

# The People.

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## Our Party Convention

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**T**he National Convention of the Socialist Labor party, that met from the 4th to the 10th of this month, marks an epoch in the country's history. It attested the fact that the S.L.P. had crystallized into a force that henceforth must be reckoned with.

Consciously or unconsciously the convention bowed to the wise principle that a revolutionary movement, in order to be successful, must combine the elements of Order and Progress: it must keep Order while making Progress, and must make Progress while keeping Order. The vagabond freedom of individual minds, however much they may strain progressward, destroy that order without which there can be no oneness of action, hence no results; on the other hand, the exclusive stationariness of order impedes progress. In its decisions, all arrived at after full debate, the convention revealed the maturity of the movement it represented.

Too numerous to mention were the incidents of that eventful week, all of which pointed to conscious ascendancy of the party. The permanent chairman of the first and last day of the convention was Comrade Thos. C. Brophy, whose uncompromising attitude in Massachusetts has served as a rallying point in that State. In his felicitous opening words on the first day, he touched a responsive chord by remarking that "small parties have played a significant role in this country since the days to the 'Boston tea party,'" and on the last day of the session his voice rang clear amid the enthusiastic cheers for International Socialism and for the Social Revolution with which the convention adjourned sine die.

Though no part of the convention proper, yet the mass meeting held on the eve of meeting, and the magnificent parade and out-of-door mass meeting held the day after the adjournment to ratify the Socialist Presidential nominees, were a fit setting to the convention itself. New York audiences and out-of-town comrades from as far West as Iowa and Missouri became mutually acquainted and gathered inspiration from each other.

The nation's life-boat, the Socialist Labor party, rides the waves—a staunch craft and well manned.

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

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