

68,000 votes in a single city is not to be disposed of by the process of suppression.

The other and the wiser way, the American and republican way, is to consider soberly what ideas, what wants, what grievances this vote represents, and so far as these ideas and wants and grievances are sound and reasonable and well founded to recognize them and to take such steps as will content the uneasiness produced by their failure of recognition in the past. This does not mean the confiscation of land. It does not mean ten hours' pay for eight hours' work. It does not mean the prohibition of police interference with riotous strikers and lawless boycotts. It does mean that the workingmen and their families have genuine grievances which it behooves the makers and executors of the laws to take into account. It means that Mr. BLAINE'S hollow cry of protection to American industry may not be accepted as a prescription which will afford a cure for every social ill. It means that the continuous making and the almost invariable construing of laws for the advantage of stock watering and monopolizing corporations are an abuse that cannot go on forever. It means that there is a wrong to be righted between the millionaire who easily and persistently escapes taxation and the mechanic whose taxes are collected with unfailing certainty in his rent and in his payments for coal and bread. And it may mean that "society" will have something to say to the capitalist who huddles a hundred families into his tenement house in order that his rents may represent a 25 per cent. profit.

These are among the problems certainly raised by Mr. GEORGE'S unexpectedly heavy vote. "Property and order" will not suffer if they are solved in the just and humane way. And when these solutions, and others no more subversive of the social order, are found we are entirely confident that Mr. HENRY GEORGE'S party will tranquilly disappear by absorption.

THE HENRY GEORGE PARTY.

The polling of nearly 68,000 votes for HENRY GEORGE has surprised even those who did not make the common mistake of declaring his following to be made up of cranks and Anarchists. It has produced a feeling of uneasiness amounting almost to alarm in the bosoms of many excellent citizens who look upon any unusual or irregular popular demonstration as a menace to property and order. And this vote is recognized by everybody as the most noteworthy and significant feature of the election. That a new party should suddenly have been called into existence in this city, and, without an existing organization, without a party fund, and under the leadership of men inexperienced in political work, should have given its candidate a vote nearly equaling that cast in recent years by any of the existing political parties is at once seen to be an event demanding the most serious attention and study.

We have no doubt that Mr. GEORGE'S vote will be attentively studied, that the sources of his strength will be minutely analyzed, and that the meaning of the demonstration he has made will be interpreted—in various ways—by innumerable statesmen and philosophers. Meanwhile we wish to speak a word of comfort to those who must be held accountable for the future of what we may call the George movement, and a word of warning to those timid souls who see the terrible "red spectre" in every fresh effort to organize the workingmen for any purpose whatever.

We do not see in the George vote any threat to "property and order." The behavior of the men who cast this vote at all their meetings and public demonstrations previous to election day, as well as their conduct since, has been as peaceable and orderly as the behavior of Mr. HEWITT'S party or Mr. ROOSEVELT'S party. It is only to some ill considered and very foolish expressions of some of Mr. GEORGE'S campaign speakers, including Mr. GEORGE himself, and to the presence in the ranks of his followers of a certain number of Anarchists and Socialists that even the most timid property owner could take exception—save and except Mr. GEORGE'S theory of land taxation and confiscation. As to this last, it was scarcely more an issue in the canvass than were Mr. HEWITT'S or Mr. ROOSEVELT'S tariff reform views. Mr. GEORGE himself admits that as Mayor he could have had nothing whatever to do with the ownership or taxation of land, and we do not look for any considerable spread of theories so radically and unmistakably unsound and hostile to the interests, not merely of the few, but of the great majority. We may add that the Anarchists and Socialists who supported Mr. GEORGE are working, in this Republic, upon soil in which their ideas can never take root, and so long as they obey the laws they can do no great harm. The death sentence about to be executed upon SPIES, FIELDEN, PARSONS, and their associates in Chicago shows what happens to these visionaries when they attempt to put down by lawless force those whom they are pleased to call their oppressors.

Blind fear of the consequences to society involved in the appearance of the George party is an evidence of an inability or an unwillingness to reason out its meaning and promise. But that view which denies to it any reasonable cause for existence, which lumps these 68,000 voters indiscriminately together as Anarchists, vagabonds, cranks, and tramps, and which conceives no way of dealing with this new force save to fight it and put it down, implies an understanding of our Republican Government quite as densely stupid and violently wrong as that of the Anarchists themselves. A sentiment or a complaint which finds expression in the casting of