

THE ADJOURNMENT.

The Constitutional Convention of North Dakota Pass a Pleasant Day and Adjourn.

A Feeling Farewell Address From President Fancher to the Convention's Members.

Great Enthusiasm and a General Good Feeling Exhibited During the Closing Hours.

Forty-Third Day.

Convention met at 10:20 a. m. After prayer by the chaplain and reading and approving the journal of Tuesday, memorials from Hope township, Pembina, Richland and Walsh counties protesting against the Constitutional Convention locating the public institutions in general and the Capital in particular were read, with the threats of endeavor to defeat the ratification of said constitution by the people if adopted in its present form were read, and referred to the special committee appointed yesterday.

Mr. Spaulding moved an amendment to the resolution relating to the printing of debates, regarding the matter as it now stood as unsettled. His amendment proposed striking out the words "six hundred" and inserting the words "eight hundred" and that each member receive eight copies in lieu of six.

Mr. Stevens understood that one thousand copies had been ordered printed. Mr. Parsons, of Morton, seemed to be under the impression that no sufficient record of the proceedings of the whole had been provided for and that a stenographer to take down the proceedings had been employed at a great expense without any provisions for publishing the same.

On changing the roll call from six hundred to eight hundred the roll call was demanded, which resulted, says 21, nays 45. Mr. Stevens moved a reconsideration of the vote for the purpose of saving the question for future consideration, he having voted in the majority.

Mr. Purcell moved to reconsider and to lay that motion on the table which motion prevailed. On motion the convention proceeded to the consideration of Article 5 of the proposed constitution it being under the subdivision head of "elective franchise."

Section 121 was adopted and 122 as amended by recommendation of the committee. Sections 123 to 127 inclusive were adopted without debate, not being necessary to be put in italics in the latter section.

Section 128 which provides that "any woman having the qualifications enumerated in section 1 of this article," etc., "may vote at any election held solely for school purposes" was amended by a motion of the gentleman from Dickey so as to give the right to vote on any question pertaining to school matters and be eligible to hold any office pertaining to the same.

The question as to how women could vote for a state superintendent of schools and preserve the secrecy of the ballot was raised by Mr. Rolfe. Mr. Stevens said that the legislature could provide a way by giving the women a separate box for this purpose, and that it was not consistent to give the right to vote upon a limited portion of a subject only in which women were so deeply interested. The privilege should be extended to all branches of the subject.

Mr. Moer suggested that in view of the fact that Mr. Stevens was already so popular with the ladies that his present speech was unequalled for. After a somewhat prolonged debate Mr. Bartlett, of Griggs, moved the previous question, which was seconded and the main question being put, the section as amended was adopted.

Mr. Parsons, of Morton, moved to amend section 129 by adding thereto what is known as the "Australian ballot bill." Mr. Spaulding moved to lay the motion on the table.

The previous question having been ordered the motion to lay on the table resulted, ayes 49, nays 14. Mr. Williams offered a substitute relating to the secrecy of the ballot and registration of voters.

Mr. Lauder moved to lay it on the table, it being legislation. Mr. Moer supported Mr. Williams' substitute and pending discussion the convention adjourned, a roll call having been called for.

AFTERNOON.

The pending question being upon the laying of Mr. Williams substitute for section 129 on the table, a call of the house was ordered, and it appearing there were but three absentees, further proceedings under the roll call were dispensed with.

Mr. Lauder moved to lay on the table years 67, 145. Mr. Williams then offered another amendment, to which Mr. Stevens offered a substitute, which was rejected.

Roll call on the Williams amendment was called for. Mr. Bartlett, of Griggs, offered a substitute which was also rejected and section 129 was finally adopted as reported by the committee and article 5 as a whole was approved and ordered into the hands of the engrossing clerk.

A call of the house was ordered on motion of Mr. Lauder, and the sergeant-at-arms was directed to bring in absentees. Remaining consideration of Mr. Purcell's amendment was continued, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Stevens following Mr. Purcell in the debate.

Mr. Parsons, of Morton, offered the amendment by Mr. Purcell, and offered a substitute providing for an appeal, not leaving the question of rates in the hands of the railroad commissioners pending a decision by the court.

Mr. Lauder advocated Mr. Parsons' substitute, and the debate was prolonged and some parts of it decidedly in earnest on the part of Messrs. Purcell and Lauder. Mr. Bartlett of Griggs, Messrs. Scott, Stevens and others also took a hand in the discussion.

Mr. Stevens presented a resolution endorsing the proposal to hold a world's fair at Chicago in preference to any other part of the globe which was unanimously adopted. Adjourned.

Section 145 of article seven was adopted and 146 stricken out as recommended by the committee. The remaining sections were adopted with amendments and the article completed.

Article 8, education, being the next subdivision was disposed of by adopting all but section 183, which was stricken out as recommended by the committee.

Article 10, county and township boundaries, led directly into a storm center, but sections 170 to 175 were adopted with several amendments, and sections 174-177 were recommitted.

Convention adjourned to 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Forty-Fourth Day. Convention met at 4 o'clock. Prayer by the chaplain and reading of the journal of Wednesday.

The president announced as the committee to superintend the engrossing of the constitution, Messrs. Spaulding, Johnson, Camp, Wallace.

Memorials were read both denouncing and approving the convention for locating the public institutions, one of the former commencing with the startling announcement that the constitution had already been burned in effigy by some patriotic citizens headed by the chairman of a democratic county committee.

The preponderance of names seemed to be in favor of sustaining location in the constitution by the convention. The Young Men's republican club of Grand Forks promised defeat of the constitution unless the locating article was stricken.

This was supposed to apply only to the capital and not to the university. The committee on township and county organization to whom was recommended sections 174-177. Article ten, reported a substitute for section 174, which contained among other provisions, one for doing away with county commissioners, which was adopted.

Mr. Bartlett of Griggs, presented a substitute for section 175, which was also adopted. Section 176 was stricken out and section 177 being amended by adding after the last word "succession," "under this Constitution," the entire article ten as amended was adopted.

Article eleven, on "Revenue and Taxation," was then taken up and sections 178 and 179 were adopted. Mr. Scott offered an amendment to section 180, which relates to the taxation of municipal corporations, the intent of which was to reserve to the legislative assembly the power to alter and regulate by the legislative assembly the taxing of railroads, involving of "gross earnings" feature contended for.

Mr. Colton moved to lay Mr. Scott's amendment on the table, which motion, after explanation by Mr. Loott, by unanimous consent, prevailed.

Mr. Hegge from Trail offered an amendment to add "until otherwise provided by law to the section," subsequently by agreement to be annexed as a prefix to the section.

Mr. Wallace opposed the amendment. He was not in favor of leaving it in the power of any future legislative assembly to change the system of taxation, and claimed there might be injustice done some time by doing so.

A motion to lay on the table did not prevail—yeas 33, nays 35. Mr. Moer addressed the convention; referring to the status of the North Pacific railroad grant, and the danger there might be in discarding the gross earnings provision to the treasury by cutting off an important source of revenue.

Pembina that plowing should not be considered an improvement for taxation was adopted. Section 182 was adopted, also section 183 as amended by Mr. Miller and in concurrence with the recommendation of the committee.

The remaining sections were also adopted with amendments and article 11, became a part of the constitution. Article twelve—Public debt and public works, after a recess of ten minutes, was considered and sections 186 was adopted with an amendment.

Section 188 was substituted for 187 and 188, under the head of Municipal Corporations, 189-192 adopted as recommended by the committee, and the entire article completed.

Article 13, relating to the militia without debate and with one slight amendment. Article 14, relating to impeachment and removal from office went through without any friction.

Future amendments under article 15 was also adopted without amendments. Mr. Williams moved to substitute "two-thirds" for "majority" in line three, but his proposition was laid on the table.

Article 16, "Compact with the United States," being iron clad in its construction, had no use for amendments, and was adopted on sight.

In considering article 17, "miscellaneous," Mr. Carland moved to amend section 46, relating to flowing streams, by adding thereto "for mining, irrigating and manufacturing purposes." The word "natural" was also inserted before "waterways;" and "ways" was changed to "courses."

Section 217, the oath section, was changed in the final to read "so help me God" in the case of an oath being administered, and sections 170 to 175 were adopted with several amendments. A substitute offered by Mr. Johnson was rejected.

Mr. Parsons of Morton offered an additional section prohibiting the exchange of "black lists" by employers, which was adopted by a vote of 39 to 30.

Mr. Moer also offered an additional section prohibiting the receiving of railroad passes by members of the Legislative Assembly or any state officer which was adopted. Yeas, 42; nays, 20.

A motion to reconsider by Mr. Scott was on motion of Mr. Williams laid on the table. Article XVII adopted and convention adjourned.

Mr. Allen moved as an amendment that the town of Park River be added to the third legislative district. Carried.

On motion of Mr. Merrinan the city of Grafton was included in the Fourth district. "Minto" was added, and on motion of Mr. Bell the "village of Ardoek" was added to the Fourth district.

On motion of Mr. Miller fractional township 188-48 was added to the Ninth district. The legislative apportionment having been adopted, Mr. Miller moved that the convention proceed to consider the next article—that locating the public institutions.

Mr. Johnson moved that the report of the committee to which was referred the telegrams regarding the public institutions, be read before the article was considered.

Mr. Miller explained that he, as chairman, had his report ready, but he did not know that the other members were ready to report.

Mr. Johnson then said that he had a minority report which he desired to submit. Mr. Spaulding rose to a point of order. Under the rules special committee reports could not be adopted at this time.

The point of order was sustained. Mr. Bartlett, of Griggs, moved that Mr. Johnson's minority report be received. Mr. Stevens said that he, as a member of the committee, would like to know what is going on before a report is submitted.

Mr. Johnson disclaimed all responsibility for the indignation meeting held at Lakota referred to by his colleague, Mr. Bean. Mr. Lauder said that he had no objection to the combination, which saw fit in its generosity to locate a public institution at Walpoleton, no doubt with the expectation that the Richland county delegation would support this measure.

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