
The Lessons of the 1904 Election: Statement to the Press (November 10, 1904)

Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 10 [1904]

Two distinct and opposing tendencies are revealed in the late election. One is the overwhelming triumph of capitalistic interests; the other is the advent of the working class in national politics, shown by the enormous increase in the Socialist Party's vote. The Democratic Party, as the representative of middle class interests, has been practically eliminated, and no sort of reorganization can save it from disintegration, for the simple reason that the middle class, upon which it is mainly built, is being wiped out of existence.

The trust is doing its work in spite of the hue and cry against it. The next few years will see the climax of trustification, and it is this that will control the new political alignment which will admit no middle class party or halfway policy.

The truth is that it is the fight between capital and labor, which the politicians of the capitalistic parties have in the past been able to obscure and confuse, but the trusts are removing all doubt, and in the near future the control must narrow down to that, and there can be no escape from it.

Senator Hanna foresaw it clearly when, shortly before his death, he said, "The next great political struggle in the United States will be between the Republicans and the Socialists."

The Republicans are chagrined at this great victory. It involves responsibility that they can never meet. They have absolute power to deal with trusts. Thoughtful men know they can do nothing. Trusts defy Republican restriction. They will increase in scope and power until they absorb everything. The beginning of the end has been passed. The transition will be swift.

Industrial depression is almost upon us. Socialism grows amazingly. Within four years it is possible the Socialists will sweep the country. Women are taking an active part in the propaganda. They are in revolt

against the system which damns them. Industrial cooperation must be the basis of the coming republic.

Published under multiple titles in various publications, Nov. 11, 1904 and after. See, for example: "Debs on the Trusts," *Allentown [PA] Morning Call*, vol. 29, no. 112 (Nov. 12, 1904), p. 6.