
Nationalist Meeting at Chicago

[event of Aug. 30, 1893]

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Editor of *The New Nation* was Edward Bellamy.

The National Committee of Correspondence, which was started by Nationalists at Omaha in 1891, met in the residence of Mrs. Corinne S. Brown, 6230 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, August 30 [1893].

The meeting was called to order about 2:30 pm. Eltweed Pomeroy of New Jersey was elected Chairman and R.H. Howe of Illinois, Secretary.

The chair read a report from Mason A. Green of Boston, the permanent Secretary, which gave a list of the state representatives and many of the local correspondents.

State Committeemen have been chosen in 27 states and by another year it is expected that the organization will be complete.

Mr. Kerr of the firm of Charles H. Kerr & Co. of Illinois made an offer of the use of his office in Chicago to the Nationalists.

Mr. Heberling of Havana, Ill., moved to take up the plan of propaganda outlined by Mr. Pomeroy in Mr. Green's report, section by section. Carried.

This was laid aside for the purpose of hearing from some distinguished visitors.

Mrs. Anna L. Diggs of Kansas spoke of the influence of the Nationalists in the People's Party, but for propaganda work advised them to keep distinct from every political organization and urge them on to the work with many good suggestions, the last of which was that we should urge the appointment of a cabinet officer of labor. At the close of her address, Mr. Heberling moved the following resolution, which was unanimously passed:

"Resolved, that this committee of Nationalists petition Congress of the United States for the creation of a Secretary of Labor, who shall be a cabinet officer and shall look after the interests of the laborers of this country."

Herbert Burrows of London, England, Secretary of the Social Democratic Federation, spoke of the means employed in propaganda work in England, making some suggestions, among which was the printing of round stickers for telegraph poles, blank walls, etc., and the formation of committees who circulate clippings and get friends to write to the papers.

William Clarke, President of the Fabian Society of London, followed and asked for a closer affiliation between the reform elements of England and America. He thought that our problems at the base were the same as they had to grapple with at home in England.

J.W. Sullivan of New York made an address on direct legislation as the most effective means of getting our plans before the people. He outlined its effect in Switzerland and the United States, in the trade unions, and other places. There was a very interesting discussion afterward, and then Miss Spence of Australia spoke on proportional representation.

Upon a call of the states, Mr. Amick of Illinois reported for his state, Mr. Otto of Dayton for Ohio, Mr. Hamilton of Greensburg for Indiana, Mr. Heberling of Havana, Ill., for the work in his locality, Mr. Pomeroy of Newark for New Jersey, Mr. Epps for New Hampshire, and Miss Hussey of Dover reported for Delaware.

Written reports were received from B. Franklin Hunter of Philadelphia, with valuable suggestions as to spreading of literature and the formation of clubs, from F.U. Woiley of Washington, DC, with interesting suggestions as to cooperation, from A.D. Marble of Winfield, Kan., who suggested the publication of 5,000,000 copies of *The New Nation*, from H.W. Wyatt of Rutherford, NJ, from Mrs. S.C. Brown of Toledo, Ohio, W. Morris Deischer of Reading, Pa., Charles W. Otis of Petaluma, Cal., L.H. Webster of Columbus, Ohio, Sidney A. Reeve of Boston, and others.

Jesse Cox of Chicago spoke on the benefits to be derived from proper organization and advocated the collection of names and addresses of all sympathizers.

It was moved by Mr. Heberling of Illinois that the plan of work as outlined in Mr. Green's report be adopted and that Mr. Green and Mr. Pomeroy secure paper on the various sides of the work and afterward have them published in the form of a manual for workers. This was unanimously passed and the paper of W.H. Wyatt of New Jersey on the getting of signers to petitions and the value of petitions was presented.

it was voted on motion of Mr. Amick of Illinois that Mason A. Green, the National Secretary, be empowered to call another meeting of the state representatives within one year, the time and place to be left to his discretion.

Persons wishing to further the work of the committee are requested to address Mason A. Green, 13 Winter Street, Boston, Mass.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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