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STATE CONVENTION

Wrangling over the Report of Credentials Committee.

A COMPROMISE FINALLY EFFECTED

Moore and Michell for Joint Senators, and Jones and Huntington for Representatives.

The Telegram thus relates what transpired on the opening of the Republican state convention in Portland.

The balance of power of the Republican party of Multnomah county weighs in the balance. The scales are in the hands of the credential committee of the state convention assembled today in the exposition building. With the seven men composing that committee rests the fate of the two warring factions of the city. The line is to be drawn. At least, so it is alleged by one side, for the champions of the Carey faction, who are to appear before the committee, and are, as rumor goes, to demand a decisive settlement of the question. Either they are to be regularly accredited delegates from Multnomah county or they are to be nothing. The Simon people, on the other hand, as the men who held their convention at the place appointed; as the majority which stayed with that hall, and after the bolting of the Carey-Hume faction, finding themselves left to nominate a Republican ticket which could be called legal under the convention call, nominated and placed in the field that ticket, will demand that they be seated and cast the 48 votes allotted to Multnomah county.

And so stood the situation when at 11:15 this morning Chairman George A. Steel, of the Republican state central committee, opened the convention.

It was no sooner declared open than C. W. Parrish, of Grant county, placed in nomination for chairman General George H. Williams. The nomination was received with cheers and carried by acclamation. The county delegates were the potent power, and they proposed to see the convention run on lines devoid of any tinge of the strife among the Multnomah delegates.

In accepting the nomination, General Williams said:

"Gentlemen: This expression of your confidence in calling me to the chair of this convention is appreciated, and to the best of my ability I shall try to discharge the duties impartially. There are many questions to come before us, many delegates to vote and many committees of importance to be nominated. It is well, therefore, that we proceed to business and I will not take up your time with a speech. This I will say, however: So far as balloting is concerned I will recognize no factions. This is a Republican convention, and we should all be Republicans, and, so feeling, shall I make my rulings. Let us proceed to business."

Friendly, of Lane county, nominated A. B. Aiken for temporary secretary. The nomination received a number of seconds, and Mr. Aiken was declared elected.

J. M. Patterson, of The Dalles, then moved that a committee of seven on credentials be appointed. The motion carried.

The make-up of this committee meant life to either one faction or the other of the Multnomah delegates. The importance of the naming of the men who would constitute it was realized, and for a moment a hush fell over the convention in the expectation that the chair would at once announce its appointees. But the chair took its time. To the utmost General Williams meant to be impartial.

During the interim that followed William Kapus announced that as secretary

of the state committee he would countersign the return transportation of the delegates if the tickets were brought to him at recess.

A motion that a committee of five on permanent organization and order of business be appointed, passed without creating a stir.

Chairman Williams then named the committee on credentials as follows: J. M. Patterson, of Wasco, chairman; H. B. Clymer, of Baker; J. M. Church, of Union; Claude Gatch, of Marion; F. J. Taylor, of Clatsop; S. A. Dawson, of Linn; E. M. Brattan, of Lake.

Committee on permanent organization and order of business, appointed are: J. E. Magers, of Yamhill; E. L. Smith, of Wasco; A. J. Johnson, of Linn; —, —, Walcott, of Jackson; W. H. Conyers, of Columbia.

At 2:30 the committee on credentials finished their work of passing on the country delegates from whom no contest was either expected or materialized.

At 2:45 o'clock the hearing of the arguments and statements of the two opposing sides was begun, the Carey people being given the opening and the Simon speakers the closing. For the Frank-Minto-Hume faction, District Attorney Hume was the champion, engaged in showing the credentials committee the enormity of offense committed by the Simon people in having employed deputy sheriffs to guard the polls. When he had finished, Senator Dolph laid before the credentials committee the proposition of the police force of Portland to the wishes of the politicians holding the offices governing it.

The committee on credentials presented a report seating all delegates except those from Multnomah county. As regarded Multnomah there was a majority and two minority reports. The majority report seated the Simon delegation, signed by Patterson, Church, Gatch, Bratlain and Dawson. The first minority report recommended the seating of delegates who the committee believed were elected by the majority of the members of the county and city convention, which convened April 4th.

This report bore the signature of H. V. Clymer. The second minority report was signed by F. J. Taylor, who said: "In my opinion, the late primary election held in the city of Portland was not conducted by the legal Republican voters of said city, and I am of the opinion that the delegates elected thereat were not representatives of such legal voters. Such being the case, and both parties participating in said primaries, so far as appears, being equally at fault, I am of the opinion that this convention should seat neither delegation, as a matter of right."

"However, as the county of Multnomah is entitled to representation in this convention, and as it is now too late to resubmit the matter to the voters of said county, I would hereby recommend: "First—That Hon. Geo. H. Williams and Hon. Sol Hirsch, who were upon both tickets voted for at said primaries, be admitted to seats in this convention. "Second—That the remainder of the seats entitled to be filled by Multnomah county be filled by the admission of 48 persons, 23 of whom shall be selected by each set of contesting delegates from their numbers."

After the reading of the report in which the entire committee agreed, it was adopted.

Patterson of Wasco then moved the adoption of the majority report.

Clymer moved to substitute the first minority report.

Brown of Morrow moved to substitute the second minority report (Taylor). In stating the last motion, the chairman said:

"I will take the liberty to say that, in my opinion, the adoption of this report is the proper course to pursue to promote harmony in the Republican party in Multnomah county."

This announcement was greeted with very loud cheers.

After speeches by Mallory, Fulton and others, the second minority (Taylor's)



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report was adopted by a vote of 128 to 62.

The committee on order of business recommended that the following order be observed:

First—We recommend that the temporary officers of this convention be made the permanent officers thereof.

Second—Report of the committee on credentials.

Third—The appointment of a committee on platform, to consist of one member from each county, the same to be selected by the several county delegations here represented.

Fourth—The selection of four delegates-at-large to the national Republican convention.

Fifth—The selection of four alternate delegates to the said convention.

Sixth—The selection of four presidential electors.

Seventh—The nomination of one supreme judge.

Eighth—Report of the committee on platform.

Ninth—The selection of officers of the several judicial districts of the state.

Tenth—The nomination of joint senators and representatives of the several legislative districts of the state.

Eleventh—The selection of state central committeemen, consisting of one from each county, the same to be chosen by the delegations thereof.

Twelfth—The ratification of the various district nominations and central committee.

Thirteenth—Miscellaneous business.

Fourteenth—Adjournment.

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