

BUCHANAN LEADS THE VOTE

TENNESSEE DEMOCRATS MEET AT NASHVILLE.

A SWEEPING ARRAIGNMENT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY—CLEVELAND'S COURSE STRONGLY INDORSED.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 15.—The most largely attended Democratic State Convention ever held in Tennessee was called to order in the hall of the House of Representatives at noon to-day. Not only were all the seats occupied long before the hour for assembling, but every foot of space in the galleries and corridors was filled. Never was greater interest in the proceedings of a convention displayed by the public. The morning and evening trains brought additional delegates and swelled the numbers in attendance to nearly two thousand.

It was evident from the beginning that the Farmers' Alliance delegates, at least, were determined to make their presence felt, and their sojourn long if necessary, as, for the first time in a convention of the kind, they had control of the organization of the body.

At noon the Hon. Thomas L. Williams, Chairman of the State Executive Committee, opened the convention. He paid his respects to the Republican Party and expressed the hope that the proceedings might be conservative.

Mr. N. W. Baptist of Tipton County was elected temporary Chairman and the usual committees were appointed. The Hon. John D. Richardson, member of Congress from the Fifth District, was elected permanent Chairman.

Both Messrs. Baptist and Richardson favor the nomination of the Hon. J. P. P. Buchanan, the Farmers' Alliance candidate for Governor. They were selected at a meeting of the supporters of Buchanan last night. Their selection was not opposed by the friends of the other three candidates—Col. Jere Baxter of Davidson County, Col. Josiah Patterson of Shelby County, and the Hon. John M. Taylor, ex-member of Congress from the Eighth District. Each of these gentlemen has been treating the farmers' delegates with the greatest deference, hoping that in the event of a break from Buchanan's ranks he would be remembered.

After the contest as to seating a delegate had been settled, the Committee on Platform was ready to report. The report was made and unanimously adopted.

The platform indorses the Administration of Grover Cleveland, denounces the McKinley bill, demands the free coinage of silver, and denounces the importation of pauper labor. It declares that the agricultural interests are the mainstay and support of our dual system of government, State and Federal, and arraigns and condemns the Republican Party for its legislative discrimination against this class, which has greatly reduced the price of farm lands and products; for its corrupt grant of large subsidies to special corporations; for its revolutionary methods to perpetuate its power; for its reckless squandering of public money for party purposes; for its corrupting and debauching of the American franchise; for its efforts to foment sectional strife and thus disturb the business tranquillity of the country; for its efforts to foster combinations, unlawful trusts, and monopolies so oppressive to the great mass of the people; for its attempt to pass a Federal Election bill or Force bill designed to engender a conflict between the races of the South and to strengthen and entrench monopoly; for its utter disregard of the will of the people in unseating duly and legally elected Democratic Representatives, and its shamelessness in denying the right of Statehood to Territories fully qualified for admission by the number of their citizens because they are Democratic, while they admit into the Union other Territories as States with a much smaller population, for the reason only that a majority of their voters are Republicans, and in contrast with all this and the weak, vacillating, selfish strife-producing and labor-dissatisfying Administration of Benjamin Harrison, presents with pride the Administration of Grover Cleveland, marked as it was by high moral courage, exemption from nepotism, jobbing, and speculation.

The balance of the platform refers to State issues.

The Chairman announced that the nomination of candidates for Governor was in order. John E. Richardson nominated Mr. Buchanan, Gen. H. W. Jackson nominated Col. Baxter, W. P. Robertson nominated Mr. Taylor, and Col. George B. Peters nominated Col. Patterson.

The roll was called and the first ballot was taken, resulting as follows: Buchanan, 759 1-5; Patterson, 370 7-20; Baxter, 297 3; Taylor, 176 1-8.

There was great cheering during the ballot, and when the result was announced the applause was great.

The convention then adjourned until to-morrow. The vote showed that Buchanan had about developed the strength he claimed and that neither Patterson nor Baxter had received as many as he had counted upon. Taylor received more than he expected. It is the impression in some quarters that the balloting will continue throughout to-morrow and that a nomination will not be made until Thursday morning.