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EDITORIAL

Significant Present Stage of the George Campaign.

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The candidacy of Mr. Henry George for Mayor of New York has undergone a variety of transformations. Its latest development is, to Socialists, the most significant and pleasing.

The original plan was to have George act simply as a sort of fence. He was to be nominated as an independent, then Knox, the hatter, was to get the regular Tammany nomination, and thereupon George was to resign in favor of Knox. The first step was successfully made; Knox's employees, with a goodly sprinkling of political adventurers, nominated George; Tammany, however, refused to nominate Knox; and thus the rest of this programme fell through.

The George candidacy entered upon the second stage of its development under the inspiration of Tom Platt, his nominee for Mayor, Tracy, and the latter's partner in the Nassau Electric Company, Tom Johnson. It was known that among the rudderless utopians, feather-brained reformers, senile youths and unmatured old men who had been captivated by Seth Low, had boomed him by petitions, and were otherwise most noisy in his campaign, the genus Single Tax Idioticus was most prominent. Platt and Tracy tried to intimidate Low into resigning. With the aid of Tracy's partner, Tom Johnson, who owns George as he does his breeches, and uses him to grab franchises with under the guise of anti-monopolism, the plan was perfected. George, who already was a nominee, but did not know what to do now that the Knox plan had miscarried, was made to stay in the field; and the Platt papers gave him all the advertising requisite to the Platt-Tracy purpose. Thereupon a sight was seen that went far to furnish the campaign with matter for laughter. The genus Single Tax Idioticus, that had petitioned for and boomed Low as a paragon candidate, forthwith scampered off to George, not because of anything that Low, poor fellow, had done, but because of what Tammany had done. Tammany Hall had refused to stand on national issues, and thus ignored the Chicago platform; the genus Single Taxer Idioticus, which had been upholding Low on the ground that municipal campaigns have no concern with national issues, now dropped him and rushed over to George, the "avenger of the Chicago

Platform." The Platt-Tracy plan succeeded so far. It did not drive Low to resign, but deprived him of his noisy supporters. Platt and Tracy were through with George.

It is then that the present and third stage of the George candidacy blossomed forth. The Cooper Union monster in and out door mass meeting of the Socialist Labor party on the 12th instant was an eye-opener. The capitalist parties saw the evidence of Socialism's vigor, aggressiveness and growth. However divided among themselves, they agree upon the necessity of wiping out the growing danger of Socialism. George, who had been used for two purposes and then dropped, was now taken up for a third. Forthwith the papers began to boom him as a Socialist, and this lie, be it noted, is condoned by his silence. The purpose he is now put to is to serve as a political stool pigeon, try to capture, if possible, last year's Socialist vote, and thus kill off the dreaded S.L.P.; or, if that is not possible, at least prevent or keep down its growth by attracting to his disgraceful self the new recruits that Socialism has made from the swelling tide of discontent. By booming George as a Socialist the capitalist press is seeking to bunco steer the vote that would otherwise flow into the Socialist camp of revolution, away from there, and into the ditch of Georgeism.

This fact is pleasing, as it is an evidence of the powerful growth of the S.L.P.; it is significant in that it foreshadows what henceforth may be looked for regularly: the setting up of a bogus Socialist candidate for the purpose of furnishing an outlet into nothingness to the discontent that is rising ominously.

Mrs. Malapropism is the dogma of capitalism in the face of the revolutionary movement of the class-conscious proletariat. The ocean of the S.L.P. will nevertheless rise and flood and drown the capitalist system.

On to the ballot box next Tuesday, class-conscious proletariat, and let the Hammer come down heavily!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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