

ORGANIZING A NEW PARTY

GEORGE'S FRIENDS CLAIMING VICTORY IN DEFEAT.

A CROWDED MASS MEETING APPOINTING A CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO CALL A NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Rain and wind had no effect on the men, women, and even babies who hurried toward Cooper Institute last evening. They were aflame with enthusiasm that could not be quenched by the rain nor blown out by the wind. They were going to attend a great mass meeting called for the purpose of congratulating Henry George and the labor party on the strength displayed in the recent election for the Mayoralty.

Inside of the hall of the Union there was a scene rarely witnessed after a political campaign. The place was packed. Every seat was occupied, every foot of available standing room was crowded, the corridors were filled, the platform and all the space behind it was jammed, and many persons were unable to gain admission to the hall. Though the place was so crowded there was only one policeman present, and his services were not needed. The crowd was bubbling over with enthusiasm, which in the early part of the evening vented itself in yells and questions and exclamations of all kinds; but as the evening wore on the meeting became more businesslike. The cheering at times was deafening, and every allusion to Mr. George called forth a storm of deafening cheers.

The meeting was called to order by James C. Archibald, who said that though they had nominally been defeated they had in reality gained a great victory. They must keep on working and would eventually win. He introduced as Chairman of the meeting John McMackin, who was warmly greeted. Just as he was about to begin his speech Mr. George appeared upon the stage carrying a handsome bouquet, which one of the ladies present had handed him. He was received with cheers that lasted several minutes. When order had finally been restored Mr. McMackin said that they had met to congratulate one another on the great triumph achieved by the toilers in the last struggle for city government. This triumph was all the greater because this city was so full of wealth and the power that went with it. The Democracy had always posed as the party of the people, but it had used all its power and machinery to stamp out the movement of the working people, but still there were 68,000 men in the city. Against these men what had the Democratic Party?

"Boodle!" shouted a voice.

Great laughter and cheering followed. "How has this supremacy been attained by this party?" asked the speaker. He received about 300 answers all at once, and dire confusion, with cries of "Police!" "Put him out!" followed. When the speaker could be heard again he said that labor had made a record in this city of which the whole country should be proud. A ball had been set rolling and should be kept going till it rolled over those who had forgotten the laboring man. The late struggle was to arouse the workingman to an understanding of those principles which ought to be discussed for the welfare of the country. He thanked the laboring men for their splendid work. It was work that no money could buy.

The next speaker was James B. Quinn. He said that hereafter the workingmen should not let enthusiasm run away with them, but should try to work according to the dictates of cool, calm reason. There should be no distinction in the labor movement, but all labor organizations should work together. He wanted the workingmen the world over to recognize the tone of the capitalistic press since last Tuesday. The press would do the workingman no good, and the workingman should not patronize it. This exhortation incited the audience to something like frenzy. Screams and yells filled the building for several minutes, and the speaker had some trouble in allaying the storm he had roused. He said that papers tried to represent workingmen as followers of Mr. George. They were not. They were followers of a principle which Mr. George represented. The movement was for the future. The young men should remember that it was for their welfare. It would give them a better chance of earning a livelihood than the generation which had preceded them. The whole world was looking to America for a solution of the labor problem. The solution must be made by the laboring men themselves. The workingmen should not permit themselves to be divided, even when the President of the United States tried to bribe one of them by offering him a petty office. About this time a struggle took place in one corner of the room and a gentleman was peremptorily "fired out." Some one, after the trouble was over, cried "All right," and Mr. Quinn proceeded to finish his speech.

Prof. David B. Scott was next introduced to the meeting. He said that the two political parties had prepared a funeral for the workingman's party, but it reminded the speaker of Mother Goose's rhyme:

"She went to the sexton's to get him a coffin;
But when she returned the dog was a-laughin'."

The movement of the workingmen was not a revolt, it was a revolution; and the speaker was thankful that it promised to be a revolution without blood, carried to a peaceful and victorious end by the ballot. He congratulated Mr. George on the fact that through all the heat of the campaign no newspaper had been able to print any scandal about him. All had joined in admitting his personal purity and ability.

Samuel Gompers, President of the State Trades Assembly, followed Prof. Scott. He said that, although the labor party had not elected its candidate, it had elected a leader. It had concentrated its force on one man, and this was a good thing. In the course of his speech Mr. Gompers said that workingmen had a perfect right to boycott any one they pleased. Boycotting was simply declining to do business with a man. No one denied the right of an individual to do this. It followed that the same right extended to any number of individuals.

James Redpath was the next speaker. He said that he had not seen such a meeting since the foundation of the Republican Party. This new party was going to abolish poverty as the old party had abolished slavery. Henry George was to be the Moses of the laboring party. He would succeed if too many of his followers did not hunger after the fleshpots of Tammany.

Prof. Scott read a letter of regret from the Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn, who expressed his hearty sympathy in the evening's work. After this John R. O'Donnell, of Typographical Union No. 6, addressed the assembly. The Rev. Dr. J. H. Kramer followed. He read the resolutions of the evening. The preamble reaffirmed the principles set forth by Mr. George in his campaign speeches, emphasizing especially his land theory. The resolutions called upon the district organizations and the Central Labor Union, which had supported Mr. George, to continue their work, and exhorted all persons who believed in the movement to form themselves into a party organization. It was finally resolved that a Central Committee should be formed with power to appoint a Secretary, to add to its members, and to arrange for a national conference. The Central Committee was to consist of John McMackin, Prof. Scott, and the Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn. The resolutions were adopted with a long and deep-mouthed aye.

Then Henry George arose, and the whole gathering stood up, cheering and waving hats with uncontrollable enthusiasm. Three big cheers were given, and then the crowd screamed, "George! George! Hen-ree George!" Some one yelled, "Three cheers for the next President?" and they were given with a will.

Mr. George smiled and said: "Was ever party so defeated before?" It had been well said that this was their Bunker Hill. It was not the end, but the beginning. Now they were all enlisted for the war. Could the old parties coax, tempt, or scare that 68,000 back? "They do not know their men," declared the speaker. It was not an office-seeking party. "I didn't want the office," he said, "I wanted the fight." The great popular heart had been so stirred that Mr. George had begun to believe that he would be elected. He had read aright the feeling of the people, but he was not so much of a practical politician as some others had been. The politicians knew under what difficulties the 68,000 votes had been cast, the Labor Party having no poll clerks nor inspectors, and without the aid of the press. It was a most glorious victory. It had in it the promise of triumph. A beginning had been made. A great principle had been brought into American politics.

The speaker believed it was better for the cause that the new party had not yet come into power. An important reform needed to be made in elective methods. The present methods were so expensive that only the rich could get high office. The proper system would be to follow the method used in England. The voter should receive a ticket with the names of all the candidates on it from the election inspector, and should mark the name of the person he wished to vote for. If nothing else had been accomplished by the movement it had given the existing parties a sincere respect for the strength of the labor vote. They would never again sneer at political labor movements. The plan adopted by the resolutions would build up a great party. If they themselves did not live to see it their descendants would.

The meeting adjourned with three rousing cheers for Henry George, and a large portion of it, headed by a fife and drum corps, escorted him to his home.