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OFFICE IN TRIBUNE BUILDING, 208 FOURTH STREET.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1904

MINNESOTA STATE CONVENTION.

A Spartan band of old-time populists convened upon the evening of Friday, Sept. 23, 1904, at the Nicollet Hotel at Minneapolis, in response to the call issued for a state convention and conference of members of the Peoples party of Minnesota. While the attendance was not large, it was representative, there being delegates from seven of the nine congressional districts. A large number of letters had been received from populists in different localities of the state, expressing the regret of the writers that they could not attend in person, but pledging their support to any action taken to keep up the fight. Among those present and participating in the proceedings were Hon. S. M. Owen, editor of Farm, Stock & Home, the leading farm journal of the northwest, and Major J. M. Bowler, a prominent Hearst Democrat, who was chairman of the democratic state convention at Duluth last spring.

Victor E. Lawson, of Willmar, was chosen to preside at the meeting and Atty. R. W. Stanford, of Minneapolis, to record the doings of the meeting. After some discussion it was decided to place a full ticket in the field, and make an attempt to raise the \$500 necessary to place the same upon the official ballot. The chairman explained that the party still held its legal existence as the third party in the state, having polled an average of 9,500 votes in the last election, and hence no petitions would be required.

Capt. J. J. Hibbard, of Duluth, arose and said that the Peoples party had never lost its legal existence in the city of Duluth, and was accorded a judge of election in every precinct at each election. The organization of his city had authorized him to pay the filing fee of one elector, \$50, upon the state ballot. They desired also to see a state ticket upon the ballot so they would have something they could vote for.

The work of selecting eleven electors to represent Watson and Tibbles upon the state ballot was speedily disposed of, and the following men were named:

- ELECTORS AT LARGE: Thomas J. Meighen, Fillmore county. J. J. Hibbard, St. Louis county. ELECTORS BY DISTRICTS: John R. Campbell, Winona county—First District. Ralph Healy, Blue Earth county—Second District. S. J. Leyhe, Rice county—Third District. S. W. Powell, Washington county—Fourth District. L. G. Long, Hennepin county—Fifth District. H. C. Lewis, Douglas county—Sixth District. C. J. Arntson, Chippewa county—Seventh District. John A. Keyes, Duluth—Eighth district. M. J. Daly, Otter Tail county—Ninth district.

It was decided that an address to the voters of the state should be prepared and given as great circulation as possible. It was the expressed desire of the convention that at least three meetings be held in the state, and that the presidential nominee, Hon. Thos. E. Watson, be prevailed upon to come to the state. It was decided to wage as good a fight for the electoral ticket as the resources would permit.

The convention decided that no state ticket be placed in the field this year, the vote for Watson and Tibbles being sufficient to hold the party in legal existence and to place it in excellent trim to enter the contest of 1906. No attempt was made to endorse the candidates of any other party.

Mr. Lawson was re-elected chairman of the state committee for another term of two years. Mr. Meighen,

however, was elected vice chairman, and will have the immediate work of this campaign in charge. The state committee will consist of one member from each county in the state. Mr. Owen promised favorable mention of the electoral ticket in his splendid journal, which has a circulation of 40,000 in the state. A late Bryan democrat present said that the city (Minneapolis) was full of old-time populists who would vote for Watson, and that he was glad that the door through which they had left the party was open for their return.

After the adjournment of the formal meeting there was a pleasant reunion of those present, a number of whom had not attended a previous state meeting for many years. Although not a large gathering, the meeting was an inspiration to those present, and a large increase in interest may be looked for in the state. Look out for Minnesota's vote for Watson and Tibbles this fall, and a great revival before the great campaign of 1908!

A RINGING APPEAL.

The mantle of Bryan has fallen upon the shoulders of Tom Watson. His has the ring of true oratory, such as is begotten only in the true and brave heart of the patriot. Read the closing appeal of his Texas speech:

"As to the People's party, fusion had destroyed it. The troops were disbanded and demoralized; the colors were in the dust. Yet I could not be made to believe that all our heroic struggles in the past had been in vain. Those who preached cold prudence to me could not strangle the confidence which I had in Jeffersonian principles, and in the good and true men who had followed our flag in the years gone by. In spite of all that could be said, I believed our boys would rise and come again when they saw that our National Campaign was being managed by honest men who would not sell us out.

"And the boys are coming! From the West and the South, from the North and the East the boys are coming! From out of the gloom of defeat and discouragement and betrayal they are coming, coming, coming—with the same old fire in their fearless hearts, the same glad light in their blazing eyes, the same inspiring battle-cry ringing from their lips.

"The democratic leaders who tricked us in St. Louis in 1896, consoled themselves for the defeat of Bryan by boasting that they had at least done one good thing:—They had sent the People's party to hell!—Woe unto leaders who trick the people and then boast of it! Woe unto leaders who forget that the American people have heart and conscience, convictions and a sense of honor! Such men may triumph for a day, but only for the day. Not for them are the greater victories which ennoble the human race.

"Yes, they boarded our ship, drove us off the deck, ran up their own flag, and took the open sea. For eight years they used and abused our old Jefferson vessel. Then they hauled down the flag, dismantled the guns, dismantled the ship, and mocked her as she floated off—a water-logged wreck. One thing they forgot. They forgot that principles never die! They forgot that you were not dead; and that I was not dead. They had hardly quit the deck from which they had driven me in 1896, before I was standing upon it again, flag up, guns remounted, men at their places, the good ship 'walking the waters like a thing of life,' pouring a broadside into republicans on this side, and into the democrats on that, no longer looking like a 'painted ship upon a painted ocean,' no longer in danger of rotting at the wharf in dull inaction, but a warship, instinct with fight. And as we drive her onward, boys, let every man resolve that, if she has to go down again, it shall be upon the broad bosom of the deep, in the glory and storm of battle, with every man at his post and the flag flying to the last.

"Let no man think our campaign will close with the November election. It will have just begun. It must not stop, cannot stop, shall not stop, until our purpose is accomplished. Our principles must be enacted into law. Our reforms must be put in practice. The tyrannical rule of the corporations must be overthrown. Jeffersonian democracy must be made supreme.

Popular Sovereignty must again be crowned—the only monarch before whose throne the American people will ever consent to bend the knee without angry discontent and a constant fierce desire to throw off the yoke.

"The purpose which inspires us is one which no good man should condemn, no just man oppose, no patriot distrust; it is a cause for which any pure woman can pray, any brave man die.

"We are not split up and pulled in opposite directions by differences of opinion. In conviction, we are also alike. In purpose, we all agree. The same yard-stick measures the populist everywhere—for our party was based upon political education. "Come with us! We deserve your confidence. Our principles have stood the test of defeat. Our faith is that which does not depend upon office to feed it. It is a part of our lives and we glory in it, regardless of how the multitude votes. Jeffersonians, everywhere! Let us get together. Brothers in sentiment, let us be brethren in action. Divisions are what plutocracy wants, unity is what democracy must have. Begin now the great movement which will bring you victory in 1908."

COUNTY POLITICS.

There has been some talk of independent candidates being induced to file upon the county ballot for the election this fall. This is one of the glorious privileges of the American citizen, possessed by all such as were not candidates at the primaries. That there is a very wide-spread demand for opposition to some of the nominees of the late primary none conversant with the conditions will deny, and it need not surprise anyone if candidates would feel encouraged to exercise their privilege, and enter the race for the positions of trust and emolument that the county bestows.

The Tribune did not consider it within its province to take a direct part in the contest before the republican primaries. Hence we can discuss the candidates presented with freedom, and give our views of the situation from the attitude of an independent newspaper.

For representative, the Peoples party candidate, August O. Forsberg, is the peer of any man in the county in learning, aptness in debate and knowledge of public affairs, and his election would reflect credit upon the county.

For county auditor, Lewis Johnson won the republican nomination by a narrow majority. Lewis is a poor politician, as some of his acts before the primary election showed, but he makes a first-class auditor and is probably safe for two years more. Some of the opposition encountered by him in this city was a credit to him. His opponent, Mr. Fouts, obtained half of his vote (or 549) in the city of Willmar, village of Atwater and the village of Raymond with Edwards thrown in. In the country districts, Johnson's lead was 385, and this would be increased with the full vote out.

For treasurer, Mr. Norin, the present incumbent, won the four-cornered fight with 948 votes out of 2,461 cast for this office. Mr. Norin cannot claim to be nominated by the majority vote of his party. Two-thirds of the voters said by their vote that they wanted a change. A good, clean man, for whom the supporters of Boyd, Hedin and Rice would unite, would win out in the election.

Ole Lundquist had no opposition in the primaries, probably because of the fact that he is serving his first term. One of the distinctive duties of the sheriff is to apprehend violators of the laws, and assist in the enforcing of law and order. Since the saloons have been abolished in the majority of the municipalities of the county, what few criminals are to be dealt with are usually blind-piggers. Mr. Lundquist's record in assisting in dealing with this genus is not of the best. It is true that he has left the most delicate situations to be dealt with by his deputies, but their work is a part of his record, as they hold their positions only by his sanction. The people will not soon forget the repeated farcical drawing of juries packed with the customers and sympathizers of the accused piggers. A pledge should be exacted from the sheriff that he will retire the deputies who notoriously associate with and sympathize with the liquor element, or upon his refusal to do this a good man should be encouraged to enter the lists against him in the election. If the citizens' movement wishes to be consistent, it can do no less. The fate of the present county attorney, with his beggarly 380 votes out of a total of 2,415 cast at the primary, should be an object lesson to all public officials of Kandiyohi county. The good people of the county will not be trifled with. We do not say this from any motives of personal ill-will nor of desire for the office for anyone else in mind, but with the hope that the era of decency in law enforcement after Jan. 1, be inaugurated under the best possible conditions.

It is hardly likely that anyone will attempt to dislodge Judge Nordin from the probate office nor Mr. Olson from the register of deeds office, and both of these gentlemen are resting easy.

While a minority candidate of his party, Mr. Otterness' nomination for county attorney will undoubtedly be ratified at the polls at the November election. He has the best wishes of the Tribune for the success of the record he will begin to make after Jan. 1 next. He will have the backing of all good citizens regardless of party, in every effort to promote respect and regard for law and decency in public affairs.

For clerk of court, the results of the primary show plainly that a large

number of the citizens of the county are ready for a change in the office. Mr. Ramslett's opponent, entirely unknown and without making an active canvass of the county, polled 869 votes at the primary. A popular and well qualified opponent would likely win out in the election. It is probably not so much the thirteen years of undisturbed occupancy of the office that has created this sentiment as the fact that Mr. Ramslett cut loose from his old friends two years ago in this city and allied himself politically with the faction who were opposed to the cleaning up of the affairs of the city. This might have been overlooked, but the following year (last spring) when the discredited and corrupt partisan movement that had involved the city financially and morally and brought disgrace and shame upon the republican name was at a loss to find a candidate to lead them, Mr. Ramslett stepped into the breach and led the fight against the forces that stood for sobriety, honesty in public affairs and a clean city. There are hundreds of voters who do not wish to give their political support to men who will use the influence of their positions against the friends of clean government and civic righteousness at the county seat. This is the secret of all the opposition of which Mr. Ramslett need have any fear.

Now we have stated our views of county politics, fairly and squarely, without knowing of a single candidate who will file as independent, and without any knowledge whether any such filings will be made or not. But it is a significant fact that a journal that was started ten weeks ago, ostensibly as an independent newspaper, sees spokes in every bush and has already begun the cry of "treachery" for fear some good republican should see fit to exercise his rights as a citizen to aspire to any office within the gift of the people of the county. V. E. L.

THE PRIMARY ELECTION.

The primary election law has had its second trial. The defects noticeable in the law two years ago were again made apparent, namely the nomination of minority candidates and obliteration of party lines. The latter may perhaps not be an unmitigated evil, as the average American voter is prone to stick too closely to the party name. There is no doubt that if the law is to survive, it must be radically amended. An effort will perhaps be made to extend the direct nomination law to include state officers. If it is desirable to nominate county officials by direct vote, why not the state officials, a great deal more so? The present trouble within the republican ranks will, we believe, bring about this change.

Here is the manner in which we would change the law, if it is to stand. Ballots should be provided for every political party with legal standing in the county, the same to contain blank spaces for each office to be filled in addition to the printed names of candidates filed. Provision should also be made upon the ballot for electing delegates to a county convention. The result of the direct vote for candidates should be binding if a choice is made, otherwise simply advisory. The county conventions could then be called to assemble, to complete the work of the primaries, formulate the party program and provide for the party organization.

WATSON ROASTS JONES.

The following richly deserved roast was administered by Thomas E. Watson in his Houston, (Tex.) speech last Friday night. It might be added that there are several of the Jones species of democrats in Minnesota: "Senator James K. Jones of Arkansas found his voice a few days ago and spoke his little piece in The New York World. 'The People's party,' says Jones, 'is working for the republicans.' If there is any one man whom the public would heartily forgive for keeping his mouth shut, at this particular time, it is Jones, of Arkansas! Among all the asinine blunders who butchered Bryan's campaign in 1896, the Saul of the whole lot, the great hulking booby who towered head and shoulders above all the other boobies, was Jones, of Arkansas. In that memorable year of 1896, the democratic senatorial visitor to our St. Louis convention who was most ready to mortgage the battered democratic machine for populist votes, was Jones, of Arkansas. It being a vital necessity to Bryan to poll the full populist vote, only a blundering political dromedary could have stumbled into the meshes of inevitable defeat by openly insulting the populist voters; and the insensate camel who did that particular thing, 'as the psychological moment,' was Jones, of Arkansas. 'The populists can go to the niggers where they belong,' said Jones, of Arkansas; and he killed a campaign, which, in the hands of a manager with a thimbleful of gray matter, would have been a brilliant success.

"Talk about helping the republicans! Never in this generation will any man play into their hands as was done in 1896 by Jones, of Arkansas. He saved the day for them when all seemed lost.

"The republican party had its Burghard; but he was an accident, he just happened along; and while he was an ass, there was no peculiar mark, brand, or distinguishing trait about his assinity. He was an ass—and that ends the story. And the beauty about Burghard was that he knew his place on the catalogue, and having been duly told what kind of an animal he was, he went off into decent, permanent, almost respectable desuetude. But in Jones, of Arkansas, the democratic party owns a great national

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[First publication Sept. 21.] ORDER FOR HEARING APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR. STATE OF MINNESOTA, ss. County of Kandiyohi, ss. In Probate Court, Special Term, Sept. 19, 1904. In the Matter of the Estate of Erick Johnson, a so known as Erick Berg, deceased. On Receiving and filing the petition of Jonas Berg, of the Town of Genessee of the County of Kandiyohi, representing among other things, that Erick Johnson, also known as Erick Berg, of the Town of Genessee late of the County of Kandiyohi in the State of Minnesota, on the 24th day of July A. D. 1904, at the County of Kandiyohi in the State of Minnesota, an inhabitant of this county at the time of his death, leaving goods, chattels and estate within this County, and that the said petitioner is a brother of said deceased, and praying that administration of said estate be to Jonas Berg granted.

[First publication Sept. 21, 1904.] ORDER TO EXAMINE ACCOUNTS, ETC. STATE OF MINNESOTA, ss. County of Kandiyohi, ss. In Probate Court, Special Term, Sept. 19, 1904. In the matter of the estate of Annie Linn, deceased. On reading and filing the petition of Theodore Linn, Administrator of the estate of Annie Linn, deceased, representing among other things, that he has fully administered said estate, and praying that a time and place be fixed for examining and allowing the final account of his administration, and for the adjustment of the residue of said estate to the parties entitled thereto by law. It is ordered, that said account be examined, and petition and application be heard by this court, on Monday the 24th day of October, A. D. 1904, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the Probate Office in the Court House in the City of Willmar in said County.

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