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THE CHICKASAW CONVENTION

Representative Meeting of Citizens Close Its Labors in Perfect Harmony.

STEPS TAKEN TO PERFECT AN ORGANIZATION

Representatives from Other Nations Given Seats and Cordially Welcomed--Convention Asks for Public Schools, Public Roads and Local Self Government.

The convention called by Mayor Dick to convene in Ardmore Nov. 10 met at 10 o'clock Monday morning at the United States courthouse. The convention was called to order by Mayor Dick and the house went into temporary organization by the election of S. W. Hays of Ryan temporary chairman and F. F. Fox temporary secretary. Mr. Hays, in stating the object of the Ardmore convention is to be to take steps to secure needed legislation, took advantage of his opportunity to express his gratefulness for the honor that had been conferred upon him.

Inasmuch as a number of delegates were expected to arrive on the Santa Fe and Choctaw trains about noon it was agreed that during the morning session no work be done except the appointment of committees on credentials and permanent organization.

Following are those committees: Credentials--S. Hardy, T. N. Robnett, Dr. Beauchamp, Dr. McPherson, Sam Davis.

Permanent organization--R. W. Dick, J. T. Conn, W. I. Gilbert, A. J. Milburn, H. O. Croger.

Upon the suggestion of J. C. Graham that Henry M. Furman would be absent during the afternoon session the latter was called for to give his views concerning what steps the convention should take.

Mr. Furman responded with a strong speech, stating that he appreciated the courtesy shown him by the convention and expressing regrets at his inability to be present throughout the deliberations of the convention.

live then it's time to discuss personal views."

On motion of Mr. Herbert the people from other nations were voted seats in the convention and given a cordial welcome.

C. L. Potter of Galveston, who is a close friend to Senator Bailey, was present.

Mr. Potter was called for and responded with a characteristic speech that caught the convention. Mr. Potter said that there were complaints from every state and territory in the Union and that we must formulate some definite plan of action and then get behind it in order to accomplish anything. The American citizen, wherever he is, is entitled to protection; his children should have schools, his insane, asylums, and he should be secure in his property rights.

When you formulate a plan of work congress will not turn a deaf ear and you can count with certainty on the assistance of Senator Bailey and others from Texas.

W. H. L. Campbell of Ada suggested that Sam Powell of Wagoner might have something of interest for the convention. Mr. Powell is not a public speaker, but he has accomplished the first step toward making one, i. e., he knows something to say. Mr. Powell spent last winter with congress; has compiled statistics of the Indian Territory for the committee on territories and there is not a phase of Indian legislation upon which he is not thoroughly acquainted.

Mr. Powell stated that he had a recent letter from Mr. Moon of Tennessee in which he states that the Indian Territory will get a territorial form of government or nothing at the next session of congress.

The convention resumed its afternoon deliberations at 2 o'clock. The temporary organization was made permanent. A committee composed of A. Eddleman, J. F. Copeland, John Beard, W. B. Johnson, W. H. L. Campbell, R. McMullan and Elliott was appointed on resolutions.

A committee composed of Chairman S. W. Hays, J. F. Conn and P. O. Chism was appointed to make a state of the executive committee.

While the committees were out the time was taken up in discussion of Territorial matters. Mr. Ledbetter was of the opinion that single statehood is inevitable. Oklahoma, with one exception, has always gone overwhelmingly republican, but the vote this election is still in doubt and the single issue of the campaign was union with Indian Territory. The result shows Oklahoma to be willing to divide her school funds, and she voted in the interest of a broad patriotism for one magnificent state rather than two insignificant states.

W. I. Gilbert said: "This country occupies a peculiar condition. People formerly went after liberty with gunpowder and bayonets, but we go after it with a set of resolutions. Believe we ought to assume the initiative and demand the attention of congress. Let

all the nations join in one concerted movement and send to Washington a congressional delegation that shall rise above the ordinary lobbyist. Five hundred thousand people without educational facilities should be their principal plea, and illustrate its awfulness by pointing to cars of prisoners all under 25 years of age."

Stillwell H. Russell rose and said in part:

"Before I came to the Territory I tried to make a study of the conditions, and the more I studied the more I came convinced that I did not understand it. We all seem to understand that we need something and I have heard all the speakers say we need something. We need representation; we need to be conservative. They all say we need representation, but none of them suggests a method. I do not know what method to adopt myself, but I do know one thing, the government of the United States had the Indian Territory under direct control for more than seventy years. There has been millions of dollars squandered through various channels and for different purposes, and more than enough to float three or four common wars. There has been too much politics from one end to the other. Now we hear that we need a delegate in congress; we need representation in some shape whether it is a delegate in congress or blocked out with Oklahoma. The party headed by William Cross made a gallant fight for us and we should express our gratitude to them. We want single statehood but we can't get it, and it will not do to stand out for that and that alone as it will set us back thirty or forty years. The next best thing we can do is to get a Territorial form of government. As soon as we get in as a Territory won't congress be as good to us as she was to Oklahoma? She bought their lands, won't she do the same thing for us? We are their wards and children and they will be as kind to us as they were to them. That is the best thing we can do and we had best stand by it and as Mr. Powell said, 'that bill will go through or nothing will.'"

Edwin Hill of South McAlester made a brief speech in which he said the people should eliminate party questions, quit making experiments and give their unqualified indorsement to the Moon bill, which had been reported unanimously by the committee on territories. He also suggested that a senatorial committee would reach Guthrie and Oklahoma City next Wednesday and that they might be induced to visit the Indian Territory.

Mr. Ledbetter replied that he had been in communication with the senators and moved the appointment of a committee to confer with them. The chair appointed W. A. Ledbetter, E. P. Hill, W. I. Gilbert, Sam Powell and J. F. Sharpe.

W. G. D. Hinds of South McAlester said the he had always been for double statehood and that he stood unqualifiedly for the Moon bill.

J. J. McAlester said that most people talked of coming to the Territory but that the Territory had come to him. He said the people had come here without the protection of law and that now if a man were at least disposed to the rulings of the secretary of the interior would run him mad.

It was his opinion that if some relief did not come with the approaching session that the people should call a constitutional convention and present a form of state government to congress with a request for its indorsement. He complimented the people of the Chickasaw Nation on transacting a greater volume of business and on being more nearly a unit on public questions.

Mr. Herbert then made a ringing speech. He would like to see the two territories in one state if they can come together on equal footing. People of Indian Territory should be allowed to participate in the constitutional convention, and if not allowed that privilege we'll take care of ourselves. Oklahoma can't out-class us commercially nor any other way and we are under no obligations to them. Disgusted with the omnibus bill, but as a mere matter of expediency would indorse the Moon bill.

Judge West referred to the two pending measures--omnibus bill and the Moon bill. He had always been for the single statehood, but that above all else the people should stand as a unit.

The following names were read of those who had been placed on the executive committee: H. L. Jarboe, Chickasha; W. I. Gilbert, Duncan; J. C. Washington, Marietta; Sam Davis, Davis; R. W. Dick, Ardmore; J. W. Beard, Ada; H. A. Kreoger, Francis; A. Gullett, Tishomingo; A. J. Milburn, Milburn.

The committee on resolutions made a majority and a minority report.

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