

Every member rose and cheers rent the air. The Montana delegation endorsed the sentiment of Cannon, so did Oregon. The chairman of the resolution committee then withdrew the resolution.

IN THE AFTERNOON.

It was 2:07 o'clock when the chairman called the afternoon session to order, but it was 3 p.m. before business begun. The motion was carried that the resolutions committee should report such parts of the platform as were ready. This was apparently the first move on the part of the Weaver men to hasten a ballot.

A suspicion had gained currency that the committee on resolutions was not anxious to make progress for the reason that it, as a whole, preferred Judge Gresham for the candidate and wanted time to get an agreement from him that he would let the convention nominate him. The motion was carried, but the committee reported that it was not prepared just yet to make even a partial report.

Mr. Ward of Missouri moved to suspend the rules and proceed to ballot for the nomination of candidates, but there was no intention on the part of the ardent Gresham men to give up hope, and an Illinois delegate raised the point of order that the motion was contrary to rules. The chairman overruled the point of order on the ground that the convention could do as it pleased. Ward's motion was then tabled on motion of Ellington of Georgia.

Mr. Lamb of Texas, a Weaver man and also working for Terrill for Vice-President, moved to adopt the entire St. Louis platform as the party platform.

Mr. Brown of Massachusetts declared that the St. Louis platform was one upon which the organizations of united labor stood.

The resolutions committee soon filed on the stage with the platform hastily brought to completion. It is as follows:

THE PLATFORM.

We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box, legislature, Congress, and even touches the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized. Most of the States have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery; the newspapers are subsidized or muzzled; public opinion is silenced, business is prostrated, our homes are covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, land concentrating in the hands of capitalists, urban workmen denied the right of organization for self-protection, imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling standing army recognized by law, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating into a European condition. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these in turn despise the Republic and endanger liberty; from the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed two great classes, tramps and millionaires. The National power to create money is appropriated to enrich bond holders. The vast public debt payable in legal

tender has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

The silver which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor and supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten the usurer, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. The vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once, it forbodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while the grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious efforts to prevent or restrain them. Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They agreed together to ignore in the coming campaign every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of the plundered people with the uproar of sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, National banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, demonetization of silver and oppressions of all usurers may be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of Mammon; to destroy a multitude in order to secure corruption funds from millionaires.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birth of the Nation and filled with the spirit of the grand generation who established our independence, we seek to restore the good of the Republic to the hands of "the plain people," which class originated it. We assert our purpose to be identical with the purpose of the National construction to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity. We declare this Republic can only endure as a free government upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the Nation; that it cannot be planned together by a bayonet. The civil war is over and every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it, and we must be in fact as we are in name, one united brotherhood of free men. Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in the value of which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of commodities consumed in their production. The existing current supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are: Falling prices, formation of combines and rings and in the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation.

We believe that the powers of gov-

ernment should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) rapidly and so far as the good sense of the intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify, to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land. While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions, important as they are, as subordinate to the great issues now pressing for solution, and upon which not only individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depend, and we ask all men to first help us determine whether we are to have a Republic to administer before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered.

Believing that the forces of reform this day set in motion will never cease to move forward until every wrong shall be remedied and equal privileges securely established for all men and women, We declare, therefore,

First, that the union of labor forces of the United States this day consummated, shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter into all hearers for the salvation of the Republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who created it and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any man will not work, neither shall he eat." The interest of rural and civil labor are the same; they are identical.

Third—We believe the time has come when railroad corporations will either own the people or the people must own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of holding and managing any or all of the railroads, we should favor an amendment to the Constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under civil service regulation of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of power of the National administration by the use of such government employees.

THE PLATFORM PROPER

is as follows:

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, full legal tender for all debts, public and private and that without the use of banking corporations; a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution to the people; a tax not to exceed two per cent. per annum, to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance or a better system, also payments in the discharge of the obligations for public improvements.

(A.) We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of sixteen to one.

(B.) We demand that the circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than fifty dollars per capita.

(C.) We demand a graduated income tax.

(D.) We believe the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence demand that all State and National revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of