
Socialists Making Unprecedented Gains: Telegram to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (October 1, 1904)

Wallace, Idaho, Oct. 1 [1904].

That the Socialist Party is a factor of increasing importance in the present campaign is becoming more apparent every day. Such meetings as the Socialists are holding are not only unprecedented in third party movements, but the leaders of the old parties have become positively alarmed and find themselves compelled to revise their calculations and put forth the most strenuous efforts to resist the encroachments of the Socialist propaganda.

The rapid rise of socialism is not surprising to the socialists themselves. Since the last national campaign an unceasing propaganda of education has been carried on in every part of the country. Millions of leaflets, tracts, and pamphlets, translated into every language spoken by the working class, have been systematically distributed. A score of socialist papers, aggregating 2 million readers, are now published, while hundreds of speakers, both men and women, are canvassing the country in the interest of the Socialist Party and its candidates.

The accessions this year are accelerated largely by the hostile attitude of the capitalist class toward the trade union movement. The persecution of organized labor in Republican Colorado and anti-boycott law in Democratic Alabama, the uniform decisions of the courts against labor, the use of soldiers to protect capitalist property and crush organized labor, the breaking of the strikes in the packing trades, the textile strikes, and other industrial strikes, the defiant declarations of the Citizens' Alliance and the Manufacturers' Association have all combined to drive workingmen from both the old parties with the determination to build up a party of their own and meet the capitalists on the political battlefield, where they outnumber them a dozen to one. This is one of the principal causes of the exodus to the Socialist Party.

New York is the leading state in the revolutionary movement of the working class. The Empire state this year will poll an enormous increase

and possibly cast as large a vote as was cast in all the United States four years ago.

Other industrial states will follow with corresponding increases. Massachusetts and New Jersey in the East; Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin in the Middle West; and California, Oregon, and Washington on the Pacific coast will make a phenomenal showing, while all other states will develop such an increase over four years ago that the returns will be a revelation to the whole country. As to the pivotal states it is difficult to foretell in what manner or to what extent the results will be affected.

The Republican workingman yields as readily as the Democratic workingman to the logic of socialism. It is a question of economic self-interest, and the working class are driven by the logic of events to independent political action. As capital concentrates labor is forced to organize, and as its efforts fail on the economic field it rallies on the political field, and thus the capitalists themselves are promoting the political organization of the working class for the overthrow of the wage system and the inauguration of cooperative industry as the basis of the coming republic.

In estimating the probable showing of the Socialist Party we do not venture to use figures. We leave this to the leaders of the parties that must figure out in advance the apportionment of the spoils. It is sufficient to say that when the smoke of battle clears from the political battlefield in November the whole world will know that there is a national Socialist Party in the United States.

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