

Baltimore Morning Herald
July 8, 1904

***William F. Bryan, Once Powerful, Goes Down to Defeat
Before the Forces that will Nominate Chief Judge Parker***

***Platform Drafted by Subcommittee. Has a Gold Plank,
But One Which Is Not Offensive to the Silverites. Bryan Will Not Make Contest.***

Sage of Esopus Has More than Two-Thirds

***Convention's Sessions will Now be Prolonged Until Tomorrow and
Nominations will then be Made.***

Turner Opposition Strong

Vice-Presidential Nominee and National Chairmanship Are Still Much in Doubt.

St. Louis, Mo., July 7.—It was stated late tonight that Mr. Bryan would not fight the platform tomorrow. The money plank was framed so as to meet a request from him.

It will state that the metallic currency has increased during the last eight years, thus aiding the circulating medium.

This Mr. Bryan will accept as an endorsement of his theory.

A plank against asset currency has also been inserted at his suggestion.

Meanwhile the committee on resolutions is struggling over the platform as a whole. The subcommittee, of which Mr. John P. Poe is a member, has considered the most important provisions and passed upon them.

It has decided on a tariff plank in line with the views of Ex-Governor Hill of New York. This is much more radical than the Maryland proposition, and goes to the extreme of revision.

The trust plank, on the other hand, is very much more conservative than the Maryland idea. It declares against illegal combinations, which should be suppressed, but does not assail them in terms which would offend the manufacturing interests.

If, therefore, the report of the subcommittee is adopted, the democratic issues in the campaign will be the tariff and the trusts in the order named. Of course, the policy of the republican administration will be severely criticized, especially the foreign policy.

Bryan Hors de Combat.

Bryan may try once again to retrieve his losses, but, being practically hors de combat, he may expect an even worse beating than he received today. His defeat today was not

unexpected. It was plain from the beginning that he had lost his grip and was leading a forlorn hope.

Nevertheless, the Nebraskan stood his ground and fought to the last ditch. He made Illinois his battle ground today, taking charge of the contest made by the Hearst crowd for the unseating of the Hopkins, or anti-Bryan, delegation.

First he was beaten in the national committee, next by the committee on credentials, and, finally, by the national convention.

Combination Also Defeated

The decisive vote by which he was floored indicates more than Bryan's defeat. It was a test of the strength of the combination which is seeking to prevent the nomination of Judge Parker, and the result shows plainly enough that the New Yorker has more than enough votes to win on the first ballot.

It requires only 667 votes to nominate, and there were cast today against the proposition 647, the state of Illinois not voting. There should also be added to the Parker column the votes of South Carolina and Kentucky, which, because they believed the sitting delegation was not entitled to a place in the convention, were lined up behind Bryan today. There should be credited to Parker these two delegations, who have practically declared their intention of supporting the New York jurist.

The nomination of a President is therefore simply a matter of form and so regarded by everyone.

Adjournment Saturday.

It was the intention to push the proceedings today and if possible end the convention tomorrow, but the fight over the credentials report and the tardiness of the committee on resolutions, which was not ready this afternoon, delayed matters so that the final adjournment may not come until Saturday.

The nominations might be forced tomorrow night by keeping the convention in continued session, but the Southern delegates will not hear of the ticket being named on Friday with the additional hoodoo of the convention hall being located on "Thirteenth street." They are willing to stand for the last because they cannot help themselves, but not the combination. Hence the nominations will not be made until Saturday.

Bailey's Action Causes Comment.

Senator Bailey's refusal to accept the chairmanship of the convention has occasioned much unfavorable comment. He had practically agreed to take the position and was already preparing his speech when word was brought to him that a contest was on and that the friends of Champ Clark were exerting themselves in the Missourian's behalf.

Thereon Bailey threw down his pen and declared that under no circumstances would he consent to serve. He did not want this place in the first place because of a rampant desire to meet Bryan on even terms. Ever since the Nebraskan announced his purpose of making a fight for the money plank of the Kansas City platform the Texan has been waiting for the opportunity to meet and squelch him. When, therefore, importuned to accept the chairmanship he flatly refused, and

it was only when all the leaders joined in appealing to him that he reluctantly consented. He therefore seized the opportunity of reconsidering when the opportunity presented itself.

Clark Not a Conservative.

Now, however, he is catching it. It appears that Clark is not allied with the conservative element of the party, and would, therefore, be in position to help the radicals if he so desired. Besides he is hardly of the caliber of which chairmen are made, being one of the humorists in the House of Representatives. In case of a mix-up he could not preserve order; but the principal objection, as stated, is his leaning toward the Bryan end. The conservatives informed Senator Bailey that he would have to accept the responsibility should things go amiss.

Clark was to have placed Cockrell, of Missouri, in nomination, and had prepared his speech. Today he complained that he was unprepared, whereupon Col. Ed. Hay, of Washington, suggested that he might use the first half, as that would fit any subject.

“But how about the last half?” asked Clark.

“Give that to the man who will act as your substitute” said Hay, “if he can be induced to use it.”

Opposition to Turner.

Strong opposition has developed to the nomination for Vice-President of Ex-Senator Turner, of Washington, who up to a late hour last evening had the right of way. This comes from states in the South and the Middle West. They claim Turner has not been a democrat long enough to derive such a distinction, and would cost them many a vote if he was tied up with Parker.

A Pennsylvanian in voicing the sentiment of his people who came out last night for Governor Dockery, of Missouri, said:

“It would be a mistake to put any man with Bryanistic tendencies on the ticket. We can afford to lose the silver or populist vote, which in the coming election will cut no figure in the result. Turner is an ex-republican and an ex-populist, and is credited to a state overwhelmingly republican. Let us take a man from the Middle West, who will add strength to the ticket.”

This sentiment appears to be gaining ground, and unless the Parker forces comes to the assistance of Turner, he will be out of the running ere long.

The Dockery boom, inflated by Colonel Guffey and floated late last evening, however, is already descending. Governor Dockery is personally unobjectionable to the Parker people, but he has been identified with the Missouri machine, which Prosecuting Attorney Folk has flayed so mercilessly.

Should Dockery be placed upon the ticket it is feared that he might be referred to as a boodler's candidate, hence there is little likelihood of Missouri getting the desired honor.

Harmon and J. R. Williams.

The two names heard oftenest today are those of Judge Harmon, of Cincinnati, whose name was withdrawn as a candidate for the presidential nomination, and of Congressman J. R. Williams of Illinois.

William F. Sheehan, of New York, and Congressman Talbott think well of Williams, and are now inquiring into his financial record, which it is claimed, by those who oppose him, is not satisfactory. Harmon is generally acceptable to the Parker people, but it is known how McLean feels toward him.

Another effort is being made to induce Marshall Field, of Chicago, to reconsider his determination not to accept. If he will take the nomination, he can have it.

Gorman and National Chairmanship.

As to the national chairmanship, no selection will be made until after the nominations have been made, and the candidates are consulted. It was again stated today that Senator Gorman would be requested to take charge, but from a source regarded as absolutely reliable it can be stated that under no conditions would the senator accept an official position. Said this informant:

“Mr. Gorman would gladly assist with advice and do everything else in his power to help elect the democratic ticket, but more than this cannot be expected of him.”

Another, who is a member of the national committee, thought the chairman might come from New York, in which event Sheehan might be selected. There was a conference last night between the New York leaders, at which Ex-Governor Hill was present and the chairmanship discussed. It was then decided to defer making any suggestions until the ticket was completed.

The friends of Tom Taggart are still sanguine that he will be chosen and the aggressive Indianian himself believes his chances are better than those of any other mentioned.