
Report of the Provisional National Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party of America, March 9, 1901 by Henry L. Slobodin

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Session of the Provisional National Executive Committee, March 9, 1901, Comrade L. Abbott in the chair. Absent: Comrades White, Sweetland, and [John C.] Chase.

Minutes of the previous meeting approved as read.

Communications received from Chicago, Ill.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Burlington, Vt.; Laramie, Wyo.; Watertown, NY; Trenton, NJ.

Resolutions relating to unity of Socialists received from La Centre, Wash.; Tiffin, Ohio; Dayton, Ohio; Port Angeles, Wash. Resolutions from Local Westfield, Mass.

Communications from Ne Hampshire State Committee; Newark, NJ contributing \$5 to fund; California State Committee; Puerto Rico Territorial Committee; from Organizer Comrade Spring of Washington; Elizabeth, NJ contributing \$4; Washington State Committee; Detroit, Mich.; Karl Marx Club, Chicago, Ill.; Rutland, Vt.; Duluth, Minn.; Lawrence, Mass.; Independence, Cal.; Rock Island, Ill.; Lampack, Cal.; referred to new business.

Report of National Secretary.

The following have accepted the nomination for Secretary to International Bureau: Comrade [G.A.] Hoehn of St. Louis; Comrade Eastman of New York; Comrade [Max S.] Hayes of Cleveland; Comrade [A.M.] Simons of Chicago.

Members to National Council elected: Comrade Max Hayes for Ohio; Comrade George Leonard for Minnesota; Comrade Fox for Maine; Comrade Maycumber for Maryland; Comrade Van Dyck for Connecticut; Comrade Alexander Jonas for New York; Comrade Wallace for Washington; Comrade J. Mahlon Barnes for Pennsylvania; Comrade [Caleb] Lipscomb for Missouri; Comrade John C. Chase for Massachusetts. Other states have not reported.

The following is the vote of the party cast on the unity convention proposition:

Question 1 [Shall there be a convention?] —

For 2,699; against 71.

Question 2 [Shall all Springfield SDP locals be invited?] —

For 2,716; against 51.

Question 3 [Shall all Chicago SDP locals be invited?] —

For 2,752; against 34.

Question 4 [Shall all SLP sections be invited?] —

For 2,678; against 109.

Question 5 [Shall independent state organizations be invited?] —

For 2,713; against 66.

Question 6 [Shall all other organizations recognizing class struggle and independent working class political action be invited?] —

For 2,673; against 111.

Question 7 [Shall only condition of participation be pledge to abide by convention results?]-

For 2,399; against 213.

Question 8 [Shall basis be 1 delegate per local plus 1 delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof?] —

For 2,666; against 140.

Question 9 [Shall organizations be permitted to cooperate in sending delegates?] —

For 2,684; against 83.

Question 11 [Shall NEC have authority to change date or basis in negotiations with Chicago SDP?] —

For 2,477; against 224.

Votes cast for cities as place of convention:

Indianapolis, 545.

Chicago, 535.

Buffalo, 521.

Cleveland, 207.

St. Louis, 172.
Cincinnati, 172.
New York, 112.
Eric, 74.
Detroit, 31.
Niagara Falls, 22.
Jersey City, 19.
Scranton, 17.
Rochester, 14.
Kansas City, 12.
Brooklyn, 10.
New Haven, 9.
Pittsburgh, 8.
Boston, 6.
Washington, 5.
Denver, 4.
Philadelphia, 2.

Besides returns averaging 255 votes were received from unaffiliated organizations.

Puerto Rico Territorial Committee returns a note of affirmative of all questions except Question 7, and naming Springfield, Mass. as the place of the convention.

The following vote was sent to be counted: Southwalk, 12; Twenty-Fifth Ward club, Chicago, 12; Philadelphia 24th and 34th Ward clubs, 2; Pearl River, NY, 11; Santa Ana, Cal., 6; Cleveland Branch 1, 42; 23rd Ward Branch, Chicago, 28; Jackson Co., Mo., 20.

Comrade James Carey made an agitation trip to Rutland, Vt.; Comrade Origo, to Hartford, Conn.

Charters granted to following locals (some reorganized): Frankfort, NY; Schenectady, NY; Oaksdale, Wash.; Bessemer, Ala.; Belmont, Wash.; Reading, Wash.; Mallon, Wash.; Thornton, Wash.; Spokane, Wash.; St. John, Wash.

Comrade Origo submitted a plan of starting an Italian Socialist paper. Requested to make further inquiries and report.

On motion it was ordered to communicate to the NEB of Chicago [SDP] the result of our general vote on the unity convention and that in view that one of the conditions of the call for a joint convention is that the organization represented there will not abide by the decisions of the joint convention, but will submit its resolutions

to a general vote of the membership, and that in view that Question 7 of the general vote of our party makes a pledge to abide by its decisions of the joint convention a condition for participation, therefore, the NEB be requested to submit the question as to whether or not its organization shall abide by the decisions of the joint convention to a general vote of its membership before the joint convention takes place. It was further ordered to communicate to the NEB of Chicago that it is the sense of the NEB that September [1901] is too late a date for a national convention, since it will prevent or impair the usefulness of state conventions and cripple the fall campaign, and since our party has acceded to the place selected by the Chicago convention, the NEB is invited to change the date of September to any date during the months of June or July.

On motion it was ordered that Comrade Max Hayes of Cleveland, [Leon] Greenbaum of St. Louis, Mahoney and Hamilton of Indianapolis, and Val Putnam of St. Louis be requested to act as a committee on arrangements for our party. In case any of the above comrades declines, Comrade Smith of Chicago is requested to act in his place. Comrade Greenbaum designated as chairman of the committee.

On motion it was ordered that the National Council be requested to forthwith proceed with the nomination of candidates for the National Executive Committee — 6 for New York, 6 for Massachusetts, and 3 for Connecticut.

Mr. Kressling of Lawrence, Mass. asking for a rehearing of his case. he is asked to submit new or further evidence. It was ordered that Local New York be informed to its inquiry that the letter addressed to the NEB of the SLP was the result of a misunderstanding.

Local Westfield, Mass. is requested to state its desires or grievances in plain and not ironical language.

The nominations of [Ben] Hanford and [Will] Maily by Watertown, NJ and [Charles] Vail and Weigel by Trenton, NJ [for] secretary to the International Bureau came too late.

Income since last session \$218.65; expenses, \$191.40.

Adjourned to April 20, 1901.

Henry L. Slobodin, Recording Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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