

THE MONTANA NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

J. H. WALSH Editor and
Publisher

OFFICE 22 PARK AVE. P. O. BOX 908

Entered at the Post Office for transmission
through the mail at second class rates.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates made known upon applica-
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WHAT THE ELECTION RETURNS SHOW.

The election returns so far as the Socialist vote is concerned are no different in Montana than in any other part of the country, barring the two exceptions of Massachusetts and Colorado. As a matter of fact and truth they are very gratifying to the Socialists, and while the vote is large as expected there is only one possible criticism to offer, and that is the lack of an apparent class conscious vote. The splitting of tickets that the voter might do something toward electing a "good man" shows conclusively that the breaking of the capitalistic ranks is near at hand; that the voter desires to be right, but as yet fails to understand just how to get right; consequently he is found splitting his vote with capitalist nominees or agents.

The proof that a majority of the people desire to be right is evidenced in the returns of Colorado, where Peabody met overwhelming defeat. The people there have declared against Peabody and his anarchistic rule, and having advanced this step it will be only necessary to advance them another step into the Socialist ranks, when they will see how to eliminate all this class struggle.

Let us see what the returns show in the state of Montana for the encouragement of the Socialists: In Basin two years ago 2 Socialist votes were cast against 96 this year for Debs. Saltese gave one vote two years ago and Debs 17 this year. Monarch two years ago cast no Socialist votes and this year gave Debs 18 or as many as Parker and Roosevelt both received. The above reports are the same from many smaller places, and show an increase of from 100 per cent to many thousand per cent. No place yet heard from in this state has shown a shortage except that it be in Anaconda and when the comparison is drawn with the labor vote of that city previous to the "blue card" proceedings the shortage will be understood.

The wonderful healthy growth appears to be coming from the smaller places and farm districts, while the cities are holding their own for about a hundred per cent gain.

When the official returns are all in it is very probable that the vote of Montana will not be far from 8,000. The wonderful increase will not reach the million mark, possibly, for Debs, but the increase has been sufficient to arouse the fear of the capitalists and they are already heard talking of getting together to fight the new party. In these returns we also see the death of the democratic party, which brings the issue now before the two parties—the Socialists and the republicans.

All the returns are exceedingly encouraging for the Socialists and with a united front and a continued campaign for another two years will land many offices in the hands of the Socialists. The two old parties will not take another chance, for while their papers suppress the Socialist returns they well know their significance and realize that it will take their united strength to defeat the only party of principle in another campaign.

MONTANA NEWS MUST HAVE YOUR HELP.

It becomes necessary at this stage of the game for the Montana News to make an appeal to the comrades over the state to loan us their undivided support in the effort of swelling the subscription list of the paper. Judging from the support accorded us in the past and the new names that are being added to the list there is no doubt but that the comrades will be found doing their duty in the future, but suffice to say that a word of cheer and encouragement from the office at this time will not come amiss, but will serve to encourage the comrades in their work and also attract new ones to the volunteer service.

During the campaign which closed on November 8, only to be resumed on the 9th, the editor of this paper made a tour of the state, speaking at nearly every principal town in Montana and also at many minor places, and the results in the line of subscriptions, while not what we expected in many places, on the whole was very encouraging, and especially so when the friendly feeling of the comrades toward the News was expressed. It is imperative now, comrades, that you get in and help out by sending in new subscriptions. A Socialist paper must be supported by subscriptions. Advertisers are reluctant to place much business in the columns of a Socialist paper, and possibly for the good, because it allows of more space to publish the ideas of Socialism to the worker who must be aroused before the present graft system can be wiped out.

After closing the campaign as above mentioned, and returning to the duties of the office, Comrade Lynch took to the solicitor's field again in the interest of the News. Leaving Monday morning for the Judith Basin country, he will spend some time in the interest of the News, and also in trying to arouse a little more interest among the Socialist locals of that county, which appear to be rather dead. While in that vicinity he will urge and look after the reorganization of the four locals.

However, comrades, two men cannot keep this paper going. We are sacrificing our time, without a thought of making a single cent, in fact scarcely making a living, and it is no more than the duty of the comrades over the state, that if they desire to have a Socialist paper, that that desire be exemplified by their willingness to get out and hustle subscribers in their locality.

Further than getting subscribers, is the machine proposition, which has been before the comrades for some time and as yet only \$130 is in the bank. We attempted to sell shares at \$10 each in order to create a fund for the purpose of buying a press; only 150 shares were issued, and so far 13 shares have been sold and paid for and the money is in the bank. The whole number of shares should have been disposed of before this time and the machinery installed, which would be a great saving to this office every month. Let us have your support at once on these shares. Send us \$10 and take a share, and let us get in the machinery. Don't wait.

The great vote that has come to our party this fall will make it much easier for the comrades to get new subscribers, and with a united effort on the part of the comrades the list should be swelled to at least 5,000 or possibly 10,000 paid readers. Now do not lay this matter aside for "tomorrow," but begin to do something at once. If you desire the publication of the News it is up to you, each and every one, to assist in its publication by securing new subscribers. Let us have your assistance! Send in new subscribers! Don't delay! It is important to act at once!

"This election has demonstrated that the people have no use for Socialism as a political doctrine. Some of the best men in the county were candidates on that ticket and in the general wiping out of party lines some of them should have pulled through under ordinary cir-

cumstances. They were hampered by the name 'Socialist' and could not win out under that banner."—Red Lodge Picket.

With a gain of about 500 per cent in the country it looks as if the people have no use for Socialism. Of course it is easy to see why an old party editor should pen such meaningless rot, when you note the expression "the best men in the county." It is not a question of men with the Socialists, it is a principle, and that principle cannot be established until the voters are educated to understand it. Such men as the author of the above can be made to understand it easier and quicker when they see the graft of the county printing leaving their offices. The Socialists are well satisfied with their vote in Carbon county, and if you will just keep your eye on them you will see them winning under the banner of "Socialism" when the time arrives that the people are educated to understand that the product of labor belongs to the laborer who creates it.

WHAT THE SOCIALISTS SHOULD DO IN MONTANA.

The closing of the Socialist campaign on the 8th inst., coupled with the enormous vote given the cause, shows to the active party members that there is a great amount of work in front of the party organization in preparing for the city campaigns in the spring elections, which will be here in a few months. Preparations of this kind only being incidental to arrangements preparatory to the campaign of two years hence, which will sound the signal of what the campaign of 1908 will be.

It appears to the average Socialist, we presume, that the first move to be made is with the individual members of the locals all over the state to renew their ranks by securing workingmen, now in sympathy with our movement, to join the local and take up the study of Socialism and loan their assistance in furthering the educational work. In securing these new members the receipts from dues to headquarters will be increased, and will then permit the placing in the field a permanent organizer, who should visit all unorganized places and establish a local wherever possible.

It strikes the News that Comrade J. F. Mabie of Chico would be the proper man to put in the field as organizer, and with his efforts in the unorganized places, coupled with the efforts of the comrades over the state and the tireless work of the present state secretary, there is no reason why the Socialists cannot build up a powerful organization in the next few months.

The wage worker and the farmer, the two who produce the wealth of the country, are fast learning that their interests are identical, and that they are the ones who must pay for this educational work. They are fast realizing that the money spent by the capitalists to carry elections is wrong from their toil shortly after each campaign, and as a result they are coming fast to the only working class party in America today.

There is a great amount of work ahead of the Socialists in this country, and it behooves the members of the party in the state of Montana to be up and doing if they desire to keep pace with many other states in the union. Another great campaign has opened and the educational and organization work must be continued with renewed vigor. In order to do this an organizer should be placed in the field, and in order to place him in the field funds must be forthcoming. An increased membership will supply the funds and keep the organizer at work, and on will go the great Socialist educational work.

Let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and give a push for a stronger and larger organization, one that means success in the near future. All together. Attend your local meetings regularly. Keep your dues paid up. Circulate literature. Get ready for Socialist speakers. Strengthen your organization.

CROOKED ELECTION WORK IN SILVER BOW COUNTY.

Butte, Montana, Nov. 13.

Editor Montana News, Helena, Mont.

Dear Comrade: Five days have already elapsed since election, and yet there is absolutely no returns obtainable by which the comrades on the outside, or even at home, can form an approximate estimate of the strength of the Socialist vote in Butte. In the face of such a condition many of the comrades on the outside, not knowing what we are up against here, are likely to think that the comrades here have been remiss in not attending to their duties when the count was being made; this, however, is not the case, as the following explanation will prove and may serve as a valuable future lesson to the comrades here and elsewhere in guarding their interests, and taking all possible precautions in order that they may get the recognition that they have earned. Four years ago, and in all county and city elections since that time, the Socialist party have had some of their members acting as judges of election; not so this time. The chairman of the board of county commissioners, who, by the way, arrogated to himself the exclusive right to name the judges of election, positively refused to give the Socialist party a single judge in any of the sixty-four precincts in the county; he was approached time after time by individual members of the party as well as by a formal committee, but to all our entreaties he turned a deaf ear, and by the way he is a good and true friend of the poor working man, and has proved so frugal and industrious during the last four years that he has managed to accumulate property in excess of \$100,000 during his term of office; he was elected as a populist on a fusion ticket, but since then he has deserted his party and is now a democrat of the kerosene stripe; he also took it upon him to redistrict the election precincts in the county, giving some of the precincts over 800 voters; inadequate provision was made to give the voters an opportunity to register their votes; there were over 18,000 registered in the county and though it is said the returns are all in, there are less than 12,000 votes recorded.

Up to the time the Butte Miner went to press on Wednesday morning that paper reported incomplete returns from 40 precincts would give Debs 1,261 votes, since which time there have been absolutely no returns upon which to base an estimate of the probable strength of the Socialist vote in this county. An evening paper, published in the interests of the fusion ticket, in Saturday night's issue says Debs would probably receive about 2,000 votes in the county, and the local ticket about 1,500. It will take the official count to determine what vote has been recorded in our favor; and it may take eight or ten days to get the official count.

The disgraceful tactics resorted to by the political leaders of the old parties, without exception, would bring the blush of shame to the face of the veriest pariah out of hades. On the eve of election the main thoroughfares of the city resembled "the council chambers of the damned" turned loose.

On every street corner there was a tally-ho wagon with an imported spellbinder clamoring and striving to hold the attention of the crowd by extolling the virtues of the party that paid him; on a platform on Broadway the late general manager of one of the mining companies strove to hold the crowd by telling them what the g. o. p. would do for them if they would only vote for that party; the crowd, to show their contempt for the speaker, turned loose in his direction some decayed eggs, when he leaped from the platform and commenced to clean up the crowd single-handed, when he was rescued by his friends; rockets, rotten eggs and jawbone was the order of the evening. On the day of election the mine boss was in evidence at every one of the precincts, whipping his men into doing his bidding, and those whom he could not intimidate he had the money to bribe. At several precincts they had vote purchasing parlors running wide

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open, and the boss informed the uninitiated of its location, and directed them to it; here the purchasable voter, for from \$3 to \$5, got a ballot that had already been voted, went to the polling booth, and after giving his name and qualifying to the satisfaction of the judges, received his ballot, took it into the booth, folded it up and put it in his pocket, voted the marked ballot he had received, took the blank ballot back and got his money. A certain tin soldier, representative of corporate interests, during the whole afternoon was stationed at one of the precincts, and busied himself by taking voters out of the line that stood waiting their turn to vote, and for a bare promise that they would do the right thing he paid them the lowest acceptable price for their promised vote.

Colonizing was resorted to by both the democratic and fusion parties. In one precinct up to 10 o'clock in the morning 67 voters had been challenged; it is a question whether or not the colonizing scheme was very much of a success.

When it came to counting the votes, our comrades scattered out among the different precincts, to watch the count, and stayed with their task as long as it was possible for physical endurance to hold out; the ballot was an unusually large one, and none of them were counted faster than ten or twelve ballots an hour; so it can be readily seen that where there was six or seven hundred ballots to be counted it took a longer time to get over them than one man could stay with his job; the regular judges had others take their places at stated intervals until the ballots were all counted. The Socialist comrades who watched the count tell of countless instances where the Socialist votes were entirely ignored by the judges, and others where Socialist votes were counted for the republican or democratic parties, while they were watching the dishonest judges, and when such action was objected to by them they were threatened with expulsion from the booth by men wearing badges as special deputies. We will be defrauded out of several hundred votes at the very least by this method of procedure, and the worst of the whole condition is that it seems we are absolutely without recourse, though we may make a legal test of the validity of the whole proceedings. Fraternally yours,
G. H. MORRISON.

In the old party ranks there is always a lethargic stage existing after election, but in the Socialist ranks it is entirely different, and especially so this year. According to the correspondence arriving and being published in the News, there appears to be a reviving interest among all of the comrades over the state. In Chicago the comrades are already making arrangements to start a daily paper. And from every corner of the country comes the same encouraging reports. This feeling of sacrifice for a principle is what makes the Socialist cause what it is. Let us continue.

There is one thing the comrades in Montana should not overlook. That is the perfecting of the organization. It is as important at this stage of the political fight that the party give as much attention to its organization as it is to the propaganda part. Judging from the split votes we have done more in the line of propaganda than we have organization. Watch your organization that your party cannot be swamped in the future by the advent to your ranks of a class of office seekers who are sent into the party by capitalists.

The Socialists have broke into two state legislatures—Illinois and Wisconsin, and we elected four Socialists in Montana. This added to an increase of over 500 per cent in our vote in the country looks as if Socialism was "dying out"

Old Parties will Unite to Crush Socialist Party

(Continued from page 1)

before him in a legislative capacity. Should he at any time refuse to do so or vote contrary to what the leaders hold to be the interests of the party the date on the resignation would be filled in and the resignation filed, creating a vacancy.

Another peculiarity of the party, from which it gets much strength, is its constant work. The moment one election is over work for the next begins.

So dangerous has the party become to the old parties that Mayor Rose, in an interview today, said it was time for the old ones to consider the question of uniting to crush it out, as was done when the labor party became so strong sixteen years ago. It will not be so easy a task as that was for the reason that the Social Democrats are better organized.

Debs Is Encouraged.

Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 9.—Eugene V. Debs says the Socialist vote in every part of the country has been enormously increased, and that, while it is too early to make an estimate of the total, enough is known to warrant the statement that from this time forward the republican party will have the Socialist party to reckon with, and that the coming alignment will be between the republicans, representing capitalistic interests, and the Socialists, representing the working class. As for the democratic party, he says it can hardly be pulled together again to serve as a twin to the republican party to divide the working classes. "It is entirely possible," he said today, "that in four years more the Socialist party will sweep the United States."

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Three insertions in our want columns Free of Charge for workers desiring positions, or those desiring help.

WANTED—Partner in Helena to learn telegraphy. Address H, Montana News office.

CORRESPONDENCE

Rochester, Mont., Nov. 10.
Dear Comrade Walsh: I inclose returns for Rochester precinct No. 13; have delayed hoping to hear from other comrades from other portions of Madison county, but have not heard as yet. Will forward the complete county vote as soon as received. Fraternally,
JOHN E. DENO.

Kalispell, Nov. 13.
Comrade Walsh: I suppose you were waiting for the election returns, but as yet am not in position to give you satisfaction. The comrades were only watching the head of the ticket, which I could not get until Wednesday evening, too late for any of little value to the News. The Socialist vote in our county four years ago was 23, two years ago it was ranging from 103 to 230, but I believe a portion of this was sympathetic more or less; while this year the vote for Debs in this city as far as I am able to tell is 82; outside precincts are not yet known. I will send you complete returns as soon as possible. Yours for Socialism,
FRED HELM.

Stevensville, Nov. 12.
J. H. Walsh, Helena.
Dear Comrade: I send you \$4 for four of the six cards you left with me; will still keep the other two; think I can dispose of them soon; one card was sent in by a party and I don't know his name; you will see that this pays for it.

so send the paper to the name that was on the card.

Now I wish to mention a subject which was on my mind when you were here, but which had not just fully matured; it is something like this: When you get to within \$500.00 of the amount you want to buy your press with, and to facilitate matters, if you so wish to do, I would be willing to loan you that amount for as long as you would want it, which you can secure to me on your plant. Now you could set your own time as to payment from ten minutes up to ten years. I only ask security as a matter of form, for if we gain the day that we are working for it will nullify all that. You recollect I mentioned having some money from my father's estate. I have not yet got it, but I no doubt soon will. I have always intended to use this money to advance Socialism and it seems to me this would be a good use of it to start with. Further than this, I have in mind the starting of a farmers' Socialist paper, and which I might arrange with you to do the printing of when you once get in your new press. I might put this out as a running mate to the News. I believe I could convince farmers as fast as any one of the need of Socialism for the farmers; but we can discuss that later. Just write and tell me what you think of my first proposition. Fraternally,
JAMES ETTIEN.

(Comrades, how does the tone of the above suit you? Is it not time for you who have been sleeping to go out at once and hustle \$10 and take a share on the press? You will notice an editorial in this issue written in regard to the press proposition, and following our suggestion for the comrades to rally to the support comes the letter by Comrade James Ettien of Stevensville. With this assistance at hand shall we make the Montana News one of the best Socialist papers in the United States or shall we still continue to be inactive? Arouse, comrades, arouse! If you have not taken a share, take one at once and let us forge ahead in this matter. We have won. Nearly 8,000 votes are standing back of our movement in this state, which means that at the next election the fight will be between capitalism and Socialism, with Socialism the winner. Will you help at once by sending in for a share? We must have your help if we win.—Editor.)

Red Lodge, Nov. 13
Editor Montana News:
With this letter is sent a tabulated account of the vote of Carbon county. We thought it best to wait until all returns were in before giving anything out. We won out by increasing the Socialist

ist vote from 18 in 1900 to 303 for Debs in 1904; in 1902 the Socialist state ticket received 29 votes in Carbon county. Red Lodge in 1902 gave Sproule 22 votes; this year Debs got 192. O'Malley for governor, 182; Walsh for congress, 208; and the county ticket averaged about 400. Fairgrieve for representative got 470; Spray, sheriff, 465; Maryott, for senator, 372. We ought to have done better, but the farmers have not been oppressed enough yet; they are afraid of having to divide up with those who, like themselves, are struggling for a mere existence, but are willing to divide a little while longer with those parasites who are taking four-fifths of what they create. They are in need of more education, which they will receive at the hands of the republican capitalist ere another election rolls around; but we will have to forgive them this time, and commence our work for two years hence. The fight in this county waxed warm between the two old parties; their senatorial fight between two representatives of the capitalists simmered down to which one had the most capital to buy votes with; both campaigned with bands and booze wagons; one has a national reputation for kissing and hugging any lady he happens to meet on the street or who may have to go into his office on business; the preachers of every denomination were out in force to defeat him, and apparently worked for the other half of the capitalist party, for Mr. Glidden was elected, and we who have taken an interest in this fight can't see where the church was justified in assisting either one of them. Glidden left a trail of drunkenness and debauchery wherever he went. Booze was as free as water. This is the acceptable system of campaigning which is hailed with delight by the American voter and advocated by the capitalist class to dull and stupefy the minds of the voters in order that they may forget their condition on election day. The Socialists gave the farmer an opportunity to elect one of their own class, a man who has a high moral standing amongst his fellow men; a hard working farmer, one who commands the respect and esteem of all who know him, but who did not spend money supplied by corporations, or dispense booze furnished by the same source, but now that the smoke of battle has cleared away for this time, it is our duty as Socialists to gird on the armor of justice and go on with our work of economic and industrial emancipation of the toilers, never faltering, but actuated by a desire to educate the worker to a realization that if he does not endeavor

to throw off the yoke of economic slavery which the kings of capital are welding around him, that soon he will be far worse than the black slave of the south or the serf during the dark ages; let us all get our shoulders to the wheel and the 1,000,000 votes cast against this slavish system in 1904 can be swelled to millions more ere 1908 is ushered in.

—Local Red Lodge of the Socialist Party of the World.

Livingston, Nov. 13.
Comrade Walsh: Your favor received this morning. It seems that there is an understanding among the newspaper men of both parties to keep the Socialist vote from the public or to give false figures, making it appear that the Socialists cast less votes than they really did. It is so rank that almost any one can see it; however, we must make an effort to get the exact figures from the official count, in this way we will come nearer getting the exact figures.

I think it is about time that we Socialists quit taking old party daily and weekly papers. We are a heavy contributor to the receipts of old party papers and if we cut them out they might quit lying about us.

The quorum will meet in the near future to lay out a plan for systematic organization.

Comrade Mabie reorganized Chesnut local with 13 members, seven of whom are farmers.

Hamilton local reports A. K. Grow and E. E. Stockman expelled for participating in old party politics. A report of all receipts and expenses during campaign, along with report of Comrades Kennedy, Hazlett and Walsh lecture tours will be sent each local in a few days.

Comrades having campaign fund lists who have not reported will please return lists with money collected to headquarters.

Comrades are requested to pay up their dues and to see that their local is in good standing. There is a number of locals in arrears; if all pay up we will be in shape to pay off all bills against headquarters and be in shape to carry on an aggressive winter campaign of education.

There is a large amount of organizing work to be done in this state if we intend to be successful at the polls, and this work will require money; every dues paying member counts.

The local quorum will meet Nov. 27 to consider ways and means of carrying on the work of organization and education. Any local having any suggestions to offer will please send same into headquarters. Fraternally,
JAS. D. GRAHAM,

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Arrive 11:30 p. m.	Summit	Leave 12:30 p. m.	
Leave 12:01 p. m.	Summit	Arrive 12:00 m.	
Leave 12:40 p. m.	Lenep	Arrive 11:20 a. m.	
Leave 1:06 p. m.	Martinsdale	Arrive 10:53 a. m.	
Leave 1:41 p. m.	Twodot	Arrive 10:23 a. m.	
Leave 2:20 p. m.	Harlowtown	Arrive 9:55 a. m.	
Leave 3:50 p. m.	Ubet	Arrive 8:35 a. m.	
Leave 4:58 p. m.	Moore	Arrive 7:50 a. m.	
Arrive 6:00 p. m.	Lewistown	Leave 7:00 a. m.	

RICHARD A. HARLOW, President Helena, Montana

Kalispell, Nov. 13.
Comrade Walsh: We are about to send an organizer throughout the county and organize locals wherever possible. You may have noticed that our county is far from being on a level with the rest and we are determined to bring it up to that level. As you well know, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link; this must be true with a state also. Now to accomplish this task we must have a man who is able to pound into some men's heads that organization is a necessity, and as you seem to take with the people here more than any other speaker that ever addressed an audience in this city, I was instructed to ask you to assist us in this work for about a month, and if you can accept our invitation please let us know when and about how much it would cost us. One of our comrades has promised to take you from place to place with his team, so you would not have to depend upon railroad and stage, and would always have his assistance. Any time between now and March is acceptable to us. Now don't disappoint us. Yours for Socialism,
FRED HELM, Sec.

capable of handling that work than myself. Success to you in your determined stand.—Editor.)

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Over 500 Per Cent Increase in the Socialist Vote

(Continued from page 1)

which there were cast 1,537 in 1902 and 3,548 this year, an increase of 2,011.

Nevada—No ticket in 1900 or 1902. Partial returns indicate a good vote. Will probably go 500.

New Hampshire—Reports from the townships of Claremont, Farmington, Hamstead, Exeter and the city of Concord give 201 votes against 129 in 1900 and 159 in 1902. On this basis 1,500 should be reached in this state.

New Jersey—Partial returns from five counties give a total of 2,996. The vote of Hudson county is in the vicinity of 3,000 and will bring the total up to about 6,000. This leaves 15 counties to hear from, and the total vote will be in the vicinity of 10,000; in 1900 Debs received 4,609. Newark increased from 992 in 1902 to 2,040; and Jersey City from about 1,700 to 3,000.

New York—Complete returns have been received from only three counties, giving 3,231 votes. Partial returns from 19 other counties give 8,896, bringing the total reported thus far 12,127. This does not include the city of New York, which it is estimated will poll 25,000 votes, and 39 counties which have not been heard from. State Secretary Chase estimates the total vote of the state at 40,000. James-town shows a great increase, from 89 in 1902 to 535 in 1904; Oneida county from 147 in 1902 to 371 in 1904; and Brooklyn from 4,381 in 1902 to 6,500 in 1904.

North Dakota—Thirty-three out of 64 precincts in Cass county give Debs 120 against 57 in 1900. Rolette county gives 85 against 35 in 1902. Two precincts in Walsh and Ward counties give 30 against none in 1900, and three in 1902. Estimate for state, 3,000.

Oklahoma—No returns from state secretary. Partial returns from 19 precincts give Loudermilk, for delegate to congress, 563 votes, showing an increase in every case. Total vote will probably reach 3,000.

Ohio—Returns from 15 counties show a vote of 23,571, the largest number of votes being cast in Cuyahoga county (including Cleveland), 7,823; Hamilton county (including Cincinnati), 7,071; Lucas county (including Toledo), 2,425; Mahoning county (including Youngstown), 1,960, and Montgomery (including Dayton), 1,100. Partial returns from 13 other counties giving 2,133 bring the total vote, so far reported, to 25,704. This leaves 60 counties to hear from and the vote will undoubtedly reach 35,000. The greatest gains were made in Cleveland, from 1,297 in 1902 to 7,316; Cincinnati, from 3,803 to 6,232; Youngstown, from 72 to 1,621; and Akron, from 205 to 893.

Oregon—State secretary estimates 12,000 Socialist votes in state. Partial returns received at this office show a great increase over last spring. Multnomah county, including the city of Portland, polls 2,400.

Pennsylvania—Complete returns from 21 counties give a total of 11,121. Partial returns from seven other counties giving 1,867 bring the total to 12,988, with 39 counties to hear from. The city of Reading increased from 169 in 1900 to 1,153 in 1904; Erie gave 1,062, as against 462 in 1900, and Mercer county, including the city of Sharon, increased from 153 in 1902 to 950 in 1904. All indications point to a slight increase over the abnormal vote of 1902, and the total will probably amount to the neighborhood of 25,000.

Rhode Island—No presidential ticket in 1900. In 1903 the vote for governor was 309. This year it is 789 for Debs. The S. L. P. vote declined from 943 last year to 444 this year.

South Dakota—Returns from Brown, Clark and Beadle counties

give 314 against 269 in 1902. Estimate for state, 3,000.

Tennessee—Four counties and nine towns in other counties give 937. The Memphis comrades report fraud in their county, the returns only giving them 75, the same vote cast in 1900, when nearly 500 was assured. Estimate for state, 2,000.

Texas—Reports from nine precincts and towns that polled 14 in 1900 and 164 in 1902 show 512 for 1904. At the same ratio the vote should reach 10,000.

Utah—Returns from Utah show an increase all over the state. Salt Lake county will give 3,400, an increase of nearly 300 per cent, and as other localities make like increases, the total will be in the neighborhood of 5,000.

Vermont—State Secretary Anderson reports estimate of 1,000.

Virginia—Newport News reports increase from 37 in 1902 to 61 this year. Estimate for state, 500.

Washington—State Secretary Martin reports conservative estimate of 15,000 out of a total vote of 130,000. Three counties alone aggregate nearly 5,000. In Spokane the party polled 10 per cent of total vote.

West Virginia—No report from state secretary. Partial returns give 1,240 votes and indicate that the total vote will probably reach 3,000. Ohio county increased from 117 in 1900 to 372 in 1904.

Wisconsin—In Milwaukee county, four members of the state assembly and one state senator were elected. All the successful candidates are workingmen, there being three cigarmakers, one machinist and one painter. Comrades Berger and Gaylord made a great run for congress, Berger being beaten by only 1,632 and running ahead of the democrat; Gaylord by less than 4,000. The vote was increased more than 2,000 in each of these congressional districts. The total vote of Milwaukee is 18,362, which is more than Parker received. Partial returns from the state warrant an estimate that the total vote will reach 45,000. The names of those elected are: Ninth assembly district, Edward J. Berner, cigarmaker; 11th district, Frederick Brockhausen, cigarmaker; 12th district, Wm. J. Aldridge, machinist; 16th district, Andrew Strichlow, painter; and for state senator, Jacob Rummel, cigarmaker.

Wyoming—State secretary sends no report. Returns slow in coming in, but all give good increase. Total vote will probably reach 1,500. Incomplete returns give 815. Laramie county increased from 186 in 1902 to 250 in 1904. WILLIAM MAILLY, Nat. Sec.

The Helena Socialist local adopted a rule at their last meeting requiring that all new applicants be considered for thirty days before being accepted or rejected by the organization. This will give the new member an opportunity to be present at four meetings before he becomes a part of the organization, and during this time he will have an opportunity of learning what is required of a workingman to become a member of the only class conscious party in existence.

There is an opportunity for you union men who supported Joe Toole and other non-union men while union nominees were in the field, to get yourselves aligned now with the movement of your class. A movement that will not give Joe Toole a \$23,000 mansion and you fellows who voted for him a rented \$10 shack. How about getting in now?

The worker who gives a vote to a nominee on the capitalist ticket, whether there is a man on the Socialist ticket or not, gives a half vote for capitalism. In fact he assists in riveting the chains of slavery tighter.

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Socialist National Platform

I.
We, the Socialist party, in convention assembled, make our appeal to the American people as the defender and preserver of the idea of liberty and self-government, in which the nation was born; as the only political movement standing for the program and principles by which the liberty of the individual may become a fact; as the only political organization that is democratic, and that has for its purpose the democratizing of the whole of society.

To this idea of liberty the republican and democratic parties are utterly false. They alike struggle for power to maintain and profit by an industrial system which can be preserved only by the complete overthrow of such liberties as we already have, and by the still further enslavement and degradation of labor.

Our American institutions came into the world in the name of freedom. They have been seized upon by the capitalist class as the means of rooting out the idea of freedom from among the people. Our state and national legislatures have become the mere agencies of great propertied interests. These interests control the appointments and decisions of the judges of our courts. They have come into what is practically a private ownership of all the functions and forces of government. They are using these to betray and conquer foreign and weaker peoples, in order to establish new markets for the surplus goods which the people make, but are too poor to buy. They are gradually so invading and restricting the right of suffrage as to take unawares the right of the worker to a vote or voice in public affairs. By enacting new and misinterpreting old laws, they are preparing to attack the liberty of the individual even to speak or think for himself or for the common good.

By controlling all the sources of social revenue, the possessing class is able to silence what might be the voice of protest against the passing of liberty and the coming of tyranny. It completely controls the university and public schools, the pulpit and the press, arts and literatures. By making these economically dependent upon itself, it has brought all the forms of public teaching into servile submission to its own interests.

Our political institutions are also being used as the destroyers of that individual property upon which all liberty and opportunity depend. The promise of economic independence to each man was one of the faiths in which our institutions were founded. But under the guise of defending private property, capitalism is using our political institutions to make it impossible for the vast majority of human beings to ever become possessors of private property in the means of life.

Capitalism is the enemy and destroyer of essential private property. Its development is through the legalized confiscation of all that the labor of the working class produces, above its subsistence wage. The private ownership of the means of employment grounds society in an economic slavery which renders intellectual and political tyranny inevitable.

Socialism comes so to organize industry and society that every individual shall be secure in that private property in the means of life upon which his liberty of being, thought and action depend. It comes to rescue the people from the fast increasing and successful assault of capitalism upon the liberty of the individual.

II.

As an American Socialist party, we pledge our fidelity to the principles of international Socialism, as embodied in the united thought and action of the Socialists of all nations. In the industrial development already accomplished, the interests of the world's workers are separated by no national boundaries. The condition of the most exploited and oppressed workers in the most remote places of the earth inevitably tends to drag down all the workers of the world

to the same level. The tendency of the competitive wage system is to make labor's lowest condition the measure or rule of its universal condition. Industry and finance are no longer national, but international in both organization and results. The chief significance of national boundaries, and of so-called patriotisms which the ruling class of each nation is seeking to revive, is the power which these give to capitalism to keep the workers of the world from uniting, and to throw them against each other in the struggles of contending capitalist interests for the control of the yet unexploited markets of the world, or the remaining sources of profit.

The Socialist movement, therefore, is a world movement. It knows of no conflicts between the workers of one nation and the workers of another. It stands for the freedom of the workers of all nations; and, in so standing, it makes for the full freedom of all humanity.

III.

The Socialist movement owes its birth and growth to that economic development or world-process which is rapidly separating a working or producing class from a possessing or capitalist class. The class that produces nothing possesses labor's fruits, and the opportunities and enjoyments these fruits afford, while the class that does the world's real work has increasing economic uncertainty, and physical and intellectual misery as its portion.

The fact that these two classes have not yet become fully conscious of their distinction from each other, the fact that the lines of division and interest may not yet be clearly drawn, does not change the fact of the class conflict.

This class struggle is due to the private ownership of the means of employment, or the tools of production. Wherever and whenever man owned his own land and tools, and by them produced only the things which he used, economic independence was possible. But production, or the making of goods, has long ceased to be individual. The labors of scores or even thousands, enters into almost every article produced. Production is now social or collective. Practically everything is made or done by many men—sometimes separated by seas or continents—working together for the same end. But this co-operation in production is not for the direct use of the things made by the workers who make them, but for the profit of the owners; and to this is due the present division of society into two distinct classes; and from it has sprung all the miseries, inharmonies and contradictions of our civilization.

Between these two classes there can be no possible compromise or identity of interests, any more than there can be peace in the midst of war, or light in the midst of darkness. A society based upon this class division carries in itself the seeds of its own destruction. Such a society is founded in fundamental injustice. There can be no possible basis for social peace, for individual freedom, for mental and moral harmony, except in the conscious and complete triumph of the working class as the only class that has the right or power to be.

IV.

The Socialist program is not a theory imposed upon society for its acceptance or rejection. It is but the interpretation of what is, sooner or later, inevitable. Capitalism is already struggling to its destruction. It is no longer competent to organize or administer the work of the world, or even to preserve itself. The captains of industry are appalled at their own inability to control or direct the rapidly socializing forces of industry. The so-called trust is but a sign and form of this developing socialization of the world's work. The universal increase of the uncertainty of employment, the universal capitalist determination to break down the unity of labor in the trades unions, the widespread apprehensions of impending change, reveal that the institutions of capitalist society are passing under the power

of inhering forces that will soon destroy them.

Into the midst of the strain and crisis of civilization, the Socialist movement comes as the only saving or conservative force. If the world is to be saved from chaos, from universal disorder and misery, it must be by the union of the workers of all nations in the Socialist movement. The Socialist party comes with the only proposition or program for intelligently and deliberately organizing the nation for the common good of all its citizens. It is the first time that the mind of man has ever been directed toward the conscious organization of society.

Socialism means that all those things upon which the people in common depend shall be by the people in common be owned and administered. It means that the tools of employment shall be long to their creators and users; that all production shall be for the direct use of the producers; that the making of goods for profit shall come to an end; that we shall all be workers together, and that opportunities shall be open and equal to all men.

V.

To the end that the workers may seize every possible advantage that may strengthen them to gain complete control of the powers of government and thereby the sooner establish the co-operative commonwealth, the Socialist party pledges itself to watch and work in both the economic and the political struggle for each successive immediate interest of the working class; for shortened days of labor and increase of wages; for the insurance of the workers against accident, sickness and lack of employment; for pensions for aged and exhausted workers; for the public ownership of the means of transportation, communication and exchange; for the graduated taxation of incomes, inheritances, and of franchise and land values, the proceeds to be applied to public employment and bettering the condition of the workers; for the equal suffrage of men and women; for the prevention of the use of the military against labor in the settlement of strikes; for the free administration of justice; for popular government, including initiative, referendum, proportional representation, and the recall of officers by their constituents; and for every gain or advantage for the workers that may be wrested from the capitalist system, and that may relieve the suffering and strengthen the hands of labor. We lay upon every man elected to any executive or legislative office the first duty of striving to procure whatever is for the workers' most immediate interest, and for whatever will lessen the economic and political powers of the capitalist and increase the like powers of the worker.

But, in so doing, we are using these remedial measures as means to the one great end of the co-operative commonwealth. Such measures of relief as we may be able to force from capitalism are but a preparation of the workers to seize the whole powers of government, in order that they may thereby lay hold of the whole system of industry, and thus come into their rightful inheritance.

To this end we pledge ourselves, as the party of the working class, to use all political power, as fast as it shall be entrusted to us by our fellow workers, both for their immediate interests and for their ultimate and complete emancipation. To this end we appeal to all the workers of America, and to all who will lend their lives to the service of the workers in their struggle to gain their own, and to all who will nobly and disinterestedly give their days and energies unto the workers' cause to cast their lot and faith with the Socialist party. Our appeal for the trust and suffrages of our fellow workers is at once an appeal for their common good and freedom, and for the freedom and blossoming of our common humanity. In pledging ourselves, and those we represent, to be faithful to the appeal which we make, we believe that we are but preparing the soil of the economic freedom from which will spring the freedom of the whole man.