

TOOK ONE BALLOT

THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK DEMOCRATS TO SELECT LEADERS

JUDGE PARKER WAS ALL ALONE IN RACE

Democratic Leaders Name Presidential Candidate With One Vote—Resolutions Unanimously Adopted—Only One Little Skirmish

 Democratic National Ticket.
 For President—
 Judge Alton Brooks Parker of
 New York.
 For Vice President—
 Ex-Senator Henry T. Davis of
 West Virginia.

The democratic national convention met in the exposition building at St. Louis, Wednesday, July 6th. Promptly at twelve o'clock Chairman James K. Jones, of the national committee called the convention to order. His appearance upon the platform brought forth cheering. Chairman Jones directed the sergeant at arms to secure order. It was a considerable time before quiet could be restored.

The chairman appointed Col. J. M. Guffey of Pennsylvania and M. F. Tarpey of California to escort Mr. Williams to the chair. As the platform was enclosed by a railing it was necessary for the committee and Mr. Williams to climb over the railing. The committee lifted Mr. Williams over and the entire convention burst into cheers as he ascended the platform.

"I have the honor to introduce to you John S. Williams as temporary chairman," said Chairman Jones, and again the convention cheered.

Mr. Williams delivered his address calmly and without gestures. Several cries of "louder, louder," interrupted Mr. Williams as he began, his clear, but not powerful, voice at first failing to reach parts of the hall.

As Mr. Williams proceeded his voice increased in volume and the delegates listened attentively.

After announcing the time and places for the various committee meetings a motion was made that the convention adjourn until ten o'clock the following morning.

The morning session of the second day lasted a little less than an hour. When the convention was called to order neither the credential committee nor the committee on resolutions were ready to report, although the latter had been in session all night, quitting for a recess at four o'clock in the morning. An adjournment was taken until after noon, when the committee on permanent organization reported the election of Congressman Champ Clark as permanent chairman.

Another development was the refusal of Senator J. W. Bailey of Texas who was selected as permanent chairman of the convention, but refused the honor, saying he desired to be on the floor when the platform is presented for adoption. He is expected to combat any attempt from the Bryan forces to inject into the platform planks which do not meet the approval of the committee. Upon this ground his declination of the chairmanship was respected.

The report of the committee on credentials was the occasion for a fight on the floor. The majority report as read by Chairman Head was adopted. Mr. Bryan presented a minority report. The fight was in the seating the Illinois delegation known as the Hopkins delegates. Mr. Bryan in his speech launched into a review of the Illinois democratic convention and referred to Messrs. Hopkins and Quinn, as high waymen.

After the report had been accepted Permanent Chairman Clark was escorted to the platform and after a speech the convention was declared adjourned until the following day.

Anticipating a vigorous contest on the floor when the committee on resolutions should report, the galleries were well filled, and when the permanent chairman called the convention to order the delegates were nearly all in their seats, and upon every countenance was clearly expressed the determination to carry the widely divergent issues to success.

Without delay it was announced that the report of the committee would be received.

At the statement the convention seized the opportunity to express its satisfaction at the unanimous report to be made.

Becoming impatient at the delay, Senator Daniel began his announcement in the midst of the uproar.

"I am instructed to make to this convention," he began, "this unanimous report from the committee on resolutions."

It was adopted by a viva voce vote, two or three delegates voting in the negative, and they apparently in a spirit of fun. Chairman Clark then put the motion to adopt the report, and another viva voce vote carried it.

Temporary Chairman Williams then mounted the steps leading up to the platform, swung his hat around his head and the delegates, following his lead, roared their applause again and again, while the band played "Hail Columbia."

"The clerk will now call the roll of states for the nomination of a candidate for president," shouted the chairman.

"Alabama," shrieked the clerk. "Alabama yields to the empire state of New York," called Delegate Russell of Alabama.

Martin W. Littleton of New York took the stand to place Judge Parker of New York in nomination. His manner of speaking is calm and deliberate, and the vast audience experienced little difficulty in hearing every word which passed his lips.

D. M. Delmas was recognized as the spokesman for the California delegation, and when the clerk read the name of that state the Californian mounted the platform and nominated William R. Hearst. The mention of the name of Hearst was the signal for a spontaneous burst of applause.

Other names were placed before the convention, with but little hope of nomination, except that in case of a deadlock, when the vote might go that way, but the Parker boom would not down or be blocked. When the balloting began it took but one to decide who would be the standard bearer for the democrats.

On the completion of the first ballot Parker received 658 votes.

Before the vote was announced Idaho changed her six votes, giving him 664 votes. West Virginia added three more votes, giving him the 667 votes, or two-thirds necessary.

Washington changed from Hearst to Parker. This was followed by a motion by Champ Clark to make the nomination of Parker unanimous. A scene of great enthusiasm followed. A monster American flag was unfurled from the dome of the building. The band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner."

Patrick A. Collins of Massachusetts took the stand to second the motion to make the nomination unanimous.

After the announcement of the result of the ballot the states that had voted against Parker began to transfer to his column. Soon the changes came so rapidly that it was impossible to keep track of them.

The roll call resulted in the selection of ex-Senator Davis of West Virginia for vice president, after which, and the finishing of some little detail, the convention adjourned sine die.

The new democratic national committee includes R. L. Williams for Indian Territory and R. S. Billup for Oklahoma.

CAMPFIRE TALES



Viking's War Song.

When Odin calls him,
 What'er befalls him,
 The hero goes,
 With dead and dying
 Around him lying.
 No fear he knows:
 On lightning wings
 His warlike quests
 With sea gulls swinging

His bright shield flashing,
 And sword blade clashing,
 His blows fall free.
 He dies victorious
 For Valhal glorious
 Waits such as he,
 Undaunted yeomen
 And warriors brave,
 Who fear no foemen
 Nor early grave.

Here life is only
 Through rushes lonely,
 A passing breeze,
 A frail craft sailing,
 When winds are falling,
 Through unknown seas,
 But Norns descending
 From Asgard high
 Brig life unending
 When warriors die.
 —Mary Grant O'Sheridan.

About the "Rock of Chickamauga."

The vacillating course of George H. Thomas in the exciting days of 1861, says the Richmond (Va.) Time-Dispatch, caused much comment at that time, and has been a subject of discussion off and on ever since. Gen. Thomas was a Virginian, a graduate of West Point and an officer in the army. With the exception of a difference in rank, he occupied the same position as Gen. Robert E. Lee, and his relatives and admirers in Virginia believed he would do as Lee did. That he gave them time and again assurances that he would never draw his sword against his state has often been asserted and as often denied by his admirers in the north.

In March, 1861, Gen. Thomas wrote a letter to Gov. Letcher of Virginia, in which he expressed his devotion to the state and said in effect that he would remain in the army so long as his state remained in the Union. However, in a few weeks he changed his mind, and drew his sword against his state.

The letter he wrote to Gov. Letcher gave rise to a controversy at Washington as to whether he had recognized his allegiance to Virginia. While the course of Gen. Thomas in remaining in the Union army and repudiating his allegiance to his state was of immense benefit to the federal cause at the time, it is nevertheless true that the belief that he did write the Letcher letter (though his friends denied it), taken with the knowledge of his oft expressed devotion to Virginia, made the authorities at Washington afraid to trust him far, and he was never given the commands which had been tacitly promised him, and which his ability as a soldier so eminently fitted him for.

It was denied at the time that the Letcher letter was in existence or was ever written. It has often been denied since, and only a few weeks ago the existence of the letter was again vehemently denied.

The letter is in existence, and is safely kept in the home of the archives of Virginia. Here is a copy of it:

"New York Hotel, March 12, 1861.
 "His Excellency, Governor John Letcher, Richmond, Va.

"Dear Sir—I received yesterday a letter from Major Gilham of the Virginia Military Institute, dated the 9th instant, in reference to the position of chief or ordnance of the state, in which he informs me that you had requested him to ask me if I would resign from the service, and if so, whether that post would be acceptable to me. As he requested me to make my reply to you direct, I have the honor to state, after expressing my most sincere thanks for your very kind offer, that it is not my wish to leave the service of the United States as

long as it is honorable for me to remain in it; and, therefore, as long as my native state, Virginia, remains in the Union, it is my purpose to remain in the army, unless required to perform duties alike repulsive to honor and humanity. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"George H. Thomas,
 "Major, U. S. Army."

* The authenticity of the letter seems to be beyond question.

Officially Dead Five Years.

William H. Lewis of this village, a veteran of the War of the Rebellion, had a peculiar experience, and for upward of five years was to all intents and purposes a dead man. His grave and the marker which indicates where he was buried can still be seen in the national cemetery at Sharpsburg, Md.

Mr. Lewis enlisted at Albany, May 27, 1861, in Capt. Charles Riley's Company F of the famous Thirty-fourth regiment, commanded by James A. Suiter. Lewis went through the Peninsula campaign without a scratch until the bloody battle of Antietam, when he was shot five times, twice in the legs and once in the face. He was left on the field for dead and for two days and nights lay out in the open, suffering untold agonies; and should Lewis live to be 100 years old he will never forget the hours spent on that battlefield. He was among the dead reported Sept. 17, 1862, and his body was supposed to have been removed from the battlefield and placed in grave No. 844 in the National Cemetery at Sharpsburg, Md., the headstone bearing that inscription.

Instead, however, Lewis was removed to a shed, where he remained a prisoner for seven days, when he was exchanged and transferred to Washington, being honorably discharged for surgical disability March 22, 1863. The wound in the face was a peculiar one, and never since he was shot has he been able to open his mouth wide.

In 1868, when he made application for a pension, Mr. Lewis was promptly informed by the Pension Department at Washington that he was killed at the battle of Antietam and that there was no such man as William H. Lewis, a member of Company F, Thirty-fourth regiment. He had no trouble in securing affidavits from his captain, Charles Riley, and his colonel, James A. Suiter, establishing his identity, and his pension was soon forthcoming. Lewis enlisted at 23 years of age, and to-morrow he celebrates his sixty-sixth birthday.—Herkimer Citizen.

First Confederate Slain.

There was unveiled at Fairfax Court House, Virginia, on June 1, a monument to Capt. John Quincy Marr, the first Confederate soldier to fall in actual combat in the civil war. The date of Capt. Marr's death was June 1, 1861, and the spot where he fell was only a few yards from the Court House green, upon which the monument has been erected.

It was as captain of the Warrenton Riflemen that he entered the Confederate army. This company of 100 men was ordered to Fairfax Court House—a post of honor and danger—to strengthen its somewhat meager defense, on May 31, 1861. About three o'clock next morning the riflemen were aroused by the news of the approach of the enemy's cavalry. They formed at once and their captain led them to a commanding position near the Court House. Soon after he had called them to halt a body of cavalry rushed upon them and firing was begun. It was pitch dark and no one saw their leader fall, but his "Halt!" was the last word he was ever heard to utter. In the meantime the riflemen were reinforced by Colonel R. S. Ewell, who was commandant of the post. Led by him the riflemen thrice repulsed the enemy and finally drove them off, leaving two prisoners behind them. When daylight dawned Capt. Marr was the only Confederate missing, and he was discovered lying in the long grass with a bullet through his heart.