POPULIST SHIP IS HEADING TOWARD THE FUSION REEFS

STRIFE OF WARRING FACTIONS THREATENS TO WRECK THE CRAFT

There'll Be Mutiny Aboard if Maguire's Southern Seamen Succeed in Getting Control of the Helm.

Middle-of-the-Road Members of the Crew Certain to Desert Unless a Pilot of Their Own Choosing Be Put in Charge.

SACRAMENTO, July 12.—At midnight the fusionists were loudly asserting that they were complete masters of the situation; that they would elect E. L. Hutchinson chairman of the convention and would deliver the party over to Maguire.

Chairman Wardell of the State Central Committee called a caucus late to-night, which was held in the dining-room of the State House. Wardell, in calling the caucus to order, said that several members of the committee met this afternoon to ascertain the will of the majority in regard to organizing the convention, and decided upon a caucus.

The first victory for the fusionists came when a motion was made and carried pledging the delegates to abide by the action of the caucus. In vain the middle-of-the-roadsters protested, and when the motion was finally carried R. H. Webster and his followers withdrew, leaving the fusionists in complete possession.

From that time everything was harmonious. Van Meter of Fresno was elected chairman of the caucus and Gregory of Alameda secretary.

When nominations for chairman of the convention were called for Douglass T. Fowler of Alameda and E. L. Hutchinson of Los Angeles were nominated. The ballot was secret and Hutchinson was announced to be the choice of the caucus by a vote of 55 to 21. This shows the strength of the fusionists at the present time.

Gregory of Alameda was chosen secretary by acclamation, and after considerable discussion as to the programme to be followed it was decided to caucus again to-morrow.

The anti-fusionists, though somewhat disconcerted at the outcome of the caucus, are still full of fight and say they are by no means whipped. They say the 76 votes for chairman show the full strength of the fusionists, while many of the middle-of-the-roadsters will not be here until morning. Some of them talk of bolting the convention if fusion carries and nominating an independent ticket from top to bottom. Johnson, the veteran journalist and one of the earliest Populists in California, opposes this plan, and in the event of fusion will issue a call to the Populists of the State, declaring that the party has been delivered over to Maguire by spoilsmen; and, as the best way to defeat their object is to make every Populist vote count for two, he will urge that every Populist vote for the Republican head of the ticket and support the remainder of the fusion ticket. The ballot will serve the double purpose of defeating the place-hunters and demonstrating the strength of the Populists and serve to keep the party alive.

This plan is meeting with much favor among the middle-of-the-roadsters and it will undoubtedly receive their united support.

J. J. COREY.

Some Populists and Others Who Lined Up on Sunday Night to Ornament the Hotel Register.

BREAKERS AHEAD OF PEOPLE'S PARTY

If Fusion Wins Many Delegates Will Walk Out of the Convention.

SACRAMENTO, July 11.—That there will be a spirited and hotly contested fight over the fusion proposition when the Populist Convention meets to-morrow morning in the Assembly chambers at the State Capitol is now evident. Judging from the tenor of the remarks of some of the delegates there is every indication of a split in the Populist ranks. If an open rupture is avoided it will be due to the radiance of some guiding star that has not thus far appeared on the political horizon.

Quite a number of the delegates from the southern portion of the State are in favor of fusion. With them fusion is synonymous with Maguire. The fine work of the Gallagher-Maguire wing of the Democracy is now showing. The southern fusionists want to see Congressman Maguire nominated for Governor, as they believe that it will strengthen his fight in the Democratic convention.

From the counties of the north delegates have been sent who are opposed to Maguire and fusion. They hope to see Shanahan, the "tall Sycamore of Shasta," head the State ticket, and they are not overlooking any points in the political game. With them it is Shanahan or nothing. They will not listen for a moment to any suggestion of fusion. They think that an out-and-out straight Populist ticket should be nominated, and that the party should go before the people on purely Populist lines. Maguire, they say, has become so adept in straddling the fence and dropping off on the side that will bring the greater number of plums to his friends that they have no faith in him. They say that he could take a Populist platform for breakfast and swallow a Democratic platform for dinner, without feeling the least disquietude, no matter how diverging might be the planks.

The Populists stand to-day on the brink of a precipice. If the fusion idea obtains there is certain to be trouble and probably a disruption of the party. With Maguire in the front there will be many Populists dropping out of the ranks. In fact some of the interior delegates have been instructed to vote against the proposition of fusion, and their instructions go further. If the fusionists carry the day the delegations are to withdraw from the convention. These instructions will be carried out. With fusion and Maguire there is a stormy time ahead of the Populist party.

Until the question of fusion is settled the delegates are at sea. The fight of the convention will come on a resolution pledging the delegates to not nominate or indorse any candidate for a State, legislative or Congresional office who will not unequivocally support the platform of the Populist party. If this resolution prevails Maguire will be out of the race, for there is certain to be a conflict on some vital points between the platforms of the Populist and Democratic parties.

If the anti-fusion forces carry the day Shanahan will find a strong rival in J. V. Webster, who ran for Governor four years ago. Webster is one of the leaders of the anti-fusion forces and has a host of friends.

George W. Monteith, a San Francisco attorney, who ran for Congress two years ago, is mentioned as a gubernatorial candidate. Whether his name will go before the convention will devolve on the fusion fight. His friends believe that if fusion prevails he will stand a good chance in a race with Shanahan and Webster. Shanahan has lost considerable ground because of a rumor that he does not want the gubernatorial nomination "for keeps." It is charged against him that if nominated on an anti-fusion ticket he would fall from his lofty perch to drop into a place on the Democratic ticket as nominee for Lieutenant Governor.

So it is that the divided forces are watching one another as closely as does a cat watch a mouse.

In the struggle over the fusion proposition the offices on the State ticket are being to some extent overlooked. There are hosts of candidates in the field, but none of them know which way to turn until the question of fusion is settled.

Charles Eidelman of Orange County is the most active man around headquarters. He is a Democrat and has been indorsed by the County Committee of Orange for nomination for State Treasurer. He is anxious to see and believes that the fusionists will carry the day. Acting on that belief he is buttonholing the delegates to secure the Populist nomination for State Treasurer, as the nomination would prove a mighty stepping-stone for him in the Democratic convention in the event of the Democrats and Populists joining hands in the next battle of the ballot.

George D. Gillespie, one of the leading spielers of the Maguire forces, announced at the State House to-night that Maguire would have 153 votes on the first ballot.

"From what counties do you expect support?" was asked.

"I can't tell you," replied Gillespie in confidential tones, "for if the opposition knew where we had our delegates they would steal them."

George W. Baker, representing the Silver Republicans, is here making a canvass in the interests of his party. He has met with but poor success. Baker appeared on the scene beneath a glossy silk hat. He tried to talk politics with the delegates, but none of them would countenance the hat. A far-seeing friend suggested to him the advisability of putting the silk tile aside. Baker took the advice, bought a soft hat and is now receiving some little consideration from the Populists.

J. P. SLEVIN.

ANY PLATFORM SUITS THE JUDGE

SACRAMENTO, July 11.—A. B. Kinne, chairman of the San Francisco delegation to the Populist State Convention, was to-day exhibiting the following telegram, which, he declares, indicates that Congressman Maguire is a pretty good Populist, and, as such, entitled to the gubernatorial nomination:

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The Oregon fusion platform would be acceptable to me.

JAMES G. MAGUIRE.

RECEIVER FOR THE WATER SYSTEM

Councilman Grider's Plan to End a Disgraceful Imbroglio at Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, July 11.—The proposition of Kessler & Co. to untie the water problem which has been for so long disturbing the people of Los Angeles was submitted to the City Council in due form to-day through Max Loewenthal, attorney of the New York bankers. The proposition was exactly the same as has been previously outlined in The Call, and, therefore, it created no sensation. Attorney Loewenthal explained the details. After an informal discussion the proposition was referred to the Council committee on water supply. The report is expected to be submitted on Wednesday.

Councilman L. M. Grider said this evening that he had a resolution prepared which he would introduce at the next session of the Council, which would authorize the City Attorney to commence proceedings to throw the water company imbroglio out of the court by applying for the appointment of a receiver. This proceeding has been contemplated as a possibility for some time, but until Councilman Grider came boldly forth and announced that he would father the ordinance authorizing such procedure no one thought that it should be done.

New Pacific Coast Postoffices.

WASHINGTON, July 11.—A postoffice was established to-day at Thurber, Cal., and Charles E. Thurber appointed postmaster; also at Canyon, Alaska, and Kenneth Murray appointed postmaster.

BUCKLEY BACK OF JUDGE MAGUIRE

"Banjo-Eyed Kid" Is One of the Congressman's Lieutenants.

SACRAMENTO, July 11.—Lounging about the office of the State House, apparently taking little or no interest in the tumult surrounding him, yet nevertheless keeping a watchful eye on Maguire's reconcentrados and the middle-of-the-road insurgents is a fairly well groomed man with close-cropped, reddish beard. Though he seldom engages in conversation with the busy statesmen, when he does single one out for his attention he gets right down to the kernel without any backing and filling.

This unassuming individual is none other than the more or less notorious "Banjo-eyed Kid," who has served and is serving his master, Christopher A. Buckley, well and faithfully, and to whom has been delegated the difficult task of capturing the Populist State Convention for James G. Maguire. The duty is naturally a compliment to the "Kid," but of necessity fell to him, for who better than he is fitted to carry out the plan of campaign so familiar to those who know of Buckley's past work?

It will be a painful surprise to those who still believe in the Representative of the Fourth District to learn that he has irrevocably allied himself to Buckley and delivered himself into the hands of the "Banjo-eyed Kid." Time was when Maguire spurned Buckley, his methods and his henchmen, but that was when he was just beginning to mount the ladder of political fame and before his ambition soared to the gubernatorial chair. But his growing ambition has smothered all sense of propriety and even decency, and to-day finds him ready to enter into any combine, ratifying all the sand-bagging methods known to the most depraved of political bosses to further his aspirations.

The delegates from the south came in this morning fairly well organized and shouting for fusion. Their arrival created somewhat of a stampede and for a time the anti-fusionists, who last night had matters all their own way, were engulfed in the maelstrom of union sentiment. However, they managed soon to get their heads above water and later in the day there was a turn in the tide. Men who in the morning would listen to no argument against fusion became less boisterous; Maguire's political record, which was persistently flaunted in their faces, could no longer be ignored and as they studied it the more closely their fusion ardor chilled.

The Fresno delegation, which was counted on to lead the fight, became less enamored of their task and finally they admitted that it was "going to be a pretty fight in the convention," and "guessed" they would not take a hand in it just yet.

When one sees George W. Baker, corporation lawyer and Silver Republican, laboring in behalf of fusion and incidentally the indorsement of himself for the Supreme bench, one asks himself all sorts of unanswerable questions about Maguire's anti-railroad anti-corporation postures, and the more such questioner finds himself marveling at the celerity with which the Congressman can get under the same political blanket with those he has publicly denounced and secretly aided.

The middle-of-the-roadsters are laboring unceasingly and their work is telling, but what the situation will be to-morrow no man will venture to predict. T. W. H. Shanahan, on whom they have concentrated their hopes, has any number of warm personal friends among the delegates who have heretofore announced themselves as favoring fusion without considering its consequences, and when they fully comprehend that on the action of this convention depends the very life of their party in this State it is more than likely they will turn from fusion to the tall "Sycamore of Shasta."

When it is said the life of Populism depends on this convention it is not exaggerating matters, for it is generally admitted that if the Democrats can control this convention they can control future gatherings and, therefore, it is quite useless to keep up the semblance of a party organization merely to be used as a catspaw for the Democrats.

More delegates arrived to-night and the fight against fusion became warmer. The middle-of-the-roadsters are laboring under the disadvantage of being unorganized, while their opponents are marshaled under the leadership of experienced politicians, men who later will have a large-sized hand in the Democratic proceedings in the interest of Maguire.

However, the fight became so warm to-night that the "Banjo-eyed Kid" cast aside his reserve and for two hours harangued a crowd of delegates in front of the Statehouse on Maguire's virtues. He laid particular stress in the strength shown by the Congressman in carrying his own district three times in succession, and solemnly assured his hearers that Maguire was the only man in the State who could poll the full strength of his own party next November; while as for the Populists, once they indorsed him they would fairly tumble over each other in their anxiety to rally to his standard.

The "Kid" would have been talking yet had not somebody in the crowd shouted to him to give Maguire's position on several questions of vital interest to the Populists. Then the "Kid" became pensive and took himself off to the Golden Eagle for a time.

The fusionists made a rather clever play to split up their opponents to-night and leave the field clear for themselves to labor unmolested with the fresh arrivals, but to their disgust the scheme was not as successful as they had hoped. Late in the afternoon notice was posted in the office of the Statehouse calling for an anti-railroad meeting in the Supreme Court chamber at 8 o'clock, and urging delegates hostile to the railroad to be present and prepare a strong plank for insertion in the platform. The meeting was held, but less than a dozen delegates took the bait and it soon adjourned.

The convention will open at 10 a. m. and the first real fight will take place on the election of officers. R. H. Webster will receive the support of the middle-of-the-roadsters for chairman, while the Maguires are divided between Hutchinson of Los Angeles and Rogers of Napa. The latter, however, is not likely to cut much of a figure and the contest is expected to simmer down to Webster and Hutchinson.

The story has been started, with the undoubted intention of causing a break-away from Shanahan, that in case he is nominated for Governor he will step aside in favor of Maguire after the convention adjourns and take second place on the Democratic ticket. The straight-outs pooh-pooh the story and assert that it is circulated merely to alarm and bewilder the more timid ones. Among those who take the rumor seriously is Attorney George W. Montieth, who has capped his career by joining the ranks of saffron journalism, and now, standing with bared head under a cloudless sky, Montieth awaits the stroke of the political thunderbolt.

Yes, Montieth is a candidate for Governor—not an open and avowed candidate, but he figures that with Shanahan out of the way, the middle-of-the-roadsters will cast about for somebody else on whom to lean. And who with a Populistic record as stanch and unyielding as he? Two years ago, he recalls, as do some others, he shunned all attempts to drag him down after he had received the nomination for Congress in the First District, and remained a candidate to the end, defeating, in a measure, the fusion agreement entered into in that campaign.

However, any chance that Montieth might have will be blighted when it becomes generally known to-morrow that he has attached himself to the Third street faker, for with that sheet as the organ of Maguire and fusion Montieth's reputation as a straight-out Populist is quite apt to suffer to a considerable extent.

The country delegates are yawning frightfully and talk of the fearful dissipations these political conventions lead a man into, but few of them will go to bed, fearful that the other side will score an advantage should it be left unwatched for an instant.

J. J. COREY.

MAGUIRE NOT CAPABLE OF LEADING A PARTY

Carleton H. Johnson Reviews the Political Career of the Congressman and Draws Some Logical Conclusions.

SACRAMENTO, July 11.—To the Editor of The Call: There are many men in the Democratic party who would be more acceptable to Populists than James G. Maguire, if the question of nominating any Democrat could be considered. Maguire has already said in his letter, asking for the Democratic nomination, that he will make no promises except those contained in the Democratic platform. In 1892 and in 1894 he made a canvass of the State against the Populist candidates, and condemned the Populist party repeatedly by saying that the Democratic party was the only anti-monopoly party. It is well known that after leaving the Democratic party in 1887 he came back into it in 1888, because of his admiration of Grover Cleveland.

Maguire is only a recent convert to free silver. In 1892 he could have had the Populist nomination for Congress in the Fourth District, and was offered it on the condition that he would subscribe to the free silver plank, which he refused to do, and the Populists were therefore compelled to nominate a man against him. On October 11, 1895, he declared in the Bulletin that he was opposed to the payment of gold debts in silver, as it was repudiation in his opinion, and that greenbacks ought to be redeemed. He moved and voted to strike the income tax clause out of the Wilson bill in Congress and made a long speech against the income tax. He voted to deprive Tom Watson, the Populist from Georgia, of his seat in Congress in favor of a Democratic candidate elected by the most glaring frauds, and in that matter he was opposed by William Jennings Bryan, who was in Congress at the time and who voted for Watson.

Maguire voted against the bill to restrict immigration, which Populists demand, and which the labor organizations all demanded. He voted and worked against Hawaiian annexation, in the face of resolution passed by Populists within his own district. He has joined the Croker Gold Bug Club in New York, an organization having as one of its avowed purposes the knocking out of the free silver plank from the Democratic platform in 1900. He is a pronounced individualist and in speeches in public has declared himself opposed to the Government operation of railroads, and has also declared himself opposed to collectivism in any form, and is altogether an absolute opponent of the fundamental basis of the Omaha platform.

While he has said that he was not a candidate in the sense of the manipulation of conventions it is notorious that his agents have interfered to stuff Populist conventions in many parts of the State and in San Francisco not only in a most obnoxious but a fraudulent manner.

When Maguire left the Democratic party in 1887 he announced his purpose to elect Henry George President, and to never return to the Democratic party unless it took up Henry George's doctrine, and in 1888 he was back in the party, stumping the State for Grover Cleveland.

And now, ten years later, when he is a candidate for Governor, and has sufficient influence to control a Democratic platform, he practically advises his party not to take up George's doctrine for fear he will lose votes by it, and in every respect he has shown that he is not a leader, but a follower and a trimmer.

CARLETON H. JOHNSON,
Secretary of the County Committee of the People's Party of San Francisco.

SILK TILES AND FINE APPAREL

How the Fusion Populists Are Distinguished From the Others.

SACRAMENTO, July 11.—To fuse or not to fuse, is the question upon which the forces of the Populist Convention will divide. Whether it is best to pursue the course of an independent organization, free from the influence and control of domineering Democracy, or to amalgamate with them, is the one bone of contention, the solution of which promises dissolution, in whatever way it may be decided.

A casual reconnoiter among the delegates discloses the presence of two factions, one representing the pioneer Populists of 1892 without office, the other representing those who either hold office or have promise of one at the hands of the Democracy. Wardell, Shannahan and a long list of lesser lights belong to the latter class, while the former is made up of those who are only seen in public as they pass through the door of the convention hall once in four years. This latter class has been designated as the middle-of-the-road Populists, while the other is without designation, beyond the cut of their clothes and silk hats, which are a decided contrast to the plainer attire of their country brethren.

Fusion, to the "middle-of-the-road Populists," means Maguire as a probability. The mere possibility of such a compromise arouses them to open revolt. Maguire's vote on the bond issue, even as a war measure, has forever destroyed the hope of a reconciliation between himself and the simon pure Populists of the State.

The "patronage Populists" look with complacency upon Maguire, as they do upon any other fusion candidate. To fulfill their contract, to turn over their party to the Democrats is their only desire and design. The vote upon the question, however decided, will be a close one, and the defection, in either instance, will be sufficient to destroy the fruits of victory.

The Silver Republicans are wandering lone and weary through the streets without a place to lay their heads, without a hand to shake. The Populists ignore them entirely. H. A. McCraney, for four years a Republican attache in the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court, who recently resigned in order to become a State organizer of the Silver Republicans, is very much in evidence around the room of the

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