

HENRY GEORGE NOMINATED.

LITTLE OPPOSITION TO HIM SHOWN.

COOGAN GETS ONLY THIRTY-ONE VOTES—A LIVELY CONVENTION—THE PLATFORM.

As was expected, Henry George was nominated almost unanimously for Mayor of New-York by the trade and labor organizations political conference at Clearston Hall last night. There was a small but loud opposition to him in the conference, and charges were made that he was not a fair man. When the vote was taken it stood 360 for George and 31 for Coogan. The meeting was exceedingly enthusiastic and cheer after cheer was given at every mention of George's name.

The Committee on Credentials arrived at the Hall early in the evening. The fact had leaked out that some of the old blue delegate tickets had been counterfeited and that many of them were in hands that were not entitled to them. It was therefore decided to hold a session of the committee, take up all of the old cards, and issue new ones to the delegates. As early as 6:30 o'clock little groups of men began to assemble outside of the hall and to discuss the situation and the different candidates whose names were to be presented to the convention. By 7:30 o'clock the sidewalk was well nigh impassable. The delegates were not all for Mr. George for Mayor, and his enemies had boys going about among the crowd distributing a circular containing an attack on him.

The circular charged that Mr. George had had his books printed in a "rat" printing office and, now that he was after the nomination, sought to deceive workmen by having the imprint of a union office inserted on the back of the title page, and further, that he is only a figure-head of a certain faction that seeks to control the labor vote for unfair purposes.

"The first campaign lie," exclaimed one big German delegate as he crumpled one of the papers up and threw it into the street. In fact this was the fate which overtook most of the circulars.

About 7:30 p. m. Sergeant Walsing, of the Seventeenth Precinct Police, with a squad of ten stalwart policemen, marched up to the hall. The appearance of the police caused a good deal of dissatisfaction until Captain John H. McCullagh came over and explained to the committee that he was not taking any unusual precautions, but simply had the men present that he would have at any political convention. This explanation seemed to satisfy the committee and the policemen were assigned their places and made themselves comfortable.

The action of the Credential Committee in calling in the old cards was a wise step. George K. Lloyd, of the Tin Can and Pail Makers; Ludwig Jablonowski, of Progressive International Cigarmakers' Union No. 90; W. Ehrlich, of the Cabinet Makers' Union; Hugh Whortake, of the United Order of American Carpenters and Joiners; John Moran, of the Excelsior Labor Club, and John Devitt, of the Operative Painters, who composed the committee, took their places in the committee room, and those having blue cards were admitted to the room in batches of a dozen. They presented their cards to the committee, gave their names and if they were found correct new cards were issued to them. Many faces familiar at Tammany Hall primaries were seen on the sidewalk, and on showing cards were ushered into the committee room, but their stay there was short. The precautions were perfect and as soon as a counterfeit card was presented it was discovered and its owner was firmly, but politely ushered out of the room. Sergeant Walsing with three of his men was on hand and quickly suppressed any feeling of resistence that was shown. There was no trouble. It was the general impression that if the committee had not heard of the attempt to capture the convention and taken prompt measures to suppress it, there would have been serious trouble.

As the delegates received their new cards they presented them to George Blas, of the Eccentric Engineers, the big sergeant-at-arms, and went into the big room on the first floor, where the convention was to be held. The hall was gaudily decorated for the occasion. The work of examining the cards was long and tedious, and the crowds seemed to increase on the outside faster than they could be admitted.

About 8:30 Chairman John McMackin, of the Operative Painters, accompanied by Secretary George Block, of the Bakers' Union, and John Swinton came on the platform, but it was just one hour later before the Credentials Committee had finished its work and the convention was ready to go to work. The hall in the meantime had been gradually filling up and as every delegate was smoking the air was thick enough "to cut with a knife." On the outside of the hall a short convention of "the left" was held. The members of this convention were in no pleasant humor and the proceedings were chiefly remarkable for the inflammatory character of the expletives used.

There were fully 400 delegates present in the hall when the meeting was called to order. They represented 175 separate trade organizations. The principal organizations represented were the International Cigarmakers' Unions, about half a dozen branches; the United Clothing Outters, the Piano-makers' Union, the Concord Labor Club, Printers, and Knights of Labor; Progressive Painters, three branches; the Operative Painters, the Excelsior Labor Club, Cabinetmakers, Furniture Workers, Plumbers, Steamfitters, the United Order of American Carpenters and Joiners, eight branches; Bakers' Union, three branches; Lager Beer Brewers, Ale and Porter Brewers, several local assemblies of street-car employes; Waiters' Union, four branches; Bricklayers' Union, Typelounders, Socialistic Labor Party, the Progressive Tailors, the Carl Schm and Balfe Musical Clubs, Tin and Slate Roofers, Tin Can and Pail Makers and many other trade unions and local assemblies of the Knights of Labor.

At 9:55 Chairman McMackin called the meeting to order. After the minutes had been approved Secretary Block read the following communication:

Organized workmen of the West congratulate you on your firm and independent movement. Your success is ours. Henry George and Labor will be the battle cry for all enslaved toilers from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

By Order of the CENTRAL LABOR UNION OF ST. LOUIS.

The attention to Henry George was greeted with loud cheers and the communication was received unanimously. Chairman Jablonowski, of the Committee on Credentials, said that it had come to the ears of the committee that the cards of admission had been forged and that some of the men who had been refused had ten or twenty of them. He also reported that forty new organizations had sent delegates.

"Are they bona fide trade and labor organizations or political organizations?" asked Delegate Kelly.

"They are all bona fide trade organizations," was the reply.

A fat German delegate in a front seat arose and asked excitedly: "Why are these bores here?"

"Ah, sit down!" from a hundred delegates was the only reply he received. He sat down.

When the call for the Committee on Platform was made Frank Ferrel, the colored delegate from the electric engineers, came forward. He was greeted with cheers and hisses. As soon as quiet had been restored he read the following platform:

The delegates of the trade and labor organizations of the city of New-York in conference assembled, make this declaration:

Holding that the corruptions of government and the impoverishment of labor result from the effect of the self-evident truths proclaimed by the founders of this Republic, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, we aim at the abolition of the system which compels men to pay their fellow-creatures for the use of God's gifts to all, and permits monopolizers to deprive labor of natural opportunities for employment, thus filling the land with tramps and paupers, and bringing about an unnatural competition which tends to reduce wages to starvation rates and to make the wealth producer the industrial slave of those who grow rich by his toil.

Holding, moreover, that the advantages arising from social growth and improvement belong to all, we aim at the abolition of the system which makes such beneficent inventions as the railroad and telegraph a means for the oppression of the people and the aggrandizement of an aristocracy of wealth and power. We declare the true purposes of government to be the maintenance of that sacred right of property which gives to every one opportunity to employ his labor, and security that he shall enjoy its fruits; to prevent the strong from oppressing the weak and the unscrupulous from robbing the honest, and to do, for the equal benefit of all, such things as can be better done by organized society than by individuals, and we aim at the abolition of all laws which give to any class of citizens advantages either judicial, financial, industrial or political that are not equally shared by all others.

We further declare that the people of New York City should have full control of their own local affairs, that the practice of drawing Grand Jurors from one class should cease, and the requirement of a property qualification for trial jurors should be abolished, that the procedure of our courts should be so simplified and reformed that the rich shall have no advantage over the poor; that the officious intermeddling of the police with peaceful assemblies should be stopped; that the laws for the safety and sanitary inspection of buildings should be enforced; that in public work the direct employment of labor should be preferred to the system which gives contractors opportunity to defraud the city while grinding their workmen, and that in public employment equal pay should be accorded to equal work without distinction of sex.

We declare the crowding of so many of our people into narrow tenements at enormous rents, while half the area of the city is yet unbuild upon, to be a scandalous evil, and that to remedy this state of things, all taxes on buildings and improvements should be abolished, so that no fine shall be put upon the employment of late in increasing living accommodations, and that taxes should be levied on land irrespective of improvement, so that those who are now holding land vacant shall be compelled either to build on it themselves, or to give up the land to those who will.

We declare, furthermore, that the enormous value which the presence of a million and a half of people gives to the land of this city belongs properly to the whole community; that it should not go to the enrichment of individuals or corporations, but should be taken in taxation and applied to the improvement and beautification of the city, to the promotion of the health, comfort, education and recreation of its people, and to the provision of means of transit commensurate with the needs of a great metropolis. We also declare that existing means of transportation should not be left in the hands of corporations, which, while gaining enormous profits from the growth of population, oppress their employees and provoke strikes that interrupt travel and imperil the public peace, but should by lawful process be assumed by the city and operated for public benefit.

To clear the way for such reforms as are impossible without it, we favor a Constitutional Convention, and since the ballot is the only method by which in our Republic the redress of political and social grievances is to be sought, we especially call for such changes in our elective methods as shall lessen the need of money in elections, discourage bribery and prevent intimidation.

And since in the coming most important, municipal election, independent political action affords the only hope of extirpating and breaking up the extortion and pecuniary politics of a standing army of professional politicians and curbing the people whom they plunder, we call on all citizens who desire a better government to join us in an effort to secure it, and to show that

once that the will of the people may prevail even against the money and organization of booted spellmen.

A delegate offered an amendment in the shape of a resolution favoring a prohibitory tariff on foreign made goods. It was referred to the Committee on Platform, who reported that it was not proper matter for a county platform. The platform was then adopted by acclamation.

Delegate Jablonowski, of the cigarmakers, then moved to proceed to the nomination of a candidate for Mayor. After a little debate this was carried. James Coogan, of the United Order of American Carpenters and Joiners, took the floor and said in part:

"I wish to put in nomination for Mayor a man from our ranks, a man who is known equally well on both sides of the ocean, a man who wields a weapon mightier than the sword, a man who has done more for labor than any other man in the world. I have the honor to nominate Henry George for Mayor of New-York."

When Mr. George's name was mentioned it was greeted with great enthusiasm. Cheers after cheers were given with a will and hats were thrown into the air. It was fully five minutes before quiet was restored and Delegate Ferrel had a chance to second the nomination. He said:

"I second Mr. George's nomination, because he has honesty, fidelity and capacity."

The time of debate had been limited to five minutes for each speaker and as Mr. Ferrel's time expired before he finished by unanimous consent it was extended and he continued: "I second the nomination of Mr. George in the name of my organization which is solid for him and is 1,800 voters strong. Some say that we are weak to go into independent politics. We are not too weak to elect our opponents to office, and with our platform and Henry George we will not be too weak to elect our friend. If we are not strong enough now on our own heads will rest the blame for relegating our children to a state of slavery."

Delegate Cleary said that he had heard it stated that if James J. Coogan was not nominated, his friends intended holding another convention. He hoped that, whoever was nominated, all hands would support him honestly. He would support Coogan, if he received the nomination, and thought the Coogan men should do the same even if Mr. Coogan has a "boodle."

Charles H. Miller, of the United Clothing Cutters, seconded Mr. George's nomination by instructions from his organization, because "he with Carl Marx, had done more than anybody else to educate the workman." In the 11th Assembly District, where most of the clothing cutters lived, they were certain of giving George a big majority.

Delegate Ford, of the Braasmakers, favored George because a conservative policy was better than a radical one, and more could be gained by the ballot than the ballot. "Henry George," he said, "is the ideal man. He is the concentrated embodiment of the ideas of organized labor."

"I delegate Hanks, of the Concord Labor Club, said: "I regard as a deliberate lie the statement that Henry George was ever an unfair man to the unions. He has always, as a journeyman and proprietor, been a good union man, and it is a piece of brazen impertinence," pointing to William Martin, a Coogan leader, "for a Jack-of-all-trades to besmirch the character of a printer."

Delegate Borset, of the Concord Labor Club, read the following letter from Mr. George in answer to one which he had sent him when he first heard the statements about his sending work to a "rat" shop:

BROTHER BORGST: There is no truth whatever in the statement you refer to. I am not and never have been a patron of "rat" printing offices and never had any work done in any other than a union office. I was a member of my union and as a proprietor I never employed other than union men. If I become a candidate of the workmen of New-York for the office of Mayor, your must expect that no effort shall be made to suggest or money can purchase will be spared to blacken my reputation and divide my supporters. But I cannot afford the time to reply to personal misrepresentation and slander. I have not sought any nomination and, if I accept one, it will only be for the sake of advancing principles I believe in. In such case I propose to conduct an aggressive, not a defensive campaign. Yours fraternally, HENRY GEORGE. New-York, Sept. 23, 1886.

W. O. Cloyes then moved to make Mr. George's nomination unanimous, but the chair declared the motion out of order, as all had a right to be heard.

Nicholas Mulvey then got the floor. He was greeted with hisses and one delegate shouted:

"Sit down, you sucker!"

Another delegate jumped to his feet and shouted:

"Mr. Chairman, I think if any man calls another a sucker here, he ought to be put out."

"It is disgraceful," responded the chairman, "and must be stopped."

Mr. Mulvey said in part: "The man whom I propose to put in nomination has not written any books, but he has put the sins of war in the pockets of the workmen."

"Oh! Oh!" went up from all over the hall. "Has George been a workman for years?" Mulvey continued.

"No! Has my man?"

A mighty shout of "No!" "Chestnuts!" went up from all over the hall.

"It has been stated to me," continued the speaker, "that if George is nominated he will have \$25,000 of capitalistic money behind him." Then there were more hisses. "I put in nomination," said Mr. Mulvey, "James J. Coogan."

"I second that nomination on the instalment plan," shouted Delegate Cleary, and then there was a laugh.

"Not a cigar-maker will vote for Coogan," said Delegate Jablonowski.

"But they'll take \$3 and vote for somebody else" retorted Mulvey.

After some further speech-making, during which Delegate McGuire, of the car-drivers, put in nomination W. S. Thorne, the superintendent of the Second Avenue surface road, a vote was taken by card. When the cards were raised for George nearly every hand went up, and cheer after cheer was given. The vote stood: George, 360; Coogan, 31, and Thorne, 18. As soon as the excitement had subsided Delegate Mulvey put up and said:

"I move the nomination of James J. Coogan be made unanimous."

This raised a laugh which was increased when Captain McCullagh asked "You mean George, don't you?"

"No, I mean Coogan," was the reply.

Resolutions were carried calling for a meeting at Cooper Union on October 8, at which the nomination will be formally tendered to Mr. George. All trade and labor organizations and local assemblies of the Knights of Labor will call special meetings for the purpose of giving the members an opportunity to sign the pledge for George. B. J. Hawkes, of the Concord Labor Club, was elected treasurer. An executive committee was appointed by the chairman as follows: John Moran, Harry Emrick, Thomas Ford, Hugh Whoriskey, John Davitt, James Casserly, L. Jablonowski, James P. Archibald, Matthew Barry, Joseph Wilkinson and Joseph Geis, together with John McMackin, the chairman. B. J. Hawkes, treasurer, and George Block, secretary. A spirited discussion then arose whether non-union men who promised to vote for Henry George should be allowed to enter the District Assembly organizations. It was finally resolved that any person who will sign the pledge to support Henry George be admitted to the various district assemblies after they are organized, irrespective of any political or trade-union question.

A SKETCH OF THE CANDIDATE.

Henry George comes from old English stock which settled in Pennsylvania many years ago. He was born in Philadelphia on September 2, 1839, and received an early education in the public schools of that city. When fourteen years old he entered a mercantile house, where he remained for two years, and then went to sea as cabin-boy. Later, he returned to Philadelphia and entered a printing office. He did not remain there long enough to complete his apprenticeship, but sailed again for San Francisco. On reaching that city he set out with a prospecting party for British Columbia. Not finding a fortune there he returned to San Francisco and settled down to hard work as a printer. He was now twenty-seven years of age. He soon became a reporter, and shortly after became managing editor of *The San Francisco Post*. His attacks upon the Pacific Railroad and "The Big Four" made him lose his position. He then formed a stock company and started a weekly paper called *The State*. Here again his anti-monopoly principles made the paper unpopular, and he was compelled to sell out in 1875. He married an Australian lady, Miss Mary Fox, and they have two sons and two daughters.

Having met with discouragement in Journalism Mr. George in 1878 spoke in California for Mr. Tilden and in 1877 obtained a position in the municipal government of San Francisco. His book, "Progress and Poverty," was begun while in this office. He finished it in 1879, and came to this city the following year. In 1881 he went to Ireland as the correspondent of *The Irish World*. He was twice arrested as a suspect in small villages in Galway, but was liberated after a few hours' imprisonment on the representations of the American Consul that he was a well-known American citizen. On his return to New-York in 1882 a public dinner was given to him at Delmonico's. In 1883 he made a lecture tour through England at the request of the English Land Reform Association. Last year he undertook a similar tour through Scotland in behalf of the Scottish Land Restoration League. His pamphlets, "The Irish Land Question," "Social Problems" and "Protection and Free Trade," are the most important of his smaller writings, but he has contributed extensively to English and American reviews and magazines. He is an honorary member of the Typographical Union and a Knight of Labor.