

THE SOCIALIST PARTY

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Issued Monthly by the National Committee at the National Headquarters, 269 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois

Number 2

CHICAGO, OCTOBER, 1904

Monthly

REPORT OF DEBS' TOUR

Socialist Party Candidate for President Continues to Speak to Large and Enthusiastic Audiences

The phenomenal success of Comrade Debs' tour is a surprise even to the most sanguine members of the party. Reports continue to pour into national headquarters of audiences of unprecedented size and enthusiasm greeting our standard bearer and listening with close attention to every word he utters. Comrade Debs is evincing remarkable physical endurance, speaking at each stop from two to two and one-half hours. The capitalist press continues to reluctantly tell a part of the truth in regard to our meetings and they are giving more and more space to Debs' utterances.

Following is a summary of the reports sent in by comrades and those appearing in the capitalist press. It has been necessary to greatly condense the subject matter but the essential features are preserved in each. Not all reports are favorable, as was to be expected, but each is given as a matter of record and for information to the party members.

The Official Bulletin for September contained reports of Comrade Debs' tour up to Atlanta, Sept. 14.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 15.

Birmingham News:—Eugene V. Debs, the socialist party candidate for president of the United States, delivered a socialist address before a large crowd in the Knights of Columbus hall last night. The hall was filled at all times and many people were turned away for want of even standing room. A large number of the people who attended the speaking have personal acquaintance with the presidential candidate, while many went to the place to hear the speech and listen to arguments of the leader of the party.

Mr. Debs, after being introduced, entered into his speech with all fervor. He was freely applauded.

Birmingham Ledger:—Believing that the producer has a right to share in the spoils of what his labor brings forth; Eugene V. Debs, socialist candidate for president of the United States, spoke for two hours last night in the Knights of Columbus hall.

More than 1,000 people were seated in the hall, which was crowded to its capacity. The audience was enthusiastic, and though the great majority were opposed to the ideas of the speaker, they were moved by the clever and clear way in which they were advanced and consequently were all attentive.

Mr. Debs had new ideas, and he expressed them in a way entirely new to his audience. His statements were clear and concise, his logic pointed and strong, and his arguments convincing. The keynote of his speech was that the laborer should share in the spoils. He referred to the two major parties in the United States, and arraigned both. He referred meagerly to the platform of each. He caused a deal of laughter and the audience was aware that they were laughing at themselves.

When the orator had finished his address, the audience in a mass crowded around the platform and greeted him. Mr. Debs hastened from the building to catch an outgoing train, and left the door grasping the hands of the people who were following him.

Birmingham Age-Herald:—"No man has the right to own that on which the lives of others depend."

That was the keynote of the speech delivered by Eugene V. Debs, the presidential nominee of the socialist party, to an enthusiastic audience of nearly 1,000 men and women last night at the Knights of Columbus hall. The crowd filled the place to its utmost capacity.

Taking up this line of argument Mr. Debs made one of the most eloquent addresses that many of his hearers had ever heard. His logic was striking and his enunciation almost perfect. In fact, he held his audience so completely under the spell of his voice that many who did not agree with him in his socialistic ideas hurried to the stage when he had finished and grasped his hand to congratulate him on his honesty of purpose and his entertaining talk.

F. X. Waldhorst:—I have to report the greatest success with Comrade Debs' meeting in this city. The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity and hundreds were turned away unable to get in the hall. The constant topic in the streets is the speech of Debs. You can hear about it on the cars and everywhere. Talk about enthusiasm; I had to pull Comrade Debs away from the people to let him catch the train. Many followed to the depot to shake hands with him.

The comrades of adjoining counties made application for a special train and club rates, but the railroads would give neither, replying "No club rates for a speech by E. V. Debs." The United Mine Workers' band came from Brookside, free and unsolicited, although on strike since July.

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 16.

The Arkansas Gazette:—Eugene V. Debs, the candidate of the socialist party for president of the United States, addressed a large crowd last night at old Concordia hall, Third and Main streets. His address was devoted

chiefly to an arraignment of the class which he denominated capitalists and a presentation of the socialistic doctrine as the panacea for the ills which he declares afflict the working classes of the country. Mr. Debs attacked all other political parties and their nominees, declaring that there is no difference between the other parties, as far as the workingman is concerned.

The hall was crowded to the doors when Mr. Debs began to speak, and although he spoke for over two hours, he held the crowd throughout that time. Although the members of the socialist party were in the minority in the audience, the speaker was liberally applauded many times during the evening.

E. W. Perrin:—The house was packed and jammed, no standing room even in the corridor. Debs was lustily cheered to the echo. Many farmers had come to the meeting from a distance. Debs spoke for two hours and held his audience in rapt attention.

Pine Bluff, Ark., Sept. 17.

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal:—Eugene V. Debs, socialist candidate for president of the United States, addressed a crowd of several hundred people in the courthouse yard this afternoon. Mr. Debs spoke for more than two hours, but the crowd showed no signs of impatience and he received the closest attention throughout his address. He reviewed the histories and records of the different political parties and gave a synopsis of the socialist platform. He is a speaker of much force and public magnetism, and he expresses his thoughts with such force that they are not soon forgotten.

Nels Nelson:—It was a demonstration to be long remembered. Cheer and cheer interrupted the speaker as he landed his sledge hammer blows that roused the "brother to the ox" from his hypnotic slumber.

Fort Smith, Ark., Sept. 18.

Dan Hogan:—We had over 5,000 visitors to town on that day, and would have had at least half that many paid admissions to the park except for a heavy rain which began to fall shortly before the meeting, which was, anyway, a great success. Comrade Debs was at his best, and many people who had been tottering near the brink of surrender did so. It was a great day for the cause.

L. W. Lowry:—The meeting was a success, despite the fact that the politicians furnished free liquor and used their utmost endeavors to keep the masses away from the park. Even the "drummers" at the hotels say it was the greatest that they ever heard.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 19.

T. E. Palmer:—The meeting was the biggest thing of the kind we ever undertook. Hundreds of young men made the statement at the close of the meeting that they would have the honor of casting their first vote for Debs.

Kansas City Times:—Eugene V. Debs, socialist candidate for president, spoke in Convention hall last night to a crowd of 4,500 persons. He spoke two and one-half hours and was attentively listened to. Scarcely a dozen persons left before the end of the speech.

The overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a socialistic republic was the burden of Mr. Debs' speech.

The address was frequently interrupted with applause and at the conclusion Mr. Debs was the center of a throng eager to grasp his hand.

Kansas City Journal:—Eugene V. Debs, candidate for president, of the socialist party, spoke to an audience of probably 2,000 men and women—probably half being women—in Convention hall last night. The crowd was a tremendously enthusiastic one and several times, both before and during his speech, cheers rang through the big building.

Debs was uproariously received when he rose to speak.

Kansas City World:—Eugene V. Debs, the most conspicuous figure in the American labor movement and present candidate of the socialist party for president of the United States, addressed an audience of 2,500 persons in Convention hall last night. On the platform were several members of the local branch of the party, and to the left of the speaker stood a large picture of Karl Marx, the Jewish philosopher and economist, who gave to the world the modern or scientific conception of socialism, based on the class struggle and the materialist view of history. Several old soldiers from the Leavenworth home sat in a box behind Mr. Debs and waved the stars and stripes whenever he made a point.

The reception given the noted agitator was enthusiastic, and many of his caustic and witty remarks evoked applause or laughter. There was a good representation of women and they seemed to appreciate Mr. Debs' criticism of woman's status under capitalism and his prophecy of her improved condition in the proposed socialist republic.

The Labor Herald:—Monday night

Eugene V. Debs spoke to nearly 7,000 people in Convention hall.

Mr. Debs talked for two hours and ten minutes, having the closest attention and receiving warm applause throughout the evening.

The Labor Herald also gives Comrade Debs' speech in full.

Wichita, Kan., Sept. 20.

Kansas City Journal:—Eugene V. Debs, socialist candidate for president, spoke to a crowded house in the Toler auditorium here to-night. Even the stage was filled with people. He roared both of the old parties and predicted a financial crisis for the coming year. It was the biggest political gathering of the year in Wichita, though both the democrats and the republicans have held rallies here.

Wichita Daily Beacon:—Socialists found it necessary to hang out a "S. R. O." sign at their first meeting of the campaign held at the Toler auditorium last night. Eugene V. Debs, candidate of their party for president, addressed the meeting. He spoke to an audience that taxed the seating capacity of the auditorium, the stage, and put standing room at a premium. Three hundred seats were sold to pay the expenses of the meeting. His speech abounded in humor and the bits of sarcasm thrown out regarding the old parties

the detectives shadowed him all the time to prevent him from organizing the A. R. U. and he was much pleased at his present reception. We presented him with a basket of native fruit and were awfully sorry to see the train move out."

Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 23.

Los Angeles Herald:—Eugene V. Debs, nominee of the socialist party for president of the United States, arrived in Los Angeles yesterday afternoon from the east and addressed a large gathering of socialists at Hazard's pavilion last evening. Mr. Debs will tour the coast in the interest of his candidacy. He will go direct to San Francisco from this city.

Mr. Debs took occasion to ridicule both the republican and democratic parties, referring to them as the capitalistic parties.

A. J. Stevens:—We expected a large attendance, but the pavilion was filled beyond seating capacity, and it seats 4,000. The audience was largely workmen, with now and then a bonnet interspersed, and the most appreciative audience that ever listened to a socialist speech. As soon as the chairman (myself) introduced Debs the audience cheered and cheered for several minutes. The Times (Gen. Otis' scab paper), which maligned Debs so five years

ago, was very respectful this time, so much so that there was not a word in this morning's issue concerning his speech.

San Francisco, Calif., Sept. 24.

Examiner:—An enthusiastic crowd of 4,000 persons gathered in Woodward's pavilion last evening to listen to the campaign address of Eugene V. Debs, the socialist candidate for president. The nominee spoke for two hours, holding the close attention of his audience. He was frequently interrupted by bursts of applause. At the close of his speech he was cheered for several minutes.

Chronicle:—Eugene V. Debs, the socialist candidate for president, addressed a considerable crowd of his followers in Woodward's pavilion last evening. He scored republicans and democrats alike, and denounced both parties as nothing more or less than machines of the capitalist, with candidates who were better known than the platforms.

Call:—In the ring at Woodward's pavilion where the principles of the Marquis of Queensberry have often been expounded, Eugene V. Debs, presidential candidate on the socialist ticket, last night upheld the principles of his party. The attraction did not draw so well as a prize fight, the house being about half filled. Those who did attend greeted many of the speaker's lines of argument with cheers. The socialist candidate was somewhat handicapped by a cold, but managed to make himself heard most of the time.

Bulletin:—Before an immense gathering of 7,000, Eugene V. Debs made a stirring address at Woodward's pavilion last night. The speaker was frequently interrupted by vociferous applause. Just as the last sentence passed his lips the audience rose and greeted the speaker with a round of cheers.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 26.

Oregonian:—"If you want to write your name in the history of the world, do not stay with a respectable majority."

Eugene V. Debs, the man who was in the minds of all the people in 1894, when the great Pullman strikes were the center of interest in the world, the head of the now fallen American Railwayman's Union and the idol of the socialists, as he is their nominee for the

ABOUT HANFORD

Our Candidate for Vice-President Continues to Draw Large Crowds

Comrades at the various points at which Comrade Hanford has spoken have not been as prompt in sending reports of the meetings as might have been possible, and as a consequence an extended report of the tour can not be given. However, enough is sent in to show that Comrade Hanford is speaking to enthusiastic audiences everywhere, and is much gratified with the reception given him.

Herewith are given short extracts from the reports of the Jamestown, N. Y., meeting, which appeared in the daily press of that city. The Jamestown Evening Journal devotes three-fourths of a column to the meeting, and begins as follows: "Ben Hanford, socialist candidate for vice-president of the United States, addressed a large crowd in City hall Tuesday evening on the issues of the campaign from a socialistic viewpoint, and in this connection he took occasion to flay Pierpont Morgan and the trusts in a most unmerciful manner."

The Jamestown Morning Post gave a more lengthy report, which, in substance, follows:

"The first big gun to be fired by the socialist party in Jamestown during the present campaign was heard last evening when an audience of about 500 listened to the issues of the day as discussed by Ben Hanford, socialist candidate for the vice presidency. Mr. Hanford is a printer by trade but he is a fluent speaker and the attention of his auditors was closely held. In his address he presented the worst side of the present social class and by scoring the aristocratic system in strong terms he carried the working men with him in outbursts of enthusiasm.

"The crowd was larger than was expected, as the night was stormy and cold.

"He said, in part, that the men who do the work of earth are the wonderful men and not those who have amassed a fortune from other men's labor. 'No man ever became a millionaire,' said Mr. Hanford, 'by thrift, industry and sobriety. They have owed other men's jobs.'

"In closing Mr. Hanford arraigned the candidates of the republican and democratic parties and said they had no one's interest at heart except their own.

"The speech was frequently applauded and was listened to with much interest by a large majority of those present."

At West Hoboken, N. J., September 25, Comrade Hanford addressed a large audience. Comrade Jas. M. Kelly writes as follows:

"Comrade Hanford spoke in West Hoboken September 25 to an audience of 1,500 people, who were attentive and enthusiastic and applauded his telling points vigorously. Comrade Hanford was preceded by our gubernatorial candidate, who spoke about twenty minutes, and Comrade Hanford spoke about an hour. He expressed himself as pleased with his reception, the attention of his audience, and the arrangements for facilitating his movements made by our comrades. The socialist campaign received quite a boost in this section September 25."

Camden, N. J., also had a big meeting, and the Courier, of that place, gives a good report. In part it is as follows: "Ben Hanford, of New York, the socialist party nominee for vice-president of the United States, the running mate of Presidential Candidate Eugene V. Debs, of Indiana, expounded the radical doctrines of socialism before an assemblage of workmen at Morgan hall last night. The long rectangular hall was nearly filled with spectators, about 500 being in attendance, with one woman auditor on the stage and a score scattered through the auditorium. Most all the men wore the buttons of or were members of union labor organizations. There was no music, no decorations, but the enthusiasm was continuous and vehement."

Comrade Joseph E. Cohen, of Philadelphia, writes: "Hanford meeting last night a great success. Standing room only. Papers must be frightened—they ignored or misrepresented us."

Hanford held a large meeting at Baltimore on October 2. A few extracts from reports received are given below.

Comrade W. A. Took writes: "The Hanford meeting last night at Holiday street theatre was a grand success. Both in numbers and enthusiasm it surpassed any Socialist meeting ever held in Baltimore. Nearly 1,600 people attended the meeting and many went away because they refused to go in the top gallery. Hanford caught the crowd from the beginning and as he made point after point enthusiasm increased until it burst forth in a mighty flood of cheers.

"His wit and sarcasm literally convulsed the crowd, while the pathos of other parts of his speech brought his hearers to a more tender mood. His clear logic fore the mask from the capitalist system and laid bare all its iniquities. The attitude of the old party candidates was also reviewed and if they knew they would grieve for their reputations.

"The meeting closed with three cheers for Hanford and three more for Debs. The comrades left the theatre convinced that the character and

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We are nearing the close of the campaign. We have a stock of literature on hand, and all of it must be in the hands of voters before election day.

We need money to get it out. Hundreds of contribution lists are in the hands of Comrades. Send in the lists. Hundreds of coin cards are in the hands of Comrades. Send in the cards. If this is done, and immediately, the campaign will be brought to a close befitting the great opportunity confronting the Socialist Party.

Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM MAILLY,

National Secretary

[Continued on fourth page.]

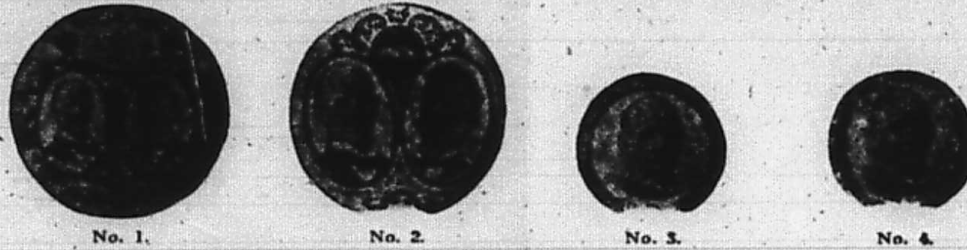
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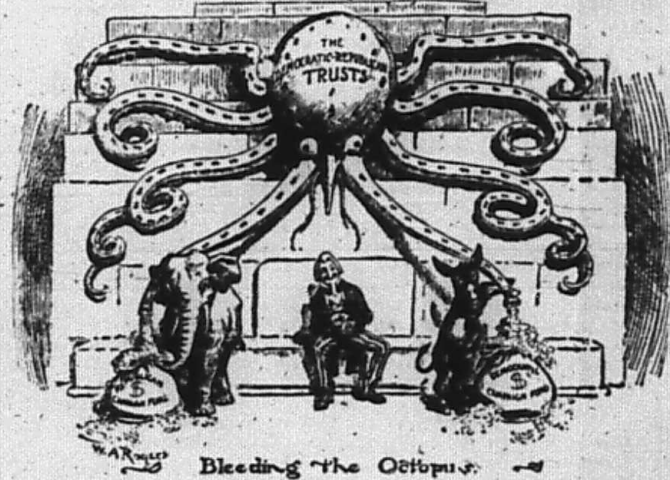
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This picture was published simultaneously in the Chicago Record-Herald, Republican, and the New York Herald, Democratic, July 31, 1904.

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To learn why the Trusts support the Old Parties see other side.

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“TELL ME WHAT PRESIDENT HAS EVER BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH TO ENFORCE THE LAW AGAINST A LABOR UNION VIOLATOR? IT WAS A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT.” (Loud applause.)—Daily press reports, July 9.

What Republican Sherman Bell, Adjutant General of Colorado National Guard, and pet of President Roosevelt, said about his brutal treatment of the miners of Colorado:

“I WENT UP THERE (CRIPPLE CREEK) TO WIPE OUT THE WESTERN FEDERATION OF MINERS, AND, BY GOD, I WIPED 'EM OUT. “I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU SENTIMENTAL EASTERN FELLOWS THINK ABOUT IT, AND I DON'T CARE. IF I HAD TO DO IT OVER AGAIN I'D DO IT JUST THE SAME WAY, ONLY I'D DO IT A D—D SIGHT QUICKER.”—In interview with Walter Wellman in daily press.

The picture on the other side explains why the Republican and Democratic politicians support the capitalist class against the working class.

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STEADY, COMRADES!

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STEADY, COMRADES!

At your post in the strongest or the weakest point, just as you will, and the Socialist Party has the right to expect that you will make it the strongest point and that no sabre thrust of the enemy will penetrate the armor of the movement where you stand.

STEADY, COMRADES!

We are closing in for the final charge and each comrade must now feel that the outcome depends on him or her, and summons all their latent force and put forth their supreme power to win this day for the working class.

STEADY, COMRADES!

The fateful hour is drawing nigh and all we have and all we hope for, all that we hold dear and sacred and are pledged to with our very lives, is in the balance. Not a day, an hour, nor even a minute must go by unimproved.

Every comrade at his post, every comrade doing duty, every comrade true and loyal, every comrade resolute, unconquerable!

Such an army cannot lose.

STEADY, COMRADES!

Together we are in the trenches; comrades, and together will we scale the heights, triumphant in the cause of labor and humanity. Forward, all, with heads erect and hearts attuned!
FORWARD ALL TO VICTORY!

EUGENE V. DEBS.