

# The Growth of Socialism Gives Editors a Chill

"Mark This Socialist Movement, and Mark It Carefully, Because It is a Force That Cannot Be Ignored"---Must Be "Viewed With Alarm"---"Socialism Will Control in Future"---"How the Secret Agents of Socialism Are Permeating the Old Parties"---"What Shall We Do to Be Saved?"

The sudden and enormous growth in the socialists' vote sent a chill through the editorial rooms of the country.

Men of money also are greatly alarmed lest they find it necessary to cope with this "new force" at an early day.

This widespread alarm is well founded, but the blow these gentlemen so greatly fear can not be avoided by attacking socialism or socialists. The remedy is in the application of democratic reforms honestly applied.

Nothing would so increase the socialists' vote and transform this vote into the strongest force that has ever moved against the entrenched forces of special privilege as for the democratic party to surrender itself to the representatives of plutocracy.

### A COLORADO CHILL

Two years ago the socialists received the following votes in five out of the fifteen instances where they had filed tickets:

California, 28,000; Connecticut, 5,133; Indiana, 13,476; New York, 33,994; Ohio, 33,759; Wisconsin, 28,144.

That vote was recorded in a presidential year when every available convert to the new scheme of political and industrial salvation was brought to the polls.

Last week the socialist vote in those same places reached the following totals:

California, 60,000; Connecticut, 12,000; Indiana, 20,000; New York, 68,000; Ohio, 50,000; Wisconsin, 60,000.

And those figures show that in an "off" year the socialist vote had increased as follows:

California, 31,856; Connecticut, 6,867; Indiana, 6,524; New York, 34,006; Ohio, 16,241; Wisconsin, 31,856.

Which gives a total increase of the socialist vote in those five instances only of 127,350.

And this increase is not accidental. It is the result of regular, methodical work. Socialism is presented to men, not in the guise of periodical "platform pledges," but as a sweeping, economic philosophy, as the solution of every kind of known industrial and political problem. It is a faith; a religion; a working hypothesis of life; a final, curative treatment that does not waste effort on results, but goes straight to first causes. We sneer at it now as orthodoxy once sneered at Christian Science; but Christian Science has silenced ridicule by the evidence of a pungent reality; and socialism seems likely to awaken us from our contemptuous indifference only when it holds the balance of power in congress and its mayors are the chief executives of many of our cities.

And the socialist propaganda is not only working through the machinery of the soap-box orators and well-considered pamphlets; it has its system of what it calls "permeation," and its ingenious agents are working with rare diplomacy in the counsels of both the "old" parties. These "permeation" agents do not call themselves socialists; they make a profession of the ancient political creeds. They instigate municipal undertakings that seem innocent of any collectivist bearing; but they are, nevertheless, an installment of collectivism. They get a "plank" put in this platform of some state democracy; and another "plank" put in that platform of some republican state party; and those "planks" are lauded as sound "reforms" by good party men. They have adopted this system of "permeation" abroad with notable success; they commenced its operation here just prior to Mr. Bryan's declaration in favor of national ownership of the interstate railroads. They are keen men who handle this phase of the movement; educated; alert; subtle; and they are laughing in their sleeves at the easy way in which politicians of the old schools are "falling" for the game. They have established several successful daily newspapers. They have a thoroughly organized system of publicity; they are in business, not before each campaign, but every day of the year; and we should realize that the time has arrived for us to cease from ridicule and to consider carefully the breadth and meaning of this propaganda. We are not crying "Wolf"

where there is no wolf; we are saying, "Mark this socialist movement, and mark it carefully, because it is a force that cannot be ignored."—Denver Times.

### A TEXAS CHILL

The Dallas Times-Herald in summing up the results of the recent elections has the following to say regarding gains made by the socialists: "Socialism is on the boom. Charles Edward Russell, socialistic nominee for governor of New York, polled more than 75,000 votes. In California the heavy socialistic vote defeated the democratic state ticket. Wisconsin socialists elected a congressman, came within 300 votes of electing another, sent thirteen men to the Wisconsin legislature and captured every office in Milwaukee county. Los Angeles socialists voted 10,000 strong. A socialistic candidate for mayor in the city of Minneapolis ran neck and neck with the nominees of the old parties. In Oklahoma the socialists polled a heavy vote and captured one county. In 1912 the socialist nominees for president and vice president will poll more than 1,000,000 votes unless all signs fail. In the coming years it is a party to be reckoned with in the United States."

The Post has repeatedly pointed out that Rockefeller and other beneficiaries of special privilege are backing movements, one of which is the anti-saloon league, which were instituted primarily to divide the people and, by overcoming reason with prejudice and passion, stay the rising tide of intelligent sentiment which these interests foresee will demand the application to the operations of government of those principles of justice and equality which are necessary to restore it to its true functions, and which, courageously applied, would meet the demand for equitable government of that large element of the country's population which, discouraged, is turning to the ignis fatuus of socialism for relief.

The scheme of socialism is so vast in its undertakings, involving as it does a reconstruction of society and a dependence for success upon a degree of perfection in human nature vain to imagine, that we believe the reason of the masses of this country, if left to its free exercise, will continue to regard it as an iridescent dream impossible of fulfillment.—Houston Post.

### A LABOR UNION CHILL

St. Louis, November 16.—Max Hayes of Cleveland, looked upon as the leader of the opposition fight against Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, can see the ultimate domination of socialism in the labor union ranks, controlling every vote, and in a position to dictate to its officers. The time when such a result is obtained, according to Mr. Hayes today, is not far distant.

"You can see its upward trend here," said the socialist leader, as he partially arose in his seat and swept the entire convention with his arm. "A few years ago we had but few members with the workers. In 1900 there was but one or possibly two that dared voice their convictions. Look at us today. We are represented here by eighty-five men—a big vote—and we are represented in congress by Victor L. Berger."—Newspaper dispatch.

### BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

When Mr. Emil Seidel was elected the socialist mayor of Milwaukee the socialist political organization had an opportunity to show what an exponent of its program would do in a responsible place. There had previously been a socialist mayor in Haverhill, Mass., but for the first time the full responsibilities of a municipal government rested with that party.

The socialist mayor and his coadjutors did not kick the table over. There was nothing wild-eyed or destructive of good things in their work. They simply gave square deal government within the law and the constitution. As a manifest result of that trial, the Milwaukee congressional district has elected Mr. Victor Berger, a socialist,

to congress; Milwaukee county has elected socialists to all its offices and given a plurality vote to the socialist candidate for governor of Wisconsin; and the state of Wisconsin has elected twelve socialist assemblymen and one senator to the state legislature.

One may "view this with alarm" or not, as he is temperamentally inclined. One may interpret its significance as he will. But one who is wisely patriotic will seek to understand—really, and without prejudice—what this entry of socialism into the national arena means. And one who is thus wisely patriotic will be willing to let socialism, or any other "ism," prove whether or not it has in it anything of service to the republic. He will do this, confident that if it has merit enough to make its way it will make its way, and if it is fatally defective that, too, will soon enough be demonstrated.—Kansas City Star.

### IN NEW YORK

Senator H. D. Money of Mississippi, in an interview with the Columbia (S. C.) State, says that "all the talk in New York is for Harmon for president and Wilson for vice president." But "New York talk" has picked republican candidates and dictated republican platforms for many years past, and see to what an unhappy plight "New York talk" has brought the republican party.

### NOT THE ONLY ONE

The Sioux City (Ia.) Journal refers to H. G. Davis of West Virginia, as "the same 'Uncle Gassaway' who made the race as Mr. Bryan's running mate in 1900." To undertake to correct all of the Sioux City Journal's errors would be too big a job, but it may be worth the effort to say that "Uncle Gassaway" was the fine old gentleman who ran a good second to Alton B. Parker's first in 1904.

### HENRY GEORGE, JR.

One of the many good pieces of news which gladdened the hearts of democrats on the morning after the election was the announcement that Henry George, Jr., had been elected to congress in New York. Congratulations, and here's a guaranty that he will make an ideal congressman.

### WARNINGS

Numerous democratic newspapers are "praying" that the democratic party, now that it will have some power in the federal government, may be spared from the "mistakes of the past." The Houston Post says that democrats should "talk little, think much and pray without ceasing."

It will not be possible to avoid mistakes and if one gigantic mistake of the "past" be avoided, then any other errors will be trivial. If democrats will avoid the mistake of imagining that victory lies along the pathway mapped out by the predatory interests then their course along the government highway will be comparatively easy.

A mighty danger threatens the democratic party. It is the danger of passing under the control of men who, while posing as democrats, represent the very elements that have dominated the republican party and against which republican insurgents have protested.

Democrats everywhere should "talk and think and pray;" but the talk should be democratic language; the thought should be popular government; the prayer should be for public rather than for special interests.