

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NORTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

---

BISMARCK, *Thursday, July 4, 1889.*

The members elected on May 14, 1889, to frame a Constitution for the State of North Dakota, assembled this day at 12 o'clock, noon, in the hall of the House of Representatives in the Territorial Capitol in the City of Bismarck, under and by virtue of the provisions of the Enabling Act of Congress.

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION.

Secretary of the Territory, Mr. RICHARDSON. The Convention will come to order and listen to prayer by the Rev. Mr. Anderson of Bismarck.

Prayer was then offered by Mr. Anderson.

Secretary RICHARDSON then said: GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION. I shall not detain you with any very extended remarks, but I desire to say that you have met to perform the highest duty possible to devolve on an American citizen. You have come together to form the organic law for the great sovereign State of North Dakota, about to be admitted into the Union with an independent municipal government. I need not remind you of the fundamental principals of a wise government which I conceive to be economy and purity. This, gentlemen, is distinctively an agricultural state, and this is an industry to be fostered. Your laws should be so adjusted that the producer will be protected and encouraged to build up the country. It is not the purpose of wisdom to foster dissension between the agricultural producers and the transportation companies, but to so adjust things, that each shall receive equal justice and bear their just part of all public burdens.

It is important that there shall be peace and not war between them. The country cannot prosper without railroads, neither can the farmer prosper without justice. Let this matter be amicably discussed and you will have performed a service to the people of this State which you are about to build, and which will ever be remembered with gratitude by a grateful people. Gentlemen, what is the pleasure of this Convention?

Mr. PARSONS of Morton. Inasmuch as a record of the proceedings is necessary, I make a motion that the Honorable JOHN A. REA be made the temporary Secretary.

Adopted.

Mr. HARRIS. The deliberations of this Convention should be taken down, and I therefore move that R. M. TUTTLE of Mandan, be made temporary Stenographer.

Seconded and adopted.

Mr. PARSONS of Morton. Mr. SECRETARY; I would move that we proceed to the election of a permanent Chairman of this Convention.

Seconded by Mr. COLTON.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I would inquire if the roll has been prepared. It would be proper to call the roll before we proceed to the election of a permanent Chairman.

Secretary RICHARDSON. There has been no roll call prepared by the Secretary. It would seem to devolve upon the Convention to take such action as it sees fit in regard to the calling of the roll.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I move to amend the motion to read that we proceed to elect a Chairman *pro tem*.

Amendment was seconded.

Secretary RICHADSON. The Chair understands that there was a motion before the House that has not been acted upon.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. CHAIRMAN: As I understand it Mr. WILLIAMS has moved an amendment to the motion of Mr. PARSONS.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I should think that the gentleman from Morton would accept my amendment.

Mr. PARSONS of Morton. I object to the amendment, but if desired I will withdraw my motion and move that the Secretary appoint a committee of three on Credentials to report. Otherwise I object to the amendment.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Let us vote on the amendment.

Secretary RICHARDSON. Are there any further remarks? You have heard the amendment.

The amendment was then put to a vote and carried.

The original motion as amended was then put and carried.

Mr. MOER moved that F. B. FANCHER be elected temporary Chairman.

Seconded by Mr. LAUDER, and carried unanimously.

Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. JOHNSON were appointed as a committee to escort Mr. FANCHER to the Chair.

Mr. FANCHER. GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: I thank you heartily for conferring upon me the honor of this temporary chairmanship. What is the further pleasure of the Convention?

Mr. SCOTT. I think it would now be in order for the Chair to appoint a Committee on Credentials. I make a motion to that effect—a committee of three.

Seconded by Mr. HARRIS and carried.

Mr. STEVENS. I move that there be a committee of five appointed on Rules and Permanent Organization.

Mr. PARSONS of Morton. I second the motion.

Mr. MOER amended the motion to read ten instead of five, and the amendment was accepted.

The Committee on Credentials was appointed as follows: Messrs. ROWE of Dickey, MILLER of Cass and MEACHAM of Foster.

The Committee on Rules was appointed as follows: Messrs. STEVENS of Ransom, COLTON of Ward, SCOTT of Barnes, BENNETT of Grand Forks, TURNER of Bottineau, CAMP of Stutsman, SLOTTEN of Richland, ALLIN of Walsh, CLARK of Eddy and APPLETON of Pembina.

Adjourned until 10 o'clock a. m., July 5th.