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NEW SERIES—VOL. V.—NO. 3.

### The Mode in which the Soldiers shall Vote.

The following is an abstract of the bill prescribing the manner in which the soldiers shall vote:

SECTION 1. Provides that whenever any of the qualified electors of this Commonwealth shall be in actual military service under a requisition from the President or Governor, and consequently absent on the day of holding general, special, or presidential elections, they shall be entitled to exercise the right of suffrage as fully as if they were present, at their proper places of voting, and the right of such voter is not to be impaired by reason of his being credited for bounty in any other locality than his actual residence.

SEC. 2. A poll is to be opened in each company, composed in whole or part of Pennsylvania soldiers, at the quarters of the captain or other officer, and all electors of said company who shall be within one mile of such quarters on the day of election, and not be prevented from returning by the proximity of the enemy or orders of commanders, shall vote at such headquarters, and no other place. Officers other than those of a company, the other voters detached and absent from their companies, or in any military and naval hospital, or in any vessel or navy yard, may vote at such other polls as are most convenient to them. When there are ten or more electors unable to attend at the company polls or proper places of election they may open a poll at such place as they may select.

SEC. 3. The polls are not to be opened before 7 o'clock, and must be kept open three hours, or, if deemed necessary in order to receive all the votes, until seven o'clock in the evening.

SEC. 4. Before opening the polls the electors present shall elect, viva voce, three persons for judges, and the judges shall appoint two clerks, and prepare boxes for their ballots.

SEC. 5. Before receiving any votes the judges and clerks shall be sworn to observe the law and guard against fraud and deceit, and this oath must be entered on the poll-book and signed by the judges and clerks.

SEC. 6. All voting shall be by ballot, and the applicant to vote, if challenged, must be examined under oath by the judges as to his right to vote in the precinct in which he claims residence.

SEC. 7. Separate poll-books must be kept, and separate returns made, for the voters of each city or county. The poll-books shall name the company and regiment, and post, place or hospital in which the election is held. The county and township, city, borough, ward, precinct, or election district of each voter shall be endorsed opposite his name on the poll-books, of which each clerk shall keep one.

SEC. 8. The tickets shall have upon them the names of all the officers for whom the elector desires to vote.

SEC. 9. On receiving the ticket the judges must pronounce audibly the name of the elector presenting it, and if satisfied of the right of the elector to vote, and he is not challenged, shall deposit the ballot in the proper box, while the clerks register the name and legal residence of the voter in their poll-books.

SEC. 10. At the close of the polls the number of voters shall be counted, set down, and certified at the foot of the poll books.

SEC. 11. After the poll-books are signed the ballots are to be counted, each judge reading the names thereon, and the third stringing the vote of each county on a separate string, and carefully preserving the same.

SEC. 12. Where two tickets are folded together, both are to be thrown out, and where two ballots are voted together for the same office, neither is to be counted for that office.

SEC. 13. Each clerk shall keep, in addition to the poll-book, a list of the voters for each county, which shall constitute a part of the poll-book.

SEC. 14. The number of voters on these county poll lists must also be set down and certified.

SEC. 15 and 16 prescribe the form of poll-book, and the manner of entering the returns.

SEC. 17. After canvassing the votes, the judges will seal up and send the poll-book lists, and the ballots, to the Prothonotary of the proper county, and secure the other poll-books and lists, to be called for by the Commissioner appointed under the act. If not called for within ten days, the second book, &c., are to be sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

SEC. 18. The Prothonotary must furnish the Return Judge with a certified copy of returns so received.

SEC. 19 and 20. The Return Judges are to meet on the second Tuesday of November to count and enter the vote of soldiers thus returned.

SEC. 21. In Presidential elections, all returns received by the Secretary of the Commonwealth are to be compared with the county returns, for the correction of the latter.

SEC. 22. All elections are to be subject to contest as under the present laws.

SEC. 23. The Secretary of the Commonwealth is required to provide a sufficient number of copies of this law, together with extracts from the general election laws, blank forms of poll-books, tally lists, and returns, postage stamps, &c., and forward the same by commissioners, or otherwise, to the commanding officers of companies, detached posts and hospitals, who shall deliver the same to the election judges on the day of election, but no election is to be invalidated by reason of such blanks not being received.

SEC. 24, 25, 26, 27. The Governor is to appoint such commissioners, not exceeding one to each Pennsylvania regiment in service, as shall be necessary to carry out the law. Said commissioners are to be sworn to fulfill their duties, under pen-

alty of \$1,000, or imprisonment for one year. They are to deliver four copies of the laws, and at least two sets of blanks, to the commanding officer of every company and part of company; provide for opening polls, and call for one copy of the poll-book after the election. They are to be paid ten cents per mile for traveling to and from their respective regiments, and may vote at one of the company polls. No failure of commissioners to visit regiments shall invalidate any election under the act.

SEC. 28, 29. The officers authorized to conduct elections are to be subject to the usual penalties for non-fulfillment of duties. They are to receive no compensation.

SEC. 30. When the Sheriff issues his proclamation for an election, he shall transmit immediately copies of the same to the troops in the field from the county.

SEC. 31. \$12,000 is appropriated to carry the law into effect.

SEC. 32, 33. Where less than ten persons are separated from their proper company, they are to vote as follows: Each voter is authorized, before the day of the election, to place his ballot, properly folded, in a sealed envelope, together with a statement signed by the voter and his commanding officer, or some other witness, and duly sworn to and certified before said officer, or some other competent person. This statement must set forth the following facts:

The name and proper residence of the voter.

An authority to some qualified voter at the place of his residence, to cast the ballot for him.

That he is a qualified voter in the precinct where he proposes to vote.

That he is in the active military service, and give the name of the organization of which he is a member.

That he has not sent his ballots to any other person than the one so authorized.

That he will not attempt to vote at any place where he is not authorized to vote.

That he has not been dishonorably dismissed from service.

And that he is now stationed at— State of—

Said sealed envelope, ballots and statements are to be sent by mail, or otherwise, to the proper person, with the endorsement on the sealed part thereof, "Soldier's ballot for— township, (ward or borough), in the county of—" &c.

SEC. 34, 35, 36, 37. The elector to whom this ballot is sent shall deliver it, unopened, on the day of election, at the proper polls. The election officer shall open it in the presence of the board, and deposit the ballots and accompanying papers, as other ballots are deposited. The person delivering the ballot shall be compelled to testify on oath that he has delivered it in the same state as when received, and that he has not opened it or changed or altered the contents. Without such oath the vote shall not be received. The right to vote of the person sending the ballot may be challenged the same as if he was personally present. Any election officer refusing to receive and count such vote, excepting when fraudulent, and any elector to whom such ballot is sent refusing to present it to the proper poll, are punishable by \$500 fine and one year's imprisonment. Any person making false oath touching these matters is subject to a penalty of \$1,000 fine and five years imprisonment.

SEC. 38. The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish the necessary blanks to carry out this act.

SEC. 39. In case of an elector in military service on a vessel, the master of said vessel shall be competent to take affidavit and written statement of said elector.

SEC. 40. Assessors are required to assess a county tax of ten cents on every non-commissioned officer and private, and the usual tax on every commissioned officer, known by them to be in the military service of the United States or of the State, in the army or navy, and when names shall have been omitted they must be added on application of any resident of the district. Non-commissioned officers and privates are to be exempt from all other personal taxes while in service. Assessors must receive this tax from, and furnish a certificate of payment to, any citizen offering to pay the same to said soldier. Where the name has been entered on the assessment books no certificate of assessment shall be required. The certificate of payment must set forth the name of the person for whom the tax is paid, the date of payment, and year for which it is assessed. This certificate shall only be evidence of payment of taxes, and shall not preclude a demand for other evidence of a right to vote. The penalty for non-compliance on the part of the assessors, collectors, or treasurers, shall not be less than \$20, nor more than \$200.

A dead mule, belonging to a Memphis citizen, was being hauled out of the lines the other day when a bayonet thrust revealed the fact that the carcass contained 60,000 percussion caps, a quantity of ammunition and other contraband articles which some rebel sympathizer had taken this means to smuggle.

A large haul of Federal Treasury officials in Vicksburg has been made, for smuggling whiskey and cotton.

Carl Shurz is speechifying in St. Louis for Fremont. Carl is very hungry for some place or other.

An American won \$1,000 in a wrestling match with an Englishman down in Jersey a few days ago.

Punch asks: When a person says his "brain is on fire," is it etiquette to blow them out?

In Canada they call our postal currency "Little Lincolns."

### THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Chicago, August 29.—At noon the National Democratic Convention was called to order by August Belmont, Chairman of the National Committee, who said:

Gentlemen of the Convention:

We are assembled here to-day as the National Democratic Convention, under the call of the Democratic National Committee, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States. This task, at all times a most difficult and arduous one, has, by the sad events of our civil war, assumed an importance and responsibility of the most fearful nature. Never since the formation of our Government has there been an assemblage, the proceedings of which were fraught with more momentous and vital results, than those which must flow from your action here. Towards you, gentlemen, are directed at this moment the anxious fears and doubts not only of millions of American citizens, but also of every lover of civil liberty throughout the world. In your hands rests, under the ruling of an All-wise Providence, the future of the Republic. Four years of rule by the sectional, fanatical, and corrupt party wars of the disastrous consequences which would befall us if Mr. Lincoln's re-election should be made possible by our want of patriotism and unity. The inevitable result of such a calamity must be the utter disintegration of our whole political and social system, amid bloodshed and anarchy, with the great problems of liberal progress and self-government jeopardized for generations to come.

The American people have at last awakened to the conviction that a change of policy and administration can alone stay our downward course, and they will rush to the support of your candidate and platform, provided you will offer to their suffrages a tried patriot who has proved his devotion to the Union and Constitution; that you pledge him and ourselves to maintain them by every effort and sacrifice in our power.

Let us, at the very onset of our proceedings, bear in mind that the dissensions of the last National Democratic Convention were one of the principal causes which gave the reins of the Government into the hands of our opponents, and let us take care not to fall again into the same fatal error.

We must bring to the altar of our country the sacrifice of our prejudices, opinions and convictions, however dear and long cherished they may be, from the moment they threaten the harmony and unity of action so indispensable to our success.

We are not here as War Democrats, nor as Peace Democrats, but as citizens of this great Republic, which we will strive and labor to the last to bring back to its former greatness and prosperity without one single star taken from the brilliant constellation that once encircled its youthful brow.

Let pure and disinterested patriotism, tempered by moderation and forbearance, preside over our deliberations, and under the blessings of Almighty God the sacred cause of the Union, the Constitution and the laws must prevail over fanaticism and treason.

Mr. Belmont was enthusiastically applauded during the delivery of his address.

The Hon. Wm. Bigler, of Pennsylvania, was chosen temporary Chairman of the Convention, and upon taking the chair made a brief address, expressing confidence in the wise deliberations of the Convention and in the success of its nominee.

SPEECH OF EX-GOVERNOR BIGLER.

Gentlemen of the Convention: I am greatly honored in your selection of me to preside over the preliminary deliberations of this body. My acknowledgments for the high compliment and for the kind greeting just extended to me by this vast concourse of my fellow-citizens, will be best manifested by the proper discharge of the duties of the position to which you have called me. It is not expected, nor would it be fitting, in one assuming a mere temporary Presidency of this Convention, that he should enter upon any general discussion of the many topics suggested by the unhappy condition of our country. A brief allusion to the occasion and purposes of our assembly is all that will be necessary. No similar body ever assembled in America with mightier objects before, or to which such a vast proportion of the American people looked with such profound solicitude for measures to promote the welfare of the country and advance their individual happiness. The termination of Democratic rule in this country, was the end of peaceful relations between the States and the people. The elevation of a sectional party to authority at Washington, the culmination of a long indulged, acrimonious war, culmination and re-orientation between extreme men at the North and South, were promptly followed by dissolution and civil war, and in the progress of that war even the foundations of civil liberty have been imperiled and the whole public brought to the very verge of destruction, and now, at the end of more than three years of a war unparalleled in modern times for its magnitude and for barbarous desolation, after more than two millions of men have been called into the field on our side alone, after the land has been literally drenched in fraternal blood, and wailings and lamentations are heard in every corner of our common country, the hopes of the Union and our cherished object are in no wise improved.

The men now in authority, through a feud which they long maintained with violent and unwise man at the South, because of a blind fanaticism about an institution in some States, and in relation to

which they had no duties to perform and no responsibilities to bear, are utterly incapable of adopting the proper means to rescue our country, our whole country, from its present lamentable condition. Then, gentlemen, it is apparent that the first indispensable step to the accomplishment of this great work, is the overthrow by the ballot of the present Administration, and the inauguration of another in its stead, which will wisely and zealously, but temperately and justly, wield all the influence and power of the Government to bring about a speedy settlement of our national troubles on the principles of the Constitution, and on terms honorable and just to all sections, north, south, east and west; one which will stand unflinchingly by civil and religious liberty; one which, instead of relying wholly on its peculiar dogmas and doctrines, and the ravages of the sword, will refer the national troubles to the people, the fountain of political authority, and to the States under the forms of the Constitution; one which will have no conditions precedent to the restoration of the Union, but will diligently seek that result as a return of permanent peace amongst the people.

Gentlemen, you have been commissioned by the people to come here and initiate steps to accomplish these great objects, to select an agent or agents in this good work, that that step will be well performed, I have an unflinching faith, and that the people may sanction and God bless those means to the desired end is my sincere prayer.

At the conclusion of his remarks he introduced the Rev. Dr. Clarkson, of Chicago, who offered up a prayer for the speedy return of peace and permanent happiness of the country. E. O. Ferrin, G. M. Torvers and Moses Strong, of Wisconsin, were appointed temporary Secretaries.

The list of delegates was called by States, and as each chairman presented the credentials of his delegation he was welcomed with loud applause.

Mr. Tilden, of New York, moved that one delegate be appointed from each delegation to report resolutions for the consideration of the Convention, and that all resolutions be referred to the committee without debate. Carried.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, moved that the Committee on organization be instructed to report rules for the government of the Convention, and in the meantime that the rules of the last Convention be adopted. Carried.

Mr. Powell, of Kentucky, stated that the contesting delegates from that State had agreed, and were harmonious in the Convention. He moved that the members from each delegation be appointed on the Committee on Resolutions, they to have but one vote. Carried.

Mr. McDougal, of California, moved that there be admitted to the Convention, not to exceed three gentlemen, known to be members of the Democratic party, from each of the several Territories, and delegates to be permitted to participate in debate without a vote.

Gen. Morgan, of Ohio, moved to amend by extending the privileges of the resolution to delegates from the Southern States and the District of Columbia.

Mr. McDougal accepted the amendment. Mr. Tilden opposed the resolution, as it was manifest that no gentleman can be thus designated by the Convention, who do not come here accredited to us, and they may or may not represent a constituency. It might be otherwise in regard to Territories. There may be gentlemen from them accredited as we are, but under all the circumstances the adoption of such a resolution would, in his judgment, be productive only of confusion and disorder. (Cheers.)

On motion, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Credentials.

A communication, signed by J. L. Ridde, Chairman of the Louisiana delegation was received, setting forth that his colleagues were properly accredited as delegates for Louisiana, notwithstanding the fact that the Committee refused them tickets of admission. Referred.

Gov. Wickliffe, of Kentucky, handed up two tickets, which were read, one from John W. Leathers, and the other from G. B. Buchanan, both delegates from Kentucky, in which they explain their absence by saying that they are the victims of military despotism, arrested without cause, imprisoned and denied a resort to legal measures guaranteed by the laws of the State and the Constitution to establish their innocence. They profess increased devotion to the Democratic cause, advise the adoption of a peace platform, and are hopeful of the success of the nominees of the Convention. The letters were laid on the table.

On motion, each delegation, through its Chairman, named its selection of members of the respective committees.

The following is the committee on resolutions:—

- Maine—J. W. Darr.
- New Hampshire—J. E. Keyes.
- Massachusetts—George Lunt.
- Connecticut—Charles R. Ingersoll.
- Vermont—D. F. Redfield.
- Rhode Island—Charles S. Bradley.
- New York—Samuel J. Tilden.
- New Jersey—A. Browning.
- Pennsylvania—(not elected).
- Delaware—Charles Brown.
- Maryland—T. G. Pratt.
- Kentucky—Thomas N. Lindsey and James Guthrie.
- Ohio—C. L. Vallandigham.
- Indiana—James M. Hanna.
- Illinois—S. S. Marshall.
- Michigan—A. C. Baldwin.
- Missouri—W. A. Hall.
- Minnesota—E. O. Hamlin.
- Wisconsin—George B. Smith.
- Iowa—J. F. Bates.
- California—J. B. Weller.
- Kansas—W. C. McDowell.
- Oregon—R. Stark.
- Mr. Olds, Ohio, moved that the Com-

mittee on Resolutions be instructed to report what action, if any, is necessary for this Convention to take in regard to the military order of Gen. Hinzelman prohibiting the people of the Northwest from purchasing arms and ammunition. Referred.

The Convention then adjourned till ten A. M. on Tuesday morning.

### SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Chicago, Aug. 30.—The National Democratic Convention reassembled at ten o'clock this morning.

The attendance both inside and outside of the Wigwag was even greater than that of yesterday.

Immediately after the Convention was called to order, and a prayer was offered by Bishop Whitehouse of Illinois. Mr. Hughes, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee on organization, reported that the committee had unanimously agreed upon Horatio Seymour as permanent president of the Convention.

The announcement was greeted with applause, and the report adopted by acclamation.

### SPEECH OF GOVERNOR SEYMOUR.

Gentlemen of the Convention: I cannot forecast the resolutions and action of this Convention, but I say every member of it loves the Union, desires peace and will uphold constitutional freedom.

While the resolution and action of this Convention are of the utmost importance there are reasons why the Democratic party should be restored to power, and they are good reasons.

The Democratic party will restore the Union because it longs for its restoration. It will bring peace, because it loves peace. It will bring back liberty to our land because it loves liberty.

It will put down despotism because it hates the ignoble tyranny which now degrades the American people.

Four years ago a convention met in this city when our country was peaceful, prosperous and united.

Its delegates did not mean to destroy our Government, to overwhelm us with debt, or to drench our land with blood, but they were animated by intolerance and fanaticism, and blinded by an ignorance of the spirit of our institutions, the character of our people and the condition of our land. They thought they might easily indulge their passions, and they concluded to do so.

They would not heed the warnings of our fathers, and they did not consider that meddling begets strife. Their passions have brought out their natural results.

They were impelled to spurn all measures of compromise.

Step by step they have marched on to results from which at the onset they would have shrunk with horror. And even now, when war has desolated our land, has laid its heavy burthens upon labor, and when bankruptcy and ruin overhang us, they will not have the Union restored, except upon conditions unknown to our Constitution.

They will not let the shedding of blood cease even for a little time, to see if Christian charity or the wisdom of statesmanship may not work out a method to save our country.

Nay, more than this, they will not listen to a proposal for peace which does not offer that which this Government has no right to get.

The administration cannot now save this Union if it would. It has, by its proclamations, by vindictive legislation, and by displays of hate and passion, placed obstacles in its own pathway which it cannot overcome. It has hampered its own freedom of action by unconstitutionalities.

It cannot be said that the failure of its policy is due to the lack of courage and devotion on the part of our armies.

Never in the history of the world have soldiers given up their lives more freely than have those of the armies which have battled for the flag of our Union in the Southern States.

The world will hold that they have done all that armies could do, and had wisdom and statesmanship secured the fruits of their victories, to-day there would have been peace in our land; but while our soldiers have desperately struggled to carry our banners south to the Gulf of Mexico—even now—the Government declares in the edict of a general that rebellious discontent has worked Northward to the shores of the great lakes.

The guaranteed rights of the people to bear arms have been trampled under foot up to the very borders of Canada, so that American servitude is put in bold contrast with British liberty.

This administration thus declares to the world that it has no faith in the people of the States whose votes placed it in power.

It also admits by such an edict that these people have no faith in the administration. While those in power without remorse sacrifice the blood and treasure of our people, they will not give up their own possessions for the public good.

This Union is now held asunder by military ambition.

of gentleness and charity, while those who stay at home demand no mercy, no charity or forgiveness.

The bigotry of fanaticism and the intrigues of placemen have made bloody the pages of history the past three years. It was a soldier upon whom our Saviour bestowed his only commendation when he hung upon the cross, and Pharisees mocked his sufferings. It was a soldier alone who discovered his divinity when he heard him pour forth prayers for mercy and forgiveness for the authors of his sufferings.

The Administration cannot save this Union, but we can. Mr. Lincoln views many things above the Union. We put the Union first of all. He thinks a proclamation worth more than peace. We think the blood of our people more precious than the edicts of a President.

There are no hindrances in our pathway to Union and peace. We demand no conditions for the restoration of the Union. We are shackled with no hates, no prejudices, no passions. We wish for fraternal relationship with the people of the South. We demand for them what we demand for ourselves—full recognition of the rights of the States. We mean that every State on our nation's banner shall shine with ours and the same lustre.

In the coming election men must decide with which of the two parties, into which our people are divided, they will act. If they wish for Union, they will act with the party which will hold the Union together.

They will act with that party which does now and always did love and reverence the Union. If they wish for peace, they will act with those who sought to avert this war, and who now seek to restore good will and harmony among all sections of our country. If they care for their rights and for the sacredness of their homes, they will act with those who have stood up to resist arbitrary arrests, despotic legislation, and the overthrow of the judiciary.

If, on the other hand, they are willing to continue the present policy of the Government and condition of affairs, let them act with that organization which made the present condition of our country. There are many good men who may be led to do this by their passions and prejudices, and our land swarms with placemen who will hold upon power with deadly grasp.

But as for us, we are resolved that the party which has made the history of our country, since its advent into power, seem like some unnatural and terrible dream, shall be overthrown. Four years ago it had its birth upon this spot. Let us see that by our action it shall die here, where it was born.

We desire Union and peace, and the Administration deny us Union and peace; for they demand conditions and exact a price which they know will prolong the war, and the war unduly prolonged becomes a nuisance. We statesmanship can now bring this war to a close upon the terms solemnly set forth by the Government at the outset of the contest.

We are battling for the rights of those who belong to all political organizations. We mean by these rights, that free speech shall not be impeached, although that right may be used to denounce us. We intend that the rights of conscience shall be protected, although mistaken views of duty may turn the temple of religion into theatres for partisan denunciations.

We mean that the home rights, the sacredness of the Press, shall be respected by those in authority, no matter what political views may be held by those who sit beneath their roof trees. When the Democratic party shall have gained power we shall not be less, but more, tenacious upon these subjects.

We have forbore much because those who are now charged with the conduct of public affairs, know but little about the principles of our Government.

We are unwilling to present an appearance of factious opposition, but when we shall have gained power that official who shall violate one principle of law, one single right of the humblest man in our land, shall be punished by the full rigors of the law. It matters not whether he sits in the Presidential chair or holds an humble office under our Government.

We have had upon this floor a touching and significant proof of the folly of this Administration, who have driven from their support those upon whom they chiefly leaned on at the outset of the rebellion. Then their hopes were for their own personal safety, even upon noble men in the border States, who under circumstances the most trying, severed family relationships and ancient associations to uphold the flag of our country. Many of these men are now members of this Convention, and they bear impressed upon their countenances and manifest in their presents the high and generous purpose which animates them, and yet it is true—Great God, that it should be true!—they are stung with a sense of the injustice and ingratitude of the unworthy men who have insulted and ruined them and their families, and trampled on their rights by vindictive legislation and through the agency of miserable and dishonest substitutes.

Gentlemen, I do trust our proceedings here will be marked with harmony, and I do earnestly believe we shall be animated by the greatness of this occasion. In all probability the future destiny of our country hangs upon our action. Let this consideration inspire us with the spirits of harmony.

God of our fathers, bless us now, and lift us above all personal considerations, fill us with a just idea of the great responsibilities which rest upon us, and give us again to our land its Union, its peace, and its liberty.

The speech of Gov. Seymour was greeted with cheers.

After some debate, the Convention took a recess till 4 o'clock.