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Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

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Regina, Sask.

Great Convention of Farm and City Workers

"People's Political Association of Canada"
has been formed.

The much discussed and earnestly hoped for alliance of the producers of the Country and of the City of the three great Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, for combined independent political action, has at last been consummated.

The delegates, including representatives from Brandon, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Regina, and various other places outside the Province came together at the Trades Hall, Regina, on Wednesday last, June 10th, and spent the day in laying the foundation of the new political association, which it is confidently hoped will mark a new epoch in the history of Canadian Politics.

The convention called by the Comrades of Equity was convened at 10.30 a.m. yesterday in Trades Hall. Oliver Millham was unanimously voted to the chair, and after briefly thanking the assembly for the honor it had conferred upon him by electing him to that responsible position, he immediately proceeded to business and called upon J. E. Paynter, Provisional Secretary of the Comrades of Equity, to explain the object for which the convention was called.

Mr. Paynter briefly outlined the object of the Society, which was as follows:

To work as a political organization to get sufficient control of all governing bodies in Canada, that the people may, with all possible speed, be furnished with the public service of all public utilities, such service to be owned and operated by the different governing bodies for the benefit of the public.

Considerable regret was felt on account of the inability of many of the intending delegates to attend.

The Canadian Society of Equity was unfortunate in being able to send only one delegate, all the other representatives of that organization having been called to another convention at Wetaskiwin.

It was, nevertheless, gratifying to the assembled delegates to listen to the numerous communications from sister organizations expressing sympathy with the movement and promising fidelity to the cause of independence.

The following committee was appointed to nominate all committees to transact the business of the convention: Ed. Stephenson, Moose Jaw; J. E. Paynter, Tantallon; Hugh Peat, Regina; A. S. Wells, Regina; Ed. Fulcher, Brandon; G. Boerna, North Battleford.

A motion to adjourn was submitted and carried. This concluded the morning session.

AFTERNOON SESSION

At 2 p.m. President Millham called the convention to order and the following report was submitted by the committee appointed to strike committees:

That it is the opinion of this committee that five committees be appointed to handle the business of this convention, and that other committees may be struck as necessity arises. All the names of the several committees will be found on another page of this issue.

The Press Committee recommended

that all meetings be thrown entirely open to the press, that due advertisement of the mass meeting to be held on Thursday night be given, and that a stenographer be engaged to record the deliberations of the session.

The Platform Committee recommended the adoption of the platform submitted, which, after considerable discussion, was, with several amendments, unanimously adopted, and appears in completed form on another page.

THE CHRISTENING

A great divergence of opinion existed with regard to the suitability of the name suggested by the committee, and one delegate with a genius for alliteration, suggested the People's Political Party. The meeting eventually approved this, with the substitution of the word "Association" for "Party."

HOW THE PARTY WORKS

"The different units of the party" may retain their own names and systems as long as they are affiliated with the party for independent political action according to the platform adopted by this convention.

The officers comprise a president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, recording secretary, and sergeant-at-arms. The executive committee consists of these officers, with two members from each organization represented. In the event of any other independent organization becoming affiliated for political purposes, it will be entitled to two seats on the executive committee.

The income of the party, it is expected, will be raised by contributions from affiliated organizations, by way of a per capita tax of 50c. and by voluntary subscriptions. The executive committee will control the finances, which will be resolved into two parts, one to be applied to general organization purposes, and the other to be known as the Campaign fund. All such organization work is to be controlled by the executive.

Finally it is provided "That the constitution and platform of this Party be submitted to the different organizations to be discussed, and that they report to the executive committee."

A complete list of the proceedings of the convention with the platform and constitution in full will be found on the inside pages of this issue.

The convention is over. The last word has been spoken. The last argument for and against has been uttered. The birth pangs are past, and the "People's Political Association of Canada" is now an actual reality, and will henceforth take its place in the history of the Dominion of Canada.

What will that history be? Will it be the history of the past reincarnated in another shape? Will it be the history of the past perpetuated by another party, or will it go on through the ages like a resistless and relentless giant smiting sham and hypocrisy at every stride, brushing aside pretence and cant and humbug to make room for the real and just and true? Will it be a people's party in very truth as well as in name, or will it develop into a subsidized nonentity bound body and soul to corporations and vested interests? The future alone will prove, the present is yours and ours.

The history of the past is writ large before us, and its impress is plainly visible on the nations of the world. The history of Canada as a world power has yet to be made, and it rests with the People's Political Association of Canada to decide whether that history shall be shaped on the lines of other nations, whether the great mass of the people shall be ground into the dust to enable a class to roll in opulence and luxury, or whether justice and equity shall prevail,

and the universal brotherhood of man proclaimed.

Never was convention more sincere than this one. Old men grown gray in the cause of the people were there with counsel and wisdom pointing out the errors of the past, laying bare the methods adopted by those few who had risen to eminence by graft and cunning, by violating the principles they had been elected to sustain, and flagrantly abusing the people's trust. Young men full of enthusiasm and zeal, willing workers in a noble cause, ready to make any sacrifice in the interests of humanity. Of such as these was the convention constituted. And under such happy auspices it is safe to predict that the growth of the movement is assured, and that the People's Party will be a real factor to be contended with in future elections. If there is a man in the Dominion of Canada who stands for equal rights to all and special privileges to none, if there is a man in the Dominion who is in favor of a white Canada, and the maintenance of a civilization compatible with true democracy instead of a Canada reduced to the lowest social level by competition with the Asiatics, then the People's Political Association of Canada is the body with which he should become identified, so that these things may be brought to pass. No man and no organization is perfect, but the People's Party can, through the power of the referendum, be brought to as near a degree of perfection as is possible in human affairs, and the right hand of fellowship is extended to all men who have the interests of the people and the country at heart.

Notes and Comments.

One of the greatest questions of the day is that of the licensed liquor traffic. It has been a subject for discussion by almost every party in every country, and has been the cause of more contention and hatred than any subject under the sun. It would be strange indeed, therefore, if the new political association should proceed far on its journey without being confronted with the liquor problem, and such was indeed the case.

One resolution was introduced by a

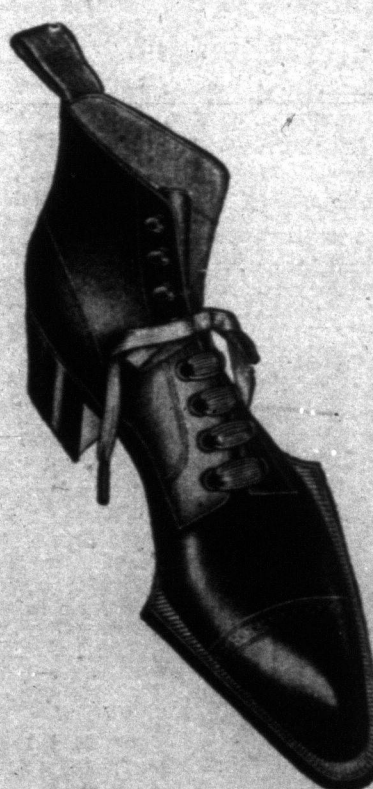
delegate, whose only seeming error was in being too sincere in his desire to uplift and protect mankind. We can not all see eye to eye on every problem, and it would be strange indeed if all could be brought to agree in a moment on a subject that has commanded the attention of some of the greatest minds of all generations. There is no man who will refuse to admire the courage of a man who stands for his convictions, but the man who stands alone is wrong in being in advance of his time and of public opinion. It is therefore to be regretted that even one delegate considered it his duty to refuse his support to an organization whose principles he holds save on one issue.

When a solution to the difficulties of the liquor traffic is found, it will be demonstrated that, like all other problems that have been created by the people, they can only be remedied by the people. Not all the legislation that was ever passed will prohibit a large section of the people from doing that which they have for centuries been taught to regard as their privilege to do, until the people themselves have decided that it is wrong for them to do it. To use a common platitude, "prohibition will not prohibit," so long as there is a large section of the community who have decided beforehand that in the event of such a law being passed they will not observe it. Temperance reform will be accomplished, not by passing laws to prohibit, but by passing laws to restrict, and these, not in advance of public opinion, but in keeping with public opinion, until the longed for goal is reached, when man shall redeem himself by asserting his manhood, and remembering his duty not alone to himself, but to humanity.

Let the referendum decide.

What the people want—Will be.

The Premier's defence of the Government re convict and free labor augurs well for the future. In his speech he stated that it was not the intention of the Government to employ prison labor whilst there were numbers of free men in need of employment. That decision is in keeping with the wishes of organized labor, who have been, and will ever be opposed to the employment of convicts on public works when there are free men in need of employment.



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