
Platform and Municipal Program of the Public Ownership (Socialist) Party of Duluth [Minnesota]

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Capitalism.

The capitalistic system of production, under the rule of which we live, is the production of commodities for profit instead of for use for the private gain of those who own and control the tools and means of production and distribution. Out of this system of production and sale for profit spring all monopolies (arising from and following competition) and out of it, naturally, grow an overwhelming percentage of moral evils, and the entire problem of misery, want, and poverty that, as a deadly menace, now confronts civilization.

Socialism.

Socialism is the science of human association reduced to a practical program, based upon a profound study of the social organism. It is an interpretation of the past, a diagnosis of the present, and a forecast of the future. It recognizes that life in society as well as in the organic world, is constantly passing through a process of evolution. It is therefore founded upon an enduring basis of fact, against which the waves of prejudice beat impotently.

It points out the great development of the moral qualities of the individual that will take place under the environment that will be created by its adoption. Its practical program is at once clear, revolutionary in the peaceful sense of the word, and aggressive. It declares that labor is the sole creator of value and that the laborer is entitled to the full social value of the things he produces. It teaches that the only way to attain the just distribution of wealth to those who produce it is through the collective or social ownership, control, and operation of the means of production and distribution, such as lands, mines, facto-

ries, railways, telegraphs, telephones, etc., etc. It asserts that this production should be for use and not for sale or profit, thus doing away with all private monopoly of the means of subsistence, and all forms of graft, corruption, and extortion in every department of society, and with a vast amount of unproductive labor and an immense number of useless and harmful occupations. Socialism would conserve and not abolish the private ownership of wealth as distinguished from capital. Thus homes and their furnishings and all personal belongings not used to produce more wealth would be individually and not collectively owned. The right to work would be universal. No man could be out of a job and thus would poverty and dependence be wholly eliminated. The finest minds in the world are in this movement.

Its sweep is broad enough for city and country, and its principles have universal application. Every man is taken into its brotherhood and the Cooperative Commonwealth is its goal. In order to be understood this philosophy must be carefully studied. If you wish to oppose it, study it. No man has a right to be a Socialist or to criticize it without understanding the subject.

Municipal Platform of the Public Ownership (Socialist) Party.

The Public Ownership (Socialist) Party of Duluth, in convention assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles of International Socialism, and endorses the national platform of the Socialist Party as adopted at Chicago on May 10, 1908.

We point to the impossibility of expecting any fundamentally beneficial results by the mere capture of control in a municipality, yet we nonetheless realize that there are some measures of reform that can prove of partial benefit to the wage workers of a community. We therefore pledge ourselves for our candidates, that they will, if elected to office, advocate and vote for every measure that will have as its object the improvement of the living and working conditions of the workers of the municipality.

We demand the complete enfranchisement of every woman of voting age.

We demand the appointment of municipal inspectors, who are to supervise the conditions in factory, mill, shop, and store.

We deplore the waste of youthful energy which manifests in the employment of child labor everywhere and promise to use our every endeavor to abolish such forms of wage slavery.

We demand the establishment of a municipal hospital and the employment of competent physicians, who are to be paid by the municipality. Service to be free to all persons compelled there to apply.

We demand the opening of the municipal schoolhouses at least two nights of every week, to be used as public forums for the discussion of public questions of import, to which all persons of sober mind and temperament shall be eligible. These meetings to be free of charge to all.

We demand the municipalization of the traction system.

We demand that the public library shall be kept open every day of the week, from 9 am to 10 pm, to enable the working people the opportunity of frequenting it.

We demand free music in the parks and playgrounds for the children.

We demand the direct employment by the municipality for the municipality and the abolition of the contract system.

We demand the opening of the night school in the municipal schoolhouses for those who cannot attend the day schools.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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