

APRIL 9 IS THE DAY

First District Convention Will Meet in Eugene.

TO NAME TONGUE'S SUCCESSOR

Republican Congressional Committee Decides to Call Primaries and Advise That County Conventions Be Held Prior to April 4.

A diet of political celebrities held forth in Portland yesterday. The gentlemen hailed from the First Congressional District, and were members of the Republican state committee. The upshot of the conference was a proclamation for a new Republican convention of the district at Eugene April 9, at 2:30 P. M.

The committee recommended that county conventions be held not later than Saturday, April 4. Primaries, therefore, are a little more than two weeks distant. This interesting period will be a strenuous time for candidates. The intense rivalry between them convinces the committee that for the sake of harmony in the party the contest must be taken back to the people in the primaries.

Nomination by the committee or by the old convention was dismissed from the deliberations because of the discord and factional rancor that either of those procedures would engender.

Equal Chance for All Candidates.

"We must give all the candidates in the party equal chance before the people," said Chairman T. W. Harris. "No candidate can then complain of unfair treatment. I myself have been in favor of nomination by the old convention, but a new convention will be better for the interests of the party in the end."

The committee was confronted with two leading questions: First, whether to call a new convention or to reconvene the old convention or itself to nominate the candidate; and second, where to hold the new convention. After considerable discussion a motion offered by B. F. Jones for a new convention was carried. The arguments for this procedure followed three lines, namely: That primaries were required by law, because a vacancy had occurred in the office of Representative and not in the pocket; that primaries were required by party usage; and that primaries should be held in the interest of policy.

Dr. Harris and His Proxies.

People cast many a guess yesterday at the political significance of the committee's action in choosing Eugene for the place of the convention. The rivals for that honor were Eugene and Salem. Hermann, as the leader in the Congressional race, was suspected of preferring Eugene, for obvious geographical reasons, and of having carried out his wishes. The fact of the matter, however, was that the committee, or rather the ten members of it who were in council, in the morning had thought Eugene was the most central town in the district, and therefore the most conveniently accessible. The alleged devotion which he, as a member of the ruling dynasty in Lane County, had to Hermann for his political and personal alliances, is not generally credited. Fulton is in debt to Hermann. It is true, but the Booth-Kyddall partnership can hardly feel obliged to Fulton's power. Fulton owes quite as much and more to the ruling powers in Lane than he does to Hermann. Besides, the ex-Land Commissioner is likely to be a heavy burden on the district in power, and that county, especially if they have to combat the charge that they are using their constituents to fulfill last year's bird-nest promises. The political situation in Lane County would welcome no better opportunity to get the drop on their opponents.

Young Mr. Harris Not an Aspirant.

Dr. Harris was suspected of drawing the convention to Eugene to make the road to the nomination easier for his son, Speaker L. T. Harris. This was not the case, however, because young Mr. Harris has "no Congressional aspirations" at this time, and has said so in words that could not be equivocated. Dr. Harris insisted yesterday that his son did not desire the nomination at present.

"He could probably get the nomination if he wished it," said Dr. Harris, "and no doubt could be elected. But he is too young, unless he goes to Eugene before the people just now. It is not necessary to mention the reasons, for they are personal to himself."

These "reasons" are understood to be founded chiefly on financial considerations. Mr. Harris is a young man, and has not been engaged in his profession long enough to have accumulated a competence, sufficient to sustain him at Washington in the station he would wish to occupy.

The Hermann people feel that they will not lose by going to the primaries. They desire, for the integrity of their position, to engender no party schism that might defeat them. They well know that they need the support of the whole party and they fear that even then they would not have a very wide margin. It is significant that the members of the committee who were disposed to have the committee or the old convention nominate the candidate are not all of the Hermann group. Among these gentlemen were: T. F. Ryan, of Clackamas; W. G. Henderson, of Yamhill, and J. M. Stark, of Polk. Judge Ryan is understood to be no particular friend of Hermann's. Whether he is a friend of Brownell's is questioned. He and Brownell have been enemies in the past, but for mutual advantage have recently been working together. These gentlemen undoubtedly will take a limp delegation to Eugene from Clackamas and will play it in the game in a wary manner.

Brownell Will Not Try.

Brownell very probably will not try to be a candidate. The party generally looks upon him as the most capable candidate that could be put up, and he himself knows that he could not be elected. Besides, he fears a campaign because of the relative lack of money which he has. Yet circumstances may form so strong a current as to draw him along willy-nilly. This might happen quite naturally should the affairs of the convention get into a tangle.

Hermann Against the Field.

The contest at the outset of the convention will be probably between two leading candidates—Hermann and a Marion County man. The Marion gentleman will be either Gatch or Davey. Davey is the more active of the two, and has strong power at drawing votes. Last June he ran far ahead of his ticket. Gatch is held in very high estimation in his county. These two candidates will settle the question between them in the county convention, and will then merge their forces.

Present at the Meeting.

Nine of the 14 members of the committee were present, the others being represented by proxy. Those present in person and by proxy were as follows: Benton—R. H. Huston, by W. E. Yates, proxy. Clackamas—T. F. Ryan, proxy. Coos—L. A. Roberts, by T. W. Harris, proxy. Curry—W. F. Sutton, by T. W. Harris, proxy. Douglas—Z. L. Dimmick, by T. W. Harris, proxy. Jackson—H. D. Kubil, proxy. Josephine—C. Campbell, by T. W. Harris, proxy. Klamath—Hiram F. Murdoch, by T. W. Harris, proxy. Lake—Harry Bailey, by T. W. Harris, proxy. Lane—T. W. Harris, proxy. Lincoln—C. B. Winn, proxy. Lincoln—F. M. Wadsworth, by B. F. Jones, proxy. Marion—E. P. McCormack, proxy. Polk—J. M. Stark, proxy. Tillamook—Not represented.

Question of Calling Convention to Be Left to State Central Committee.

BAKER CITY, Or., March 12.—(Special.)—Chairman White, of the Democratic State Central Committee, said tonight that the state committee had been called to meet in Portland March 15 for the purpose of deciding what course to pursue in regard to choosing a Democratic candidate for Congress in the First District to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Representative Tongue. Mr. White said he had not decided on any method of choosing the candidate, and would not attempt to do so; the matter would be decided by the committee when it meets. It is known that several leading Democrats in the state favor the calling of a convention to be composed of delegates to be elected in the usual way, but the suggestion for Congress must be filed with the Secretary of State 60 days before the election, June 1, the convention will

have to convene and nominate a candidate not later than April 15.

MOVEMENT TO GET NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR 1905.

Portland Delegates Take Hold of the Matter and Ask Indorsement of Portland Public Bodies.

J. W. Crocker wishes the National meeting of the Order of Railway Conductors to be held in Portland in 1905, while the Lewis and Clark celebration is in progress. He has been selected as a delegate from Mount Hood Division, No. 1, and will attend the National meeting at Pittsburgh, beginning the second Tuesday in May. J. J. Fitzgerald is alternate from the Mount Hood Division, and he will also attend the Pittsburgh meeting.

The order has a membership of about 35,000 in the United States, Canada and Mexico. It includes both passenger and freight conductors. About 300 delegates attend the National meetings, which are held biennially.

Mr. Crocker believes the National meeting of the order can be obtained for Portland in 1905, and he also believes it can be made a big help to the Lewis and Clark Fair. If Portland should be selected as the next meeting place, it would

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Washington—E. W. Haines.

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"I held six proxies," said Dr. Harris, "all sent in voluntarily." Tillamook was the only county in the district not represented.

Convention Will Have 173 Delegates.

The new convention will have 173 delegates. The old convention had 171 delegates. Each county will have one delegate at large and one for every 100 votes or major fraction thereof, cast last June for the late Mr. Tongue. The new apportionment is as follows:

Benton.....12 Lincoln.....4

Clackamas.....12 Linn.....12

Coos.....12 Marion.....12

Curry.....12 Polk.....12

Douglas.....12 Tillamook.....12

Jackson.....12 Washington.....12

Josephine.....12 Yamhill.....12

Klamath.....12 Total.....173

Lake.....12

Lane.....12

The committee was in session about an hour and a half, having been called to order at 10:40 A. M. by Dr. Harris. Judge Ryan brought up the question whether or not the committee should make the nomination. The Judge was

member who favored nomination by this method and his proposal to that end was voted down.

Voted to Hold Primaries.

Then the question of nominating by the old convention came up and was debated at length. Jones made a motion for a new convention. The motion carried. Ryan, Yates, Stark and Henderson voted for nomination by the old convention. McCormack, Kubil, Jones, Haines, Winn and Dr. Harris and his six proxies voted for primaries. The argument for the old convention was that this procedure would be more economical, and that it would obviate party strife. The contrary argument was that the old convention would be usurping the rights of the people, and that issue had arisen which should be taken into the hands of the voters and that fairness to all candidates required primaries. The exposition of the situation by Haines was the clearest of any. He insisted that the great dissension and discord in the district would result from having the old convention nominate. For the sake of harmony in the party, he thought the committee should take no chances at creating trouble. McCormack argued along the same lines as did Haines.

The question of apportionment came up next. Ryan moved to allow one delegate for every 100 votes or major fraction thereof that were cast for Mr. Tongue last June. On motion of Stark the motion was amended so as to provide for one delegate for each county and as thus amended the motion carried.

Then the committee considered the question of a place for the convention. McCormack came forward with Salem, Winn nominated Albany, Harris put up Eugene, Ryan offered Oregon City and Stark urged the selection of Independence. The ballot stood:

Eugene.....10 Oregon City.....1

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Chicago, representing 61 railroads west of Chicago and St. Louis. If reforms as outlined are carried out, free transportation to anyone, unless it be through the charity bureau, will be cut off. The strong lines are in favor of such action, but the weak lines are not so enthusiastic about it. Under strict interpretation of the law, it was held that all interstate transportation would have to be discontinued, and it was understood that a movement to this end had been started among the general managers.

DEFENSE IS OUTLINED.

Sailor Kidnaping Case Makes Rapid Progress.

The defense in the James E. White kidnaping case was outlined by Attorney Dan J. Maloney in his opening statement to the jury yesterday morning. The attorney said that on Wednesday afternoon, February 12, White saw the three sailors, Cyren, Buren and Pearson, who were on their way to join the Riverdale, on the wharf. Three other sailors' union men attacked them because they were alleged to be scabs. Cyren and Pearson succeeded in getting away, but Buren was badly beaten up.

White, seeing the man was in bad shape, took him over to his boarding-house, gave him a drink of whiskey and had the housekeeper put him to bed. Counsel said White went to Vancouver early the next morning, where his mother-in-law and brother-in-law both reside, and was surprised to meet Buren there in the afternoon. As Buren complained of not feeling very well, Mr. Maloney stated, White took him where he could get a bath and afterwards obtained a room for him in a hotel, where he was never locked up or kept a prisoner.

Buren had been in Vancouver before and there were other sailors there with whom he was acquainted. He was afraid he would be arrested for not going on the ship. In conclusion, the attorney said, the Chief of Police of Vancouver, because of the sensational articles in the newspapers, took Buren into his custody, caused him to be locked up in a room in the Hotel Irving, and sent him to Portland.

Referring to sailor boarding-houses, Mr. Maloney said they are a necessity. The recent Legislature recognized this to be the fact, and instead of trying to suppress them, passed a law to regulate them.

Benet Cyren, a sailor 22 years old, testified that he, Buren and Pearson had sailed together for a long time and made several voyages to Portland. Concerning the trouble on the Irving Dock, when they were about to go aboard the British ship Riverdale, he said James White and three sailors were standing there when he and Buren and Pearson came along. White caught hold of him by the collar of his coat and asked: "Where are you going?" He answered: "On board the Riverdale." White responded: "No, you don't."

Cyren said one of the sailors struck him with a stone and he saw the sailor kick him and White aimed a blow at him. He ran for the ship and White called out to the three sailors: "Give it to him. Don't let him go." One of the sailors struck Buren and he fell down. The witness also testified that he saw the fight, and P. Pearson, one of the sailors who was attacked, testified regarding it. He said he got away without being injured. He did not see White participate in the fight.

W. T. Cassaway, a police officer of Vancouver, testified that he found Buren in bed in a room in the Vancouver Hotel. He looked like a drunken man.

L. C. Tomlinson, a Vancouver barber, testified that Buren took a bath in his place and had a flask of whiskey in his pocket.

George Johansen, proprietor of the Vancouver Hotel, testified that Buren came to the hotel while White was there and gave Buren a room. He said the door of the room was not locked and White never had a key to it. Buren was not kept a prisoner.

R. L. Applegate, an employee of the Portland General Electric Company, testified that he saw the fight on the Irving Dock. G. L. Everett also testified that he saw the fight, and P. Pearson, one of the sailors who was attacked, testified regarding it. He said he got away without being injured. He did not see White participate in the fight.

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