but where the State convention, controlled by the Harmon forces, had invoked the unit rule binding all Ohio delegates to the Ohio Governor.

The convention, by a vote of 565 1-2 to 491 1-3, voted that no State delegation should be bound by unit control except in such cases where a State law was mandatory on the subject.

Wilson supporters in the convention, who earlier in the evening had carried on a demonstration lasting thirty-three minutes, regarded the vote as distinctly favoring their candidate. The Wilson boom had been growing throughout the day.

Wilson gained and Harmon lost eighteen votes from the Ohio delegation as a result of the fight. It was said the abrogation of the rule might lead to breaks in other delegations, and this left the presidential nomination race to-night in a greater doubt than ever.

Hisses and Groans Greet New York's Vote. New York's solid block of ninety votes was cast in favor of continuing the unit rule amid hisses and groans. Missouri, the home State of Champ Clark, split, 29 to 7, in favor of the unit rule, and this result also was received with groans. When Nebraska and Kansas voted solidly for the abrogation of the unit rule, there were cheers from the Wilson forces. Pennsylvania, a Wilson State, gave a big majority for abrogation.

There had been report during the day of a growing sentiment in the New York delegation in favor of Governor Wilson. The delegates voted under the unit rule to-night in casting its ballot against the proposition fostered by the New Jersey Governor's supporters.

The fight over the unit rule carried the evening session well along toward midnight. The report from the committee on credentials then was received. As there was a minority report requiring discussion, adjournment was decided upon until noon to-morrow.

William Jennings Bryan, returning to his hotel from the committee on resolutions, where he had spent the evening, was given a big demonstration by the delegates gathered there. Several of his friends warmly congratulated him on the vote in the convention overturning the unit rule. Mr. Bryan said: "I was not even in the convention, but I am very much pleased, of course, over the vote. I will not attempt to predict what the effect will be on the nominating vote to-morrow. The convention has taken this stand for the right principle, for I do not believe any convention has the right to overrule a State law."

Situation Complex and Uncertain. With nominations due to be made to-morrow, the situation with respect to a presidential contest was as complex and uncertain to-night as at any time since the delegates began to pour into Baltimore.

There was much talk of a subsidence of the Champ Clark wave, which reached its crest last night, but the Speaker's campaign managers were not willing to admit there had been any wavering in their forces. At the same time they went to the convention hall to-night with the expressed purpose of forcing the issue at the earliest possible opportunity. The opposition forces, hearing of this plan, prepared to block it. They did not wish the nominations to be made until to-morrow, hoping the situation might clear a little by that time.

The adherents of Woodrow Wilson jubilantly claimed to-night that their candidate had made distinctive gains during the day. They asserted that some of the Clark sentiment was turning toward the New Jersey Governor, and were in a more hopeful mood than at any time during the convention period.

Dark horses were being discussed everywhere by the leaders and delegates to-night, but there appeared to be some difficulty in crystallizing sentiment as which of the dark horses was darkest. Senator John W. Kern, of Indiana, Mr. Bryan's choice for temporary chairman of the convention and chairman of the party platform committee, still appeared to hold the lead among the dark horses. The coalition of the Bryan and Wilson forces in the first fight of the convention, however, led to talk of the Bryan strength ultimately going to Wilson.

No Nomination on First Ballot. The one outstanding fact in the situation seemed to be the absolute impossibility of any candidate having a sufficient number of votes on the first ballot to nominate. The two-thirds rule prevailing in the Democratic convention always makes the picking of a candidate in advance a difficult problem.

After the first ballot is taken, it remains to be seen how well the Clark managers can hold their votes together. Some of the delegates predicted to-night that the voting would run through a large number of ballots, while others predicted with equal confidence that the "breaks" would come quickly and a nomination made on the second or third call of the roll.

Friends of Mr. Bryan practically ceased to boom him as a presidential candidate to-day, though they were reported alert to take

Convention Adopts Pro-Wilson Report

Baltimore, Md., June 26.—On the motion to substitute the minority, or pro-Wilson, report from the committee on rules, this report denying the right of State conventions to apply the unit rule, for the majority report, which recognized this right, the convention voted as follows:

Table with 3 columns: State, Yea, No. Lists states from Alabama to Puerto Rico with corresponding vote counts.