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# Join the Party

Editorial in *The Socialist* [Columbus, OH], vol. 1, no. 19 (April 29, 1911), pg. 1.

Everyone who is a Socialist ought to join the Socialist Party. Get in and help work. If it is not exactly what you think it ought to be, get in and help make it right; for, through the referendum, the rank and file can make it what they will. It is the only party in American which the rank and file can directly control by means of the referendum. And the more “people of the right sort,” like yourself, who come into the party, the better it will be.

To vote the Socialist ticket does not make you a party member. It is necessary to join the party organization and pay dues.

You may inquire why it is necessary for your to join the Socialist Party and pay dues, when you do not pay dues to any other party. This is the reason. The Socialist Party is conducted in the interest of but one class. It is impossible to expect any other class to be interested in the welfare of your class, therefore, if you desire to better your condition in life you will have to unite with other members of your class in bringing about the desired results.

The people who pay the campaign funds of any other party dictate what that party will do if it wins. Therefore, the workers by paying their own campaign funds dictate the tactics of the Socialist Party. When you pay dues in the party you help pay the campaign funds, and have the same rights as any other member.

You workers who find it impossible to make both ends meet, what are you going to do about it? Are you going to continue to support a system that will continue these deplorable conditions or will you be men and assert your manhood?

Never before has the future looked as bright for the Socialist Party in the United States as it does today.

There does not seem to be anything too big for it to accomplish during the next few years.

When Berkeley, Cal., was swept into the Socialist fold on Saturday, April 1 [1911], and J. Stitt Wilson was made Socialist mayor, the prediction was something unusual would happen at the regular spring elections.

This something did happen on Tuesday, April 4, when the stream of victories from coast to coast stampeded the capitalist press into heralding every near-victory as a defeat.

It's a wonderful situation. Instead of ignoring our occasional victories, as has been the case in the past, they are seeking consolation from our defeats.

We know that our defeats nearly always show a big increase in our vote and is a prophecy of big victories in the near future.

“The dues-paying membership of the Socialist Party at the present time is about 78,000,” is the news that comes from the National Office of the Socialist Party located in Chicago.

“We will start the new year (1912) with 100,000 dues-paying members,” says National Secretary J. Mahlon Barnes.

And the next presidential and congressional campaign comes in the fall of 1912, only a little more than a year away.

The reports come from France say that the dues-paying membership in that country is only 63,358, while they cast a vote of double the Socialist vote in the United States, or about a million and a half.

There will soon be a hundred members of the Socialist Party in the French Chamber of Deputies, corresponding to our House of Representatives.

As a result of the high tide of sentiment toward Socialism in this country at the present time 1,000,000 votes would be the lowest mark that we should set for ourselves in the 1912 presidential campaign.

The organization of the Socialist Party, national, state, and locally, merits a vote of 1,500,000, which is only double the amount that we have at the present time.

A wave of 1,500,000 votes could easily sweep half a dozen or more Socialists into Congress and send a hundred Socialists into many of our legislatures.

The wonder was in this spring election, the first anniversary of the Milwaukee victory, not so much how many cities that we captured, but the large number that we nearly captured, and also the phenomenal votes that we cast in many places with a solid opposition.

**Edited by Tim Davenport.**

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