
Reports of the State Secretaries.

Published in *The Appeal to Reason* [Girard, KS], whole no. 398 (July 18, 1903), pp. 2-5.

How We Move in Alabama.

Socialism in the South — in Dixie? Well, who would have thought such a thing possible? Only two years ago we had two small locals in the state and no agitation. Today there is a good state organization. In 1902 we had nominees for state office and polled 2,312 votes, with absolutely no campaign money, no organization worth mentioning. Today we are claiming and getting the attention of the public to such an extent that the plutocratic dailies are giving us space every time we ask for it. There has been but little said against the cause, sometimes some ridicule, and such arguments as rainbow chasers. The Socialist movement in the South has such peculiar conditions to contend with as probably found in no other section of the country. The race question, for one, and the conservative, reactionary, dominant Democratic Party, for the other. As the negro is practically disfranchised in this state, he cannot help us much, but there are signs that the negro is taking to Socialism when he gets the chance to study it, as he is the most class-conscious “work mule” there is, he will soon become a factor. In this state the Democratic Party has been on top since the war with but little interruption, not because it is the strongest party, but because the voters have mostly stayed at home for various reasons. The Populists, who were quite a factor in politics for a short time, were sold out, like in other places, and do not go to the polls at all. About 45% of all the registered voters stayed at home at the last election. At that time, on the adoption of the new constitution, which was framed almost exclusively by railroad attorneys, or their friends, it was openly admitted and gloried in, that the election in the past went Democratic under any circumstances in order, it was said, to keep the negro from dominating the state. Counting out is an open fact and from what can be learned, it is not a lost art today.

But conditions are changing fast, and the old populist element is coming to the front again, and that old daring spirit of the men who stood for five years in defense of what they thought and believed was right, is asserting itself to such a degree that great strides will be made from now on. Apparently the people are accepting Socialism faster here than they are in the East. The farming element predominates so far, but the industries are growing fast, and are teaching the people what to expect from them, by taking the little white children and working them 12 to 13 hours a day, while the negro goes to school. Audiences accept our lectures in a very respectful manner, though much is an unknown quantity to them. In a very short time, when we have been before the people longer, the comrades in other parts of the country will be surprised at the result of a few dimes expended in organizing this state, and not enough praise can be given to *The Appeal to Reason* for its influence in this work.

We have 20 locals in the state now, and the number is constantly increasing. The comrades are working hard and we expect to take our place in the front ranks at an early date.

F.X. Waldhorst,
State Secretary.

The Arkansas Work.

Socialism in Arkansas today is a pretty lusty youth. Arkansas is a great state of marvelous natural resources, but in the iron grip of capitalism it has become a fertile field for the propaganda of Socialism. The writer began to plan the seeds of industrial liberty in this state seven years ago, and about two years since, it has blossomed into a plant with a local in Little Rock, Ark. But we do not assume the credit, for the condi-

tion always precedes the man; Robespierre did not create the French Revolution, nor Washington the war of Independence. These great events are epochs which mark the evolution of the human race. There will be other Washingtons and Lincolns to lead the people out of the industrial bondage whenever condition creates the occasion to bring them forth. So Arkansas with all its resources became a field for Socialism, because of the economic servitude of the people in other words, the political and industrial conditions of the citizens have developed this noble child of economic thought — and oh, how it does grow! From a small local of eight members in the capital city, to 26 locals over the state at the present day.

We have so many inquiries about this doctrine of human fellowship, Socialism, that I need a stenographer to answer the correspondence of this office. On the 23rd of May we held the first Socialist convention ever held in Arkansas. We perfected our state organization applied for a state charter. Everything seems to be moving smoothly, and if we continue to grow as we have in the past, Socialism will soon become a great factor in Arkansas for the inauguration of the cooperative commonwealth.

E.W. Perrin,
State Secretary and Organizer.

California's Standing.

At the present writing, California has 56 locals, with a dues-paying membership of 1,338. On account of the area and peculiar length of the state, it has been found convenient to divide the territory into two districts for organization purposes. Two organizers are kept constantly in the field. Comrade J.D. Stevens of San Francisco is the state organizer for Northern California and Com. Harry McKee of San Diego is covering Southern California. The dues-paying membership represents a group of active campaigners. Over one thousand men and women are working systematically for the cause from year to year and are making a great impression on the population. California holds the national record for state dues to national headquarters during the past year. Our voting strength averages

about 15,000. Two county offices were captured at the last election.

The state membership is now large enough to sustain the state office permanently, enabling the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to devote their entire time to the work. The movement is sufficiently strong in municipalities to handle the organizers and state speakers from town to town, and thus multiply the strength and efficiency of the state organization and the popular vote indefinitely. Our perpetual campaign is keeping the subject to the front in all the avenues of information and discussion. The idea is permeating the working people who are finding our organization trained for the function of state and municipal administration in their interests, on the high road to the Cooperative Commonwealth. To the comrades of the other states, we send fraternal greetings, and the assurance that the Socialist Party of California will hold the fort, until we close ranks at Washington, and as a nation extend the cooperation of the Socialist Republic of America to our comrades across the sea.

Edger B. Helfenstein,
State Secretary.

The Socialist Movement in Colorado.

The first local of the Socialist Party was organized in Denver by National Organizer [Charles H.] Vail in August 1901, and numbered about twenty persons. From this small beginning it has grown to 54 locals throughout the state, with a dues paying membership of about 1200. In the general election of 1902 we polled a vote of nearly 9,000. A great impetus was given to the work in June 1902 by the action of the American Labor Union and the Western Federation of Miners in their annual convention in Denver, endorsing the party; but the state organization failed to fully utilize the advantages which this action of the labor organization gave it, by internal discord over matters of trivial importance, which resulted in the forming of a new state committee on May 24. At the meeting of this committee broad and liberal plans were adopted with unanimity and enthusiasm, and the comrades throughout the state feel that a new era of progress

has dawned upon the work in Colorado. A series of four monster mass meetings were held in Denver during the conventions of the Western Federation of Miners and the American Labor Union the last week of May and the last week of June — three of them in the Tabor Grand Opera House and one in the Coliseum, the largest auditorium in the city. The principal speakers were Frederick G. Strickland, J. Stitt Wilson, and Walter Thomas Mills. Mr. Mills spoke twice, and his address at the last meeting in the Coliseum was a magnificent climax to the great series. The meetings were held under the auspices of the Denver Local, and the expense (over \$600) was generously shared by the great labor organizations.

The state committee adopted a modification of the Michigan and Ohio plans of organization, and an assessment of 10 cents per member was authorized as a quarterly fund, and a special assessment stamp has been prepared to be affixed to the membership cards. Two Directors of Organizers were elected, Dr. W.F. Farrar of Carbondale and Mrs. F.L. Tebow of Denver, whose work will be to arrange circuits and route the organizers. Charles Olive Jones and Mrs. Ida Crouch Hazlett were elected organizers under the new arrangement and are already in the field. Others will be appointed as fast as the work can be arranged, so that they can be systematically and steadily employed.

J.W. Martin.

From Florida.

The Socialist movement in Florida is in a very fair condition, with every prospect of a strong organization in the future. Florida having been isolated from the rest of the work, we have not made the progress that we would have done had we had funds or been in the track of our party speakers. The tour of Comrade J.C. Chase last winter was the only speaker we have had excepting local talent.

The first local was organized at Orlando, November 18, 1901. The state was organized July 14, 1902. We have steadily grown until we now have 18 locals, and many places asking for speakers.

Comrade C.W. Flanagan of Lakeland, a very

successful strawberry grower and an earnest Socialist, has agreed to make a tour of the state, speaking and organizing locals for his actual expenses for traveling and board. We are making efforts to raise a fund for this purpose, which is being responded to. This tour should result in a large increase both of members and locals.

The movement has developed a number of very enthusiastic workers, who are doing their part in the great work.

We need funds to put the work upon a sound basis. We have every confidence in our cause and expect to develop the party work in this state.

Florida is a state of "magnificent distances" and the railroads have voracious appetites. Our largest expense will be for travelling. We are not sitting down waiting for someone to do this work, but we are going at it as best we can and will no doubt give an account of the state at the next round up.

The great need of the party is the development of the missionary spirit of giving. This in my judgment is the test of a true Socialist. Could we get 10 cents a week from the organized Socialists, every state would be able to start a crusade that would be an eye-opener to plutocracy.

The work of the *Appeal* in collecting funds and sending speakers through the south is appreciated in Florida, as we realize the dense ignorance regarding our principles, in fact of our existence, throughout a large portion of the black belt. The people are willing to investigate Socialism when it is presented to them, and you meet very few who do not realize that "something must be done." They know not what. The importance of this work cannot be estimated though in many places you do not see any immediate results, the distribution of papers, taking subscriptions, and selling of books will open the path and create an interest that will bear fruit. We will gladly welcome the day when the fund will permit one or two men in each state.

W.R. Healey.

The Illinois Comrades.

The present Socialist Party of Illinois dates from the Unity Convention held at Chicago, Sept. 29th,

1901, as a direct result of the National Unity Convention of Indianapolis in July of the same year. Prior to that there were two parties in the field, the Socialist Labor, dating from the middle-'80s, and the Social Democratic Party, dating from 1891. Immediately after this convention preparations were made to carry the work of agitation and organization into the state, which sadly needed attention since but few organizations survived the disastrous war of factions which started with the split in the SLP of 1899.

Little by little the organization was pushed out into the various industrial centers, until today most of the larger cities are in line for the organization. Some of them developed into very active locals, well able to take care of themselves. However, as an actual factor in the field of politics, it is only the groundwork upon which the future party will have to be built.

With the exception of Cook County (Chicago), the first Socialist ticket appeared in 1896, when we polled 985 votes out of a total of 1,086,262 votes in the state. At the next election in 1898 we raised our vote to 4,527, which in 1900 went up to 9,897 for the Socialist ticket headed by Debs and Harriman.

No better demonstration could be had of the value of organization than was shown in the campaign of 1902, which was begun early in the year when an organizer was sent out by the state committee to pioneer through the state. Gradually the few Socialists scattered over the state were got together and where enough of them could be found to form locals were at once attached to the state organization, which enabled the state committee to reach over a larger area than could have been done otherwise. This, together with the agitation caused by the coal strike, gave us the gratifying result of 20,167 votes, or about 2-1/2% of the total vote in the state.

While still a long way off from being able to elect our candidates on the state ticket, in Chicago we broke the ice last spring, when we elected our aldermanic candidate in the 33rd Ward, Comrade William Johnson, who is very likely to be followed by another next year.

In Cook County we have perhaps the best organization of any county in the country. Indeed, 60% of the strength of the state is in the county, where the comrades own and publish a weekly paper, *The Chicago Socialist*, our state organ.

At present there are 42 locals in the state, with 48 branches in Chicago — a total of 90 organizations. During the first half of the present year, the state committee has paid the national organization \$440.00 as dues, using to date 8,600 due stamps. The number of due stamps bought so far this year shows an average paid up membership of 1,433.

It is now the intention of the state committee to organize every county in the state as strongly in proportion as Cook County and with this end in view the services of Comrade John Collins, one of the ablest agitators in the whole movement, were secured. He will put in his whole time now to organize and agitate and with the active financial support of the membership, such as this undertaking well deserves, there is no reason why Illinois should not be at the head of the list of active states in the union.

James S. Smith
State Secretary.

Socialist Movement in Indiana.

The Socialist Party of Indiana is rapidly forging to the front as one of the best states in the union. There are 38 active locals of the party organized and this number will certainly be doubled before winter. In the state elections last year surprising gains were made in various parts of the state, which alarmed the capitalist press, who are unable to account for the desertion of their parties by those whom they have succeeded in deluding for many years. Three large cities, Evansville, Ft. Wayne, and Indianapolis, polled upwards of a thousand votes each and substantial gains were made at other points. The comrades at Evansville assure us that they will send a few workingmen down to the state-house at Indianapolis in the next election for a visit to last as long as the legislature is in session. A plan of agitation for the summer months has been adopted similar to that which prevails in Michigan and indications point to the most active campaign work this summer that has ever been inaugurated. The plan enables the state organization to send speakers to all parts of the state at a cost of \$1.25 for each meeting and applications for enrollment under this plan are coming in by every mail from cities and towns in all parts of the

state. Comrades who have hitherto remained apart from the organized movement are enthusiastic over this plan and are securing pledges from local comrades who agree to take the speakers we will send out under these terms.

The state is ripe for this work and the problem now is not whether we can get enough towns to cooperate in this work but whether we will be able to supply the demands which will be made for our speakers.

Our watchword in this states is 20,000 votes for the Socialist candidate for President in 1904 and we are marshalling our forces with that object in view. Let every Socialist take advantage of the opportunity for summer agitation for we have an unscrupulous foe to meet next year and their fire will be directed against the Socialist Party in every state in the union. The world for the working class is a prize worthy of our best exertions.

Yours Fraternaly,

James Oneal,
State Sec. Socialist Party of Indiana,
16 South Fifth Street, Terre Haute.

Iowa's Work.

While in Chicago last summer I had a talk with one of the well known Socialist writers of that city. He said that because Iowa was an agricultural state that it would be hard to reach, as the farmer is not easily convinced that he is being exploited. This may sound reasonable at first thought, but upon consideration we find that Iowa is not a state filled with "Rubens" and "clod-hoppers," but has within her borders all kinds of people and industries. The farming class in Iowa is an intelligent one, and to say that they cannot see the beauties of the Socialist philosophy when properly presented to them is entirely incorrect. We have in Iowa a great body of coal miners, and this class of workers is the victim of exploitation as much as any in the country. I have visited with them, and know something of their labor and general conditions. They are ready for Socialism and if we had the means, we could soon organize their districts so that we would more than hold the balance of power. The miner is all right

in spite of the fact that much is said against his rough appearance and uncouth manner. I regard him as being many times a diamond in the rough. In the many small cities of Iowa we find the factory in which is the exploited wage-earner. He has a more independent spirit, however, than the factory hand of the large city. He is willing to listen and reason with you, and if we can get to him with our literature and speeches before the next panic comes, we are sure of him and may count on him when it comes to making the final blow for the cooperative commonwealth. Then we have our railroad systems and their large number of wage workers, upon whom the present conditions are pressing. I believe that all round, Iowa furnishes as good a field for the Socialist agitator as any state in the union, and I confidently look forward to a great Socialist vote in this state in the near future.

In 1901 our vote was 3,463 and in 1902 it was 6,360. What it will be this year I will not undertake to say, but will assure the comrades that our percent of increase will compare favorably with that of any other state in the union. To the comrades of Iowa, I send a word of cheer and fraternal greetings, and urge each of you to do your best in the great cause. To the comrades of other states, I will say, "Keep your eyes on Iowa."

W.A. Jacobs,
State Secretary.

(NOTE— *Comrade Jacobs is now State Organizer and J.J. Jacobson of Des Moines is State Secretary.*)

Kentucky's Work.

The progress of the Socialist movement in Kentucky is extremely satisfactory. The movement in this state is barely four years old, and the work until a comparatively recent date has been devoted to perfecting local organizations in the industrial centers, the work outside of these points being carried on almost exclusively by the great propaganda papers of the movement, the *Appeal* taking a very active part.

Thanks to the energy of our press, the work of organizing in new territory bids fair to eclipse our greatest expectation. We find in nearly every community a

movement made to order, as it were.

While Kentucky does not compare so favorably with some of the other states in regard to numbers, the quality of the membership is very high, indeed. In clearness of conception the fundamental principles of International Socialism and untiring energy in spreading the propaganda, the Kentucky boys acknowledge no superiors.

The work of organizing the state outside the industrial centers is just getting under way, but the immediate and unqualified success that has invariably attended our efforts so far justifies the prediction that Kentucky will take her place among the banner states in the movement.

Our chief trouble has been lack of funds to carry on the work we have mapped out. We have been unable, until recently, to place an organizer in the field, and have been compelled to refuse engagements to splendid agitators for the same reason.

At present we have Comrade W.C. Benton touring the western part of the state. He is having great success, and we are in daily receipt of gratifying reports from the places he has visited.

We expect to route Comrade Chase in the near future in trade union centers, where he will undoubtedly do good work.

In addition to this, the locals are securing good street speakers, and there will be street meetings in the larger cities almost every night this summer.

The state committee is preparing to send large quantities of literature over the state during the heated term, to prepare the ground for the fall campaign.

I cannot speak too highly of our prospects. Our efforts are meeting with a response far beyond our expectations.

We have experienced some difficulty in getting names of Socialist in the interior of the state, and if every Socialist in Kentucky who reads this will write to me at once and get in touch with the organization, we will go on the official ballot as a recognized political party at the next election.

We have elected no public officials on the Socialist ticket as yet. We carried the city of West Covington at the last election, but there was no city election, the vote being for congressman only.

Appreciating the grand work you have done for the cause, and earnestly wishing the success of the "Ju-

bilee Edition," I remain

Yours Fraternally,

James M. Dial, Jr.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

The Party in Michigan.

The party organization of Michigan can well be considered in a very healthy condition. One thing should be considered, and that is that Michigan is one of the Republican Party's strongholds. The great mass of wage slaves have been going to the polls election after election, believing that they were voting for the principles of the immortal Lincoln. But the most intelligent of the workers are beginning to see that while their party is in power that the great concentration of wealth is going merrily on. We can compare very well in regard to our labor unions with any state in the nation. The organized workers are beginning to see that where they raise their wages, prices of commodities immediately go up, and that they gain nothing in the long run. They are beginning to look another channel for relief — having failed to find it in either of the old parties. Gradually they are looking into the principles of Socialism, and accepting it as the final test. The state organization has at present 26 locals in its fold, and others are under way. The party polled 6,402 votes at the state election last spring, and Socialists hold a number of township offices throughout the state. On Feb. 17, last, Comrade C.J. Lamb, of Dryden, outlined a plan for a soap box campaign during the warm months, with the result that he has 160 stations for his soap box orators, and a score of able exponents are on his list of speakers. What has been done has taken great work to accomplish; the comrades never tire, and the great work must go on until human beings can live the life that was intended for them. This will be realized with the full noon of the cooperative commonwealth.

John A.C. Menton,
Secretary for Michigan.

Party Progress in Minnesota.

A little over two years ago there were only 4 locals of the Socialist Party in this state, and they were in a very weak condition. Today there are 38, and most of them are very active in the cause. The future promises that the increase will be steady and rapid. The reasons for this remarkable growth are several. The splendid agitation of the *Appeal* has carried the conviction home to many of our most active workers, but knowing it to be too modest to claim to be the first cause of building up the movement, I will pass on to some of the other reasons.

Two years ago Comrade G.H. Lockwood, the Socialist artist-lecturer, came to Minneapolis, and by his unceasing activity and contagious enthusiasm, infused new life into the comrades, and from that time dates the real progress of the work in this state. Through his efforts our lecture van was built, and by this means he was able to carry on a splendid agitation and organize many locals. Much of the good done by Comrade Lockwood, although not evident at the time, is coming to the surface every day. Comrade Carl D. Thompson, who is now making a tour of the state, writes me from Norman County that Comrade Lockwood's work in that locality is in evidence everywhere, and the comrades speak of him in the highest terms. We have seven active locals in that county, and they are soon to have a county organization. Comrade M.A. Brattland of Ada, who is ever active in the cause, and entitled to a great share of the credit for the excellent condition of the movement in that county, has been elected county organizer. It will be interesting to watch the growth of the party in that part of the state.

Comrade Carl D. Thompson has been acting as organizer in this state from March 15th to June 25th, and has met with great success everywhere. This article does not afford the necessary space to enumerate the many letters of praise that have been received commenting on his magnificent oratory and unanswerable logic. The great results of his work are becoming more and more evident every day. The comrades of Minnesota take great pleasure in acknowledging the lasting services that Comrade Thompson has rendered to the cause in this state.

Our lecture van is in the field doing valiant service. It is in charge of Comrades Guy E. Etherton and

George I Martin of Kansas City. Comrade Lockwood demonstrated for us the effective work that can be done by this method of agitation. Its attractive appearance, with phonograph outfit and gasoline lights, cannot fail to attract attention everywhere, and show the people that the Socialist Party of Minnesota is alive to the situation.

Comrade Father Hagerty is to make a few dates in this state very soon, and the agitation will be carried on unceasingly, and by the fall of 1904 we will be in splendid shape for the great campaign that is destined to be a landmark in the industrial revolution.

S.M. Holman,
State Secretary,
11 Oak St. SE, Minneapolis, Minn.

From Old "Mizzouri."

And you want to know what the Socialist Party is doing in Missouri? To begin with I will say that we have not made the progress we should have made considering the fact that we have so large a number of wage workers. However, it is not so much what we have done but what we are now doing and will do as the wheel of time rolls around. I took the office of State Secretary-Treasurer on March 15 of this year and found 20 active dues paying clubs in existence. We had had an unpleasant contest over the matter of the party name, coming from the remnant of the old Socialist Labor Party backed up by the Democratic politicians of the state, which came near losing us a place on the ballot. Other good comrades who had grown restless on account of the slowness of the labor unions to grasp the Socialist ideal were inclined to play to labor union parties and all such as was calculated to confuse our position. Since the time I took the office we have increased the number of clubs in the state to 43. The membership has doubled as well as the number of clubs. I am very anxious that every comrade who feels that he or she can form a club in their neighborhood write me for organizing material. In this way we can increase the number of clubs and prepare for a systematic campaign at as early date as it is possible with a big army of speakers. If we can have fifty speakers on the road next April we can have a party that will

be invincible. This is an easy task if we get all our clubs formed so as to have them before us as precise and orderly as a train dispatcher handles his trains over his division. By this means we can have a speech every two weeks all during the campaign season and I feel that the result will be gratifying beyond our fondest hopes. I feel that the reasonable duty of every Socialist is to make a big sacrifice NOW. Our fight from this on will grow in intensity, but our battle while hard is short. We are much nearer the cooperative commonwealth than some think.

Fraternally,

Caleb Lipscomb,
Secretary-Treasurer

From Montana.

The Socialist outlook in Montana is very bright and encouraging. In the last year we gained about 400%. Our spring municipal election was very gratifying, far above our expectations. The Socialist vote is increasing at a marvelous rate, and we intend to push our propaganda work and elect more representation for the fall of 1904. Our most active members are in Butte, in Silver Bow County, and in Anaconda in Deer Lodge County. In the latter place, last fall, the Socialists elected all their candidates, including four representatives to the legislature, and this spring the municipal elections were indeed an eye-opener to the old party politicians.

Anaconda elected her entire ticket from mayor down, and Butte elected one alderman, and lost balance of ticket by a very small minority. The old parties combined to beat the Socialist, but the comrades made a good fight, and say that they will fix them the next time sure.

One year ago there was only 6 locals in the state; at present we have 30. One of the locals has 315 active members. The conditions in mining centers are making Socialists very fast, and the rural districts are dropping in line as they see that their only interest lies with us. The unions are beginning to see that there is strength only at the ballot box, and as soon as the

unions as a whole cast their vote for Socialism, then, and then only, will they receive and get their just dues. The state has had some of the best speakers in her borders the last year, and people are hungry to hear of the new order of things which we Socialists are striving to bring about. The plan for the next year is organize every precinct in this state.

The state committee has formulated plans for a hot campaign for 1904 and our motto will be "Success." The Socialist press is quite well represented, as we have five or six well-edited Socialist papers in this state.

Some of our best thinkers predict that this state will be one of the first to place the Socialist Party in power. I trust that if this is the case, which we are striving hard to bring about, that our comrades will have received that careful training which will enable them to guide the ship of state among the breakers which will lie thick about its prow in the crisis of its early victories.

Fraternally Yours,

Dr. George A. Willett,
State Secretary,
Helena, Montana.

The Movement in New Jersey.

I think that if the movement in New Jersey differs materially from that in other states, it is because of peculiar difficulties there, and not because of lack of interest or desire for growth. Out of the 21 counties in the state, Hudson is the best organized, has 18 branches and self-sustaining headquarters, a well-drilled corps of speakers and distributors of literature. The holding of branch and outdoor meetings is so regulated and systematized as to fairly entitle it to be called a continuous performance. Next in point of effective effort comes Bergen. The branches are few and far between and numerically small, but they are all workers. The work they have accomplished in the past year is out of all proportion to what could have reasonably been expected of them, and if they keep up this pace, Hudson will have to look to her laurels. Essex has a

county organization and 9 branches. It is the best field for propaganda in the state, figuratively speaking; the soil is rich, but not well tilled, consequently the crops gathered are disappointingly small for so fertile a section. Morris is the most hotly contested section in the whole state. The masters have come to the realization of the need of action, and so they put every obstacle in the way and make it well nigh impossible for converts to our faith to earn their bread. Notwithstanding the awful odds, we have established 3 branches in the county and now have a resident deputy state organizer to give continuous battle and fortify every foothold gained. Atlantic, Sussex, Cumberland, Union, Passaic, Camden, and Mercer each have a county organization and are doing good work. These locals, with their branches, are thoroughly class-conscious, are harmonious and militant.

It will be seen that we have an organization in 11 of the 21 counties. In several of the other counties we have comrades who affiliate as members at large. New Jersey is a battlefield which does not admit of skirmishing, but entails a continuous fight with our entire force. Every foot of the territory must be fought for. While the odds are heavy, we have the inspiration and courage born of the knowledge that every man enrolled is a fighter and is eager for the fray. There will be no need to tell our sister states that we are coming! We'll be found on every contested field in this struggle.

This article would be incomplete without mentioning the women who have come to see that political and economic equality of the sexes can be obtained through Socialism and have become class-conscious and embraced our faith are taking part in our councils and rendering most effective work in other ways.

Fraternally,

H.R. Kearns

Socialist Movement in Ohio.

On June 1st, 1902, the organized Socialist movement in Ohio consisted of 550 members, distributed into 29 locals and 10 branch organizations, located in 28 different counties of a total of 88 counties in the

state. Today the organization has increased its strength until it consists of 1700 members, distributed into 45 locals and 36 branch organizations, located in 42 counties or nearly one-half of the total counties in the state. At the November elections in 1900 a total of 4,659 votes were cast. One year later in the election of 1902, this was increased to 7,359, and in the fall election of 1902 this was again increased to the sum of 14,276.

These figures, both in organization numbers and in the vote, show clearly the progress that has been made in the Buckeye state. Much hard and sacrificing work has been done to gain this position and the work is now being pressed forward with greater vigor than ever before. Owing to the increased numbers in organization we are enabled to carry on the work on a larger scale and it can be said with perfect safety that the ratio in the fall elections of 1903 will be fully up to the standard of the three previous elections.

Never before has the work in Ohio been carried on in such a systematic manner as this season. Experience of the past campaigns has proven beyond a doubt that the regular systematic work in organization and agitation counts for far more than any spasmodic kind. Speakers need to be used with the least possible expense and their efforts must be made before the largest audiences obtainable.

There are 21 Congressional Districts in Ohio. Each district has a member of the state committee. Each one of these districts has one or more organized locals in it so that we have a full state committee who are endeavoring to push the propaganda work in their respective districts to the best possible advantage.

The work for this fall's campaign has already begun in earnest. There are now two speakers in the field touring constantly and the third person will be added within the next few weeks. The next move will then be to place a regular organizer at work who will do nothing but organize the unorganized territory. This will give us at the last calculation three speakers and one organizer working constantly in the state every day of the campaign. This number will be augmented later on towards the close of the campaign by several others who will take the field for tours of from one to three weeks. In addition to this we have constantly at work in the largest cities speakers of local prominence, who are almost daily expounding the Socialist philosophy from the various corners and halls.

Literature is being furnished the speakers for distribution at all meetings and thousands upon thousands of pieces will be sent out from state and local distributing points.

Our ticket will go upon the ballot this year by convention nomination and no petitioning is necessary. The ticket will appear in the third column from the left and will be under the emblem of the "Arm and Torch."

We will have a full state ticket, consisting of eight nominees, the first of which is governor. Comrade Isaac Cowen of Cleveland, the nominee for Governor, is one of the best and widest-known Socialists in the state and is an able representative of the party.

Much work remains to be done in this campaign, as we are just starting to mobilize the forces for this fight. "To arms!" is the cry everywhere now. Comrades are rallying in fine shape and the forces are being put to work as rapidly as possible. The state office is being besieged with letters from the comrades in unorganized places for literature and other pertinent information. All comrades should get to work and should learn how to best work for Socialism.

Comrades! Get busy. Go to work now. If you know how, get at it. Otherwise write the State Secretary and get something to do. Make Socialists of your friends and neighbors. Distribute literature and arrange for meetings for the Socialist speakers who are touring the state. Do something for the cause. The campaign is on and there is work for all willing hands to do. We want Socialism now, not a thousand years later. Let's go after it. Hurrah for Socialism and the Socialist Party.

There are no elected Socialists in Ohio yet.

W.G. Critchlow,
State Secretary.

The Oklahoma Work.

It is an undisputed fact that Oklahoma has developed more rapidly than any preceding territory of the United States. This condition is undeniably due to a combination of causes, notwithstanding the fact that the politicians of the dominant political party claim it is due to the wave of "prosperity" which they

say has been sweeping over the country during recent years. But while broad prairies have been transformed into highly cultivated farms, cities built, and miles of railroad constructed, other potent forces have been insidiously working away until we find, in some counties, about 60% of the homesteads mortgaged. All this has occurred in a brief space of about ten years and with the homesteads GIVEN to the occupants and with good crops for the last seven years, during which time nearly all the mortgages have been made and during the period of boasted "prosperity." If these mortgages were a necessity in so-called "prosperous" times, what plausible reason is there for presuming that they can be liquidated under similar conditions? It is easy to conjecture what the result will be with a series of poor crops, as the one-fifth of the value of his products which the farmer is permitted to retain as his share of the proceeds would not be more than sufficient to defray current expenses.

An organization known as "The Farmers' Co-operative Union of America," which announces its purpose to be the control of the prices of the products of the farm, is now growing rapidly in Oklahoma. To the Socialist, it is a hopeful sign to perceive this tendency of the farmers to awaken to consciousness of their class interests. The rapid growth of such an organization is strong evidence of a general discontent with present conditions on the farm. A large percent of the farmers of Oklahoma will tell you that farming does not "pay" as compared with other lines of business, and that about the only thing of which he is certain is a job for fourteen hours a day at low wages. They realize SOMETHING is wrong and are evidently groping for the remedy.

I feel confident that the majority of the 2,000 Socialist voters in this territory realize that it is the mission of the Socialist Party to educate these producers to a correct understanding of their condition, and to point out to them that the remedy does not lie in trying to create a dominant class of private landholders, but in establishing a system of society in which all useful workers will be equal owners of all the means of production and will receive the full product of their labor instead of only about enough to sustain their families, as at present. With an organizer continually in the field, the party workers ought to see this sentiment crystallized into an army of progressive and in-

dependent thinkers who will advocate what they believe to be to their best interest for 365 days in each year — and on the 365th, VOTE for it.

Fraternally,

W.H. Sweatt,
Territorial Secretary.

How We Move in Oregon.

We have just closed a campaign for the special election of a Congressman in the First District, with Comrade Wilkins, Comrade B.F. Wilson, and our nominee, J.W. Ingle, in the field. I will state that we are thoroughly alive. Comrade Wilkins organized 13 locals and says that if could be kept in the state he could organize a local in every locality where there are three subscribers to the *Appeal*. There were several other locals organized by correspondence. While our vote was not what we would have liked it to have been, we held our own far better than the other two parties.

Some ten years ago I was handed a copy of *Looking Backward*, together with a copy of *The Coming Nation*, then published at Greensburg, Ind., and edited by the present editor of the *Appeal*. I became a Socialist at once and began to talk it out loud. I was laughed at and my cousin told me that I would be in the asylum in a year if I did not change my ways; but I am not, and the beauty of the whole thing is I see many of those who laughed at me working for Socialism as hard as I am now.

Ten years ago I could hardly find a person in the whole township that new a thing of Socialism or ever saw a Socialist paper. Now there is hardly a township from the top of Mt. Hood to the ocean on one side and the boundary line on the other to which the *Appeal* or some other good Socialist paper does not go. They are everywhere. A year ago we cast 5,000 Socialist votes and next year we will cast 10,000.

We will have a convention in the near future, at which we will effect a more perfect organization, and get ready for the skirmish of 1904.

W.S. Richards

Pennsylvania's Outlook.

In no state of the union is there a more fertile field of Socialism than in the Keystone state. Here the trusts, corporations, and corrupt capitalist politicians hold sway. The Socialist Party is the only organized political force arrayed against these powers of greed, corruption, and oppression. Previous to the anthracite coal strike it was almost impossible to convert the workers to join our party. The arrogance of the coal trust, Baer's declaration that he and his class were divinely appointed to take care of the working people, opened the eyes of the wealth producers and they showed their recognition of the class struggle by increasing our votes from 4,861 to 21,910 in the November election of 1903.

The trick of the last legislature in passing the miners' bills at the end of the session, thus allowing the Governor to veto them has confirmed the prediction of the Socialists that the tools of the corporations and business interests would not grant the mine workers any relief. The repudiation of the award of the coal strike commission by the coal trust has also convinced the mine workers that they will not be given justice by any representatives of the class whose god is profit. The indications are that our vote will be increased in the coal region if we can afford to keep our agitators in the field.

A strike of 100,000 textile workers is now on in Philadelphia. They asked for a reduction of the hours of work from 60 to 55. The manufacturers have combined to starve them until they give up the strike. Our speakers are calling attention to what tariff laws have done to enrich the manufacturers and the prospects are good that those thousands of workingmen who voted the old parties' tickets will vote for Socialism this fall.

All we need is money to carry on our propaganda work to put Pennsylvania's vote at the head of all other states.

Franklin H. Slick,
State Secretary.

South Dakota Socialists.

Comrade Debs was the first candidate that the South Dakota comrades had the honor of casting a vote for. They gave him 170 votes and for a time after that the party made very slow progress, on account of the inactivity of the members. Men were timid in expressing themselves, and the doctrine was talked of by a few on the quite. But as time passed, the comrades became bolder and began the spreading of Socialist literature, which resulted in the organization of 3 locals, which were not affiliated with the Socialist Party. Local Sioux Falls was the first to become affiliated with the general movement, and received its charter from the National Committee at St. Louis. This local now has 40 members. Through its influence, Aberdeen, Clark, Madison, and Oneida locals were induced to go into the national party, all of which resulted in a state convention at Aberdeen on Aug. 28, 1902. Here we perfected a state organization, and placed a full ticket in the field, composed of some of the best men in the state. As a result of the straightforwardness of the nominees, our vote was 2,838, which we considered fair for the first roundup. The people of South Dakota are now aware of the existence of a Socialist Party in their midst. In Aberdeen the comrades succeeded in preventing the city lighting from going into the hands of a private company. In Sioux Falls the banner local had the honor of electing the first Socialist to a seat in the city council. It was somewhat of a surprise to the Republicans to see a radical Socialist elected, but they will find that Comrade John O. Johnson will fill the place OK and keep them thinking of what is to come in the near future. We have 15 locals organized in 2 counties. We are coming, Father Abraham. Watch us grow.

W.A. Williams,
Secretary, State Committee.

How We Stand in Texas.

In May 1900, a small advertisement appeared in the Socialist papers then circulating in Texas, requesting all Socialist sympathizers in the state to send their names and addresses to the *Farmer's Review*,

Bonham, Tex., and on July 4th of that year, the first Socialist State Convention was held at Dallas, Tex., and a full state ticket nominated, for which, in round numbers, 1,800 votes were cast at the election held in November. Thus was launched the Socialist movement in the "Lone Star" state. The limited resources of the State Committee forbade the sending of speakers and organizers to but a very small part of the state. Consequently the growth of the movement has been brought about largely through the work of the Socialist press.

I feel safe in saying that had all the votes cast for the Socialist state ticket at the election last November been fairly counted and returned, we would have had at least 7,000 instead of 5,000 votes as returned by the State Canvassing Board. This, too, 28 months after our first appearance in the political arena. With these facts before us, it can be readily seen that the Texan is ripe for conversion, and but to have the principles of Socialism truthfully presented to him, to become its ardent advocate. The class struggle is not so clearly discerned by the proletariat of the South as of the North, because the industrial development here has not advance to the stage it has reached in the other localities, and the all-pervading spirit of class-consciousness to be found among the comrades of the manufacturing centers has not taken hold upon the wage-worker and producer of Dixie, and consequently he is not — even though he is a party member — so enthusiastic as his Northern brother. However, 32 locals have been chartered in Texas, with applications for several more charters. Inquiries concerning organization are being received every day, and the movement bids fair to rival the states where the "logic of events" has forced a more rapid growth. This sentiment, if properly directed, will go far toward raising the 2,000,000 votes for the Socialist ticket in 1904.

E.B. Latham,
State Secretary of Texas.

Socialists in Utah.

The cooperative idea has been strongly advocated and practiced in Utah by the pioneers, as a matter of necessity owing to the barren country and the poverty of the people. And it has been, to a good extent,

preached by the dominant church — the Mormon — of Utah and is found among the published works of that religion. International Socialism though is of later date, and the organization has had its ups and downs common to the initial steps of a great revolutionary movement. The present state organization is a fair way to success, however, and from a vote of 717 in 1900, has swelled to 3,069 in 1902. There are 25 locals with memberships ranging from 6 to 50, and several groups of Socialists in isolated places, with clubs for the study of political economy. It seems that this state is peculiarly fitted for the cooperative commonwealth, and it may be that Utah will make great progress in solving the problem. At present the great obstacle to the growth of International Socialism is the church. But this opposition, together with the increased concentration of capital all around the people of Utah, is awakening their fears and they are beginning to see that the political action along Socialist lines is the only salvation for them as producers of raw materials. Utah needs more propaganda work. I believe that if the people understood the principles of Socialism better that they would elect municipal officers on the Socialist ticket. A good municipal platform was formulated by the annual state convention, and all city elections will be held under the same platform, the state throughout making a uniform stand in municipal matters. A good many Socialist papers circulate in the state and the *Appeal* is making great headway. The people read all literature on the subject readily, but finances are *<illeg.>* and the dues system being but little understood in connection with political propaganda work, has an uphill struggle. But Socialists are generally joining the union of their craft, and the leaven is working. Taking it as a whole Utah will be heard from favorably next fall, and when the great struggle of 1904 rolls around, it is safe to say that Utah will roll up a vote of 10,000 for the Socialist ticket, and if all signs fail not, will be in the ranks of the states making it possible to have a Socialist President in 1908, when we will have the ushering in of the cooperative commonwealth and the brotherhood of man.

E.L. Lund,
State Secretary.

Socialism in Vermont.

When anyone outside of Vermont thinks of this state, it is usually as a pastoral community, and so deeply dyed with Republicanism he would naturally think that a Socialist could not exist here. In the past this has been partially true. But the seed has been sown and needed only the sunlight of truth and the rains of reason to make the cause blossom and bring forth fruit in the form of true Socialism. Although no Socialists have been elected to office in this state, we have cause to be proud of our record, having cast in our first state election nearly 700 votes. And we expect to make the sleek capitalists wince next year.

The 5 locals of the Socialist Party in this state — and before another moon there will be more — are made up of determined men who know what they want, and the way to get it, and they are persuading those of their own class to join hands with them in meeting a common enemy. I wish to say, if you will pardon a personal reference, that it was reading the *Appeal* in 1897 that made me a Socialist, and I have never missed an issue of the paper since then.

The Socialists have cause to rejoice in that they have driven the capitalist class into an organization of self defence, with David M. Parry at its head. I feel sure that the Parry Association, with the strong help of the National Economic League, will make converts for the Socialist Party. But these agencies will not do it all. We want to make a long pull and a strong pull to land our party in 1904, and to that end we must each and all join the party of our own class. The next steps are to “agitate” constantly and distribute Socialist literature. Then live nobly and be a shining example of the principles we advocate.

John Anderson,
Vermont State Secretary.

The Movement in Wisconsin.

“In the multitude of words there wanteth not strife.” The harmony which has generally prevailed among the Wisconsin Social Democrats may be ascribed to the fact that they are workers rather than talkers. The movement has been built upon Socialist

literature instead of Socialist oratory. Whether this is the better basis for a Socialist movement may be determined from the following results:

In 1898 the Social Democratic vote in Milwaukee was 2,700; in 1900 in the spring it was 2,500, in the fall 4,700; in April 1902, 8,400; in November 1902, 11,200. The Social Democratic party in 1898 polled 2,500 votes in the state of Wisconsin — in 1900, 16,000 votes. This steady increase shows a certain stability in the movement, and indicates that it is founded on Socialist principles rather than a mere sudden flash of popular sentiment.

The town elections last April resulted in further gains for our party. Sheboygan now has a Social Democratic mayor, city attorney, treasurer, assessor, and five aldermen; Kenosha, Two Rivers, and Plymouth each one alderman.

There are at present 84 branches of the Social Democratic Party of Wisconsin. The party has three papers, the *Wahrheit* (local Milwaukee edition called *Vorwaerts*), edited by Victor L. Berger, the *Social Democratic Herald*, edited by Frederic Heath and Victor L. Berger, and the *Sheboygan Volksblatt*, edited by Robert Saltiel.

No account of the Wisconsin movement, however brief, would be at all complete without reference

to the admirable conditions which exist, especially in Milwaukee, between the party and the labor unions. The most friendly cooperation prevails between the unions, as economic organization of the workingmen, and the party, as the political organization of labor. The line of limitations between them is carefully observed, and neither entrenches on the province of the other. Thus the Socialist press strengthens the unions, and the great majority of these in Milwaukee stand for the principles of Socialism.

Perhaps in no other large city in the United States has the Socialist movement so well solved this difficult problem as in Milwaukee — the problem of working with and through the unions without dominating them or allowing them to dominate the party.

The result of this happy solution of the question is that Milwaukee may boast of a thoroughly class-conscious movement, in fact of that best possible form of Socialist organization, a party of intelligent workmen.

Such are the principles and tactics adopted by the Social Democrats of Wisconsin. What is their logical consequence has been proved at the polls.

E.H. Thomas

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2005. • Free reproduction permitted.