

"The New Socialism"

By Bertram D. Wolfe

"We will match the 'New Tammany' of Al Smith with the 'New Socialism' of Norman Thomas"—

Louis Waldmen in his nominating speech at the S. P. convention

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They have taken the class struggle out of their application blank. They have hung out the flag of imperialism over the Rand School with the sign "Welcome Delegates." They have hauled down the Red Flag of international solidarity and hung up the Red, White and Blue Flag of Wall Street. What will their May Day be like? I asked myself on May the first.

The answer has come in from many cities. Most of them report: "The socialist party held no May Day meeting here."

I was in Pittsburgh on May the first. I found a sign in the Labor Lyceum: "Yipsel May Day party Sunday night. Program: 'Treasure Island', by Robert Louis Stevenson!" So much for the Young Peoples' Socialist League.

And the socialist party. It "celebrated" with a banquet. After the mass meeting held by our party, per-

battle of the miners against operators evaded by the atmosphere of the grim railroads, government and Lewis, I visited the May Day banquet of the party that has abolished the class struggle.

A handful of old folks—mostly storekeepers—and some young children. The children sang amid remnants of the feast. School songs "Glory Hallelujah." Then a Yiddish

Litany parody—"Karl Marx is Einer; Zwei is Lenin-Trotsky, etc." How Marx, Lenin and Trotsky got in that company, even in parody, is beyond me. Degenerated petty-bourgeoisie philistinism; Class struggle—leave that to the Communists. Red flag—ditto. Such is the S. P. in Pittsburgh. Postponed Because of Rain.

Then there is Milwaukee. In Milwaukee the socialist party is the ad-

ministration. It controls the trade union apparatus. It carries silk-stockings districts and loses proletarian ones. But still—a Mayor, a daily organ, trade union apparatus—surely here we can expect a big May Day demonstration, such as was held in previous years.

The socialist leaders of the Milwaukee labor movement meet. They discuss May Day preparations, "Americanism," the weather. Then they solemnly adopt a resolution declaring (1) that atmospheric conditions are unfavorable for picnics and street demonstrations in this region on the first of May; (2) that the rest of the American labor movement celebrates labor day in September!

Therefore they solemnly resolve that international solidarity is abolished by weather conditions and that class struggle labor day shall be abandoned for class-collaboration, bosses' labor day in September!

In New York the socialist party still had to make a pretense because of the May Day tradition in the needle trades. But Pittsburgh and Milwaukee show the true socialist party of today.

Preacher Thomas instead of fighter Debs. (Debs was unclear but al-

ways a fighter). The flag of Wall Street instead of the flag of the working class. Abolition of the class struggle. Possible bad weather as an excuse for a strikebreaker's attitude toward the demonstration of international solidarity on May Day. Bosses' labor day in place of workers' labor day. Fight the militants in place of fighting capitalism. Wreck the unions. Attack the Soviet Republic so as to make it easier for imperialism to make war upon it. The socialist party has become a stinking corpse. It is time that any working class elements who have a shred of faith in it, should see its true character and join the Workers Party. And it is time that the little businessmen that make up what is left of the socialist party join the Rotary Club. They give better banquets and are more "American." The Sigmans, Schlessingers, Helds, Hillmans, etc. Let them join Matthew Woll in the National Civic Federation. And Norman Thomas who wants peace in the world without a fight for it—without a revolutionary struggle against capitalism. Let him join the Quakers or open a new church of his own. Louis Waldman is right. The "New Tammany" is matched by the "New Socialism."

Led Socialists In Repudiating Class Struggle



These three leaders of the socialist party of America led in the repudiation of the class struggle by the socialist party at its recent nominating convention. In center is Norman Thomas, presidential candidate of the socialists. His running mate, James H. Maurer, is shown at the left. At right is Victor Berger.