

---

# The National Committee at Work

by Walter Thomas Mills

Published in *Appeal to Reason* [Girard, KS], whole no. 300 (Aug. 31, 1901), pg. 3.

Special Correspondence.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 20 [1901].— Your correspondent called this afternoon at the new national headquarters. He was fortunate in finding the new National Committee in session. The room occupied is large, light, conveniently finished and the members sat together around a large table facing each other, in close contact and ready for business.

No one could help but be impressed with the direct and business-like manner with which they are doing the business of the new party.

[National Secretary Leon] Greenbaum is not only an effective organizer, as everybody knows him to be, but the party can everywhere rest assured that he and the group of comrades working with him will handle the business of the party in perfect order and with the best possible results.

The new secretary said that not one word of complaint or dissatisfaction with the work of the recent Indianapolis convention [Founding: July 29-Aug. 1, 1901] has reached the headquarters, but that the rapidly increasing mail brings from every portion of the country the strongest words of endorsement and good cheer.

State organizations under the new party are already under way in Connecticut, Ohio, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Maine. The first applications for charters for new locals in affiliation with the new party came this morning and Girard, Kansas, led the list and will have the first local charter granted to the new party.

Waterbury, Conn., Colorado Springs, Denver, and Kansas City were net to arrive and in the order given.

Comrade [Charles] Vail was at the headquarters on his return trip from his long tour of the coast and all the central western states. He reports big meetings everywhere. He says that the demand for union

before it was secured was unanimous, and now that it is secured that the rejoicing over its achievement is taking the shape of the most enthusiastic efforts to make the new party the winning party throughout the whole western country.

He said that the Populist Party nowhere has a future in the West, that their active men are everywhere coming into the Socialist Party, that this is particularly the case in Oregon and Washington. When I asked him if there was a danger of these new men attempting to make another Populist Party of our organization, he said, "not in the least," and then further explained that it was a common conviction among the Populist workers that their party had failed because it tried to reform within the capitalist system and so was obliged to work subject to the interests of that portion of the capitalist interest which it was able to convert to its program. They are now coming to the Socialist Party, notwithstanding its revolutionary program, because reform has failed on their own hands and they are joining the Socialist Party because its program is revolutionary — they have had enough of capitalism, they are ready for Socialism.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · January 2014 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.