

THE FORMAL CONVENTION WORK WELL BEGUN

Earnest Mass-Meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.

COMMITTEES DECIDED ON

The Interior Cities to Be Recognized in the Organization.

SENATOR WILLIAMS PRESIDES.

He Will Select the Men to Do the Heavy Work To-Day and To-Morrow.

The fight for the convention has assumed formal shape.

Within twenty-four hours an executive committee will be at work, and within forty-eight hours all the machinery of organization—finance committee, transportation and committee of promotion—will have assumed their functions.

It all came out of the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon, at which the merchants, Union League and Half-million Club discussed the situation and named the steps to be taken.

There was no nonsense about that meeting. It was determined that it was no time for spread-eagle oratory, and even parliamentary practice had to take a back seat occasionally in favor of expediency. They were business men who were there to attend to business of the utmost importance. Nobody tried to make a long speech, and communications which did not refer to the business actually at hand were incontinent referred to committees in order that there might be no delay.

Another peculiarity of the meeting was that it started promptly on time. The meeting was set for 3 o'clock, and at that hour General Friedrich was in the chair. Among the gentlemen prominent at the meeting were:

M. M. Estee, S. W. Backus, M. H. de Young, Alfred Bouvier, C. H. Friedlander, George H. Pippy, P. B. Cornwall, Oscar Tolle, A. H. Castle, J. M. Litchfield, John T. Dare, C. Mason Kinne, Senator A. P. Williams, George Spear, Dr. Lawler, M. Cooney, Clement Bennett, Hugo Keil, Captain John Lafferty, H. P. Sonntag, Hugh Craig, J. L. Field, Charles Montgomery, A. G. Booth, David Rich, E. Palmieri, H. A. McCroney, A. S. Baldwin, Wendell Easton, General R. H. Warfield, Colonel W. R. Smedberg and numerous others. Nearly all of these gentlemen have taken part in business of public importance and understood exactly what they were there for. Each one had his plans made up, but was willing to be convinced that some other citizen's views were better to accomplish the object for which they all came. So it was that amendments were piled on amendments until everybody had his say, and then some broad-minded member would up with a substitute embracing the best features of all the plans proposed, and in the end these features were adopted.

General Friedrich opened the meeting with a very short address:

"I have been requested to call this mass-meeting together," said he, "for the purpose of devising ways and means toward having the next Republican National Convention meet in San Francisco. I heartily congratulate you that the present outlook is so favorable, and, with a little concerted effort on our part, I believe that success will crown our efforts. This is a business meeting composed of business men; no partisanship of any kind should be allowed to intrude itself, but we should, irrespective of politics, unite in one endeavor to bring the convention here.

"The Union League Club, a couple of months ago, appointed a committee toward arranging for this convention. All of the National Committeemen have been written to by this committee, and almost every one of them has replied. It would appear, from their replies, that San Francisco is now within six votes of having a majority of the National Committee. That is certainly encouraging and should inspire us all with enthusiasm.

"The press of San Francisco, for once united and earnest, have already practically solved the financial problem. As a result of their generous efforts over one-half of the necessary funds has already been voluntarily subscribed, and without any other effort made with the people except to give them an opportunity to subscribe. The press and the Union League Club have so far had control of the affair. The time has now arrived when no club is capable of coping with the movement, and as a result the community have been called together to take charge. Hence this meeting.

"I have the honor of leaving the matter in your hands. The first in order is for you to nominate a chairman to preside over you. I, myself, decline to be a candidate."

"Mr. Chairman," said Colonel John F. Dare as he rose from the center of the room, "I rise to place in nomination for permanent chairman of this meeting a man who has a national reputation; one who is known among the politicians all over the Union; a man who has represented this State in a Senatorial capacity, in the halls of the National Capitol. I place in nomination Colonel A. P. Williams."

The applause that greeted the mention of the gray-haired Senator's name was deafening, and before it had subsided the nominations were ordered closed and his selection made unanimous.

At almost any other meeting the presentation of the chairman would have been a matter for oratory and argument. The retiring temporary chairman would have been sure to laud his successor to the skies under the cloak of introducing him, and the better he was known the more florid would have been the arguments and the longer the introductory speech.

Think what an opportunity the introduction of Senator Williams was: "Our sterling citizen," "Services to his country," "Ever in the fore rank of movements that concern the public interest and prosperity"—what an elegant opportunity for

a voice quivering with emotion and the good food of rhetoric! But this was not that kind of a meeting. General Friedrich put the chairman before the meeting in half a dozen words, and the chairman smote his desk with the gavel and called the meeting to order.

General Williams said: "Mr. Chairman and fellow-citizens: I thank you for this mark of esteem and will try to the best of my ability to assist in this matter. I, like all of you present here to-day, feel a sense of pride in that I live in California and in San Francisco, but I recognize and we want our friends in the East to recognize that this is a part of the United States and we desire recognition—we demand recognition, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as citizens of the United States. Up to this time our recognition has been pretty near nil. In future we will demand more."

"We want the people who come from the East to realize that three-quarters of our Nation is even west of Indiana, and nearly half the population is in the West. For this once let us lay aside all our little bickerings, all our little jealousies, and work together to bring one and perhaps both National Conventions to San Francisco."

"At this time let me in all candor award the meed of praise to the press of San Francisco for the interest and enthusiasm with which it has taken up this project. I tell you when the press of this City and this State unite that they are invincible. Let them get behind us or, us behind them, as the case may be, and we are bound to succeed. It is not necessary to tell you that there would be no advertisement in the world equal to that which California would receive by holding a National Convention in this City."

"The whole State is interested. It is not San Francisco alone."

Then Chairman Williams had read a letter that roused the enthusiasm of the meeting. It was as follows:

PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., November 4, 1895.
It would afford me great pleasure to accept your cordial invitation to meet the representative business men of this City at the Chamber of Commerce at their meeting this afternoon to formulate plans in reference to holding the next Republican National Convention in this City, but I am obliged to leave the City this afternoon, and so with great regret must forego the pleasure of being present.
I came to California purely on a pleasure trip

ter, and my idea is that we should have a committee. Mr. Easton might then be chairman of a general committee. At present he could be treasurer of nothing unless of our consciences. I move that the chairman appoint a committee of fifteen—not a partisan committee, but one made up from the representative civic and commercial bodies of the City, the various civic societies of San Francisco, the various exchanges, the Union League Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Half-million Club, etc. What we want is a representative general convention committee. That committee will appoint a chairman, secretary and treasurer, and out of it shall be named sub-committees for its purposes—among them a committee to go to Washington in December and to there appear before the National Committee."

Just here M. H. de Young stepped forward with a paper in his hand. It proved to be a resolution embodying substantially what Mr. Bouvier had suggested.

"It is needless to repeat the old adage," suggested Mr. Bouvier, "about great minds all running in the same channel," and with this he accepted Mr. de Young's resolution. It was seconded, but not put for quite a time, because a number of other gentlemen had different views about the course to be pursued. General Backus was the first on his feet.

"I do not think," said General Backus,

ments, counter-amendments and suggestions, turned at last and made a bit of speech to bring his paper to the surface again. He said:

"We are met here to organize toward bringing the National Republican Convention to San Francisco, and not to spread honors around promiscuously over the City. We must organize and carry out our work. My list of fifteen is sufficient. If you increase it you will have a mob, and whoever heard of a mob accomplishing anything. If you have a committee of 100 you will never get a quorum once a month. It would take fifty-one to make a quorum of the large committee, and they would never come together once a year. In addition to the fifteen I intend to suggest a committee of seventy-five to have charge of the transportation and the like. If you want a large body to distribute honors among you make out a promotion committee, whose duties will not be very important."

A stalwart voice from the rear of the hall took up the argument. It was Mr. Sullivan of Santa Cruz. "Santa Cruz," he said, "is the only place that has put its name down for money on your list outside of San Francisco. This convention is for California first and for San Francisco second. The committee should be large enough to take in members from the interior. You can always get a quorum."

previous question, prefacing the call with a suggestion that in addition to the general committee a committee of promotion consisting of 100 members from all over the State be appointed."

The chairman suggested that all the motions be withdrawn, but nobody withdrew them. General Backus was the Moses that led them out of the wilderness.

"It is not exactly parliamentary," said Backus, "but here is an easy way out of it. Let us vote on the various motions, taking the smallest one first, and if that is not adopted we can go on voting on the larger number until we reach the view of a majority of the meeting."

General Backus' idea was enthusiastically adopted. Mr. de Young's resolution for a general committee consisting of fifteen members was put and carried. That disposed of the whole matter.

Then other committees were provided for. P. B. Cornwall came forward with a motion.

"I suggest," said Mr. Cornwall, "that a committee of twenty be appointed by the chair, with power to increase the number to eighty if advisable. This committee can be made up in part of members in the interior, and may be charged with the collecting of funds and otherwise promoting the project."

"I move that the chair be instructed to appoint a committee of 100 on promotion

bids for favor are offset by our remoteness from the great centers of population, and the fact that our standard time is several hours behind that of the other great cities of the country, thus preventing the publication by the morning papers of New York and Boston and Philadelphia and Chicago of the late proceedings of the convention the previous day."

There will be other objections, just and unjust, urged against the selection of San Francisco as the place of holding the convention, but those I have mentioned are the principal ones and will be the hardest to overcome. And now is the time to devise ways and means to nullify them. On that point I have no advice to offer, further than to suggest that when the proper ways and means have been adopted they be entrusted to the care of men capable of operating them for all they are worth, and more than they are worth, if possible. Much will depend upon the personnel of the committee that you will select to present San Francisco's claims. To insure success it must be made up of men who are not afraid of the respect of this community and are qualified to compel that of those whom they shall try to influence. While defending San Francisco from malicious asperses they must be ready to administer a knock or two on their own account—to hit a head when they see it. While extolling the merits and advantages of our beloved City they must not neglect any opportunity to expose the repulsive features of her rivals."

Pittsburg is said to be our most formidable opponent, and it should not tax the gray matter of California advocates to evolve arguments sufficient to slaughter Pittsburg's chances. Let him compare the soot-laden atmosphere of that city with the salted ozone that is constantly on tap in San Francisco, and assure the committee that here the delegates to the convention could keep their lungs expanded and their lungs immaculate all the year round. And in mentioning Chicago, also conspicuous in the race, he may incidentally remark that instead of being equipped with a canal flowing with liquid filth, this City has the prettiest and cleanest bay in all the world. These are only minor details, but they count. When the Scotch philosopher declared that "mony a mickle makes a muckle," he provided a text that might with safety be adopted as a motto for the guidance of men who are to have the honor of laying San Francisco's claims before the National Republican Committee."

Another communication was as follows. It was submitted by T. B. Morton:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Nov. 4, 1895.—We, the citizens of the State of California and of San Francisco, in mass-meeting assembled, do hereby express our sincere desire for the convening of the Republican National Convention in this City in 1896, knowing full well that San Francisco is competent on all lines to care for such a convention in a manner second to none in the Union. The inducement and advantages we can offer are many and varied. Our unsurpassed climate and natural resources; the great importance of California to the rest of the Union, so far as regards her mineral wealth, agricultural products and natural resources, which are capable of affording paying investments for millions and labor for the great army of unemployed—these and other features are potent reasons why the convention should be held here.

In convening the convention here we will be enabled to enlighten the representative men of the Nation as to the absolute necessity of the early completion of the great Nicaragua canal, which will be the means of increasing our trade with the Orient, islands of the sea, the western coast of Mexico and the South American republics. If these great avenues of trade and wealth can be properly placed before the American people, we firmly believe the whole nation will be benefited, and we believe all of this can be accomplished by the convening in this City.

Besides these many advantages we believe the candidates for the Presidency should be selected by the people through their representatives. In convening the convention here, this being the most remote city having no candidate of its own for National honors places all candidates before the delegates alike on an even basis, with no local influence to intimidate and overawe, and leaves the delegates free to vote for the choice of their constituents or make their own selections, and the people for once will choose the candidate and not the politicians. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the chairman be authorized to appoint a committee of seven, four Republicans and three Democrats, to go to Washington and lay the claims of San Francisco before the Republican National Committee, and use every honorable means to cause the convention to convene here in 1896.

Chairman Williams will notify all the committeemen of their appointment. He will name the general committee named in Mr. de Young's resolution within twenty-four hours and the others within forty-eight hours.

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The subscriptions continue to pile up from all quarters of the state, and the rivalry to see who can do the best is making it interesting for those who are in the movement.

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GREY BROS..... 100

GOLDEN WEST HOTEL..... 100

HALE BROS..... 100

W. K. VANDERSLICE & CO..... 100

KOHLBERG, STRAUSS & FROHMAN..... 50

NEWMAN & LEVINSON..... 50

GROOM & HAGAN..... 50

HOLLENBECK HOTEL (Los Angeles)..... 100

VALLOO AQUATIC CLUB..... 100

MARK STROUSE..... 50

S. SOLOMON..... 50

OAKLAND "ECHO"..... 25

TOTAL.....\$74,920

Within the next twenty-four hours, through the exertions of the committee appointed by the chairman of the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, it is likely that the people of California will see some substantial additions to the fund.

CONVENTION RATES.

Southern Pacific and Santa Fe Waiting to Hear From the Association.

Both General Passenger Agent Goodman

Continued on Fourth Page.



SOME OF THE MEN WITH IDEAS WHO SPOKE AT THE CONVENTION MEETING.

"that the number named in Mr. deYoung's resolution is enough. We should not limit ourselves to such a small list. In order to take in all the societies in San Francisco we should have a much larger committee. I move to amend the resolution by increasing the number to twenty-five."

"I agree with the speaker and move to make the number fifty," said George Pippy. "This will divide up the work. No small committee can attend to it properly."

"On the other hand, I think that fifteen is too many, and I move to make it ten," said David Rich.

"It would appear to me, on reflection," said General Friedrich, "that even fifty is not large enough. If this committee is to appoint all the sub ones, it ought to be composed of as many organizations as possible; localities outside of San Francisco should also be given recognition. I move to amend the amendment by increasing the number on the committee to 100."

"I suggest that it be made seventy-five; fifty to be given to San Francisco and twenty-five to the interior towns," Mr. Tolle said.

M. Cooney agreed with General Friedrich, except that he thought the number should be 100, as the entire State was interested.

Mr. de Young, who had been patiently waiting, his resolution getting further and further buried beneath the load of amend-

ment and subscription, to be made up both from San Francisco and outside towns," said John T. Dare.

"The suggestion of Mr. Cornwall that the committee of twenty be empowered to increase itself is good," said M. H. de Young. "They can appoint the number better than the chairman. It will be almost impossible for the chairman to do so."

"I thoroughly agree that the task of selecting a committee of one hundred will be well-nigh impossible," said Chairman Williams.

"I have spent most of my life in the interior towns of the State," said Mr. Dare, "and I know what effect the selection of men in those towns by this committee would be. The interior is at present enthused over the idea of bringing the convention to the coast, and they will feel greatly honored if the chairman of this meeting officially selects one of their representative citizens to act on their committee."

"If this committee simply appoints aids to help them collect in the various towns it will dampen their ardor, I feel sure."

"I favor Cornwall's motion," said General Friedrich. "It is practical and gives a basis for us to act on."

"I withdraw my amendment in favor of Mr. Cornwall's motion," said John T. Dare, and Mr. Cornwall's motion was passed.

Then George Pippy introduced a resolution. It was as follows:

Resolved, That the chairman appoint imme-

mediate a committee of five to be known as the committee of transportation. It shall be the duty of this committee to immediately communicate with all transcontinental roads and secure from them definite and positive assurances as to the rate they will give for transporting the National Committeemen, delegates and attaches of the Republican Convention of 1896. This committee shall make its report as soon as possible to the executive committee."

"Mr. de Young's resolution provides for that," said Mr. Bouvier.

"The gentleman is mistaken," retorted Mr. Pippy. "I call for the reading of Mr. de Young's resolution."

"Move, we adjourn," interjected Mr. Bouvier.

"Do I hear a second?" asked the chairman.

"Is not Mr. Bouvier a little hasty?" interrupted General Friedrich.

The motion to adjourn was allowed to go unnotified until Mr. Pippy's resolution had been put. It was carried, Mr. Bouvier bravely and sternly voting "no." Then Mr. Bouvier's motion was taken up and the meeting was over.

During the debate a number of communications had been passed up from the floor. These were not read because they were not considered pertinent to the issue immediately before the house.

Among the communications is this one from L. S. Friedlander:

We can afford to be severely practical in our

discussion of this project. Let us endeavor to look at the situation as it appears to the disinterested observer, and to estimate from that standpoint the strength or weakness of our demand that the next National Republican Convention be held in San Francisco. We should try to imagine ourselves in the place of the National Republican Committee, for we are working on the assumption that the deliberations of that body will not be influenced by either predilection for or prejudice against any applicant for the convention, but will award it to the city that proves itself best entitled to it on the ground of expediency and every other essential consideration. We must remember that San Francisco has several active and inactive rivals in the field, and that they will be as eager to expose our disadvantages (for we must not flatter ourselves with the best of us) as we will be ready to deny their false representations.

We cannot persist in our candidacy without provoking a fierce and unscrupulous onslaught, and as we have no idea of relinquishing our candidacy while there remains any possibility of capturing the prize it is plainly our duty right now and here to look the prospect squarely in the face and decide upon an effective campaign. We have not hesitated to sink political and partisan considerations in a broad effort to help San Francisco, and surely we can afford to weigh San Francisco's present aspiration fairly—as it will be weighed by the committee—without pronouncing ourselves destitute of local patriotism or inviting suspicion that we are harboring a desire to depreciate our City's self-esteem.

Our claims will be weighed by comparison, and it would be superfluous at this time and in this place to recapitulate them, for they have been set forth so often and so intelligently in the press that every one here is conversant with them. But you may not be so well informed as to the plans that will be filed in opposition to us. When we have expounded to the committee all the exclusive advantages we possess in the way of climate, hotel accommodations, etc., the other fellows will take the floor and endeavor to show that our strongest

bids for favor are offset by our remoteness from the great centers of population, and the fact that our standard time is several hours behind that of the other great cities of the country, thus preventing the publication by the morning papers of New York and Boston and Philadelphia and Chicago of the late proceedings of the convention the previous day."

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