

Transcript

The *Richmond Planet* Announced John Mitchell's Candidacy for Governor, September 10, 1921

REPRESENTATIVE COLORED MEN HERE Republican Convention Nominates Strong Ticket. Determined to Accept Gauge of Battle.

WILL WAGE LIVELY CAMPAIGN—A FINE PLATFORM—CANDIDATES TO ACCEPT LATER—PLEDGES IN PLATFORM

Vacancies Occurred to be Filled by the State Committee

[O]ne* of the most representative [con]ventions ever held by Republican [vote]rs convened in this city at the [Tru]e Reformers Hall, Monday, Sep[tem]ber 5, 1921. Nearly 600 dele[gate]s were present and in the hall, [bann]ers were displayed from every [Dist]rict in the State. Representa[tive]s sat under each one of these.

[St]ate Chairman J. R. Pollard [calle]d the body to order and W. B. [torn] Crowell, the well known Repub[lican] leader from Roanoke, Va. was [th]e temporary chairman** and later [th]e temporary organization was made [perm]anent. Mr. H. H. Price was [secr]etary. Committees were appoint[ed] and the convention took a recess [until] 3 P. M.

FULL TICKET NOMINATED

[Th]e reports of the committees were [made]. The Committees on Nomina[tion] of Candidates named the fol[lowi]ng:

[Jo]hn Mitchell, Jr., Richmond, for [Gove]rnor; Theodore Nash, Ports[mout]h, Lieutenant-Governor; J.T. [New]some, Newport News, Attorney [Gene]ral; Thomas E. Jackson, Staun[ton], Treasurer; F. V. Bacchus, [Lync]hburg, Secretary of the Common[wealt]h; Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, [Rich]mond, Superintendent of Public [Instr]uction; J. L. Reed, Roanoke, [Corp]oration Commissioner; A. P. [Brick]house, Exmore, Commissioner [of A]griculture.

[J.] R. Pollard of Richmond was [nam]ed State Chairman. A resolu[tion] was adopted authorizing the [chair]man to call for a conference of [voti]ng colored Republicans in Wash[ingto]n at an early date.

THE PLATFORM.

[Th]e platform was unanimously [adopt]ed and read as follows:

[The] Committee on Platform J. Thos. [News]ome, chairman reported as the [torn]rm for the Republican party for [the s]tate of Virginia the edicts and [torn]ples which were unanimously [adopt]ed by the convention on motion [of Mr]. J.R. Pollard under second of [torn]te Glenn of the 3rd District [torn] platform reads as follows:

THE PLATFORM

Transcript

[The] Republican party of Virginia in [torn] convention assembled in the [City o]f Richmond, the 5th day of [Septem]ber 1921 having full faith and [confid]ence in the principles of Repub[licanis]m as declared by the the founders [of the] National Republican party, and [torn]ed by such leaders as Lincoln [Frede]rick Douglass, and the great [Mr.] Roosevelt pledges undivided al[legian]ce to those principles as the [torn]ck of our splendid institutions [torn] the only certain guarantee of [lib]erty and future security of all [pe]ople of this country in the un[certain] future that lies before us.

FRANCHISE

[We] hold that under a government [torn] the sovereign powers is lodged [torn] people and exercised by them [wit]h the elective franchise the [right t]o vote is inseparable from the [right t]o be voted for, and any attempt [to sepa]rate these prerogatives is a [torn]ous political heresay, contrary [to the] genius of our Republic form of [govern]ment and destructive of the [torn]nd aims of a free people.

[The] history of the colored people in [Virgini]a for the last 20 years attests [torn]t that they are by no means [torn] office seekers, and therefore, [den]ounce as a political subterfuge [the an]ouncement in the Republican [party] in which it attempts by [torn]o to assure the white elector[ate] it is opposed to Negro office [holders] and thereby in its efforts to gain the support of a certain element of the white electorate, offers a gratuitous insult to the colored electorate at large.

Recognizing the justice of the rule of the majority under a Republican form of Government we cheerfully subscribe to that rule, but at the same time we insist that the minority has rights which the majority under the Constitution, cannot deny and the citizen should not be deprived of any of the privileges vouch-safed him by the fundamental law both State and National, because he belongs to a group numerically less than another group of our citizenry, or because of race color, creed or religion.

We cannot believe that the great body of the God fearing men and women whose labors and sacrifices have made Virginia a distinguished member of the family of States will subscribe to the sophistry that a class of our citizens who wrought mightily for her development for 250 years and that too, without a single pay day shall be denied the right participate in the political affairs of the government and in party councils up on the untenable grounds that another group of citizens pays into the coffers of the State the greater part of its revenues.

We believe too that character and experience are necessary qualities to be possessed by anyone offering for the suffrage of the electorate, but we fail to see how one can ever demonstrate the excellence of his character who never gained experience in office which he is never allowed to hold.

We condemn as utterly evasive and willfully misleading the attempt to confuse the participation of any group of people in politics with a desire to change the social understanding always existing between the races in this State and while we respectfully and unreservedly demand to be treated as other citizens with all the rights privileges and immunities accorded them, including the rights to vote and to be voted for still we resent the insinuation coming from certain sources that we desire or intend in anywise to disturb the very cordial relations existing between the best of both races in Virginia.

And, in things purely political we desire nothing but a reign of righteousness and reason and we feel that no group of men and women holding to the faith of Republicanism should be allowed to dominate nor should it be excluded as a mere expedient to deceive the Democratic

Transcript

party to obtain votes. No mere expediency however urgent the call for its exercise should be allowed to disturb the basic principles of the party.

EDUCATION

The Republican party believes in the education of all the people under a compulsory system with better pay for teachers and longer terms for pupils in the rural districts while

(Continued on Fourth Page)

REPRESENTATIVE

(Continued from First Page)

we take great pride in some of our institutions of learning especially the great University of Virginia and also Institutions of secondary and high learning we still desire to see the College Department of the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute restored to the end that Negro boys and Negro girls may receive the highest culture so very essential to progressive leadership.

TAXATION

We favor the gradual reduction of taxation and a more equitable plan of assessment so that all sections of the State shall bear their due proportions of the public debt and obligations. We shall therefore urge that at the earliest possible moment the Governor be directed by law to appoint a non-partisan commission of two experts to study the whole question affecting our public revenues and taxes and to recommend such legislation as will guarantee ample funds to prosecute the public business and to meet the obligations incurred by the state with absolute fairness to all classes of our citizens.

PUBLIC ROADS

In order to stimulate trade, encourage neighborly intercourse and spread general intelligence among the people we favor the building of the best highways through out the commonwealth and to that end we recommend the issuance of bonds of such small denominations as to enable the farmer, the laborer, and others of inconsiderable capital to participate in this patriotic enterprise.

FARMERS.

We believe that the State owes a special duty to the farmers and to that end we recommend legislation that will give the department of Agriculture larger powers and better facilities for rendering the farmers substantial aid and encouragement.

NATURAL RESOURCES

We believe in a full development of the natural resources of the State without regard to section, and to that end we pledge ourselves to use every power at our command to bring to the attention of the whole people the great opportunities the state offers through her mines, fertile fields, and the development of the Hampton Roads to take her proper place in the front rank of the progressive states of the Union.

Transcript

COURTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

We believe it is no less the duty of the citizens to respect and uphold the majesty of the law when honestly administered through the orderly procedure of the Courts that it is for the Government to guarantee to one accused of crime a fair and impartial trial by jury of his peers.

CAPITAL AND LABOR

Recognizing both capital and labor as essential to the prosperity and perpetuity of our state, we heartily recommend that laws shall be so enacted as to discriminate against neither of those great factors but will justly and impartially injure to the good of both.

PENSIONING SOLIDERS

While a member of the State Senate the late Hon. A. W. Harris a colored Republican from the city of Petersburg voted for a liberal pension for the soldiers taking the high ground that a soldier under the command of superior officers and fighting for what he conceived to be a great principle should not go without support from the bounty of the state. We pledge ourselves therefore in the event of the election of of a republican ticket to it that all soldiers and their widows shall pass the few remaining days of their lives free from the sting of want.

CONCLUSION

Finally with a glorious history written in the past and with confidence in the future we submit our cause to the voters of Virginia, the man and the women, the white and the black, with the solemn promise that if elected to office we shall redeem every pledge herein made.

Signed:

J. THOS. NEWSOME, Newport News.
P. A. SCOTT, Newport News.
THEODORE N. NASH, Portsmouth.
W. M. ELLIS, Staunton, Va
REV. W. H. CRAWLEY, South Boston.

*The newspaper is torn on the left side resulting in a small loss of text. If the missing text could be reasonably conjectured, it has been provided in brackets in the transcript.

** Typos such as misspelled words have been retained in the transcript.

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