

LABOR PARTIES

If not agreeable to labor agitators, that was a particularly sensible thing which Henry George did in regard to his proposed nomination as Labor candidate for Mayor. It seems to him that there have been enough candidates nominated by persons who profess to represent the labor vote, but really represent scarcely anybody, and that it is well, before putting up another ticket of that sort, to have some assurance that a respectable number of voters will support it. Mr. George has hit the nail on the head. Labor candidates are usually put up without any regard whatever for the wishes or expectation of the support of laboring voters, whose support really makes the two great parties of this country strong. Such candidates are usually put up by a set of political strikers, who want opportunity to collect and disburse money in the name of a labor party, and to sell out to representatives of the principal parties for their private advantage. These political tramps, as a rule, try to play into hands of the Democratic party; in return for pecuniary and other favors, they set themselves to wheedle as many Republican voters as they can into throwing away votes on tickets that have no chance of success. The cause of labor has been greatly discredited by these performances, and Mr. George is not willing to serve as the tool of such schemers.

A genuine Labor party would seek the interest of American labor by means of protective duties. But Mr. George is an ultra free trader, who wants Custom Houses abolished. A genuine Labor party would strive for the elevation and defence of American labor through entire freedom of voting and honest counting of votes in all parts of the country. It would hold the suppression of colored votes at the South the most dangerous crime that can be committed against the rights of free labor, because it deprives the laboring people in Southern States of power to defend their own interests, puts them at the mercy of employers, and so forces upon them a scale of wages with which Northern laborers cannot compete without degradation. But that is the Democratic policy, and Mr. George is a Democrat. There is one party which does advocate the true interest of labor, in this and other matters, and therefore it has the support of a great majority of honest laborers, North and South. That is the Republican party, and there is no real need of another to serve the cause, in this city or anywhere else.