

The People.

VOL. VIII, NO. 8

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1898

PRICE 2 CENTS

FIRST EDITORIAL

Down With McCullagh!

By DANIEL DE LEON

Last Monday, the first overt initial step was taken by the Socialist Labor party of the Greater New York to bring to condign punishment the Chief of Police of this city, and, through him, the felon class that he represents, and whose behests he obeyed in infringing the civic rights of this city's working class by repressing the May Day demonstration.

At Monday's mass-meeting, held at Cooper Union under the presidency of Comrade Charles H. Matchett, a veteran of the late Civil War, the party's position was fully explained and its plans outlined.

The following resolutions, adopted by the meeting, give in condensed form the feeling expressed and the course that has been decided on:

WHEREAS, The Chief of Police of the Greater New York has, without warrant of law and in violation of law, prevented the parade and open air mass meeting of the Socialist Labor party and Trade and Labor organizations on the 30th of last April;

WHEREAS, by so doing, he has arrogated to himself the powers of censorship, for which he is morally and mentally unfit, and which are granted in this State and County to no official, and has, furthermore, presumed to take a step that virtually amounts to placing this city under a state of siege, and his will;

WHEREAS, Such acts, heinous under all circumstances, are all the more so when directed against an officially recognized political party in this State, and thereby are a blow that aims at political freedom itself; therefore be it, by this mass meeting, called by the Socialist Labor party of New York,

RESOLVED, That we condemn the action of the Chief of Police as a usurpation of power, which reveals his unfitness for the office he fills;

RESOLVED, That proceedings be forthwith instituted against this law-breaker

and official malefactor, looking to rid the community of his incumbency as a menace to the peace of the city and the freedom of its people;

RESOLVED, That we appeal to all right-minded citizens who have at heart the right of freedom of speech, and the holding of public servants to the proper filling of their offices, to aid us morally and financially in obtaining the redress that we seek.

The enthusiasm of the meeting was boundless from start to finish. It was an appeal to the nation at large to recognize in the fight against McCullagh a fight for the maintenance of political freedom, assailed in the assault against the S.L.P.

Incidentally, the war itself came up for treatment, and the Socialist position was made clear, branding this war a capitalist conspiracy to sell out the country to the international capitalist interests that have their chief seat in London, and to mask that conspiracy with the false claim of love for Cuba's freedom, and the falser claim of wishing to avenge the ill-fated *Maine* marines,—while, in fact, both Cuban slavery and the death of the *Maine* marines were gloated over by the cormorant class of capitalists in power here, as furnishing them plausible pretexts to loot the Federal Treasury more freely, and thus enrich themselves more extensively at the cost of the blood of the American proletariat.

The meeting was an impressive affair, well calculated to mark an epoch in the history of the Labor Movement in America.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded December 2003