
Statement to the *Watsonville Pajaronian*, September 11, 1908 by Eugene V. Debs

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Eugene V. Debs, Socialist candidate for President of the United States, passed through Pajaro [CA] in the Socialist “Red Special” yesterday afternoon, but fifty or more Socialists who were gathered at the station to greet him were disappointed when told that Debs was resting in his berth after a hard day’s work and could not be greeted by them.

A *Watsonville Pajaronian* reporter, however, was admitted to see him, and to him Debs said:

“The farmers, the men of the soil, have surprised me more than anything else that has occurred. At every rural town between Chicago and here, (what is the name of this place, Pajaro?), well, at every stop between Chicago and Pajaro the crowds that have greeted me were made up mostly of farmers. Some of them drove as far as 25 miles to hear the words of Socialism. They take the Socialist literature and seem eager to throw off the yoke under which they are working.

“The indications are,” continued Mr. Debs, “that the farmers who feed the world are about ready to join the shop and mill workers and distribute the ample product of labor scientifically. This train has shown the sentiment to be changing rapidly and the world is sure to be a more beautiful and happy place in the next few years.”

The “Red Special” consists of two sleeping cars and one baggage car. It carries about one hundred Socialists, including a volunteer Socialist band made up of musicians from 15 different

states. The cars are decorated with red bunting, American flags, and pictures of Debs and Hanford.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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