

At the commencement of the session, the democrats, in caucus, had agreed to support Agustus C. Dodge and Thomas Wilson for senators. Jacob Huner, a senator from Lee county, professed to be a democrat, but was opposed to the election of Dodge. At the commencement of the session he had indicated his willingness to vote with the democrats, if they would drop Dodge and take up some other man, but at that time the leading politicians refused to do it, and Huner voted with the whigs.

After the session of the joint convention, the democrats held another caucus and withdrew Dodge's name, and took up Verplank Van Antwerp. But the leaders not yielding to Huner's wishes at the commencement of the session, he in turn became obstinate, and refused to vote for any democrat, unless they would vote for him for senator. The democrats, not feeling disposed to vote for Huner, and seeing no chance for electing any other person of their party, resolved not to hold an election, if they could prevent it. There were several efforts on the part of the house, and the whigs of the senate to elect supreme judges and senators, but the democrats of the senate voted against going into joint convention, and having a majority in that body, the legislature, after sitting till the 25th of February, adjourned without electing either judges or senators, and Iowa, for the first two years after organizing a state government, was not represented in the United States senate.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS IN THE STATE OF IOWA.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, JULY 31st, 1871.

EDITOR OF THE ANNALS OF IOWA:— It may be interesting to some of your readers to read the proceedings of the democratic caucus at which the first senators of the United States

from the state of Iowa were put in nomination. I believe it was not the practice of either party at that time, to publish the proceedings of their political caucuses; but at this late day, I suppose, I will hardly be charged with a breach of confidence, if I make public the proceedings had in caucus of the then dominant party, both in the state and the Union, inasmuch as it goes to show who were the prominent men of our state a quarter of a century ago. In order to a full understanding of the subject, it may be proper to give the names of the members of each house of the general assembly; which are as follows — democrats, in roman; whigs, in italics:

SENATE. — Thomas S. Espy, *James Sprott*, *George G. Wright*, John J. Selman, Barney Royston, P. M. Casady, *Milton D. Browning*, Alfred S. Fear, *Evan Jay*, John Howell, *Francis Springer*, R. R. Harbour, *Loring Wheeler*, *John P. Cook*, P. B. Bradley, Theophilus Crawford, John G. Shields, and Freeman Alger.

HOUSE. — W. C. Read, C. J. McFarland, Michael H. Walker, Samuel Norton, Isaac W. Griffith, John Alexander, Willard Elmer, *W. W. McMannaman*, *Abner H. McCrary*, *Reuben Riggs*, Joseph H. Flint, *William M. Allison*, *Lysander W. Babbitt*, Manly Gifford, Thomas L. Sargeant, J. L. Corse, John Penny, George Davidson, *Hugh R. Thompson*, *Mark Burroughs*, *Samuel D. Woodworth*, George Weyand, William Baker, Andrew Collins, Joseph F. Harrison, *Wright Williams*, *Stewart Goodrell*, William Jacobs, Smiley H. Bonham, John D. Evans, James D. Bourne, Jeremiah C. Betts, *Abraham Timmons*, Dennis A. Mohony, Nathan G. Sales, James Langton, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Stephenson.

Of the members of the Senate, *M. D. Browning* and *John P. Cook*, who were then whigs, are now acting and voting with the democratic party, and *John J. Selman* was at last accounts a fierce republican. The democratic members of the house now living are still democrats, and the whig members are republicans.

Of the members of the senate, GEORGE G. WRIGHT has since been elected one of the supreme judges of the state, and is

now one of the United States senators from this state. M. D. BROWNING, has occupied the position of United States district attorney for the state of Iowa. FRANCIS D. SPRINGER, and P. M. CASADY, have each held the office of district judge, Mr. Casady has held the office of receiver of the United States land office, and J. P. COOK has been elected a member of congress.

Of the members of the house, C. J. McFARLAND, has held the office of district judge, and J. W. GRIFFITH, L. W. BABBITT, N. G. SALES, and STEWART GOODRELL have each held the office of register or receiver in the United States land office. This much, Mr. Editor, as a preface. Now for the proceedings of the caucus.

"At a meeting of the democratic members of the general assembly held in the hall of the house of representatives, Tuesday evening, December 5th 1848, on motion of C. J. McFarland, of Lee county, Joseph H. Flint, of Wapello county, was called to the chair, and on motion of J. L. Corse, of Des Moines county, Lysander W. Babbitt, of Marion county, was elected secretary.

On motion, George Williams was appointed sergeant at arms.

On motion of J. W. Griffith, of Lee county, all persons not democratic members of the senate or house, were requested to leave the hall. On motion of J. L. Corse, of Des Moines, the roll was called, and the following gentlemen answered to the call:

SENATE.—Selman, Harbour, Casady, Fear, Crawford, Shields, Bradley, Howell, Alger, Espy, Royston.

HOUSE.—Alexander, Babbitt, Baker, Betts, Bonham, Collins, Corse, Davidson, Elmer, Evans, Flint, Gifford, Griffith, Jacobs, Langton, Harrison, Mahony, McFarland, Norton, Penny, Read, Riggs, Sales, Sargeant, Walker, Weyand, Wood.

Mr. Mahony moved that the caucus now proceed to vote for candidates for United States senators. Upon which motion the yeas and nays were ordered, and were as follows:

YEAS.—Alexander, Babbitt, Baker, Corse, Davidson, Elmer, Flint, Gifford, Griffith, Jacobs, Mahony, Norton, Penny,

✓Read, ✓Riggs, ✓Sargeant, ✓Walker, ✓Harbour, ✓Casady, ✓Fear, ✓Howell, and ✓Royston. — 22.

NAYS. — ✓Betts, ✓Bonham, ✓Collins, ✓Evans, ✓Harrison, ✓Langton, ✓McFarland, ✓Sales, ✓Weyand, ✓Wood, ✓Selman, ✓Shields, ✓Bradley, ✓Espy, ✓Crawford, and ✓Alger. — 16.

The motion of Mr. Mahony having prevailed, Mr. Bradley moved that the vote taken for senators be an informal vote. Mr. Mahony moved to amend by adding "and if any person voted for has a majority of all the votes cast, he be declared duly nominated."

The question being taken on Mr. Mahony's amendment, the amendment was lost. The question on Mr. Bradley's motion was carried in the affirmative.

The caucus then proceeded to an informal ballot, Messrs. Bonham and Harrison acting as tellers, which resulted as follows :

✓Augustus C. Dodge.....	38
✓V. P. Van Antwerp.....	4
✓George W. Jones.....	11
✓Stephen Hempstead.....	7
✓——— Smith.....	2
✓Joseph Williams.....	1
✓P. B. Bradley.....	2
✓Thomas F. Wilson.....	10
✓Charles Mason.....	1

Whereupon, on motion of C. J. McFarland, Augustus C. Dodge was nominated by acclamation.

Mr. Bradley moved that the caucus take a recess for fifteen minutes, and that the members from the north meet together for consultation, which motion was lost.

Mr. Harbour moved that the caucus proceed to a formal ballot for a second candidate for United States senator; which motion prevailed. The vote being taken resulted as follows :

Wilson.....	11
Jones.....	14
Hempstead.....	8
Van Antwerp.....	4
Mason.....	1

There being no choice, on motion of Mr. Selman, the caucus proceeded to a third ballot, with the following result:

✓ Jones	15
✓ Wilson	12
✓ Hempstead	9
✓ Van Antwerp	1
✓ Mason	1

The caucus having failed to make a choice, on motion of J. W. Griffith a fourth ballot was had with the result following, the names of all candidates but Jones and Wilson, being withdrawn:

Jones	28
Wilson	10

On motion of Mr. Bradley, George W. Jones was nominated by acclamation.

On motion of Mr. Bradley, the caucus adjourned until tomorrow (Wednesday) evening, to meet at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Judges of the supreme court.

JOSEPH H. FLINT, *Chairman.*

L. W. BABBITT, *Secretary.*

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE STATE OF IOWA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

BY J. E. GRIFFITH, C. E. IN CHARGE OF LOCK AND STONE WORK,
DES MOINES RAPIDS CANAL, KEOKUK, IOWA.

Situated as the state of Iowa is, geographically considered, it is an inland state, but commercially it is most assuredly not so; or at least it should not be. It lies between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers which, combined, constitute the largest navigable stream in the world. It does not require a very sagacious mind to comprehend the design of the Archi-

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