## Debs and Hanford, Socialist Standard Bearers!

| The National Socialist convention which convened May 1 at Chicago, and continued in session for six days, adjourning May 6th, marks an epoch in the history of American politics. Nearly every state and territory was represented by a good delegation, and many alternates were also present. <br> The convention had on its floors nearly every nationality in the civilized world, which showed strongly its International scope. Among those who might be mentioned and who are generally and popularly known to the average Soctalist by reading their writings or hearing them lecture were: Eugene V. Debs, Ben Hanford, Simons, Unterman, Richardson, O'Mally, Spargo, Wilkins, Titus, Fathers McGrady and Hagerty, Wilshire, Herron, Mills and Wills of the noted state of Kansas, a number of lady delegates who were,surely able to hold their own the convention floor with any of the men in an intellectual way, and who proved to the assembly that they knew what they were talking about when they did get the floor, and that their yiews were as scientifically grounded and as revolutionary as any of the delegates of the opposite sex. In fact there were some 230 delegates on the floor composed of lawyers, ministers, priests, printers, editors, business men, laborers, engineers, machinests, shoemakers, artists, farmers, etc., etc., without end. A large majority of the convention were American born while about 50 were foreign born. <br> Praise is due the Chicago Socialists who so perfectly arranged all preliminaries to the convention, and also gave numerous banquets and socials for the visiting comrades in the great city. The Germans sure | cap the climax, and especially when about forty of the best German vocalists open a meeting of any kind by singing the Marshalaise. Woodby the colored Socialist from California, who wrote the book "What to do and how to do $\mathrm{it}^{\prime \prime}$ was there and claimed to have been sent to give the convention color. The noted Japanese Socialist speaker, Katayama, now touring this country delivered a short address at the banquet Sunday night the first. <br> From the start of the convention to the cldse, everything of importance brought at least two hundred to their feet with a vociferous call to the chair for recognition. Every question was thrashed out before a vote was taken. Two questions of importance arose-the trades union resolutions and the report of the committee on state and municipal program, to govern, or act as a guide to Socialists, elected on state or municipal tickets. The program was referred to the national committee to boil down and revise, then to be submitted to the membership for a referendum vote. <br> J. H. Walsh of Montana introduced a substitute for the whole lengthy report for the committee on program, and which precipitated a fight that lasted all one day, but which showed conclusively that the convention was quite strong with sentimentalists, while all the western delegates were for the substitute and showed themselves to be revolutionary to the core; also were the old S. L. P., people noticed in this move as they lined up on the vote as well as speeches with the western comrades. The report of the committee was a lengthy document containing numerous contradictions etc., while the sabstitute simply suggested that | in state or municipal elections where Socialists get elected, that they shall be guided in all their legislative acts by this:-Is this law in the interest of the laboring class? If so I am for it, if not I am against it. As stated above this program is supposed to guide amateur Socialists, and on this and the trades union question were the greatest debates. The radicals, as they might be called, desired to leave the trades union question alone, while the intelectuals and sentimentalists desired to throw them a little sop in the way of a pet resolution. This was adopted by a large vote, but another similar resolution submitted just before adjournment by the same committee was tabled. <br> The platform as read was adopted without dissension and will be found on this page in full. Read it carefully and criticise every point, and compare it with the old party platforms. <br> Russia-Japanese War. <br> Whereas, The conflicting commercial interests of the ruling classes in Russia and Japan have induced the governments of those countries to bring about war between the Russian and Japanese nations; and <br> Whereas, The working people of Russia and Japan have no interest in waging this campain of bloody warfare, be it <br> Resolved, That this convention of the Socialist party of America sends greetings of fraternity and solidarity to the working people of Russia and Japan, and condems the Russia-Japanese war as a crime against progress and civilization. And be it further <br> Resolved, That we appeal to the wageworkers of Russia and Japaz to join hands with the International | Socialist movement in its struggle for world-peace. <br> Trades Union Resolutions <br> The trade and labor union movement is a natural result of the capitalist svstem of production and is necessary to resist the encroachments of capitalism. It is a weapon to protect the class of interests of labor under the capitalist system. However, this industrial struggle caa only lessen the exploitation, but it cannot abolish it. The exploitation of labor will only cease when the working class shall own all the means of production and distribution. To achieve this end the working class must consciously become the dominant political power. The organization of the workers will not be complete until they unite on the political as well as the industrial field on the lines of the class struggle. <br> The trade union struggle cannot attain lasting success without the political activity of the Socialist Party. The workers must fortify and permanently secure by their political power what they have wrung from their exploiters in the economic struggle. In accordance with the decisions of the International Socialist Congresses in Brussels, Zurich and London, this convention reaffirms the declarations that the trade and labor unions are a necessity in the struggle to aid in emancipating the working class, and we consider it the duty of all wage workers to join with this movement. <br> Neither political nor other differences of opinion justify the division of the forces of labor in the industrial movement. The interests of of the working class make it imper- | ative that the labor organizations equip their members for the great work of the abolition of wage slavery by educating them in Socialist principles. <br> The nomination of Eugene V. Debs for president by Prof. Herron set the convention wild with joy, and for some time order could not be restored for cheering and confusion. It was evidenced that the laboring class have an undying love for Comrade Debs who served time at Woodstock and will serve time some day in the White House. The nomination of Ben Hanford was heralded with enthusiasm, when presented for vice president, and in a short address for about a half hour, he held the convention's attention very closely. Comrade Deis was heard on the following morning and his address was complimented as being the finest he ever delivered, by many who have known him for a number of years. <br> Debs and Hanford are both powerful speakers, and as well as this they are fearless men who will carry the banner of Socialism wherever the battle rages the fiercest. Three cheers for Debs and Hanford and two million votes. <br> Last Saturdav in the District Court for Silver Bow county, Mont., Judge $\mathrm{W}_{\mathrm{m}}$. Clancy rendered a decision of tremendous importance to organized labor. The case was one in which the dual A. F. of L., bartenders local asked for a permanent injunction against the Silver Bow Trades and Labor Assembly, the American Labor Union and the Western Federation of Miners, prohibiting those organizations from boycotting and parading banners before unfair saloons. Judge Clan- | cy decided for the defendants and held that courts have no right under the state constitution to prohibit free speech, free writing or free publication. The decision is a decided victory for unionism, as it guarantees the right to boycott. <br> Organizer A. W. Foster reports the strike of the Counter Workers at Lynn, Mass., as settled. The strikers did not get all they ask, but they secured an increase in wages and decidedly better conditions than last year. The brothers and sisters who were on strike are sincerely grateful to those local unions that contributed to their support, and enabled them to continue the strike to a successful termination. <br> A man named Snell, a stock broker who went under for the sum of 8165,000 committed suicide by drowning. This kind of a deal happens continually under capitalism while his family stares poverty of starvation in the face. Under Socialism this condition could not arise. Neither the suiciding nor the poverty of the family. <br> The strike of the Coeur d'Alene City, Idaho, lumbermen against the Largey Lumber company is still on. The Montana unions are taking up the matter, and unless the company takes some action looking to a settlement before the 15th inst., there will be some interesting developments. <br> The Socialist state convention to be held in Helena the 6th of June will sound the first real signal of the opening of the coming great campaign. <br> Nothing is to be considered in Russiado, formerly Colorado, but Peabody and God, and God better look out or Peabody may overpower him. |
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3. The National Socialist Party Platform


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otisms which the ruling class of each nation is seeking to revive, is the
power which these give to capitalism to keep the workers of the world
from uniting, and to throw them against each other in the struggles of
contending capitalist interests for the control of the yet unexploited mar-
kets of the wortd, or the remaining sources of profit.

| The Socialist movement owes its birth and growth to that economic elopment or world process which is rapidly separating a working or ducing class from a possessing or capitalist class. The class that proes nothing possesses labor's fruits, and the opportunities and enjoyts these fruits afford, while the class that does the world's real work increasing economic uncertainity, and physical and intellectual misfor its portion. <br> The fact that these two classes have not yet become fully conscious their distinction from each other, the fact that the lines of division and rest may not yet be clearly drawn, does not change the fact of the $s$ conflict. <br> This class struggle is due to the private ownership of the means of ployment, or the tools of production. Wherever and whenever man ed his own land and tools, and by them produced only the things ch he used, economic independence was possible. But production, the making of goods, has long ceased to be individual. The labor of res, or even thousands, enters into almost every article produced. duction is now social or collective. Practically everything is made done by many men-sometimes separated by seas or continentsking together for the same end. But this cooperation in production ot for the direct use of the things made by the workers who make m, but for the profit of the owners of the tools and means of produc; and to this is due the present division of society into two classes; from it have sprung all the miseries, inharmonies and contradictions ur civilization. <br> Between these two classes there can be no possible compromise or atity of interests, any more than there can be peace in the midst of or light in the midst of darkness. A society based upon this class sion carries in itself the seeds of its own destruction. Such a society ounded in fundamental injustice. There can be no possible basis for <br> ial peace, for individual freedom, for mental and moral harmony, exin the conscious and complete triumph of the working class as the $y$ class that has the right or power to be. <br> IV <br> The Socialist program is not a theory imposed upon society for its eptance or rejection. It is but the interpretation of what is, sooner ater, inevitable. Capitalism is already struggling to its destruction. is no longer competent to organize or administer the work of the Id, or even to preserve itself. The captains of industry are appalled heir own inability to control or direct the rapidly socializing forces of ustry. The so-called trust is but a sign and form of the developing alization of the world's work. The universal increase of the uncerty of employment, the universal capitalist determination to break n the unity of labor in the trades unions, the widespread apprehens of impending change, reveal that the institutions of capitalist so$y$ are passing under the power of inhering forces that will soon de$y$ them. <br> Into the midst of the strain and crisis of civilization, the Socialist ement comes as the only saving or conservative force. If the world |
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