

THE RAG BABY SQUALLS

THE CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL GREENBACK PARTY.

Great Gathering of the Labor Reform Advocates—
Birth of "The National Party"—A Red Hot Plat-
form—Labor Exalted and the Chinaman
Denounced—Soft Soap for Everybody.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Feb. 22.—The first regular convention of the Greenback Party of the United States met at 10:30 o'clock this morning in Wheeler's Opera House. The convention was called to order by D. D. B. Sturgeon, of Toledo, who, after prayer by the Rev. Dr. H. M. McCracken, read the call for the convention and briefly stated the objects sought to be attained and their importance, and alluded to the widespread interest in the Greenback movement. He then announced Capt. A. F. Trevellick, of Detroit, as temporary chairman. O. J. Smith, of Terre Haute, and F. J. Scott, of Toledo, were appointed secretaries. A motion was carried that one person should be nominated by each State delegation to constitute a committee on credentials, and that no person who had any present affiliation with either of the political parties should be appointed on this committee.

The call showed the following States were presented: New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Minnesota, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Louisiana.

The Committees on the Platform and on Organization were chosen the same way.

Gen. A. Carey moved that the credentials of all bodies sending authentic delegations to the convention, whether they be from Workingmen, Industrial or Greenback organizations, be received by the Committee on Credentials.

The motion was heartily applauded and unanimously adopted. After a song, the committee, at half-past 12 o'clock, adjourned till 2:30 P. M. The most numerous represented State in the convention is Pennsylvania, which sends fifty-four delegates, Illinois sends thirty, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana also are very largely represented. There is only one delegate from the Pacific Coast. At a meeting, last night, the more prominent delegates decided to eliminate from the platform all mention of an interconvertible bond, which seemed at that time to be the only point of contention among the delegations.

Upon reassembling, the committees not being ready to report, the convention was entertained by the singing of greenback songs. In response to a call, Harper, of Illinois, made a speech, and Mr. Allen presented the views of the Greenback State Central Committee, of Wisconsin, on the financial question. He read a long speech, in the course of which he promised that Wisconsin, which was already a strong Greenback State, would cast an overwhelming Greenback vote at the next National election if the platform adopted by the convention should be wisely formed. He arraigned the financial policy of the Government in past years as being in the sole interest of the rich and against the poor, and denounced the Secretary of the Treasury and his policy, contrasting it with his former utterances, and said that, in brief, Wisconsin demanded the enfranchisement of labor through a plentiful supply of Government money. Labor asked this from capital not as charity, but as a right, and she will have it peaceably.

The Committee on Credentials made a verbal report through its chairman, Mr. McGee, who said that twenty-eight States were here represented; that most of the delegations were full, some overflowing, and a few States were not fully represented. The committee on permanent organization then reported as follows: For President, Judge Francis W. Hughes, of Pennsylvania; Vice-President, J. T. Shryock, Ohio; S. Sinnet, Iowa; M. W. Field, Michigan; T. D. Hoxie, New Jersey; Alex. Campbell, Illinois; B. L. D. Guffy, Kentucky; Charles H. Test, Indiana; D. C. Wilmer, Maryland; D. Leach, Missouri; Charles McLean, Massachusetts; E. Pellis, Wisconsin; W. J. Durant, District of Columbia; D. P. Mitchell, Kansas; J. W. Jennings, Texas; C. E. Cunningham, Arkansas; Allen Root, Nebraska; Francis Gillett, Connecticut; Thos. S. Fitch, California; E. Berries, Tennessee; Solon Chase, Maine; Thomas M. Bennett, West Virginia; J. P. Jones, Nevada; V. S. Stevens, Pennsylvania; J. W. Dedrich, Louisiana; D. H. Pittman, Georgia; O. Y. Chase, New York. As Secretaries—Ralph G. Hoyt, Michigan; G. H. Jones, New York; and G. W. Murphy, Iowa.

By permission, a communication was presented from the Toledo Woman's Suffrage Association. It urges the convention to include in its platform a plank recognizing the right of women to participate in the election franchise, if not its broadest extent at present, at least so that tax-paying women be declared competent to vote in municipal elections. The communication was received with hearty and continuous applause, and was referred to the Committee on Platform.

Judge Hughes, on taking the chair, spoke at length of the history of the National Banking system, from the first feeble and fruitless attempts to inaugurate it in 1789 to the present time. He then discussed at considerable length the problem of labor and capital, and declared that it would not be solved by either of the great political parties, and would remain unsolved unless the party born here to-day should settle the question in the future. Regarding protection, he declared that the State of Pennsylvania had been misrepresented. The 54,000 Greenback votes of Pennsylvania come from a party which advocates the broadest kind of protection, the protection of labor against capital and against the extortions of usurers; the protection of miners and their families against transportation monopolists. He predicted the adoption here of a National platform that would, with great force, carry into higher places its standard beavers in 1880, and warned the convention not to be sneered at by the broken promises which were now being renewed by conventions of other parties in order to capture greenback votes in the coming National elections.

The convention took a recess at 5:45 o'clock until 7 o'clock, at which time it re-assembled, and the following platform was read:

WHEREAS, Throughout our entire country the value of real estate is depreciated, industry paralyzed and trade depressed and business incomes and wages are reduced, unparalleled distress is inflicted upon the poorer and middle ranks of our people, the land filled with fraud, embezzlement, bankruptcy, crime, suffering, pauperism and starvation; and

Whereas, This state of things has been brought about by legislation in the interest of and dictated by money-lenders, bankers and bondholders; and

Whereas, While we recognize the fact that men in Congress, connected with both of the old political parties, have stood up manfully for the rights of the people and met the threats of a money power and the ridicule of an ignorant and subsidized press, yet neither the Republican nor the Democratic parties, in their National policies, propose remedies for the existing evils; and

Whereas, The Independent Greenback party and other associations, more or less effective, have been unable hitherto to make a formidable opposition to the old party organizations; and

Whereas, The limiting of the legal tender quality of greenbacks, the changing of currency bonds into coin bonds, the demonetizing of the silver dollar, the excepting of bonds from taxation, the contraction of the circulating medium, the proposed forced resumption of specie payments, and the prodigal waste of the public lands, were crimes against the people, and as far as possible the results of these criminal acts must be counteracted by judicious legislation.

Therefore we assemble in National convention and make a declaration of our principles, and invite all patriotic citizens to unite in the effort to secure financial reform and industrial emancipation. The organization shall be known as the "National Party," and under this name we will perfect without delay National, State and local associations to secure the election to office of such men only as will pledge themselves to do all in their power to establish these principles.

First, It is the exclusive function of the General Government to coin and create money and regulate its value; all bank issues designed to circulate as money should be suppressed. The circulating medium, whether of metal or paper, shall be issued by the Government and made full legal-tender for all debts, duties and taxes in the United States at its stamped value.

Second, There shall be no privileged class of creditors; official salaries, pensions, bonds and all other debts and obligations, public and private, shall be discharged in the legal tender money of the United States strictly according to the stipulation of the laws under which they are contracted.

Third, That coinage of silver be placed on the same footing as that of gold.

Fourth, Congress shall provide said money adequate to the full employment of labor, equitable distribution of its products and requirements of business, fixing a minimum amount per capita to the population as near as may be, otherwise regulating its value by wise and equitable provisions by law, so that rate of interest will secure to labor its just reward.

Fifth, It is inconsistent with the genius and spirit of popular government that any species of private property should be exempt from bearing its just share of public burdens. Government bonds and money should be taxed precisely as other property, and a graduated income tax should be levied for the support of the Government and the payment of its debts.

Sixth, Public lands are the common property of the whole people, and should not be sold to specu-

lators nor granted to railroad or other corporations, but should be donated to actual settlers in limited quantities.

Seventh, The Government should, by general enactment, encourage the development of our agricultural, mineral, mechanical manufacturing and commercial resources, to the end that labor may be fully and profitably employed, but no monopolies should be legalized.

Eighth, All useless offices should be abolished, the most rigid economy favored in every branch of the public service, and severe punishment inflicted upon public officers who betray trusts reposed in them.

Ninth, As educated labor has devised means for multiplying production by inventions and discoveries, and as their use requires the exercise of the mind as well as the body, such legislation should be had that the number of hours of daily toil will be reduced, giving to the working classes more leisure for mental improvement and enjoyment, and saving them from premature decay and death.

Tenth, The adoption of an American monetary system as proposed herein will harmonize all deficiencies in regard to the tariff and Federal taxation, reduce and equalize the cost of transportation by land and water, distribute equitable joint earnings of capital and labor, secure to producers of wealth the results of the labor and skill, muster out of service a vast army of idlers who, under the existing system, grow rich upon the earnings of others, that every man and woman may, by their own efforts, secure a competence, so that overgrown fortunes and extreme poverty will be seldom found within the limits of our Republic.

Eleventh, Both National and State Governments should establish bureaus of labor and industrial statistics, clothed with power of gathering and publishing the same.

Twelfth, That the contract system of employing labor in our prisons and reformatory institutions works great injustice to our mechanics and artisans and should be prohibited.

Thirteenth, The importation of servile labor into the United States from China is a problem of the most serious importance, and we recommend legislation looking to its suppression.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and after the appointment of an Executive Committee the convention adjourned *sine die*.