Living Issues

by Eugene V. Debs

Unsigned article in Locomotive Firemen’s Magazine, vol. 15, no. 2 (February 1891), pg. 148.

We have before us, as we write, No. 1, Vol. 1, of Living Issues, published in Boston, Mass., with W.D.P. Bliss as editor, 383 Washington Street.

The Living Issues, we take it, is not a Nationalist paper, nor a Single Tax Advocate, nor a Democratic, nor a Republican organ, but the Avant-Courier of a new party — the Farmers’ Alliance Party — and it must be said that Living Issues has a fair prospect of having a good sized party behind it at no distant day. Brother Bliss asks, “Must history repeat itself? Must America have a French Revolution?” and adds, “People are talking of liberty and justice and equality: is anything being done? Nationalists discuss their theories; Single Taxers theirs; the Farmers’ Alliance has its platform; Trades Unionists have theirs — is anything being done? Are we to have a United States of talk? Will talk save us? Living Issues believes that the time has come for reformers to unite, for less of discussion and more of working together, for less of talk and more united political action Living Issues is started to work for the creation of a new political party.”

It will be observed that Bro. Bliss proposes to do some talking himself. He wants a new political party. If he succeeds, the Lord help him to get up one in all regards superior to the assortment we now have on the market. We welcome with great heartiness Living Issues to our sanctum. We shall look for it. There is in its columns, even now, stray food for thought. Brother Bliss hews to the line regardless of where the chips fly or whom they hit. The time has come for rugged journalism and for new issues, and we extend the right hand of fellowship to the new candidate for public favor.