

# OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE.

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## THEY WANT TO JOIN FORCES

Democratic County Committee  
In Favor of Fusion.

FOUR WERE FOR STRAIGHT TICKET

Many Expressions of Opinion Were Heard But No Definite Action Was Taken.

Politicians took the city Saturday. It was the day set for the meeting of the Democratic County Central Committee and there was gathered from the various precincts many of the untitled and a few of the titled, anxious for the party of Jefferson to shuffle off the coils of Democracy and join in the general movement for office. The hour was set at 10 A. M., but it was eleven when Colonel Robert A. Miller, chairman of the committee, rapped for order. A majority of the committee was not present and the meeting adjourned until the afternoon.

The chairman called the committee to order at one o'clock and a roll call showed the following members present:

Abernethy..... John Kent  
Barlow..... W. W. Jesse  
Beaver Creek..... T. Duffy  
Canby..... C. N. Wait  
Canemah..... C. W. Ganong  
Highland..... Stephen Hutchinson  
Macksburg..... Albert Gribble  
Molalla..... O. W. Robbins  
Milk Creek..... H. W. Gard  
Milwaukie..... T. R. A. Sellwood  
Maple Lane..... J. R. Myers  
Oregon City, No. 1..... E. D. Kelly  
Oregon City, No. 2..... David Caulfield  
Oregon City, No. 3..... R. B. Beatie  
Pleasant Hill..... A. C. Sharp  
Tualatin..... Thomas Turner  
Union..... M. N. Crissell  
Viola..... B. C. Richardson  
West Oregon City..... Ira Jones

The following precincts had no representation: Boring, Canyon Creek, Cascade, Clackamas, Cherryville, Damascus, Eagle Creek, Garfield, George, Harding, Marquam, Neely, New Era, Oswego, Selvers, Soda Springs, Springwater, Killin.

Upon the report of Secretary Cheney, showing that 19 precincts were represented, Chairman Miller stated that he had been requested by members of the committee to call a meeting and that the committee was here to take any action which they deemed the wisest and best. He asked for the views of the members on the subject of fusion.

E. D. Kelly, one of the war horses of the party, arose and said that he disapproved of taking any action without a full representation of the committee and that if the unrepresented precincts did not have enterprise enough to keep up their precinct organization they should not be entitled to representation in the party. They needed discipline. "How can we have a county organization," asked Mr. Kelly, "unless precinct organizations are maintained? No one should voice the sentiment of absent members. Let us begin right. Those who are present and they alone should have the right to voice the sentiment of the party."

C. N. Wait, of Canby, said: "This is a time when there is a good deal depending on the action of the Democratic party. We have reached a time when there has got to be something done. I don't care who does it. I make a motion that the Democrats present be allowed to voice the sentiment of the absent ones. I can give only my personal opinion but it is in accord with the opinion of the people in my end of the county."

Mr. Wait's motion was carried without a dissenting voice.

D. C. Richardson, of Viola, said his people were in favor of Democrats on any ticket.

Judge T. F. Cowing, Clackamas County's representative on the Democratic State Central Committee, said he had attended the meeting in Portland and that he had discovered there that the People's Party and the Silver Republican Party no longer existed. Each county should manage its own affairs as it seemed best to them. If the Democratic party should, by uniting, secure the election of a county ticket, it should be done by all means. He was heartily in favor of a Citizens' movement, and what confirmed his opinion of the advisability of such a movement was the advice of the Republicans against it.

Upon the motion of C. W. Ganong it was decided to call the roll and obtain an expression of opinion from the committeemen. Mr. Jones wanted a secret session but was overruled by the chairman. The expressions of opinion were merely personal and were not to be understood as binding the party.

Mr. Kelly said the fight should be made on the office of commissioner. "Put up a good man, a strong man and a

man of iron. This office is the root of the whole trouble. The Republicans have run the county for years. At one time the Democrats elected Mr. Mark to that office. He was a good man—to sit around home—but was a tool in the hands of certain gentlemen in the county." There was a vast territory in the county that was unrepresented in the committee meeting. "I am a Democrat," said Mr. Kelly. "If the Republicans, Populists and Socialists have faith in Democratic reform, let them come in and vote the Democratic ticket." He wanted his vote recorded for a straight ticket, but would be in accord with the wishes of the majority.

Colonel Miller said the party could better carry out Democratic principles by an independent movement. "Three or four months ago a majority of the party was in favor of a straight ticket but one by one they had altered their views. The best interests of the county will be served by a Citizens' ticket. He had heard no dissenting voice in his precinct. Some men are afraid of losing their Democratic identity. This is absurd. No action of ours could kill the party. As Democrats we can step out of our organization and as citizens can carry out Democratic doctrine."

C. W. Ganong, of Canemah, said that an independent ticket was the only medicine left in the bottle and he guessed he would have to take it.

Mr. Hutchinson, of Highland, said that his own private opinion was that Democrats could poll a larger vote by putting up a straight ticket. At present there were more Populists than Democrats. The Populists had always been willing to fuse.

H. W. Gard, of Milk Creek, said that Democrats in his precinct were few and far between. There were a good many Populists leaning towards socialism and these men had told him that if good men were put up on a Citizens' ticket the people would vote it. For the party's sake he favored a straight Democratic ticket.

G. L. Trullinger, of Milk Creek, was strongly in favor of a straight Democratic ticket.

The chairman read a letter from Barton Jack, the Marquam committeeman and in this letter Mr. Jack endorsed a Citizens' movement.

T. R. A. Sellwood, of Milwaukie, said the Citizens' ticket would get Socialist and Populist votes. Men of iron and of nerve should carry out the Citizens' movement and would be sure to win.

David Caulfield, of Oregon City, No. 2, said the party was looking for a Moses and the Moses should be a Democrat on a straight Democratic ticket.

A. C. Sharp, of Pleasant Hill, was in doubt, but stated that from what he had heard at the meeting, the Citizens' ticket would be the proper thing.

Ira Jones, of West Oregon City, said that every Democrat and every Populist on the West Side he had talked with had told him "For God's sake, give us a Citizens' ticket, so we can vote it." The speaker roundly scored the hangers-on on the Board of Commissioners, and said there should be less listening to slyster lawyers and more business done for the people.

Contractor E. D. Olds, who is a Populist, said that the men of his party on the West side were in favor of a Citizens' ticket. His only plank was the initiative and referendum.

C. D. Latourette thought that conditions were ripe for the movement and believed that if it was managed right every man from top to bottom could be elected. He said that the chances were never so favorable for a fusion ticket. He advised the committeemen to be very careful in the selection of the ticket. "What are you going to do to satisfy the people who will be called upon to vote for it?" asked Mr. Latourette. "When you come to make this ticket, make it satisfactory to the old party. Make it satisfactory to the Populist element and to the Independent Republicans. Be prepared to vote for anything that a majority of the convention believe to be the best."

Henry Theisen, of Milwaukie, who was the fusion candidate for Recorder at the last election, advised a straight Democratic ticket, and said that some of the officers elected on the fusion ticket two years ago had not kept their promises in regard to deputy hire.

The roll call showed the following results for and against an independent movement:

For an independent movement and against a straight ticket: Kent, Jesse, Duffy, Wait, Ganong, Robbins, Gard, Jack, Sellwood, Myers, Beatie, Sharp, Turner, Crissell, Richardson, Jones.—16

(Continued on page 6.)

## MASS MEETING OF SOCIALISTS

County Convention To Be Held In This City Tomorrow.

FULL TICKET WILL BE NOMINATED

Leaders Place Their Strength at Over 1000, Many of Whom Will Vote For Brownell.

Next Saturday is the day set for a mass county convention of the Socialist party and it is expected that nearly 200 socialists from all parts of the county will be present. A conservative estimate of the party leaders is that between 1,000 and 1,200 votes will be polled for the ticket. The socialists have been very active since their organization in this county about two months ago. Fred J. Meindl is the chairman of the county central committee and William Beard is the secretary. Walter F. Pruden, of Highland, is the county organizer, and organization has already been effected in two thirds of the 37 precincts and the socialists propose to organize in every precinct. At the county convention a platform will be drawn up, delegates to the state and district conventions will be named and it is more than probable that a full county ticket will be nominated. The convention is called for 10 o'clock and will meet in Willamette Hall.

There is a difference of opinion existing as to the wisdom of placing a county ticket in the field. A majority of the party is in favor of putting up a state, district and county ticket but others are opposed to a county ticket. The minority advance the argument that a county ticket will only add to the expense, burdens and prejudices of the party without adding to the vote. There is no doubt that Fred J. Meindl will be named for state senator, and it is also sure that many socialists will vote for George C. Brownell, who will be the Republican nominee for re-election. Mr. Brownell will be supported on account of the work he has done in the last two sessions of the legislature for the initiative and referendum. Hon. W. S. U'Ren, who is the father of the initiative and referendum in this state, will vote for Brownell. It is a purely sacrifice campaign for anybody that runs, and with the exception of Meindl for senator, few names have been mentioned for the various offices.

All of the members of the party are taking an active part in its organization. There are already several speakers in the field and there will be several more when the campaign is fairly opened. They will be for the most part local men and the socialists will rely principally on literature.

The socialist sentiment in Clackamas County is overwhelmingly against fusion with any party. They will not combine directly or indirectly with any other party or leave any vacant places on their ticket for another party to fill.

The first congressional district convention will be held in this city March 20. Thomas Buckman, formerly of Clackamas County, but now of Coos County, has been prominently mentioned in connection with the congressional nomination.

### A Promising Young Man.

Fred J. Meindl, chairman of the Socialist County Central Committee, returned Saturday from a visit with friends in Monmouth. He is a graduate of the Monmouth Normal, and recently completed a term of school at New Era. His report appears in another column. Mr. Meindl has chosen the law as a profession and yesterday started reading in the office of Mayor Dimick. In conversation with a representative of the Enterprise he stated that he regarded Mr. Dimick as the strongest candidate for county judge that the Republicans could place in the field, and thinks he is likely to receive the nomination. He thinks that if Judge Ryan is renominated he will be beaten at the polls. Mr. Meindl is a close student of political life and began at an early age. When only twelve years old he came to town from his home on the Abernethy to listen to the political speaking in Republican, Democratic and Populist meetings. He has always made a study of the great political questions and knows much more of them than the average man.

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