

## THE PEOPLE'S PARTY CONVENTION.

OMAHA, July 3.—Chairman Taubeneck announced the list of temporary officers selected by the National Committee and they were elected by acclamation.

C. H. Ellington of Georgia was introduced as temporary chairman. In his speech of acceptance he thanked the convention for the high honor conferred and spoke eloquently of the great purpose for which the convention is in session, and declared that there had been no other such gathering of people, north, east, south or west, mingling in hosts for a purpose never before realized in this country.

At the conclusion of the chairman's speech, Mrs. Todd of Michigan took the platform and presented the chairman with a gavel carved by the wife of Ben. Terrill of Texas, from a tree planted by George Washington at Mount Vernon.

Unfortunately, at the first rap of the new gavel it fell to pieces, the head flying off the handle and rolling down to the foot of the stage. There was a little burst of laughter, but the occasion was too reverential to cause general merriment.

The committee on rules and permanent organization was announced. While this was in progress a delegate paraded the hall with a banner bearing the following inscription: "Volunteer State of Tennessee; Blue and Gray, People's Party. 80,000 votes for the ticket." The convention then adjourned to 3 p. m.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the opening of the afternoon session messages of congratulation were read from the party leaders. The one which provoked the greatest applause was from the representatives of the party in Congress.

While awaiting the report of the committee on credentials the Hon. Ignatius Donnelly was introduced and spoke at some length on the issues of the People's party. He said in part:

"This body in many respects is the most astonishing gathering the country has ever seen. A convention without a single tool or instrument of monopoly in its midst; a convention whose every man paid the expenses of his journey hither and return, or which were paid by men as poor as himself. (Cheers.) There is not in this gathering a single president of a railroad company, not a representative of any ring which is robbing and sucking the life blood of the American people. I cannot but think of the astounding contrast to the conventions which recently met in Minneapolis and Chicago.

"On yonder banner I see the word 'Spirit of 1776.' This is the spirit which animates this august gathering. We are lineal representatives of those men

IN HOMESPUN AND DEERSKIN who founded the nation. Without a millionaire and without a pauper. A hundred and sixteen years of national life under the management of the two great parties has given us, according to different estimates, from eight thousand to thirty thousand millionaires and one-half million tramps, while the whole land is blistered with mortgages and the people are steeped to the lips in poverty. My friends, every great fight ever made in the past for right and liberty has culminated in the

present gathering. The battle in which we are employed is the battle of mankind. Every oppressed nation in the world is looking upon this convention to discover whether the star spangled banner and stars and stripes shall float across the country steadily rising generation after generation to higher levels of culture and civilization, or shall it float in solemn mockery above a land cursed as Europe is cursed—the middle classes driven off the land, while concentrated in the hands of the few is the wealth provided by the tiller." (Cheers.)

Having quoted figures showing that the possession of wealth in the hands of the farmer decreased from five-eighths in 1880 to one-fifth in 1890, he declared that no man would fail to see the mark and the terrible feature into which they were advancing.

"I can promise you the solid electoral vote of Minnesota for the People's party. I believe I can promise Nebraska, North and South Carolina and Georgia, and I know we can count on Kansas. I tell you that there is no such word as failure so far as this movement is concerned."

After Donnelly's speech J. C. Manning, the eloquent boy-orator from Alabama, was called to the platform and addressed the assemblage.

Mr. Norton of Chicago afterwards led to the platform Alexander Campbell of La Salle, Ill., and presented him as the original Greenbacker, formerly known among politicians as "Old Greenbacks."

After the announcement of the committee "Cyclone" Davis was called for and he painted in vivid colors the picture of the condition of things as they existed today in the country. When the committee on credentials announced itself ready to report, he abruptly concluded.

The committee's report shows no contests, and 1366 delegates present. The report was adopted, amid applause, and the sitting delegates were declared entitled to their seats.

Hon. John Jaxon of Chicago was invited to address the convention. He is a representative of Metta's council of the Northwest mixed race of Indians and Frenchmen. He said he was proud to attend a convention where an Indian might shake hands with a white man on an equality and because the People's party had a platform on which the Indian was not ashamed to stand. He closed with the assurance that if it became necessary to meet oppression with rifles the Indian would not be found slow.

The convention became restless under the wearisome delay of the committee on organization to report. The committee on resolutions was directed to retire at once and begin its labors. At 6:30 o'clock the convention adjourned until 8 o'clock Monday morning.

The committee on permanent organization reported in favor of H. L. Loucks of South Dakota for permanent chairman, and J. H. Hayes of New Jersey for permanent secretary, with a list of assistant secretaries and vice-chairmen for each State. The report was adopted, and Chairman Loucks assumed his duties.

He thanked the convention for the honor of presiding over the grandest, largest convention ever held in the

West, or, he believed, anywhere in the civilized world. In the past great revolutions had been brought about by work and bullet. This greatest of all revolutions is propelled by education and the ballot.

He congratulated the convention on the harmony which prevailed throughout and the facts that no states were fixed up, so that the choice of the people would finally determine the nominee.

A new gavel, announced as made from the timber of the first homestead entry of the United States, was presented to the chairman amid some evidences of dissent.

General William Jackson Armstrong, inspector-general of consuls under President Grant, was given the floor. Armstrong spoke at some length on the issues before the convention, denouncing the millionaires, and declaring it had come to such a pass that the price of a cabinet portfolio under a Republican administration was \$150,000. He said the only sacred thing in this world was humanity, and the only thing having a right in this world is a man. We have met to affirm that the sorrows of this world should be attended to here, and not wait for the mysterious judgment of the future state.

Mrs. Emery of Michigan was then introduced for a speech, but the convention was visibly impatient to get to business. A delegate from Oregon presented another gavel in honor of the People's party achievement in the Oregon State election.

The committee on rules presented a report limiting nominating speeches for President and Vice-President to fifteen minutes, and remarks on questions in general to five.

The convention then took a recess of twenty minutes to witness the Omaha Fourth of July parade as it passed the convention hall.

Instead of twenty minutes it was nearly an hour before the convention resumed business.

The roll of States was then called and each announced the name of its member of the national committee.

Then a storm was precipitated by the chairman of the resolutions committee offering a resolution calling attention to the fact that the ticket agents in Washington and other States on the line of the Union Pacific railroad did not receive instruction to grant the delegates to the convention the usual reduction in fares and appointing a committee to communicate with the railroad officials and have the mistake rectified. A delegate moved that the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern roads be included in the resolution. Delegate Marion Cannon of California protested against the resolution as exhibiting a want of an independent spirit in the convention. His vehement denunciation of the roads led to the liveliest scene of the day.

"I want this convention to understand," he said, "it is not by accident or oversight that the Pacific coast delegates have been overlooked. Our request for the customary courtesy was denied deliberately and with insolence. I do not want this convention, as far as California is concerned, to go back to the railroad cap in hand and ask for any privileges whatever."

The enthusiasm and passion of the speaker extended to the audience.