

HENRY GEORGE FOR MAYOR

THE WORKINGMEN'S CHOICE OF A CANDIDATE.

MR. COOGAN'S OFFER BRINGING HIM
ONLY 31 VOTES OUT OF OVER 400,
WITH A FEW FOR MR. THORNE.

Delegates from nearly every trades union in the city met in Clarendon Hall last evening, and by an almost unanimous vote nominated Henry George as the labor candidate for Mayor. The opposition that James J. Coogan, a Bowery furniture dealer, had created by offering to pay his election expenses if nominated, even if they amounted to \$200,000, brought him only 31 votes in a total of 409. President Thorne, of the Second-avenue surface railway, got 18 complimentary votes from the horse car drivers, and Mr. George got the rest. Late in the afternoon the Coogan crowd sent out handbills charging that Mr. George had all his printing done in rat offices. As each delegate present represented 100 members in good standing in his particular union, the meeting represented 40,900 workingmen. With few exceptions each delegate went to the meeting under instructions to vote for George, no matter how much money Coogan might offer to put into the campaign.

The delegates began to gather in groups in front of the hall as early as 6:15 P. M. Many trades union men who were not delegates were present to back up their friends in case of any trouble between the adherents of Henry George and J. J. Coogan. The Coogan faction had made a great deal of noise during the afternoon. Advertisements had been printed in several afternoon newspapers calling upon all workingmen who were opposed to the clique which proposed to nominate George to gather in force at Clarendon Hall at 7 o'clock. Mr. Scharmann, proprietor of the hall, fearing that a riot might break out, sent down to the nearest police station for a detail of policemen to keep the peace. Capt. McCullagh came up with a Sergeant and 10 men.

There was little sign of trouble on the sidewalk. It would have required a man with a fine-tooth comb to find more than four Coogan partisans in the crowd. As the entire Coogan force in the city was said to be composed of seven persons, of which Coogan himself, Louis P. Deland, one of his employes; R. P. Davis, an ex-Greenbacker, and William Martin, of the Tin and Slaters' Union, were four, the Coogan strength may be said to have been very well represented. Davis spent most of the evening in trying to get into the hall. He could find no one who would identify and vouch for him. He vowed that he would have his rights if he did get in. He claimed to have the privilege of presenting the name of Coogan or any one else to the convention. From the way in which he talked it was plain that he meant to create trouble if he could. At 9 o'clock he was still on the outside, and the Coogan boom was at a very low ebb. A few minutes afterward, however, he appeared in the hall ready for business.

To provide against dissension in the convention as far as possible the committee having the convention in charge determined that every delegate should be properly identified. To prevent entrance through counterfeit tickets the tickets which had been issued were changed yesterday afternoon. A guard of police kept the outer entrance and let the delegates in a score at a time to the main hall, from which they were passed, in groups of six to an anteroom, where their credentials were examined. They were then given the new tickets, which admitted them to the meeting hall. Among the more prominent trades unions represented by delegates were the International Progressive Cigar-makers, the Clothing Cutters, the Planomakers, the Concord Labor Club, the Progressive Painters, the Excelsior Labor Club, the Brassworkers, the Cabinet Workers, the Plumbers, the Steam Fitters, the National Order of Carpenters, the Bakers, the Brewers, the Car Drivers, the Manhattan Association, the Waiters, the Bricklayers, the Pressmen and Feeders, the Typo Founders, the American Division of the Socialistic Labor Party, the Tubal Cain and the Carl Sahn Club.

As the identification of the delegates was very slow it was not until 9:30 o'clock that the hall was filled. The convention was called to order at 9:35 by John McMackin. A telegram of congratulation from the Central Labor Union of St. Louis was read, which said that Henry George and organized labor would be the battle cry of all enslaved laborers from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was announced that 40 new unions were represented in the convention. The report of the Committee on Credentials was received and adopted. The report of the Committee on Platform was presented by James Ferrol, a colored man of the Eccentric Engineers. Coogan's friend Martin objected to the adoption of the platform. A belligerent man jumped up and demanded to know what organization Mr. Martin belonged to. A delegate wanted to put a tariff plank into the platform, but a big man on the next bench stopped him by saying in a gruff tone of voice: "Oh! let up. The tariff's played out."

Several amendments and additions to the platform were proposed. In the midst of a wrangle, when a dozen men were on the floor at once, a motion was carried that in addressing the meeting delegates be required to first give their names, the names of the organizations to which they belonged, and that debate be limited to five minutes for each speaker. Martin then tried to get in an objection, but the delegates shouted him down. There was a cry for fair play, and the Chairman pounded heavily with his gavel.

"Proceed, Mr. Martin," said he. "We'll give you plenty of rope to-night."

Mr. Martin was unable to proceed. Coogan's friend, Davis, tried to help him out, but the delegates would not have it that way. Louis Jablonowski, who can always get the attention of a labor meeting, then moved that the convention proceed to nominate a candidate for Mayor. A delegate wanted to lay the matter over, but James B. Kelly, a cutter, argued that as the convention had been called for the specific purpose of nominating a candidate for Mayor it could do nothing else. The motion to go into nomination was made unanimous.

Then Mr. Casserlee, from the carpenters, rose to propose a candidate. The delegates knew what was coming, and not a whisper was heard in the big hall. Mr. Casserlee said that the man whom he was to name was from the ranks of the workingmen. He would protect the rights of people who asked nothing but their rights. He was known not only to every one on this continent, but to all the nations of Europe. He had done more to elevate the working masses than any one man in the country, for he wielded a weapon more powerful than the sword. When he put forward the name of Henry George the delegates rose in a body and cheered. Hats, handkerchiefs, and canes were flung in air, men stamped on the floor until the building shook, and for a time the noise was deafening.

A motion was made to close the nominations. "No! no!" shouted several delegates; "give every one a chance!" James Ferrol seconded George's nomination on behalf of his organization, which was 1,800 strong. Mr. George, he said, possessed all three of the qualifications which Jefferson demanded of candidates for office. He was honest, he was capable, he was faithful. The question of rights now before the people was something the same as when John Brown was killed at Harper's Ferry—the right of one man to take and use the labor of others. The duty of the people was plain. If they refused to do it the shame be on their own heads for making their children slaves. George K. Lloyd seconded the nomination for the tin can and pall makers. He said that as George represented all the principles of the trades unions nothing more could be asked. Daniel Cleary said that all the trades unions were for George. He hoped that Coogan's friends would stick as close to Coogan as the trades unions would to George. A delegate said that the tobacco men were all for George. Charles M. Miller, of the clothing cutters, said that 75 per cent. of the working people had been educated by George's books. The clothing men had worked night and day for him. Thomas Ford and Patrick Henry Doody also spoke for George. Then a letter was passed to the Secretary to be read. It was addressed to Mr. Bogart, of the Concord Labor Club, an organization of printers. In it Mr. George said there was no truth in the charge that he had ever employed non-union labor. He belonged to a union and was always true to its principles. Yet he was satisfied that no effort would be spared that malice could suggest or that money could purchase to blacken his reputation and divide his supporters. He hadn't time to repel personal slanders. This meant, Mr. George continued, that while he was not seeking the nomination, yet if it were tendered him he would conduct an aggressive and not a defensive campaign.

A motion to make the nomination of George unanimous was vigorously opposed by Coogan's friends. Nicholas Mulvey, a Coogan henchman, rose to nominate a man who would be considered in opposition to most of the delegates present. This allusion to Coogan provoked a squall of hisses. When Mr. Mulvey declared that his candidate had always been a friend of the workingman he was received with laughter and remarks of a sarcastic nature. "He has not written books," said Mr. Mulvey, "but he has put the sinews of war into the workingmen's pockets. [Hisses.] He has not been affiliated with any political party." [Cries of "Oh, oh!" and hisses.] The interruptions became so frequent while Mr. Mulvey was lauding Coogan that he pounded a crack in the table. Coogan had always helped the workingman in every way. "Yes, by tick!" shouted a delegate. Mr. Mulvey charged that George would get \$25,000 of monopolistic money to run his campaign. "I hope he does!"

said several men. "So much the better." When the name of Coogan was put in nomination there was no applause.

"Mr. Chairman," said a delegate, "I move that we nominate James J. Coogan on the installment plan!"

"I second the nomination on the installment plan!" shouted another. Then there were cheers for George and shouts of derision for Coogan. Mr. Jablonowski said that not a cigarmaker would vote for Coogan. All the Germans would do their best for George! Mr. Wilkinson, of the Tailors' Union, said that if Mr. Coogan was in earnest in the cause of labor he could show his zeal by working for Mr. George this Fall. That would be the best way to fit himself for the nomination at some other time. Before the speeches ended Cardriver Maguire nominated President Thorn, of the Second-avenue road. Mr. Thorn got a cheer. Then ten tellers were appointed to count the votes and see that no bogus ones got in. A call for a show of hands and cards in Mr. George's behalf seemed to send aloft a hand for every delegate. The delegates cheered all the time the tellers were making the count. When the Coogan cards were demanded a few hands went up on two benches in a lower corner of the room. Mr. Thorn's friends made a showing yet smaller.

The announcement of 18 votes for Mr. Thorn, 31 for Mr. Coogan, and 360 for Mr. George was received with all the enthusiasm that might be expected. The appointment of an Executive Committee for the campaign, with instructions to engage Cooper Union on Oct. 5 for the presentation to Mr. George of the nomination for Mayor, and a resolution inviting the co-operation of all labor organizations in the Cooper Union meeting and in the campaign ended the proceedings of the convention.

The Labor candidate for the Mayoralty is a native of this country, contrary to the general impression, having been born in Philadelphia on Sept. 2, 1830. The Rev. R. Heber Newton and he were schoolmates in the public schools of that city. From boyhood until he was nearly 30 years old his life was spent on shipboard or around a printing office, as compositor or reporter, editor and part owner—the last named connection with the San Francisco Post. He attended, as a delegate, the Baltimore Convention of 1872, taking part in the proceedings that placed Mr. Greeley in nomination for the Presidency. Upon his return to California he started a paper called the *State*, which had a precarious existence. He came prominently before the country for the first time in 1879, when his "Progress and Poverty" appeared. He staked everything he had to bring that work before the public, supremely confident that it contained something worth reading. The next year he came to this city and made speeches for Gen. Hancock during the campaign. In 1881, when in Ireland, he was twice arrested, events which added to his reputation, and won him a Delmonico banquet on his return. Afterward he made two trips to England. Within five years he has written three books—"The Irish Land Question," "Social Problems," and "Protection and Free Trade." He has also connected himself with the Typographical Union and with the Knights of Labor.

Mr. George's personality is unpretentious. He is short and stout, and has a bushy red beard, with hair, so far as it goes, of the same shade. He dresses loosely in black, and has a way of carrying his hands in his pockets which gives him a swaggering appearance. When he warms to a subject, however, he always holds attention. He can round a sentence and express himself with enough originality and vigor to give him a good status before any audience.