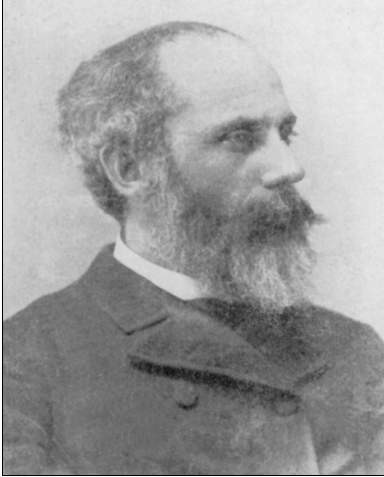


[Daniel De Leon](#)



NEW YORK ORGANIZED.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE'S MOST EXCELLENT WORK.

**THE PLATFORM REASSERTS THE LAND DOCTRINE, OPPOSES
ALL INDIRECT TAXATION, DECLARED FOR MUNICIPAL AND
JUDICIAL REFORM AND FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.**

[A Report From](#)

THE STANDARD.

HENRY GEORGE, Editor and Proprietor.

[Vol. I • New York, Saturday, January 22, 1887 • No. 4](#)

THE general committee of the labor party in this city met again on Thursday of last week. . . .

* * * * *

The committee on platform then reported through Dr. De Leon, who read in an impressive manner the following resolutions:

We, the voters of the city of New York, who, by casting our ballots for the labor candidate at our last municipal election, sounded the note of alarm against the growing social wrongs that threaten our liberties and endanger the stability of our republic, believing with Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Henry George—three of the foremost thinkers and statesmen this country has produced—that the land belongs in usufruct to the living, that to enjoy it is as inalienable a right as that of breathing, and can never be justly taken from man but as a punishment for some atrocious crime; convinced that, labor being the creator of all wealth, degrading want with the many and inordinate wealth with the few can spring only from that perverse economic system which, on the one hand, deprives man of his birthright, and on the other robs the producer of a large share of the fruits of his labor; knowing that from that unjust system flow untold wrongs injurious to the masses of our people, and that on it rest all the un-American customs and habits of thought which are insinuated into our republican institutions; realizing that these wrongs have given birth to burning social and economic

questions that are forcing themselves to the front and are demanding a speedy solution; considering that the favorite method among European governments of avoiding the rightful solution of such pressing questions by means of wars with one another, whereby the ranks of the disinherited are thinned out, can, thanks to the geographic isolation of the United States, find no application in our country; mindful of the teachings of history; recognizing, accordingly, the unmistakable signs of impending anarchy and social disaster; and wishful to avert the danger by all peaceful, lawful and constitutional means—do now, in convention assembled, for the furtherance of our patriotic purposes, constitute ourselves an independent political party, and reaffirm and readopt the Clarendon hall platform of Sept. 23, 1886. Until a national convention shall otherwise determine, we adopt the name and style of the United Labor party.

As a party we aim, among other things, at the restitution of the land to its rightful owners, the people, and the imposition of a tax on land values, irrespective of improvements.

At the abolition of the present monstrous system of finance; at the abolition of the system of issuing interest-bearing bonds, bills of credit and notes, instead of legal tender, non-interest-bearing money; and at the establishment in its stead of a national monetary system, in which a circulating medium in necessary quantity shall issue direct to the people, without the intervention of banks, and in which such national issue shall be full legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private.

At the abolition of the present wasteful, inadequate, and one-sided system of private ownership of the means of transportation and communication.

At the enfranchisement of our female fellow-citizens.

At the abolition of all direct taxation, and of taxes on industry, or the products of labor.

At the simplification and thorough reformation of our judicial system, and the purification of our courts; and

At the provision for adequate public industrial and scientific education.

We aim at the enactment and rigid enforcement of sanitary laws that shall stay the deterioration of our species, and promote their physical development.

At the enactment of juster laws on the liability of employers and employes; of laws

for the equalization of wages to public employes of both sexes; for the incorporation of trades unions and associations; and for limitation of the hours of labor, as well as for the rigid enforcement of the "eight-hour law" in all municipal, state and national works; and

At the enactment of election laws which shall not, like those now in force, encourage intimidation, corruption, and fraud.

We aim at the abolition of the present ridiculous civil service laws, and the establishment of a wise administrative system which shall properly protect both the government and its employes.

At the abolition of the inhuman system of child-labor.

At the abolition of the degrading competition of convict with honest labor; of the contract system on public works; of the "truck system;" of all class and property qualification for services on the jury and in the militia; and of all class legislation, civil and criminal; and, finally,

We aim at the abolition of every institution tending to the debasement of American citizens, and we shall strive to secure for them the full advantage of the civilization to which they are heirs.

He was interrupted several times by applause but never with disapproval. When he said, "We reaffirm the Clarendon hall platform of 1886," the tremendous applause was a sufficient answer to those who have contended that the 68,000 "labor" voters of last fall were voting only for a man not for a principle. Opportunity was then given for general discussion, and the planks against the present civil service system and indirect taxation were examined and criticised from all points of view. The only special interest that asked for recognition was that of the cigar-makers. They asked for a plank condemning the inhuman system of tenement house cigar-making; but the convention, while strongly sympathizing with these workers, held that this point was fully covered by the plank on sanitary regulations.

As discussion progressed the meeting seemed to grow more and more opposed to any changes, and the motion to adopt the platform as read was carried by a rising vote. Then followed a three times three and a scene of great enthusiasm, that showed that the spirit animating the labor party last fall is unabated.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded October 2006