
The Rising Tide of Socialism

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The Socialist Party is the greatest political organization on the face of the earth today. Indeed it is the greatest political movement of human history.

Nine million men have voted the Socialist ticket in the world already. Thirty million human beings call themselves Socialists.

There are over 600 Socialists in the national parliaments of the world. Even in the United States there is one.

There are 9,400 Socialists in the various City Councils of the world. And these men in the national parliaments, the state legislatures, and the municipal councils are transforming the face of economic history.

But great as the achievements of the Socialist movements are, great as its numerical strength — these are nothing compared to another and more imposing fact, the steady and tremendous growth of the movement.

The Rising Tide of Socialism.

This may be measured in a number of different ways.

1. *The Increasing Vote.* Beginning with 1900, when the Socialist Party of America first had its united existence, the vote has grown steadily, and with remarkable rapidity. The figures are as follows:

1900	96,931
1902	223,494
1904	409,230
1906	331,043
1908	424,483
1910	604,756

The figures for 1910 are partly estimated, official returns from a few of the smaller states not being at hand.

This is certainly a fair beginning for America. but of course the time is rising much more rapidly in foreign countries. The figures of the international movement are as follows:

Germany:

1877	493,000
1887	763,000
1892	1,876,000
1897	2,107,000
1903	3,010,000
1911	3,258,968

France:

1887	none
1887	47,000
1892	440,000
1897	790,000
1903	805,000
1911	1,106,047

Austria:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	none
1897	750,000
1903	780,000
1911	1,041,948

Belgium:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	320,000
1897	457,000
1903	464,000
1911	483,241

United States:

1877	none
1887	2,000
1892	21,000
1897	55,000
1903	223,494
1911	604,756

Great Britain:

1877	none
1887	none
1897	55,000
1893	100,000
1911	373,645

Finland:

1877	none
1887	none
1897	none
1903	321,000

Italy:

1877	none
1887	22,000
1892	26,000
1897	135,000
1903	300,000
1911	338,885

Denmark:

1877	1,000
1887	8,000
1892	20,000
1897	32,000
1903	53,000
1911	98,821

Switzerland:

1877	none
1887	2,000
1892	39,000
1897	40,000
1903	100,000
1911	100,000

Holland:

1877	none
1887	1,500
1892	none
1897	13,000
1903	38,000
1911	82,494

Norway:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	none
1897	7,000
1903	30,000
1911	90,000

Sweden:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	723
1897	none
1903	10,000
1911	75,000

Spain:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	5,000
1897	14,000
1903	29,000
1911	40,000

Bulgaria:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	none
1897	none
1903	none
1911	13,360

Serbia:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	none
1897	none
1903	none
1911	3,056

Argentina:

1877	none
1887	none
1892	none
1897	none
1903	none
1911	5,000

Look at those figures! See them march upward. At that rate of increase it is not hard to see what the future has in store.

2. *The Increase in Party Membership.* The nucleus of the voting strength of Socialism, the inner band of organized and perpetual workers, is the dues paying membership of the party. They are the ones whose energies and sacrifices make possible the publication of Socialist literature and its distribution, the conduct of agitation through public meetings, among the unions, in the factories, workshops, mines, and everywhere.

And the numbers of this actual organized force of the Socialist movement have also been steadily and rapidly growing. The figures for the United States are as follows:

1901	4,320
1902	9,949
1903	15,975
1904	20,763
1905	23,327
1906	26,784
1907	29,270
1908	41,751
1909	41,479
1910	58,011

3. *Development of Socialist Literature.* The great strength of the Socialist movement, its tremendous power of appeal, finds expression in the printed word perhaps more than in any other way.

The growth of the Socialist movement in this respect during the last ten years has been truly wonderful. At the beginning of that period there were only two or three Socialist publications of any strength in the country. To-day there are two great Socialist daily papers in the English language, and six in the foreign languages — making eight daily publications in all. There are

33 English weekly papers and 22 in foreign languages — making in all 55 weekly publications.

One publication alone in this country is said to have the largest circulation of any political publication in the world.

And not the least important in this respect is the increasing effectiveness of the literature that is being published. The books, periodicals, and pamphlets show a most decided improvement over the earlier publications. The literature is more reliable, more comprehensive and constructive, and therefore in every way more effective and convincing. Local publications more and more grapple with local questions and concrete problems, thus sowing that the application of socialism is not only logical and necessary but practical and constructive as well.

4. Socialist Sentiment Outside the Party. Outside of the work of the Socialist Party itself and its tremendous energy in the line of agitation and propaganda, another force is at work.

I refer to the publication of socialistic sentiments and articles in the capitalistic newspapers, and especially the magazines.

Such a series of articles, for example, are Charles Edward Russell' "The Uprising of the Many," which appeared in serial form in *Everybody's Magazine*; "The Greatest Trust in the World," by the same author; "The Shame of the Cities," by Lincoln Steffens; "Frenzied Finance," by Lawson — have had a widespread influence. These articles are a most terrific arraignment of the present capitalistic system. At the same time they show what other cities, states, and nations are doing in the direction of socialistic solutions of these problems. And such publications are read by millions of people who would not otherwise have heard any socialist teaching whatsoever.

A veritable flood of articles of all descriptions in all kinds of magazines and publications on socialism and socialist ideas and progress have followed the socialist victories of this year and last. Most of those are surprisingly fair and cannot but result in a tremendous increase in the general interest awakened in the cause everywhere.

5. Awakening of Organized Labor. In all foreign countries the trades unions and socialist party work together like the two arms of a giant wrestler. They are practically one and the same. In America it has been different until recently. But within the last few years there has been a wonderful change. the increasing cost of living; the ruthless beating down of wages, the arrogant injustice of court decisions affecting labor; and the utter futility of petitioning the legislative bodies, controlled by old party capitalistic politi-

cians, has driven the whole organized labor movement away from its former position of “pure and simple” trades unionism. And right with that experience has come the more positive and clearly defined attitude on the part of the Socialist Party towards the trades unions.

The insistent and unfaltering service rendered the unions by the Socialist Party in every strike and struggle; the telling assistance of the Socialist press; the great mass meetings conducted; the contributions to the unions in their critical struggles, and finally the striking revelations of what a few Socialists in office in city councils and state legislatures can do for the working class — all this has served to open the eyes of the trades unionists to the possibilities of independent political action through the Socialist Party.

The unions everywhere are swinging into line. In Milwaukee and Wisconsin they have been cooperating for years. The United Mine Workers have passed resolutions practically committing themselves to socialism. The trades unions in Los Angeles and up on the Pacific coast generally are beginning to cooperate with the party. In Minneapolis the unions practically took charge of and conducted the last municipal campaign; the Western Federation of Miners, the strongest and most vigorous organization in the West, has stood for socialism for years. Everywhere there is a break away from the old conservatism of “pure and simpleism” and non-political action. And everywhere the tendency to cooperate with the Socialist Party is gaining rapidly. A few years more of work and progress along these lines and the organized labor movement of America will fall in line with that of other countries and become the right arm of the mighty fighting force of the united workers of the world.

6. Socialist Victories. Not the least of the evidence of the rising tide of Socialism is the increasing Socialist victories. Ten years ago our party won its first American victories in Massachusetts. They were sufficient at that time to attract widespread attention. But from that day to this the magnitude and significance of the Socialist victories have steadily increased.

Last spring, the Social Democratic Party of Milwaukee carried the twelfth largest city in America by the largest plurality that any political party had ever carried it in its history. It was the first large city in this country that has been captured by the Socialists. And the victory was so complete that it gave a tremendous impulse to the whole Socialist movement in the country. And those who thought, as many of the capitalistic representatives did, that the high tide of Socialist sentiment had been reached in this victory were doomed to disappointment. For, in the fall following, the same organization

swept the county of Milwaukee by a similar victory, and to all the rest added the achievement of electing the first Socialist Congressman in America.

At this the tide became almost a flood. For in the spring of 1911, Butte, Montana, Berkeley, California, and Flint, Michigan — cities of 25,000 population or more — were carried by the Socialists. And besides those three cities at least 27 other cities and villages elected Socialist mayors. So that there are at least 327 Socialists holding office in America. Among these are one congressman, 17 members of legislatures in four different states, 30 mayors or village heads, and numerous members of city councils.

And besides the actual victories enumerated, the Socialists in many other places came so near to electing their candidates that their defeat was eloquent with promise for the future. For example, in Los Angeles the Socialist Party lacked less than 2,000 votes of carrying the city at the last municipal election and confidently expect to carry it very soon if not at the next election. The same is true of Minneapolis. The increase of the vote in Ohio and Pennsylvania, where a Socialist was elected to the state legislature, has astonished the capitalistic press into extravagant exclamations.

Thus here and there the movement in breaking through. and these victories serve to enormously increase the enthusiasm and inspire the energies of the party.

Sweeping the field of international thought and action today, no greater phenomenon is apparent than this tremendous uprising of the workers of the world. Greater by far and more imposing in foreign lands than it is in America, it nevertheless is great enough here to inspire admiration and wonder.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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