

## FISK AND BROOKS.

The Prohibitionists Nominate Their Candidates for President and Vice President.

Woman Suffrage Wins an Overwhelming Victory in the Convention.

Text of the Platform—Convention Proceedings—Enthusiasm and Sentiment.

Nearly two hours before the time set for the opening of the National Prohibition Convention at Indianapolis on Wednesday, May 30, delegates began to assemble in Tomlinson Hall. There were a number of farmers among the delegates, and their habits of early rising made the delay irksome, so they got together in the rear of the hall, and made speeches and cheered to their hearts' content. The galleries were crowded with visitors long before the convention was called to order. Many were unable to get even standing room. The delegates manifested a striking fondness for decorating themselves with bunting, many wearing several light blue and white stripes, and some all of white. Medallions of Gen. Fisk were appended. The hall was admirably adapted for a great gathering like the convention, well lighted, and with fair acoustic properties. From the paneled ceiling hung colored banners, and a succession of exhibition mottoes decorated the front of



GEN. CLINTON B. FISK.

the galleries. Among the sentiments the following: "No North, No South, No Distinction in Politics; No Sex in Citizenship." "The Prohibition Party is the True Anti-Poverty Party." At a little before 10 o'clock the Maryland delegation marched in, bearing a blue silk banner it bore four years ago at Pittsburgh, with the names of St. John and Daniel embossed upon it. It was heartily applauded, but the great outburst came when the New Jersey Young Men's Prohibition Club marched up the aisle, preceded by a large banner in yellow, the woman suffrage color, and by an old man who carried on his shoulders a huge gilded crank. As soon as the audience caught the name of the State, General Fisk's home, the scattering cheers swelled into a perfect storm of applause, which was heightened when the members of the club who had marched out, bearing the familiar features of the favorite son, Shinn, one of whom greeted Gen. St. John as he passed his way down the aisle and took his seat with the Kansas delegation and Sam Small, the celebrated revivalist, who wore the Georgia badge.

Professor Dickie, of Illinois, Chairman of the National Committee, struck the table three resounding raps, called the convention to order, and invited the members of the committee and the general officers of the W. C. T. U. to take seats on the platform. The audience sat and waited and took a long breath, letting it out in a tremendous cheer when the well-known face of Professor Fisk, Chairman of the W. C. T. U., appeared. She wore the red banner of the New England delegation, and was escorted to a seat beside the Chairman, and here followed a scene of indescribable enthusiasm. Chairman Dickie called for General Green Clay Smith and Gideon T. Stewart, the nominees of the party in 1876. Neither being present the ticket for 1880 was called for, and when the venerable figure of General Neal Dow, of Maine, came up on the stage he received such an ovation that one would think that the enthusiasm had reached its height, but when the sacrifice of 1884 was called for, and General St. John arose, a tremendous burst of cheering ensued, which was prolonged until he had taken his seat.

The audience then sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," after which Chairman Dickie announced that the Rev. H. A. Delano, of Norwich, Conn., had been nominated as temporary Chairman, and the choice was unanimously ratified by the convention. An address of welcome was then delivered by Colonel Ritter, an Indianapolis attorney. Many of his references were heartily cheered, as was his closing sentence, "If you are what I take you to be I am what you are heartily welcomed to Indiana." Temporary Chairman Delano, who is a prominent Baptist minister, responded fittingly in the words of welcome. Mr. Needham of Kansas, then presented to the Chairman a gavel made from the scaffold on which Governor St. John was hanged in 1884. Mr. J. B. Canfield of Texas was nominated for Secretary, with Mrs. Mattie McClellan Brown of Ohio and George F. Wells of Minnesota as assistants. The Silver Lake Quartet then sang "We're Not So Lonesome as We Used to Be," which was evidently a favorite with the audience. Secretary Canfield made a short address of thanks, and closed by reading a number of telegrams of congratulation, among them one from Louis L. Lathrop, of Chicago, and the Swedish delegate to the recent congress of women at Washington, proposing "three cheers for Fisk and woman suffrage." This was the first public reference to the two central features, and it received a Chautauqua salute of cheers and waving handkerchiefs.

The convention then settled down to business, and on motion of Delegate Thomas, of New York, the roll of States and Territories was called for the names of members of the Committee on Credentials and Permanent Organization.

After the call was completed, at the suggestion of Judge Black, of Pennsylvania, the call was made for the Committees on Resolutions and Rules.

The first motion put before the convention as a matter of business was on the part of Delegate Turner, of Pennsylvania, that a telegram be sent the Brewers' Association, in session at St. Paul, bidding them defiance, but the matter was choked off summarily. A few moments later a similar motion was brought into prominence by Rev. Walter T. Miller, who asked permission to read it. After a tumultuous debate, in which several delegates were constantly on the floor, the motion was withdrawn and the resolution was withdrawn.

At this moment the little son of the late John B. Finch was brought upon the platform, and, amid loud cheering, Chairman Dickie, of the National Committee, presented the Little fellow a gold medal on behalf of the Prohibition party.

Further time was taken up with singing, and then another cause of a slightly acrimonious discussion appeared in the shape of a motion that the ex-soldiers of the Union and Confederate stand up and be counted. The motion was finally taken up.

A memorial from the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union was read asking the convention to place in its platform a plank demanding that the Bible be placed in the public schools; that personalities be avoided in the campaign; that sectionalism be completely buried, and that lastly the position of the party in 1884 on the woman suffrage question be reaffirmed. The memorial was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

A resolution was then offered by Judge Gore, of New York, reaffirming the woman suffrage plank of 1884, with the proviso that that issue be not made a test of party reality. This also was referred.

The report of the Committee on Credentials showed delegates to have been selected by every State except Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina. The Territories all chose representatives except Wyoming. The committee then stated it had decided to permit delegations present to cast the full vote of their State, and that the provisional delegates be given full power to vote

in the convention. This gave a total vote of 1,030, although the actual number of delegates present fell short of that number.

The Committee on Permanent Organization made the following recommendations:

For Permanent Chairman—John P. St. John of Kansas.

For Secretary—Rev. Sam Small, of Georgia.

First Assistant Secretary—J. B. Canfield, Texas.

Second Assistant Secretary—Mrs. M. M. Brown of Cincinnati.

The action of the committee was unanimous and concurred in, and the Permanent Chairman was escorted to the platform.

Gov. St. John was introduced by Temporary Chairman Delano in a few felicitous words. Gov. St. John responded happily, complimenting Mr. Delano upon his work in the temporary organization, and saying that he would rather preside over this convention than be elected President by the regular party. He spoke briefly of the outlook. "The old parties" he said, "are giving way, and our leaders, fearing that fall in the republican Babylon, have concluded not to be crushed in the fall." He concluded with a reference to the lack of sectionalism in the Prohibition party, and asked that the convention do such work as will cause future generations to rise up and call it blessed.

A memorial was presented from the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union asking that the platform include a plank declaring that the National Congress can legislate.

Bishop Turner of the African Methodist Church, then gave his reasons for leaving the Republican party and joining the Prohibitionists.

The convention then adjourned until 9 a.m. Thursday.

### Second Day's Proceedings.

Two handsome vases filled with lilies of the valley, the latter presumably emblematic of the purity of the party, almost hid ex-Governor St. John from view when he called the second day session of the National Prohibition Convention to order.

The delegates were slow in assembling, nearly all of them having participated in last night's reunion of the Blue and the Gray, which lasted until long after midnight. If they looked rather tired and sleepy, however, they were not lacking in enthusiasm, and as the leading orators in their appearance they received a warm welcome. Prayer was offered at 10 o'clock by Rev. A. M. Richardson of Kansas, and the routine proceedings went along smoothly until the report of the Committee on Rules was presented. The document submitted, among a number of minor recommendations, one limiting individual speeches to five minutes on any one subject. This raised a storm among the anti-woman suffragists, whose grievance was stated by Walter Thomas Mills, the "Little Giant of Ohio." Motions upon motions were submitted, and for a time the Chairman's gavel was given all it could do. Speeches were made while the general confusion reigned.

Finally Mr. Chapman of Clinton, N. Y., took the gavel sharply to task, and good order was restored.

The previous question was ordered by a large majority; all the amendments were defeated, and the report of the committee adopted. This was a decided victory for the women's side of the house and they cheered and cheered again.

Resolutions deplored the murder of Rev. Dr. Haddock, of Sioux City, who was designated as a martyr to the cause of prohibition, were adopted by a rising vote.

In the morning session the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Evans of Illinois, urged the necessity of raising the sum of \$25,000 for campaign expenses, and called for pledges from F. St. Peterman. The first pledge was from B. F. St. Peterman of New York for \$1,000, which was afterward doubled. In less than half an hour about \$22,000 was pledged. The widest enthusiasm prevailed, every one giving a large sum being compelled to stand in a chair while the delegates cheered.

The platform was presented at the afternoon session, and the plank reported was unequivocally in favor of unlimited suffrage. After the Secretary, the Rev. Sam Small, had read the report of the committee, the Hon. J. M. Olin, of Wisconsin, read a minority report, he alone dissenting from the committee. He offered a substitute, in which the whole question of woman suffrage was relegated to the States.

The platform was voted upon by sections, and when this plank was reached the debate opened.

The report of the Committee on Rules limited speeches to five minutes each. It seems that an agreement had been made between Mr. Mills of Ohio, and Prof. Bascom, formerly of Wisconsin, to take two hours each in a debate upon the suffrage plank of the platform for and against its adoption respectively. An amendment was offered to permit this under the rules, and, after a sharp debate, in which the convention was brought to a standstill, the rule was adopted to give each side two hours.

That the monopoly of the land is wrong to the people and public land should be reserved to actual settlers, and that men and women should receive equal wages for equal work.

That the right of self-government should be so enforced as to prevent the introduction into our country of all convicts, inmates of dependent institutions, and others physically incapacitated for self-support, and that no person shall have the ballot in any State who is not a citizen of the United States.

Recognizing and declaring that prohibition of the liquor traffic has become the dominant issue in national politics, we invite to full party fellowship all those who, on this one dominant issue, are with us, agreed, in the full belief that this plank can and will remove sectional differences, promote national harmony, and insure the best welfare of our native land.

Resolutions were also adopted by the convention favoring the payment of pensions to ex-soldiers and sailors; indorsing the work of the Prohibition army of the blue and the gray; condemning the Democratic and Republican parties for denying the right of self-government to the 600,000 people of Dakota; and, upon motion of a colored delegate from North Carolina, a resolution declaring "that we hold that all men are born free and equal, and should be secured in their rights."

The decks were all cleared for action at the assembling of the convention in the evening and nothing detained the delegates except the nomination of candidates. The roll of the States was called for nominations, and when Kentucky was reached Mr. Blaine stood and withdrew the name of the Hon. Green Clay Smith, for whom the Kentucky delegation was instructed to vote. The call proceeded until New Jersey was reached, when there arose such cheering as had not before been witnessed in the convention.

Judge Morrow took the rostrum and in an eloquent speech proceeded to place the name of Clinton B. Fisk before the convention. His address was short, yet one of the most polished delivered before the convention. He paid a tribute to Gen. Fisk as a man of earnestness, a soldier-statesman and a Christian. As he closed, the convention rose and an old man with one impulse raised the name of his name. "Cheer followed cheer in such rapid succession that it was impossible to distinguish them. As soon as the convention quieted down, a dozen voices were heard moving that Clinton B. Fisk be nominated by acclamation. Amid applause the question was put and carried without a dissenting voice. The nomination was then confirmed by a rising vote, and the unanimity became evident. A cloth which had concealed a beautiful floral emblem was pulled aside, revealing the words: "Hail to the Chief—Fisk." An American flag bearing the picture of Gen. Fisk with his name attached was at the same moment swung into view. Swinging of hats, cheers and clapping of hands followed, and the delegates were tired and hoarse. The demonstration was kept up for ten minutes or more, and for a time it seemed as though it would never cease. At length quiet was restored and after the formal announcement by the Chairman of the result the call of States was begun for nomination of candidates for Vice President.

In the midst of the contest over the woman suffrage plank Mr. Dickie, of Michigan, tried to compromise matters by moving that the debate be confined to two hours, four leading men on each side to speak. The convention would not hear of it and the wrangle proceeded.

Mr. Olin, of Wisconsin, denied that woman suffrage was opposed in the South. Those who said so knew not whereof they spoke.

Prof. Olin repeated his argument substantially as contained in his report, and Sam Small who had originally opposed the majority report, said that it was in a spirit of compromise that they could and did sign the majority report. He urged the convention to do likewise.

The strongest speeches in favor of substituting the minority report were made by Oliver and Richmond of Wisconsin, Mills of Ohio, and Dow of Maine, while the other was taken by Francis E. Willard and Dr. Evans of Illinois. Mrs. Merryweather of Missouri, Mrs. Stewart of Ohio, Small of Georgia, Bain and Cranfill of Kentucky, and others. Miss Willard referred to the fact that Small had come to the convention a bitter and implacable opponent of woman suffrage, but had been converted by the arguments of the majority report.

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