

THE CONVENTION.

THE MOVEMENT FOR REFORM TAKING SHAPE.

TWENTY-TWO COUNTIES REPRESENTED.

THE PRELIMINARY WORK COMPLETE.

NOMINATIONS EXPECTED TO-DAY.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE NEWS.]

COLUMBIA, June 15.

The convention called by the conference of the State press, held in March last, assembled at 8 o'clock this evening in the hall of the Columbia Hotel. There was a full attendance of delegates, a large minority of whom were colored citizens.

The Convention was called to order by E. W. Seibels, of Richland, who nominated as temporary chairman Colonel T. Y. Simons, of Charleston. On taking the chair, Colonel Simons made a brief and appropriate address, which was frequently interrupted by applause.

At its close, Robert Aldrich, of Barnwell, and W. G. Rout, of Charleston, were, on motion, elected secretaries of the Convention. The counties were then called, and the lists of delegates were presented to the secretaries. Twenty-two counties were represented. The counties not represented are York, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Sumter, Oconee, Marlboro', Abbeville, Beaufort and Clarendon.

Y. J. Pope, Esq., of Newberry, moved the appointment of a committee, to consist of one delegate from each county, to report officers for the permanent organization of the Convention, which was carried.

Subsequently the committee reported the following nominations for officers:

For President—Wm. Shannon, of Kershaw. For Vice-Presidents—T. P. Kinard, of Newberry; S. E. Means, of Spartanburg; F. B. McBeck, of Pickens; R. G. Witherspoon, of Lancaster; J. E. Bird of Darlington; A. Melchers, of Charleston; James Kennedy, of Richland; Henry Barnes, of Edgefield; Moses Benson, of Chester; Marlow Cochrane, of Charleston; M. Caldwell, of Orangeburg, and J. Gibson, of Williamsburg.

Secretaries—Robert Aldrich, of Barnwell, and W. G. Rout, of Charleston.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the president was conducted to the chair.

On taking his seat, Colonel Shannon made a patriotic address, in which he alluded to the importance of the object for which the Convention was called, and urged the delegates to rise to the importance of the occasion, and in the spirit of devotion to the State, to co-operate to rescue it from misrule.

General M. C. Butler, of Edgefield, moved the appointment of a committee of seven on the platform, which was carried. The president announced the following as the committee: Messrs. M. C. Butler, Ellison C. Kelt, George L. Baist, Joseph B. Kershaw, Benjamin Harrington, Thomas Gregory and James B. McLean.

Mr. Seibels, of Richland, moved the appointment of a committee of seven, to whom all resolutions offered in the Convention shall be referred, which was carried. Subsequently the chair announced the following gentlemen as such committee: Messrs. E. W. Seibels, J. P. Thomas, J. D. Kennedy, F. W. Dawson, C. Boyce, A. Harper and J. O. Crosby.

Major W. T. Gary, of Edgefield, moved the appointment of a committee of ten, to whom shall be referred the question of the number of votes and the manner of taking the votes of the different counties represented in this convention, which was carried. Subsequently the chairman announced the following as such committee: Messrs. W. T. Gary, James M. Davis, W. E. Marshall, Jonas Bird, B. J. Witherspoon, J. A. Hoyt, A. Smith, S. P. Burbridge, Edwin F. Malloy and R. P. Todd.

General Kershaw and Mr. E. S. Kelt presented drafts for the platform, which were referred to the committee having that subject in charge. A clause in General Kershaw's resolutions recommends that the nominations of the Convention be of Republicans only.

A communication from General John A. Wagener, of Charleston, was also referred to the same committee.

On motion, the convention then adjourned to Thursday morning, at 10 o'clock.

The convention is settling down in admirable temper to its work. The general expectation is that a State ticket will be nominated in the course of to-morrow's session. Though there is perfect harmony of spirit among the delegates, there is, of course, a considerable diversity of views, and there is every indication that we shall have a lively debate to-morrow. All the Charleston delegates are well and in fine spirits. The following is a correct list of the Charleston delegation present at the opening of the Convention: Whites—R. Mure, G. L. Baist, J. F. Britton, John Campsen, B. O'Neill, R. Hunter, J. B. Steele, A. Melchers, T. S. Browning, T. Y. Simons, J. W. Dawson, J. D. Parker, L. McLean, Alva Gage, J. J. Grace, W. E. Mikkell, E. W. Marshall, A. O. Stone, A. G. Goodwyn, F. Melchers. Colored—John Abbott, B. R. Kinloch, Charles Michael, W. E. Marshall, Wm. Black, Jonas Bird, A. Harper, M. Cochrane, W. A. Sneed, W. G. Rout, Charles Miller, Theo. Mitchell, W. L. Shecutt, Cyrus Fenwick, Elias Johnson, Wm. R. Fordham.

The colored delegates were well entertained and cared for. They came to the Convention in omnibuses, accompanied by a white driver. Loud threats of personal violence were made against them by some of the

FAIR WARNING.

GREELEY ON THE READMISSION OF WHITEMORE.

"Congress, or the Penitentiary."

Under the head of "Congress, or the Penitentiary," we find the following outspoken leading editorial in the New York Tribune of Monday last:

A man is presently to offer himself at the bar of the House for readmission, concerning whom the same House recently adopted this resolution:

Resolved, That B. F. Whitmore, late member from the First District of South Carolina, did make appointments to the Military Academy at West Point and the Naval Academy at Annapolis in violation of law, and that such appointments were induced by pecuniary considerations, and that his conduct in the premises has been such as to show him unworthy of a seat in the House of Representatives, and that he be condemned as a person unworthy of the representative of the people.

Is this corrupt man, who was unworthy of a seat three months ago, to be readmitted as worthy now? We hear that he has been telegraphing to his friends and counsel, General Butler, the news of his triumphant re-election; that he constantly expects to be admitted without dispute; that reputable members are deploring it in a helpless sort of way, and going about dolefully asking each other, "How can we prevent it?"

Really we do not know. The House is made the sole judge as to the qualifications of its members. Once it seems to have had pretty decided notions concerning the qualifications of Mr. B. F. Whitmore. It grew less decided in some similar cases; finally it disgraced itself by permitting Mr. Butler, of Tennessee, to remain, albeit as guilty as Whitmore himself; now, perhaps, it may think Mr. Whitmore more deserving of a seat than Butler, and so it passes the bill. It is the sole judge. But we can assure members that the time is at hand when a larger body of voters will be called to sit in judgment.

Thus far the House has been a mere member of the party found guilty of this cadetship infamy. We assumed great virtue at the outset; then we furnished able counsel for the Congressional bad merchant; next we excused him because he had been an unusually active Republican, and after that the whole business broke down. We tell gentlemen that we have had fully as much of this sort of thing as we can stand.

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WASHINGTON.

The Currency Bill Passed by the House.

[FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

WASHINGTON, June 15.

The evidence in the case of General Howard, charged with corruption in the administration of the Freedmen's Bureau, has been closed. The committee will carefully overhaul the testimony, which will probably occupy the remainder of the session. The case was closed with a long statement from Howard.

Admiral Lee succeeded Admiral Poor in command of the North Atlantic Squadron, with headquarters in Cuban waters.

SENATE.

A protest was presented from New York shipowners against granting American registers to foreign built ships. Among the signers are Messrs Taylor and Cornelius Vanderbilt.

A bill was passed granting land to a Florida railroad.

The discussion on Cuba last night was violent. Several Republicans attacked Grant's message.

HOUSE.

In the House, the Committee on Ways and Means reported a bill relieving coal from duty. It was referred to a committee of the whole. It excludes the coal traffic both at home and abroad from all kinds of taxation, whether tariff, stamp, income tax or tonnage, and makes a clean sweep of revenue from the coal trade. The bill, after some discussion, was recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means, the minority claiming that the bill was not in accordance with the instructions of the House, and insisting that had the full committee been present a different bill would have been reported.

The House then resumed the consideration of the currency bill. The fourth section allows a bank in a State having an excess to remove to a State in deficiency, taking with it its capital, circulation, &c. The bill finally passed—yeas 98, nays 81. It goes to the Senate.

The debate to-day on the Cuba resolutions was exciting, especially between Butler, who opposed the declaration of belligerency, and Logan, who advocated it.

Bingham introduced a compromise amendment, authorizing the President to use his good offices in restoring peace between Spain and the Cubans. It is thought that this may be adopted. Pending its consideration, the House adjourned.

HOLDEN IMITATES SCOTT.

RALEIGH, June 15.

Governor Holden has issued orders to the different military divisions of the State, for the formation of a regiment of State troops for active service, to be made up of white volunteers. If they can be obtained; if not, negroes will be enlisted. He also orders the immediate enrollment of the militia, with instructions to set apart a special number of mounted men in each regiment, to be used as a reserve.

SQUALL ON CHESAPEAKE BAY.

FORTRESS MONROE, June 15.

A violent squall struck some vessels lying at anchor in Great Wye, about sixty miles up the bay, on Saturday evening, capsizing three schooners, one the Viola, of Cusfield. No lives lost. On reaching the land it uprooted trees, blew out windows and doors, and did much damage to crops. It covered a space about a mile wide.

STRANGE PHENOMENA.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 15.

The steamer Republic arrived from Hong Kong May 12th. An earthquake had occurred in Japan which is said to have been the severest since 1855. Reports are meagre. Several villages were destroyed. The volcano on the island of Nisyphoe, quiet for a century, was in violent eruption.

The captain of the bark Benefactor reports, and a volcano at sea, two hundred miles from Yokohama. Some portions of the volcano, rising above the sea, were seen from the deck of the vessel. The water around the volcano seemed boiling.

THE BLUE RIDGE INJUNCTION.

COLUMBIA, June 15.

Judge Melton this morning filed his order dissolving the injunction against the Blue Ridge Railroad.

REFORM IN BEAUFORT.

[REPORTED FOR THE NEWS.]

In response to a published call, a mass meeting of the citizens of Beaufort County was held at Hickory Hill, on the 11th instant, to elect delegates to the State Reform Convention to be held at Columbia on the 15th inst.

About noon Mr. A. J. Gill called for order, and moved that J. C. Davant, Esq., be invited to take the chair. This motion having prevailed by a unanimous vote, the chairman proceeded to state succinctly the objects of the meeting, to impress the necessities of retrenchment and reform, to urge the indispensability of co-operation for success, to trace the lines of the proposed party as indifferent to the boundaries of all national parties, and to exhort the people to rise in their majesty to vindicate their supremacy, and to drive out every usurper.

Mr. B. R. Lewis was requested to act as secretary, and the chairman announced that the meeting was ready for business.

Mr. B. R. Lewis moved that a suitable committee be appointed to nominate delegates to represent the county in the approaching Convention at Columbia. This motion prevailed, and the chairman appointed Messrs. B. R. Lewis, Major W. G. Hoover, Elias Ryan, J. L. Fitts, Pat Terry, J. Johnston, Hector Lashford, J. J. Gooding, Seaborn Drayton, P. E. Terry, Warner Giles, S. J. Lewis, and Edward Denson.

The committee, having retired, Dr. H. W. C. Folk moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait on Colonel H. C. Smart, with an invitation to address the meeting.

The Committee on Delegation reported as follows: Colonel G. P. Elliott, Colonel H. C. Smart, J. C. Davant, Esq., Rev. Elias Ryan, Henry McBride, S. C. Millett, Colonel J. A. Tison, Erwin Robertson, Colonel C. J. Colcock, H. R. Williams, Major W. G. Hoover, Elias Ryan, J. L. Fitts, Pat Terry, J. Johnston, Hector Lashford, J. J. Gooding, Seaborn Drayton, P. E. Terry, Warner Giles, S. J. Lewis, and Edward Denson.

The motion was to adopt the report, when Colonel Smart rose, renewed his thanks for the distinction shown him, led the audience through all the ramifications of State and National politics, along the pathways of virtue and wise statesmanship, to the besting places of Jefferson, Webster, and Clay, and then, in a speech of about half an hour, urged the claim of white to equal social, political and industrial rights. The writer thinks if Lady Amherst can convert the women in her own circle, the work will be done.

transit between the past and the present, the inroads upon every individual's pocket, made by the taxation of men chosen only because of the adoption of a party name—the name of a party brought forward by national politics, reared to huge proportions for national ends, and having no connection with the interests of South Carolina. He then appealed to those who had recently been born to citizenship, and how they would regard with suspicion those they knew best, and how long trust the "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal" of seductive professions.

Colonel Smart was followed by Rev. Elias Ryan, who said that he had voted the Radical ticket every time, but, with the help of God, he'd never vote it again. He said everybody had been taxed for having anything to say for their schools, and yet there are no schools; to support the infirm, and yet they are unaided. He wanted to know where the money had gone, if not in some rascally Radical's pocket, it was in the pocket of the State. He said, if such would only go back to their rail-splitting or manure-carriage, all classes would live here in peace and plenty, and like brothers all born in the same country, and that South Carolinians who had made South Carolina a prosperous and happy State, and kept her so long a time, could do it again without any Radical taxation. For his part, he knew his friends and countrymen from most of the "market-pickers." He said he was ashamed that some of the white men in the county would not come out to meetings or to vote, because they haven't got much to pay tax on. He said, "Who is it that is the driver after all? Not the man who makes that box of matches, and has to buy a stamp to put on it. When you come to buy it, don't you have to pay for the stamp and the box of matches, too? And Coker, D. D., of the University of Michigan."

The report of the Committee on Delegation was then called up and unanimously adopted, when the meeting adjourned.

THE DAYS OF THE WAR.

A Reminiscence by John Mitchell.

The following extract from the war journal of John Mitchell, the distinguished Irishman, will be read with interest:

RICHMOND, January, 1864. From the time I have been at Richmond, I have had time to think of our position, and at long intervals, of how it has fared with my family in Ireland. A mercantile firm in Baltimore has been good enough to receive letters for me, and thus to send me news from the guarded lines as an occasion offered. So I knew not, all through the month of January, that my wife, with my two little daughters, was at sea, on board one of the small blockade-running steamers, on her way to the States. I had known of it, yet the step they took was very natural. My wife knew that not only her eldest daughter was to be sent to the States, but that my youngest son had fallen in the field at Gettysburg. She could not know at that moment she might hear of the slaughter of her two other sons, both engaged in the country, and that she might hear of the death of her father in Virginia; and at last she had determined, without consulting me, to attempt the running of the blockade by means of such vessels as were available. Our friends in Ireland had heard a great deal of order and discipline in the blockade runners, and that such vessels were actually in Yankee newspapers, and that they had been given my sanction to the enterprise, if I had known of it; yet the step they took was very natural. My wife knew that not only her eldest daughter was to be sent to the States, but that my youngest son had fallen in the field at Gettysburg. 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