

Donor: Mine Lamb, 1983
EOS #53

THE MILITANT

Published Semi-Monthly by W. J. BELL, Socialist, 110 W. Erwin, Tyler, Tex.

Price: 1 year 25c, 6 months 15c, 3 months 10c.

Application will be made for entry as Second Class Matter.

Volume I.

TYLER, TEXAS, SEPT. 15, 1910.

No. 5.



"An evil reformed is an evil strengthened."—Appeal.

"The advertising bureau of the Milwaukee Socialist administration is doing more work than any other department."

"The present day agitation for restriction of immigration is akin to the riots against the introduction of machinery in the early stage of capitalism."—Marxist in Call.

"The recognition of the class struggle is the very foundation of the Socialist Party. Take that away and you have taken away the very reason of its existence."—H. J. Denman in Call.

Strangely powerful is the effect of environment when a Blatchford upholds war; a Hyndman advocates increase in armament and Pacific coast revolutionists stand for 'exclusion' as scientific.

The Revisionists in Germany are characterized as "No more Social Democrats than the average labor man in England" and the Milwaukee Social Democrats continue to praise the work of the Labor party in England.

"While a Socialist city government in Milwaukee is quibbling with a delinquent corporation over the terms of additional street car franchises, mere labor unions in San Francisco begin the work of municipal ownership."

It should be easily understood why the English Labor Party is so far removed from working class principles and tactics. It is a machine of committees, politicians and leaders, with the selection of candidates resting entirely in committees.

Speaking of the Australian Labor Party, now in control of the government, but temporizing with petty reform measures, the International Review says: "The trouble seems to be: **too much leadership.**... There are at the head of the party a lot of politicians as clever as any in the world. The Labor Party can hardly expect anything worth while for the working class before they have been sent to the rear."

Thus it is in large degree with the American Socialist Party.

"Pursuing its policy of fairness, the Socialist administration suggested a board of **arbitration** to settle the difficulties between the city and John I. Eggs, the Cream City (Milwaukee) street car magnate, who seeks a **new franchise** on a number of streets" Daily Socialist. How does that look to you, uncompromising, class struggle Socialist?

"The poverty here is terrible, much worse than in America * * * There is no possible chance for the workers in England to rise." So writes Luella Twining to the Appeal. Yet England, perhaps has advanced farther than any other nation in the line of petty reforms advocated by the Socialist Party. Why waste effort on reforms, when less effort and expense will bring revolution?

"No labor or any other organization be its principles ever so great and noble, be its ideals ever so lofty, be its history ever so splendid, but is exactly what its **membership** makes it."

"How foolish it is to imagine that any organization can fare well and thrive where the rot of graft, political or otherwise, and **laxity of principles** enters into the spirit of its members."—Miners Magazine.

Comrade Vogt, in the Call, very justly calls down Ernest Unterman, who picks up the earnest and soulful words of Debs, written only for general application, and tries to give them a personal application to himself for the sake of getting up a fight and drawing attention to himself. This pampered pet of pushed party popularity and prominence and pull on party purse has been spoiled by so much prominence until his pride causes him to drag his coat around and dare some one to tread on the tail of it. In a maddened frenzy in the party Congress he rode rough shod over rules, order, chairman and Congress in handing out insults to Tommy Morgan.

Have you read the last National Party Bulletin? Dare say you have not seen one for months. Ask your local secretary for it. He should have one to hand to each member. If he has none, or not enough to go round, see that he writes the National Secretary for them.

"Alderman Foreman has come out with a plan to tunnel under the Illinois Central tracks and in this way make the lake front available to the "cliff dwellers" of the Ghetto and other west side slum districts for bathing. It is amusing how many schemes are proposed to relieve the poor—anything in fact but get off their backs."—Daily Socialist.

And Milwaukee is interesting itself in parks, pavements, houses to rent, wages, franchises and lifting jacks.

Victor Berger says "the franchise of the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company rests on a very flimsy basis indeed. It is clearly unconstitutional." And yet the company is thousands of dollars short of complying with the terms of the franchise. Berger compares the company to a "bloodsucker telescoped in by another bloodsucker, which in turn, is again covered by another bloodsucker and again by another bloodsucker, and all of these bloodsuckers sucking at the same time—and then figure out what idiots the citizens of Milwaukee must be in order to stand for it in the name of "law and order." "

Yet the working class of Milwaukee who have, according to Bergers' figures paid for the properties in fares over and over again every two years, after producing them, instead of taking possession of their own properties in their own interest, are now quibbling with the contract breaking "bloodsuckers" over the terms on which additional material, with less "flimsy" title, shall be furnished them on which to suck.

Another illustration of the superfluity of national executive bodies and the idiocy of their attempts to do something to justify their existence is the election of Geo. H. Goebel, and Lena Morrow Lewis to prepare plans for propaganda among southern negroes.

These two comrades have touched the high places in trips through the south, and are now wiser than the brains of the movement in the south on the negro question, and must now tell us what to do and how to do it. They have seen enough to locate the economic basis of the question, which they could have just as well determined through their knowledge of economics without coming here, but they have no grasp of the depth of the racial prejudice so skillfully and completely implanted in the breasts of the typical southerner as to be a conviction for which he would sacrifice not only all economic interests but life itself in support.

"Mought as well talk of the rights of his mule or his cow, suh, as the rights of the niggah, suh, to a Southern Democrat.

"The dangerous period in the Socialist movement is at that time when we may be able to elect our candidates without an efficient organization behind them with which to control the situation. It is not so much the legislators as it is the power that controls legislation that counts. Of course, the friendly legislator goes a long way in securing proper legislation, but, after all, it's the power behind the legislators, the machine with which to secure demands, that counts.

If I belonged to the capitalist class and desired to continue the capitalist system, I should lend all my efforts toward electing the majority of the Socialist candidates to legislative positions before they had an efficient organization. * * * I know of no cheaper or surer method of consigning to oblivion the Socialist Party movement."—Wm. Sheffler, in C. D. S.

THE MILITANT has no personal grudge to be satisfied against any individual whatever and any personal reference in its columns are there for no purpose but to call attention to the effects of our obsolete form of National organization and point the way out. To do this effectually some personal references are positively necessary.

"No Socialist will vote for either old party candidates. * * * The Socialist Party voters will vote a straight ticket in every instance, * * * and not vote for either of the old party candidates. We are not interested in their fight. As Socialists it makes no difference to us which of them is elected and no Socialist will cast a vote nor raise a hand to benefit one against the other.

All of the candidates and speakers * * * should make it an especial point to see that our position is made clear in this matter and that no Socialist votes or influence is given in any manner whatsoever to either of the old party candidates. Let the Socialists vote a straight ticket * * * and let the Democrats and Republicans fight it out among themselves for their candidates without interference of any kind from the Socialist Party."—Okla. in tri-state.

And yet the Wisconsin delegation in National Congress voted solid to permit Socialists in some instances to vote for old party candidates.

There is no work or matter of business that is of so much consequence to you as your party work. If you do not believe this you have never learned the value of Industrial Democracy as an investment for your money.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

When a writer presents a new book or a bran' new editor or journalist presents a new periodical, it is customary for such writer or editor, by means of an elaborate "Preface" or "Introductory", to apologize for thus inflicting himself upon the reader.

THE MILITANT has no apology to offer for its appearance in Socialist literature, but calls upon those conditions and persons that have created the necessity for its appearance to apologize.

Our party, in its eagerness to gain political control of nation, state and city without delay, has made 'immediate conquest' of government its most important work, using almost all its energy to that end.

Incapacity of the party or its members to administer political control is forgotten in the mad rush for immediate supremacy.

Industrial Democracy contemplates that each individual in society shall work in the branch of industry for which he is specially prepared and that he and his fellows in that particular branch, through their knowledge of such branch of industry and of the fitness of their comrades in such branch, shall elect the most capable comrades for supervision of the work.

Likewise, by their observation of the capacities of comrades as accountants and supervisors of distribution in large districts and in the nation, they are to elect such administrators.

Local economic autonomy is thus proposed. **Political organization and autonomy must conform thereto.**

Militancy in economic organization will be derived from experience in industry.

Militancy in political organization must obtain **before** the capture of government in order to intelligently adapt the political conquest to the needs of economic organization under the incoming democracy.

Any considerable measure of success in gaining political control by a party and membership lacking in **militancy** will be almost fatal to the party.

Increasing our membership and vote is important and necessary, but its importance and necessity sink into insignificance in comparison with the necessity and importance of making **militant** members of them as fast as they come to us.

Our party pretends to teach popular government. It fails to practice it. Lack of **militancy** is the cause. The principle of popular government is correct but the many raw recruits in the party, having but little knowledge

of our principles and how to apply them, create in the minds of a select few, who have long been in control of the party, a distrust against the rank and file, and a feeling that if the party affairs, its principles and declarations were left to the initiative and control of the membership we would depart from our basic principles and disintegrate.

Thus we place ourselves in the ridiculous position of **violating** a principle in the effort to protect the principle violated.

Resulting from our departure from the principles of democracy and local self-government, we have our party bosses, as now broadly acknowledged, with their political machines, their policies, their manipulations, their ownership and control of the press, their censorship and suppression of opposition, their caucuses, their permanent committees that hold private meetings, executive (secret) sessions, their conclaves, congresses, conventions, etc., etc., ad. lib.

The party's expression, whether through delegates or through referendum, and the party's efficiency, through its executives, can not rise above the level of that of the membership, and is likely to be far below its maximum.

The mission of THE MILITANT, as its name suggests, is to make militants of party members and thus prepare the party for the fulfilment of its mission.

It is a scientific axiom that nothing exists or transpires without a cause, and that a removal of the cause will remove the effect.

Upon this basis THE MILITANT will analyze and discuss much that has been done and much that has not been done; much that has transpired and much that has not transpired in party circles, to the end that a **militant** party may be competent to accomplish the transition into Industrial Democracy. This will be undertaken in the simplest every-day language possible to draw from our vocabulary, so as to make it possible of comprehension by a real proletariat.

If you believe that the Socialist party is following correct lines in every particular and is the best that can be made of it you will have no use for THE MILITANT. If you are convinced that it needs great improvement you will want this paper and will do all you can to increase its subscription list.

The price of subs. leaves no possibility of graft. Let us hear from you.

CORRESPONDENCE

A trick of journalism is to invite discussion of vital questions, and publish letters that are opposed to the position of the editor, thereby making it appear that the editor is giving the correspondent an audience equal to his own—then the editor immediately follows in the same issue with his 'say' on the subject, contradicting the correspondent, who has no chance to get back at him until a later issue, with the prospect of the same treatment being repeated.

The advantage of the editor over the correspondent is great enough at best. Correspondence in his column will not be answered by the editor until a later issue, thus giving it a chance to 'SOAK IN' the mind of the reader before being contradicted.

"I have been very much interested in your little paper THE MILITANT, and enclose 25 cents for six months' subscription."—Wm. English Walling, Stamford, Conn. 9-6-10.

"Please send me THE MILITANT for one year. Received the sample copy. If I understand the paper aright it is just what the Socialist Party needs. We must be called down occasionally or we will get to going a little ahead of ourselves."—W. T. Allinger, Hale Center, Tex., Aug. 14-10.

"I received THE MILITANT and like it fine and think its work is for the good of the cause and I will try to speed its circulation for I see that we must have some way to keep the members posted in the party work. Now there has just been a state referendum "C" gone forward over the state, of which you are aware, to abolish the organization of Sen. Dist., although those ballots were not handed out to all locals though those locals are in good standing. But they have no chance to vote as some of them do not so much as know that there is such a motion in existence. Is this true Socialism? It looks to me like old partyism with old desire to graft. Yours for the true emancipation." W. H. Knowlton, Sec. 28th Sen. Dist. S. P. Buffalo Gap, Aug. 21.

"I understand you are publishing a paper. I don't know the price of it, and so I enclose a quarter to pay as long as that amount will cover, beginning with the first issue. I try to take them all. I understand the new paper jumps on the N. E. C.—As one of them I say frankly that I don't like being jumped on, particularly when I am doing my best—but I have learned in the past from criticism, and hope to in the future. It does seem to me sometimes however, that it would be better if the comrades instead of jumping on the officers of the party, might make suggestions as to what they think the officers should do

where the law is doubtful, or new situations arise.

I might say that I agree largely with your letter in the Call in re concentration, altho not quite sure your substitute suggestions could at present be carried out with present resources. It would take a pile of money, and many workers to make one real canvass of any good sized town. And to get results it would have to be repeated many times a year.

Some time, when you have time, I wish you would give me your impression of the Encampments as a method of propaganda, and some particulars as to how they are managed in Texas. It seems almost impossible to get an idea either as to the number of them, or as to the way they are conducted and financed. Fraternaly, Geo. H. Goebel, Newark, N. J., Aug. 8-10.

Is there a referendum before you? Have you voted on it? If not, why not? Did you attend the meeting at which the referendum was brought up. Was there no meeting in time? If not, who is to blame? Find out the reason why and make every move you can to correct it. If any difficulty in the way of holding or attending meetings seems insurmountable tell the MILITANT what it is and we will offer suggestions.

The Texas Program for Social Democratic Conduct in Party Affairs Six Planks.

1—States and counties shall have absolute autonomy or local self-government in their respective internal affairs.

2—Re-apportionment of dues, retaining the bulk of same in the states, apportioning same among counties for local work.

3—The National and National Executive committees to adjourn between campaigns.

4—National and state candidates for political offices to be elected to nomination by rank and file, using the most advanced methods of balloting.

5—All salaried party officers to resign after two consecutive terms.

6—No member receiving financial support from any Socialist periodical or publication shall be eligible for election to party committees or other party offices.