

PLAN OF CHOOSING THE PRESIDENT LONG DISCUSSED

Many Schemes Were Presented to American Constitutional Convention.

POPULAR METHOD GREATLY OPPOSED

Southerners in Particular Were Afraid to Permit the People to Name Their President—Some Wanted the Election of the President Left to Congress—Electoral College Finally Agreed Upon by the Convention.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

When the constitutional convention of 1787 committed itself to the task of framing a plan for choosing the nation's chief magistrate, it made something of a record for the number of times it changed its mind and also for the number of plans that were brought forward and considered. The one thing that seemed foremost in the minds of the majority of the members of the convention was the necessity of keeping the choice out of the hands of congress on the one hand and out of the hands of the people on the other.

Mason of Virginia said that it would be as bad folly to trust the people to choose the president as it would be to let a blind man match colors. Madison declared that he felt that to let congress make the choice would be to make the president a creature of its will and therefore absolutely lacking in backbone in his dealing with it. Someone proposed that the choice be left to congress and the eligibility of a president limited to one term. To this Governor Morris replied that if the road to civil glory be shut, the president might feel himself compelled to seek renown by the sword.

The main reason why the choice by the people was opposed was that the influence of the Society of the Cincinnati was feared. One member asserted that if the choice were left with the people, the dominating influence of the members of this organization in every community would line up the voters as the shepherd herds his flock, and that the country would degenerate into a Cincinnati-based institution. This argument seemed to carry conviction with the majority of the members, for after it was made the convention seemed unwilling to treat anything in the hands of the people themselves.

Opposed by Madison. One member proposed that the president should be chosen by a small body of men composed of three members from each large state, two members from each medium-sized state, and one member from each small state. When members proposed that the choice should be reposed in congress, Madison opposed it, saying it was highly important to keep the president free from legislative entanglements. He said that while he regarded the people as the fittest source of presidential power if proper safeguards could be thrown around their choice, he saw but little chance to provide such safeguards, and that therefore he favored the choice by electors. Gerry wanted a president chosen by electors, but he thought the electors in turn should be chosen by the governors of the states. When the question finally came up whether the choice should be electors, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia all voted against it.

There was much fear on the part of some members of the convention that electors would not measure up to the best standards of citizenship. One of them announced his belief that they would not be first, or even second, rate citizens, and that consequently no one need expect wise choices to be made under such circumstances. Elbridge Gerry proposed that as electors seemed to be objectionable, the legislatures of the several states should ballot on the question of who should be the next president, and that out of the four leading candidates then disclosed the United States should make the choice of the next chief executive. Still another member proposed that 15 members of the senate should be chosen by lot and that they should make the choice of the next chief executive. Still another member proposed that 15 members of the senate should be chosen by lot and that they should immediately withdraw and make their selection of a president.

Madison admitted that the real reason why the south could not be brought to the point of favoring a popular choice of president was that the slaves of the south could not be allowed to vote, and that, based on the white population, the south would have a comparatively small say in the choice of a president. He stated that speaking for himself alone he would be willing to give up whatever advantage the south would have to forego if that could make possible the election of the president by the people directly.

Proposal of Dickinson. Dickinson of Delaware proposed that each state should select its best man and put him forward as its candidate for the presidency, and that then the choice from this list should be made by some other body, either by congress or by electors appointed by congress. Think what a happy time we would have electing a president today if the Dickinson plan had gone through. We would have had 48 states each choosing a presidential candidate, and then congress meeting and balloting to determine which should be elected.

When the convention got down to a consideration of the question it would

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adopt one plan. A little later some one would suggest a new objection to that plan and move a reconsideration. This motion would prevail, and then another plan would be adopted. Again objections would be forthcoming and again the question reopened. On June 2, by a vote of eight to two states, it was decided that congress should exercise the power of choice. That action was reaffirmed on July 17, but two days later the convention seemed to lose faith in this method of election, because it rescinded the former action, and decided that the choice should be made by the legislatures. Five days later it switched back to an election by congress again. About a month later another switch was made, and this time the election was to be made by a body of electors to be chosen by the people of the several states, but this was lost on the next motion, by a majority of one. Finally the whole matter was referred to a committee of 11, and in a few days that committee reported a plan which, with a few modifications, was finally accepted.

It provided that each state should appoint in any manner the legislature thereof should direct, a number of electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives the state might have in congress. These electors, however appointed, were to meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for two persons for president, one of whom at least should not be an inhabitant of the same state as themselves.

Sent to the Senate. The lists of all these ballots were to be sent to the president of the senate, to be opened and by him in the presence of both houses of congress. The person having the greatest number of votes, being a majority, should be vice president. In the event of no one having a majority, the house of representatives was immediately to choose one of the persons voted for for president, and if no one then had a majority, the house should make the choice from the five highest on the list, the vote being taken by states. In every case, after the choice of the president, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors was to be vice president, but in case of a tie the senate was to choose by ballot between the two men. This plan remained in force until the death of the president of the Jefferson-Burr contest in 1800 brought about the ratification of the twelfth amendment.

When the question came up as to how the president should be chosen in the event that the electors could make no choice, it was first proposed that the electors should choose two members from each state to constitute a single electoral college, which should assemble in Washington, and being presided over by the chief justice of the supreme court, choose, by plurality vote, from the three candidates receiving the highest vote in the electoral colleges, the next chief magistrate.

The country did not have to wait long until the fatal weakness of the Jefferson-Burr contest, as finally adopted, was demonstrated. When in 1800 Jefferson and Burr were the Republican candidates for president and vice president, respectively, and they tied, under the letter of the constitution Burr was entitled to claim as much right to go into the White House as Jefferson had. But no one had ever thought of Burr as a candidate for the presidency. And yet his ambition caused him to insist upon his pound of flesh. That forced the twelfth amendment which made it possible for presidential and vice presidential candidates to be voted for separately. When it was framed, John Quincy Adams had just come to congress, and he was one of those who thought that if the electoral colleges should fail to make a choice, the house of representatives should make its choice from the five leading candidates instead of from the three leading candidates. Had his view prevailed he would have failed to be elected president in 1825, for that would have left Clay in the contest in the United States, and he was speaker at the time he probably would have been elected himself.

When the constitutional convention gave the state legislatures power to appoint electors, it little knew that in less than half a century from that date every state in the Union except one would be choosing electors by popular vote. When the popular method came first into use it was the idea that electors should be chosen just as senators and representatives are chosen today, the two electors-at-large by the vote of the whole state and the other ones by each district. But the large states, seeing that they could better dominate things by electing all their electors as a statewide body, proceeded to choose them that way. This gave them such predominance that the smaller states, in order to prevent their votes from being split up and neutralized, followed suit, and that is why the 15,000,000 voters of the United States will vote for the whole number of electors in their respective states in November instead of for only three—two at large and one for the voter's own district.

Tomorrow—Presidential Elections. III. Casting the Electoral Vote.

DEATHS—FUNERALS

John Davenport, a Mexican war survivor, private of Company G, First Illinois Infantry, died at the soldiers' home Friday, aged 81 years.

Funeral services will be held at Fry & Summers parlors Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. Melvin W. Davis officiating. Burial at the military cemetery. Ladies of the W. R. C. are requested to attend.

LIGHT SEEMS TO NOW BE DAWNING ON CHAIRMAN DAY

In Spokane Interview Republican State Chairman Approves Course Being Taken by Borah.

Has State Chairman Day of the Republican state central committee seen a new light, or has he merely seen new conditions that he is forced to conciliate in northern Idaho?

That is the question Republicans are asking each other in this section in view of his new attitude suddenly assumed in the Progressive hot bed of northern Idaho, as expressed in an interview with the Spokesman-Review of Spokane last Thursday morning in which he apparently joins Senator Borah in discarding Taft and in which he gives public sanction to Borah's repudiation of Taft and Taft's nomination.

"The state committee is perfectly satisfied with the course Senator Borah is pursuing," he told the Spokesman paper; "it is the logical course for him."

"Does that mean that Chairman Day has joined in the north in condemning Taft's nomination as a stolen nomination and that in the south he is standing out for Taft?" inquired a prominent Republican in discussing the interview which was carried to his attention, "or does it mean that what the Capital News said about Chairman Day deserting and abandoning Taft in this state several days ago was true?"

He was told that so far as the report about Day abandoning Taft and using such abandonment in an effort to save a portion of the state ticket was concerned, it was true but as to whether it meant that the state chairman had suddenly resolved to join in the condemnation of the manner in which the Chicago nomination was stolen, he was given to understand that he would have to decide for himself from the interview.

Prophet Smith's Decree. Being himself a member of the same church with Joseph F. Smith, Mr. Day's observations as to the effect of Prophet Smith's utterances both in the "Improvement Era" and in the recent conference at Salt Lake, are regarded as very pessimistic.

"What will be the effect of the statement issued by President Smith of the Mormon church?" was asked. "It will have no effect at all. I am satisfied that President Smith was misquoted on that. I think that one thing that caused him to say something in praise of President Taft at that time was the wise course the president was pursuing in the Mexican trouble. The Mormon people will stay in their own parties the same as other voters. There will be no lineup at all."

"I am very optimistic as to the outcome in Idaho. The bull moosers are not so thick as I had anticipated. While there are a great many leaning that way because of sympathy for Roosevelt their party allegiance will prove much stronger than any inclination to follow after one man."

"Roosevelt has many admirers, but they will not be led into the third party. They believe these questions can be settled better in the old party, and why shouldn't they?"

SOUTH BOISE.

Rev. Henry Quikenden returned Friday from Twin Falls, where he has been attending synod for several days. Miss Gladys Parks of Gooding spent the fair week with Mrs. Steve Cordell at her home on Vermont avenue.

Mrs. J. C. Buholtz and Mrs. W. D. Thayer left Saturday evening for Wallace, Idaho, where they will attend state grand lodge and Rebekah assembly. They were appointed delegates to the assembly from the South Boise lodge.

Miss Mabel Buel of Cambridge was the guest of her grandmother, Mrs. Taylor during fair week. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bruce have returned from Payette lakes.

The Friendly Sewing circle met Thursday afternoon at the home of Miss Sarah Bolger. As it happened to be the birthday of the hostess, her friends surprised her by giving her a miscellaneous shower. Besides the regular members there were three guests, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Jensen and Miss Wolfe.

Rev. Griffen will hold services each evening at the Second Presbyterian church during the next 10 days. There will be no service at the Second Presbyterian church today, as the members of the church and Christian Endeavor will attend the Fellowship meeting at the First church.

Saturday evening Miss Mildred Knight and Mr. Ralph Smith were given a surprise party by their friends at the home of Miss Knight. The young people gathered at an appointed place and went in a body to the Knight residence where the unassuming host and hostess were found. A delightful evening was spent in playing games, in singing and dancing. The guests were: Misses Eva and Olive Smith, Myrtle and Edna Belcher, Nadine Borada, Lucy and Luella Harvey, Vera Bolger and Cornelia Hart; Messrs. Ray Bolger, Frank Leichte, Stanley Mathews, Charlie Wilder, Earl Harvey, Gus Kruger, Kenneth Peters and Ralph McCall.

The South Boise village board of trustees met Tuesday evening at the Odd Fellows' hall. I. W. Hart, the chairman of the board, is absent from the city.

Mrs. Reel will entertain the W. C. T. U. next Tuesday at 2:30 at her home in Ivywild.

The Ladies' aid society will hold a

Letters of a Slim-Made Woman to Her Fat Sister

Second Letter: On the Heritage of Overfatness.

Dear Sis:—You've heard the advice, "Like Father, Like Son." Well, I never before thought of it applying to overfatness until today. Clara Moore has hers with her 14-year-old boy. He is enormous—weighs nearly 300 pounds. She came to ask how I reduced myself to my present slim trimness.

Of course I told her about Marmola Prescription Tablets—how they contain exactly the same ingredients as the Marmola Prescription that took off my fat, and assured her they were perfectly harmless. Said she'd be willing to buy a ton of them if they did any good at all. The boy is a tremendous eater and is too lazy to take any exercise (all fat people are), but you know I stopped starving and cavorting long before I started to take Marmola.

That's the beauty of this wonderful method: I ain't dependent upon any other treatment. And I know I'm doing that boy a favor.

In a few months he'll be sold and smooth-skinned, with better figure and health than ever before and he need never again dread the extreme obesity that is now such a family trait.

If more parents knew that for 75c they could purchase a large box of Marmola Prescription Tablets from their drug-gists or the Marmola Co., Farmer Bldg., Detroit, Mich., hereditary overfatness would be a thing of the past. Don't you think so?

Yours affectionately, BETTY.

Adv.

special meeting Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Ruth Hard.

Mrs. Emma Bailey has returned from Salt Lake, where she has been for the past few weeks.

ADA COUNTY MAKES SPLENDID SHOWING

Ada county won the grand sweepstakes prize at the Inter-Mountain fair for having the best display of horticultural products from any county in Idaho. This prize is \$200. The Ada county horticultural exhibit contained 141 varieties of fruit. It was this point that proved a big factor in giving Ada county the first prize.

The second county sweepstakes prize, \$125, went to Canyon county. Payette's great fruit display was the only one entered for Canyon county.

The third county sweepstakes prize, \$75 was won by Washington county. Weiser's great fruit display was the only one entered for Washington county.

Agricultural County Sweepstakes. The grand county sweepstakes prize of \$200, for having the best display of agricultural products from any county in the state was won by Lincoln county. The great exhibit from the North side tract and from the Idaho Irrigation company, comprised the Lincoln county exhibit.

The second county sweepstakes of \$125, for best agricultural display was won by Adams county. The magnificent display of farm products made by Indian Valley comprised practically all of the Adams county agricultural exhibit.

The third county sweepstakes prize of \$75, for the best agricultural display was won by Canyon county. The great agricultural display made by Payette was entered for Canyon county.

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PARISIANS SHOWING VENERATION OF AGE

Paris, Oct. 12.—Parisians have again demonstrated their love of the aged by the lively interest they have taken in the personalities of the five men to whom the emperor of Russia presented medals at the centenary of the battle of Borodino, or Moscow. Every one of the recipients was a veteran soldier from that conflict, the oldest being 122 years of age.

It was the same story some years ago when monuments were erected on the battlefield of Waterloo, although in that case few of the veterans were 100 years old.

In Paris itself the discovery of a man or woman who is 100 years old leads invariably to the organization of some sort of festivity in honor of one who has seen so much history made and unmade in his time. Every item about the aged person's habits is counted as of the utmost interest. Does he smoke a pipe? Does he drink white wine or red? Are vegetables his diet, and does he sleep out of doors, and bathe more than weekly and in cold water?

The statistics of the city show that within the walls are no less than 15 people who have passed their 100th birthday and 48 who will very soon do so. Of persons more than 90 years old there are 623, while of octogenarians the metropolis holds 1307. Of 70-year-olds there is a veritable army.

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(Outsides \$1.35, \$1.85, \$2.75 and up to \$3.75).

—Women's separate garments 85c, \$1.25, \$1.35 and \$1.75.

(Outsides \$1.00 to \$1.85).

—Girls' Union Suits 85c, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.75.

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