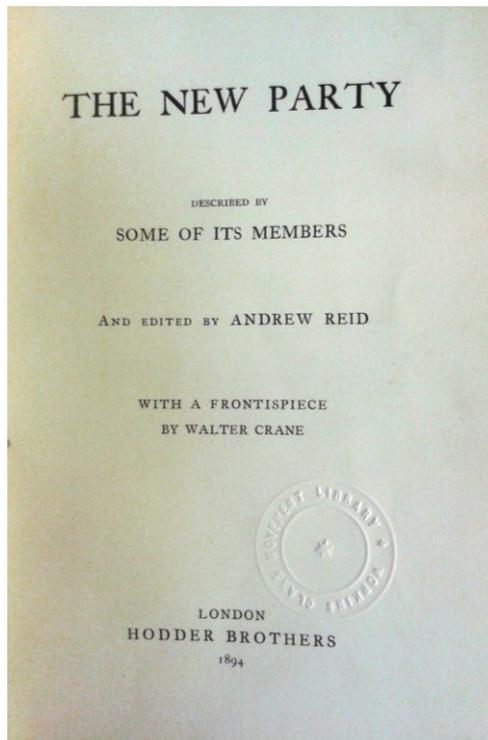


ONWARD TO VICTORY

Fred Hammill, 1894

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in THE NEW PARTY  
edited by Andrew Reid



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# ONWARD TO VICTORY

THE incontestable truth of social and political development on new lines, or more independent lines, during the past ten years, as a rapid and increasing force, is now recognised by every person who has an opinion worthy of consideration. The seed of social and political education is yielding fruit so abundantly that it causes surprise to its most sanguine pioneers, teachers, and reformers. Undoubtedly, the rapid production of a new force, and with it a “New Party,” is striking a note of alarm inside the camp of the already existing political parties. That it is a growing force, an increasing party with increasing power, and that it has come to stay, is already decided. It is a party composed of new elements and broader views, more energy and earnestness, more realism, in fact imbued

with a new spirit, eagerly, energetically, and determinedly combining the elements of each for all and all for each, and the principle of “do unto others as you would they should do unto you.”

The forces of free education, unemployment temporary and permanent, strikes and lockouts ; the cutthroat competition of our present chaotic system, with a general organisation on independent labour lines, have long been at work towards this end, having now created the long hoped-for demand for something new, and have now established successfully a new united party with a definitive programme and united actions.

This “New Party” will work in the future towards improving the welfare of the whole community, and not, as the old parties have worked heretofore, in the interest of a class only. Every person of the party must be, and will be,

prepared to make personal sacrifices to attain this end, knowing, that while we are assisting others we are assisting ourselves.

The basis of the “New Party” is direct independent representation on all public bodies, attracting to the party others who declare for progress and direct representation; of course, with distinct and approved aims and working in agreement with the heads of the “New Party.”

There are parties formed already who claim to import all we advocate and all we strive for. They have long been tried and found wanting, have been trusted and proved faithless, hence the desire for a more really progressive “New Party.”

Education is fast making Jack as wise as his master, and north, south, east, and west of the United Kingdom this wisdom is permeating the

people and community as a whole, taking possession of them, they of it. Compulsory education, as was predicted by its most far-sighted opponents in 1870, is providing the population with a weapon of warfare, the more it spreads the more powerful will the weapon become, to be wielded with increased power and vigour by the increased and strengthened “New Party.”

Representation in the past has been interested representation by interested class “parties,” thereby class representation has previously dominated the community. The representation of the community has been the employé by the employer, poverty by the capitalist, the sweated worker by the sweater, slum-life by the slum-owner, agricultural labourers by lords, landlords, and country squires, drunkenness by the brewers, gambling by racehorse runners, bad

laws by bad lawyers, and so on. Whichever party may be in office, landlords and capitalists are always in power, while labour is left outside. The “New Party” declares against all this, pledged to alter it, and opposes any party or any person who may support it. Policies of the past, called “spirited foreign policies” — really barbarous policies — will be opposed and crushed, and the man, “the coming man,” will not be he who has a “spirited foreign policy,” which means blood and war, pride and glory, which, when interpreted by the “New Party,” means poverty and desolation to the community. The coming man will be the man of “peace and progress,” and the “New Party” the Isocratic Party.

The democratic spirit having now taken hold of the people, giving daily assurances of solidarity, we may look forward with hope, for we have

everything to gain and nothing to lose. County councils, municipalities, local boards, and other public bodies are being revolutionised by the newer democratic thought and action. Scores of instances might be quoted in proof of this, which is needless, as it is better known to no other than our enemies. The labour world is striving towards unanimity in favour of the “New Party,” many of the middle and upper classes who are ashamed of the old order of things are assisting, associating, and concentrating the varied forces, and propelling the new spirit. This so-called “Dangerous Isocratic” lever, with the fulcrum of a good and righteous cause, is likely ere long to overturn the two already existing. political parties, and we have them so evenly balanced just now that they are continually overturning each other, and we, the “Isocrats,” can turn them whichever way we please, and we are about to

do it independent of their consideration, only considering (as they have long done) ourselves.

It now depends entirely on how far the Liberal party are prepared to cooperate with the “New Party,” and this will early decide whether they ever go into office again as a party. If our next Government is a Conservative Government, to be in office probably five years, our party, the “New Party,” will educate, organise, and consolidate, preparatory for taking the field, scattering the parties and taking possession. Anyone who has any knowledge, any grasp at all of going on, what is coming, and how it is coming, cannot refute these facts, and cannot retard this growing force in the name of the “New Party.” It would indeed be dangerous to attempt to thwart its claims. Unemployment, poverty, desperation, squalid misery and crime demand new action, nay, a “New Party.” They

have no confidence in, and are tired of, the old gang, and will have none of it.

Thinkers, legislators, and reformers, social, industrial, and political, have to choose between three things — (1) Anarchic destruction of society, (2) physical force revolution, or (3) immediate legislative remedies for the cure of the evils of society by constitutional means. The “New Party” chooses the latter one, and further neglect will produce one of the former. It may now be taken for granted that the “New Party” is formed already, growing by daily evolution, eliciting and obtaining recruits from outside, also from inside of every other party. What it will do, what it will achieve, remains to be seen. It is dangerous to predict, but it may be acknowledged as a practical party with a practical policy and programme. That it will succeed in the end, in the near future, is certain;

and come what may, the person or party that stands in its way will be first to fall. It has declared “Onward to Victory,” which means, a brighter life to our millions of desolate men, starving women and children; the right to live by honest employment; a more equal contribution and distribution of the world’s wealth, — all tending towards securing and making us a more happy, more prosperous, and more enlightened people.

FRED HAMMILL