

# The People.

VOL. VII, NO. 27

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1897

PRICE 3 CENTS

FIRST EDITORIAL

## Turpitudinous George.

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**D**ecent and intelligent people, acquainted only superficially with the filthiness of Mr. Henry George's character, knowing him only as a shallow-pated, vain, vulgarly ambitious and unprincipled man, will consider his conduct, in allowing himself to be nominated for Mayor by the "Chicago platform" forces of the New York free silver Democracy, as the capstone of his turpitude. They are mistaken. There is no such thing as a capstone to George's turpitude. The dizzy heights, or dizzy depths, his turpitude can reach exceed the boundary of the catalogue of political indecency.

It is not that the "Apostle of the Single Tax" by his conduct now allows himself to be placed on a platform that is a substantial repudiation of the "scientific principles" he stands for; it is not that he thereby, while still preserving his "apostolic" attitude and pretenses, virtually recommends to the working people "scientific principles" that are diametrically opposed to those that he has been all along claiming are the sole panacea for their ills, and, consequently, justifies the belief, and confirms the knowledge that he is but a seeker for notoriety, a perambulating bourgeois advertising scheme; it is not that. That were bad enough; but it is worse. If that were all, one might still give him the benefit of a doubt, and believe that possibly George is sincere this time. As the devil himself does not always lie, why should not George be sincere, however stupid, for once? Moreover, in such a case, none could feel happier than the Socialists. The opportunity of incidentally giving it in the neck to the grotesque "Philosopher of the Single Tax" and moral murderer of the Chicago victims, would be hailed with delight in our camp. The plucked figure George would cut the night of election would be a sight fit to delight the honorable, and to serve as a warning to the dishonorable elements in the Labor Movement. But the is not to serve this useful purpose.

George's nomination is a sham, he is to serve as a fence merely. He is used, with his knowledge, as a pawn for others. The secret of his nomination is this:

There is here in New York a bourgeois called Knox, a hatter, well known as such.

Like Coogan, the dealer in second-hand furniture on the installment plan, who eleven years ago was a fit rival for George, this Knox has the political bee in his bonnet; he wants political preferment;—it will aid his business and satisfy his vanity. Knox is a Democrat and wants Tammany's nomination. If Tammany nominates a Gold-Democrat, the Silver-Democrats might bolt and endanger his election; if Tammany nominates a Silver-Democrat, its Gold-Democratic camp followers will pull out. What is worse yet, the political schemers of all the capitalist political parties have utterly failed in their scheme of dodging the late "national issues." However irrelevant these "issues" be to the real storm that is brewing, these, nevertheless, are in the nature of forebodings of the approaching Social Revolution; they cannot be ignored; hence, both the old parties feel constrained to recognize these "issues"; and, both being in New York essentially the representatives of logical, i.e., trustified, capitalism, the gold standard will be the basis of all, the "Chicago Platform" has no show with them. How is the hatter Knox to get out of this dilemma? He is a Gold-Democrat himself. So far as that goes, his "financial views" do not disqualify him for nomination at the hands of Tammany; and his "financial powers" are strong enough to positively qualify him with the Tammany Sachems. So far so good. But how about the Silver-Democrats? How are they to be kept in line? Knox solved the problem: Though his "financial views" are displeasing, his "financial powers" are certainly pleasing to the rabble rout of crooks, political adventurers; and flotsam and jetsam of the Labor Movement who have been officering the "Chicago Platform" craft here in New York. George had, for pay, boomed Bryanism last year, and thrown upon the unsulliable name of the Socialist Labor party the suspicions that attached to his own; from him, down and up, the "Chicago Platform" howlers hereabout had been bought in the market. Knox knew that. He asked himself: "Bought once, why not be bought again?"; and, glancing at his own bank account, he answered the question affirmatively. Forthwith he set to work. And a plan was matured, and, so far, put through with precision. What that plan is may appear from the following facts:

A nominating convention of not less than 680 "Chicago Platform" delegates meets at the Lenox Lyceum last Monday evening; WITHIN FIVE MINUTES the Committee on Credentials reports that it HAS EXAMINED the credentials and FINDS THE DELEGATES ALL ENTITLED TO SEATS; Mr. Henry George is nominated with the understanding on all hands, himself included, that if Knox (Gold-Democrat though he is) secures the nomination, he, George, is to withdraw in his favor!!!

Of course Knox may fail to outbid other capitalist candidates for the purple of the Great New York Mayoralty with the Tammany Praetorian Guard, in that case,—well, we shall see. At any rate, that George should be thought of as a fit tool for such a huge political piece of legerdemain, is a sufficient commentary upon his status; that he should actually lend himself thereto, and, together with the political crooks who ran

the convention, perform his part, proves that there is nothing on the roll of political indecency that Mr. Henry George, Single Taxer and “Friend of Labor” will not do—for a consideration.

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