

# ELKS CHOOSE CHICAGO FOR 1928 MEETING

## J. Finley Wilson Wins Re-election

By LOUIS R. LAUTIER  
(Staff Correspondent)

New York, Sept. 2.—Like congress in the old days of "pork barrel" legislation when every member in the closing hours of each session sought to put through a bill providing for the expenditure of money in his district, the Elks on the final day of their 28th annual convention were reckless in voting funds out of their treasury.



J. Dalmus Steele

When the grand lodge convened Saturday morning there was stiff opposition to every motion to make a contribution to anything Atlanta university was refused. Later there was a motion to reconsider. A heated argument followed. As a compromise the matter was referred to the education commission.

### Make Donations

Other resolutions to make donations were then reconsidered. The convention voted to give Frank Hunter of St. Louis, Mo., \$100 for his services as chairman of the committee on committees. It also decided to pay a stenographer \$100 for his work in assisting Mr. Hunter. Both of these items had been refused earlier in the day.

With the convention in a giving mood authority was asked for the grand secretary, George E. Bates, of Newark, N. J., and the grand treasurer, James T. Carter of Richmond, Va., to pay members of committees for their services. This is the pay roll of the convention.

Without knowing or asking the amount necessary to pay off the grand lodge gave its authority. The grand secretary and the grand treasurer, with their staff, went to an adjoining room. They were followed by a large majority of the delegates, leaving less than 100 to transact the business remaining before the convention.

An amount exceeding \$15,000 was paid out for committee services and as mileage and per diem to grand lodge officers.

While the grand lodge was in session Saturday morning a telegram advising of the death of Dr. William E. Atkins, second grand exalted ruler, at his home in Newport News, Va., was read to the delegates. Memorial services were immediately held.

At the session Friday a proposition was approved authorizing the grand exalted ruler to appoint a committee to study plans and means for the erection of a shrine. The grand lodge also adopted a proposition providing that the grand exalted ruler, the grand legal adviser, the grand treasurer and the grand secretary shall draft plans for the making of first mortgage loans on Elk homes.

### Salaries Increased

Salaries of grand lodge officers were increased. The salary of the grand exalted ruler was increased from \$4,020 to \$5,000 a year with an allowance of \$1,200 a year for clerk hire. A similar increase and allowance were made for the grand secretary. The salary of the grand legal adviser was increased from \$600 to \$1,200 a year. The salary of the grand treasurer was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year. The salary of the commissioner of education was increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year with an allowance of \$1,200 a year for clerk hire.

City Magistrate Maurice H. Gotlieb, a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, extended greetings to the convention. Grand Exalted Ruler J. Finley Wilson designated Judge William H. Harrison of Chicago to respond.

Friday evening a dramatic incident occurred. Miss Ruth Mathews, a student of the Dunbar high school, Washington, D. C., was to deliver her prize winning oration before the convention. She was the winner of the Elks' national oratorical contest. Just as she concluded her introduction expressing her gratitude to the Elks and stated that what was to follow was the winning oration she swirled and fell to the floor in a faint. She was carried out and revived. She wanted to return and complete her oration. Dr. William J. Thompson of Kansas City, Mo., and Dr. L. M. Hill of Atlanta, Ga., advised against it.

In a spirited contest Chicago was chosen as the next meeting place. Detroit, Indianapolis and Baltimore wanted the next convention. Indian-

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apolls was withdrawn before the voting was begun. Chicago was nominated by W. A. Davis. The nomination was seconded by Grand Legal Adviser Perry W. Howard of Washington, D. C., and Judge Harrison. Invitations to the grand lodge to hold its next session in Chicago were extended by Governor Len Small, Senator Charles S. De- neen, Mayor William Hale Thomp- son, the city council, the Chamber of Commerce and Great Lakes and Fort Dearborn lodges.

The election of officers was held Thursday. Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson, Grand Secretary Bates, Grand Treasurer Carter, Commis- sioner of Education William C. Hueston, Grand Esteemed Leading Knight Dr. S. H. George, Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Dr. Ro- land Johnson and Grand Inner Guard Charles E. A. Starr were re- elected. Other officers elected were Joseph James, Jacksonville, Fla., grand esteemed loyal knight; Wil- liam H. Emmerson, Lexington, Ky., grand tyler; "Honest" John Duncan, New York city, grand trustee, to succeed Edward W. Berry of Chi- cago, Ill.; C. M. Hanson, New York city; Floyd C. Payne, Washington, D. C., and Dr. Thomas L. Love, Bal- eigh, N. C., grand auditors, and Wil- liam L. Jackson, Philadelphia, grand esquire.

J. Dalmus Steele of New York city opposed Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson for re-election. The Wilson machine was working smoothly. James Martin of Fort Dearborn lodge, Chicago, moved a suspension of the rules and election by roll call instead of by secret ballot. This motion was seconded by John H. Wilson of Columbia lodge, Washing- ton, D. C. It was adopted.

Judge Harrison nominated Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson for a sixth term. A Finley Wilson demonstra- tion followed. John H. Wilson an- nounced that for the first time since the election of Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson, Columbia lodge, of which he is a member, unanimously vote for his re-election.

Making a plea for freedom of speech and action in the grand lodge Past Exalted Ruler Armond W. Scott of Morning Star lodge, Washington, D. C., nominated Past Grand Exalted Ruler George W. F. McMechen of Baltimore, Md. Dennis Edwards of Manhattan lodge, New York city, nominated Mr. Steele.

### Steele Nominated

At the close of the speech nomi- nating Mr. Steele Dr. Hudson J. Oliver of Monarch lodge, New York city, seconded the nomination of Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson. The convention came to its feet and cheered wildly. When order was restored C. M. Hanson of Imperial lodge, New York city, also seconded the nomination of Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson. Charles H. Calloway of Kansas City, Mo., and Thomas L. Higgins of Brooklyn also made short speeches seconding the nomination of Mr. Wilson.

Past Grand Exalted Ruler George E. Wibecan of Brooklyn was placed in nomination by the Rev. F. M. Jacobs. Suggesting that now was a good time to clean house Samuel J. Battles of New York city sec- onded the nomination of Mr. Steele. J. W. Dobbs of Atlanta, Ga., and M. A. Norrell of Richmond, Va., sec- onded the nomination of Mr. Mc- Mechen.

Past Grand Exalted Ruler Scott withdrew the nomination of Mr. Mc- Mechen in favor of Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson "in the interest of progress and harmony and by di- rection of Past Grand Exalted Ruler McMechen." The convention sang "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here." Past Grand Exalted Ruler Wibecan declined the nomination and released the delegates from Brooklyn lodge to vote as they choose. Past Grand Exalted Ruler McMechen himself seconded the nomination of Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson.

Grand Legal Adviser Perry W. Howard sought to have Steele with- draw his candidacy and let Mr. Wil- son be re-elected by acclamation. While they stood and talked a crowd gathered around them and the dele- gates again broke into song. Mr. Steele refused and Grand Secretary Bates began the roll call. Lodges after lodge responded, casting its votes for Wilson. Lighthouse lodge, No. 9, Atlantic City, gave Steele nine votes. Williams lodge, Richmond, Va., gave Steele one vote and Wil- son 18 votes. Capital City lodge, Richmond, Va., cast one vote for Steele and eight for Wilson. D. V. Catto, Philadelphia, gave Wilson its 27 votes. Morning Star lodge, Washington, D. C., cast two votes for Steele and 25 for Wilson. Fort Dearborn lodge, Chicago, gave Wil- son 24 votes and Monarch gave him 30, and there was another demon- stration.

### Wilson Elected

Manhattan lodge cast its 20 votes for Steele. Having received only 36 votes to Mr. Wilson's 269 Mr. Steele mounted the rostrum and conceded the remaining votes to Mr. Wilson.

Robert J. Nelson opposed Grand Secretary George E. Bates, but he withdrew before the voting had gone very far. He had not received a single vote. Thomas W. Fleming of Cleveland, Ohio, was a candidate for grand treasurer, but he declined the nomination.

The reports of the grand secretary and the grand treasurer showed that the grand lodge has \$100,176 cash in banks and \$10,000 in Liberty bonds. This represents an increase of \$12,807 over the amount reported at Cleveland last year. The receipts of the year amounted to \$57,049. The disbursements amounted to \$40,197. The grand lodge contributed \$4,600 to charity.

The grand lodge convened Tues- day but adjourned on account of the parade. It really began its work Wednesday morning when the re- ports of officers were heard.

Prominent among the persons at- tending the convention were Robert R. Church, Memphis, Tenn.; Judge Edward W. Henry, Philadelphia; John R. Marshall, Chicago; William C. Matthews, Boston; Scipio A. Jones, Little Rock, Ark.; John L. Webb, Hot Springs, Ark.; Dr. J. E. Mills, Norfolk, Va.; Joseph H. Wat- son, Albany, Ga.; Arthur G. Froe, Washington, D. C.; Dr. John Hall, Boston; Dr. Charles B. Fisher and Dr. Algernon B. Jackson, Washing- ton, D. C.; Albert J. Mitchell, Bal- timore, Md., and Walter Land, Nor- folk, Va.