

# Are You a Reader of The WEEKLY PEOPLE?

## YOU ARE DEPENDENT

upon the capitalist class for a chance to earn a living as long as you allow that class to retain its autocratic hold on industry. If you would attain

## THE RIGHT TO WORK

you must organize with the rest of the working class on proper lines. What kind of organization is needed, and what tactics should be pursued to end the serf-like conditions in the shops and industrial plants of the United States is pointed out and explained in

## THE WEEKLY PEOPLE

45 ROSE ST., NEW YORK CITY

The Weekly People, being the Party-owned mouthpiece of the Socialist Labor Party of America, aims at industrial democracy through the integral industrial union and revolutionary working class political action. It is a complete Socialist weekly paper, and sells at \$1.50 a year; 6 months, 75c.; 3 months, 40c. A trial subscription of seven weeks may be had for 25 cents. Send for free sample copy.

# Constitution

OF THE

## Socialist

## Labor Party

OF THE

### United States of America



ADOPTED AT THE

### Eleventh National Convention

NEW YORK, JULY, 1904

AMENDED AT THE

### National Conventions

New York, 1908, 1912, & 1916.

THE  
New York Labor News Co.

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Literature Agency

OF THE

Socialist Labor Party



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NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

Management.

Section 1. The affairs of the Party are conducted by the National Executive Committee, the National Secretary, the State Organizations, the Local Organizations, the Sections, the National Conventions, and the General Vote.

ARTICLE II.

Sections.

Section 1. Seven persons, five of whom must be actual wage-workers, may form a Section, provided they acknowledge the Platform, Constitution and Resolutions of the Party and belong to no other political party. But if more than seven propose to organize a Section then at least three-fourths must be actual wage-workers.

Not more than one charter shall be granted in any city or town, except in a city comprising a territory greater than a county, in which case not more than one charter shall be granted to each of such counties. But where a part of a county falls inside a city and a part outside of it a charter may be granted to each of the towns

and cities located in the part of the county not included in such city.

a. They shall report to their National and State Executive Committees their organization as a Section with the names and addresses of the members.

b. Each Section shall send to the National and State Executive Committees a report of its numerical and financial conditions and the names and addresses of members in good standing and otherwise on Dec. 31st of each year.

Section 2. The Section shall be the unit of organization.

Section 3. The order of business of the Section shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes.
2. New members.
3. Correspondence.
4. Financial report.
5. Report of organizer.
6. Report of committees.
7. Party press and literature.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.

Section 4. Every Section shall elect from its members an organizer, and such additional officers as it deems proper. The organizer shall conduct the correspondence with the National and State Executive Committees, and shall send an official report to each of the said committees on December 31st of each year; the organizer shall send at least thirty cents of the monthly dues of each member to the S. E.

C., or in the absence of such, to the N. E. C.; the organizer shall conduct the local organization and agitation.

Sec. 5. Should a protest be entered against the admission to a Section of any applicant for membership, a two-thirds vote of all present at a regular business meeting shall be necessary to admit him.

Sec. 6. Sections shall have jurisdiction over their own members.

Sec. 7. Every Section shall elect a standing Grievance Committee of three members, which shall investigate all charges and difficulties in the Section and report its decision.

Sec. 8. All charges must be made in writing, signed by the individual members preferring same, and charges against members shall not be debated until the Grievance Committee has thoroughly investigated them and reported to the Section. The Grievance Committee shall deliver a copy of the charges to the accused and shall proceed to investigate the case without unreasonable delay, hearing the witnesses of both sides. A detailed report of the investigation and the conclusions of the Committee shall be drawn and laid before one of the next business meetings of the Section, the accused party being notified by the Secretary of the Committee in due time to appear at same. The Section shall then decide the matter and its decision be entered on the minutes. The minutes and all papers concerning the investigation shall

be delivered to the Secretary for safe-keeping. The Secretary shall inform the accused in writing of such decision.

Sec. 9. All decisions of the Section may be appealed from within three months to the State Executive Committee. Decisions of the State Executive Committee may be appealed from within one month to a general vote of the Sections in the state, or to a State Convention, and the decision then reached, and all decisions of the National Executive Committee in individual grievances, where no State Executive Committee exists, shall be final.

Sec. 10. A two-thirds majority of the members, voting upon this question, at any business meeting, shall be sufficient to expel any member or to suspend him for a definite period. Expulsion and suspension shall be reported at once to the State and National Executive Committees, giving cause for action.

Sec. 11. No expelled or suspended member shall be accorded the privileges of a member of the Party unless properly reinstated by the Section or Language Federation that expelled or suspended him, or, if it shall have ceased to exist, by the State Executive Committee or, in the absence of such, by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 12. Members who have withheld payment of their dues for two months, unless they are known to be sick or unemployed, shall be immediately notified in

writing by the Financial Secretary, and at the conclusion of the third month of delinquency shall stand suspended without further action of the Section. At the end of the fifth month another notice shall be sent to the delinquent and at the end of the sixth month, unless paid up, his name shall be stricken from the list of members and the fact so recorded in the minutes.

Sec. 13. Sick or unemployed members will be excused from payment of dues, but the fact must be noted each month upon their cards.

Sec. 14. Each Section shall hold a regular business meeting at least once a month.

Sec. 15. The result of every election within the Section must be communicated at once to the National and the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 16. In case of the dissolution, suspension or expulsion of any Section, all property of the same must be delivered to the State Executive Committee, or, in the absence of such, to the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 17. No Section shall enter into any compromise with any other political party. No candidate of the Party for any public office shall accept any nomination or endorsement from any other political party, nor allow any such nomination or endorsement to stand without public protest, otherwise his nomination must be at once withdrawn and the fact made known through

the Party organs and as much as possible through all other means of publication.

Sec. 18. Members-at-large shall be subject to the supervision of the State Executive Committee in the same manner as a member to a Section.

Sec. 19. No member, committee, or Section of the Party shall support any political publications other than Party organs by donations of money or procuring subscribers for the same.

Sec. 20. Acquaintance with the current affairs of the Party being essential for an intelligent discharge of the duties and responsibilities of Party membership, each Section shall relentlessly insist upon each member being a regular reader of the Party organ, except when none such is published in the language read by the member, and the Section shall order the paper at its own expense, if necessary, for the benefit of the unemployed.

Sec. 21. For a similar reason as in the preceding, it shall be the duty of each Section to acquire as soon as possible an assortment of Party literature dealing with the fundamental principles and the experiences of the Party and to stimulate their careful study by the members either individually or jointly.

### ARTICLE III.

#### Local Organization.

Section 1. When in any city or town a Section is subdivided into branches, it shall

form a City or Town Organization, to be known as the General Committee, and all local business and all dealings with the Party's National and the State Executive Committee shall be carried on by such Committee through the organizer. When the general local government embraces a locality greater or smaller than a town or city the same rule should apply.

Sec. 2. Such Committee shall alone exercise the powers delegated to Sections under Article II as far as concerns the admission, expulsion and suspension of members, and from all decisions of the Committee in such matters appeal may be taken within one month to a general vote of the Section under its jurisdiction. The Committee shall consider no application for admission to membership unless the same has been accepted by a branch under its jurisdiction.

Sec. 3. In a city, town or other locality having a legal organization under laws permitting non-members to elect the same, the General Committee, and in the absence of such the Section, shall prepare a set of rules for the government of such organization, subject to the approval of the National and the State Executive Committees, and all members of the Party who are members of such organization shall strive in every way to secure the adoption of such approved rules by such organization and strive at all times to secure the rejection of any rule in conflict with the same.

Sec. 4. In cities, towns, or other localities where there exists a Section of the Socialist Labor Party and a Section or Sections of any S. L. P. Language Federation there shall be formed a central committee composed of delegates from said Sections whose function it shall be to cooperate for the purpose of furthering the agitation of the S. L. P. in such localities in addition to such agitation which may be carried on by the respective Sections separately.

In case the creation of such central committee is not deemed warranted then arrangements should at least be made for having one or more elected representatives of the Language Branches attend the meeting of the Party Section and report to both the Section and the Branch of the doings of each.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### State Organization.

Section 1. When in any state there are three Sections in three different towns or cities, they shall form a state organization to be known as the State Executive Committee. It shall be the duty of such Committee to conduct systematic agitation within its jurisdiction, form new Sections, and provide the blanks required for the resignation of candidates for public office.

Sec. 2. Every Section connected with such Committee must also be connected with the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The Committee shall send regular annual reports to the N. E. C., giving the state of the organization and also a financial report for the twelve months ending Dec. 31st.

Sec. 4. In a state having a legal state organization under laws permitting non-members of the party to elect the same, the State Executive Committee shall prepare a set of rules for the government of such organization, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee, and all members of the Party who are members of such organization shall strive in every way to secure the adoption of such approved rules by such organization, and strive at all times to secure the rejection of any rule in conflict with the same.

Sec. 5. No State Executive Committee shall have the power to expel, or suspend and reorganize any Section guilty of disloyalty.

#### ARTICLE V.

##### National Executive Committee.

Section 1. The National Executive Committee shall consist of one member from each state organized with a State Committee.

Sec. 2. The members of the National Executive Committee shall be elected by a general vote of the members of the Party in their respective states.

All members of the N. E. C. must be citizens of the United States, but a state

or federation unable to comply with this provision may dispense with the same as far as may be necessary, subject to the approval of the N. E. C.

Sec. 3. Every candidate, before his name is submitted to a general vote, shall sign a pledge to support the Party, its principles, declared resolutions and tactics, such pledge to be filed with the National Secretary.

Sec. 4. The term of office of the members of the National Executive Committee shall be one year.

Sec. 5. Any member of the National Executive Committee shall be removable at will, either:

a. Upon the application of two Sections of his own state, made to their State Executive Committee and ratified by a referendum vote of the membership of the state, or,

b. Upon the application of three State Executive Committees, made to the National Executive Committee and ratified by a referendum vote of the whole membership of the Party.

Sec. 6. The N. E. C. shall meet once a year in regular session, on the first Saturday in May, or in special session upon the written call of at least one-third of its members pledging themselves to attend; said call to be sent to the National Secretary and published in the national organ twice in succession.

Sec. 7. Five members shall constitute

a quorum for the regular sessions of the National Executive Committee. One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum for a special session.

Sec. 8. The sessions, regular and special, of the National Executive Committee shall be held at the national headquarters of the Party.

Sec. 9. No member of the National Executive Committee shall at the same time be a member of a State Executive Committee, or hold any other national office.

Sec. 10. The National Executive Committee shall elect a Sub-Committee for the purpose of carrying on the executive work of the Party during the time intervening between the sessions of the National Executive Committee; said Sub-Committee to act on its behalf in conjunction with the National Secretary and subject to the instructions and control of the National Executive Committee, and the latter shall elect all other local committees and officers at the national headquarters that it may deem necessary.

Sec. 11. The whole or any party of the above mentioned Sub-Committee is at any time subject to recall by a majority vote of the National Executive Committee, adopted while in session or by written communication.

Sec. 12. The Sub-Committee may, at will of the National Executive Committee, be chosen from the membership of the

Sections located within a two hours' ride from the national headquarters.

Sec. 13. The Sub-Committee shall be composed of fifteen members.

Sec. 14. The National Executive Committee has for its duty:

a. To carry out the resolutions of the National Convention and those adopted by a general vote.

b. To supervise the agitation throughout the country.

c. To render final decisions in all appeals made to it where no State Organization exists.

d. To expel, or suspend and reorganize any State Executive Committee or Section guilty of disloyalty.

e. To establish proper relations and communication with the Socialist parties of other countries.

f. To make all necessary preparations for the National Convention, and make a full report to such convention on all Party matters.

g. To audit the books of the National Secretary and all other books of the Party annually, and to issue annually to the membership a report of the Party's finances.

h. To submit propositions to a general vote. A proposition sent from any Section, if endorsed within six weeks by at least five others located in at least three different states, shall be submitted to a general vote; but if in the opinion of the

Committee the proposition is not in the interest of the Party, it shall not be submitted to a general vote unless five per cent. of all the Sections in good standing shall subsequently re-endorse it. The voting to close within nine weeks from the time the proposition was submitted to a general vote.

i. To be represented at the National Convention by the National Secretary, who shall have no vote, but merely an advisory voice, and shall bear no other credentials.

j. To issue application cards bearing a plain exposition of the principles of the Party and the duties required from the applicant.

k. To issue membership cards, including a copy of the Party Constitution, also to provide transfer cards to members moving.

l. To publish in the official Party organ all expulsions and suspensions reported and all its decisions on appeals.

Sec. 15. The Committee may make its own order of business, and may compensate its officers from the Party treasury, according to the labors performed.

Sec. 16. No editor of a Party publication, and no permanent, salaried employe of the Committee, excepting its own officers, shall be a member of the National Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE VI.

### National Secretary.

Section 1. The National Secretary shall



be elected by the National Convention, the election to be specifically approved by a general vote of the whole Party.

Sec. 2. His term of office shall be four years and he shall sign a pledge similar to the one required of the candidates for the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The procedure in removing the National Secretary from office shall be the same as that provided for the removal of a member of the National Executive Committee by Article V, Section 5, clause b.

Sec. 4. In case of vacancy in the office of National Secretary the National Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy temporarily, and at once proceed to nominate two candidates and submit the same to a general vote of the whole Party for the selection of a permanent National Secretary.

Sec. 5. He shall be the Financial Secretary of the Party and shall act as Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He shall not be a member of the National Executive Committee, but shall have an advisory voice in all its proceedings.

## ARTICLE VII.

### National Convention.

Section 1. The National Convention of the Party shall be held every fourth or Presidential election year; but, if five Sections in three different states so demand, a general vote shall be taken as to holding a special convention. A general vote shall decide as to the place, but the date of the

convention shall be fixed by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The state shall be the basis of representation, each state to be entitled to one delegate for every fifty members in the state, on December 31st of the year next preceding, and one additional delegate for a major fraction thereof. Any state having less than fifty members to be entitled to one delegate; a territory to be treated as a state.

Sec. 3. The National Executive Committee shall call for nominations for the place of the convention in January of the convention year, and the State Executive Committee, in transmitting the call to the Sections, shall call for nominations for delegates, the nominations to be submitted to a general vote of the Sections with instructions as to the number of candidates each member has a right to vote for.

Delegates must be members of the state electing them.

Sec. 4. Delegates shall be members in good standing of the Party for one year and citizens of the United States, but a state unable to comply with this provision may dispense with the same as far as may be necessary, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee. Each delegate shall have but one vote.

Sec. 5. The expenses of the delegates shall be borne by the states sending them, but the National Executive Committee shall set aside two cents of the moneys re-

ceived for every dues stamp sold to be used as a mileage fund, each state to be paid from said fund for the railroad fare of its delegates upon the basis of an equal percentage for every delegate attending the convention.

Sec. 6. The National Convention shall frame the National Platform, decide the form of organization, select the seat of the National Executive Committee, and investigate and decide all difficulties within the Party. A majority vote shall be necessary in selecting the seat of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 7. All acts of the National Convention shall be submitted to the Sections for approval by a general vote.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

##### Dues.

Section 1. The Sections shall levy upon each of their members a monthly tax of at least thirty cents, to be paid to the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The dues shall be received for by stamps to be furnished by the National Executive Committee to the State Executive Committee at the rate of at least twenty cents each, and in the absence of such, to the Sections at the rate of thirty cents each.

Sec. 3. Every State Executive Committee or Section shall receive a first quota of stamps on credit, to be measured by the size of the membership; such quota to re-

main a standing indebtedness. All stamps received subsequently must be paid for in cash, and the National Secretary, as well as Secretaries of State Executive Committees, shall not send out any stamps other than in compliance with this rule.

#### ARTICLE IX.

##### The Party Press.

Section 1. The National Executive Committee shall have control of the contents of all Party organs, and shall act on grievances connected with the same.

Sec. 2. The editor of every Official Party Organ shall be elected by the National Convention, the election to be specifically approved by a general vote of the whole Party.

Sec. 3. The procedure in removing the editor of an Official Party Organ, and in case of a vacancy in his position, shall be the same as that provided for the National Secretary, but any such editor who may prove incompetent or disloyal shall be at once suspended by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The election of editors of other publications recognized as Party Organs, but not official, shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee shall demand from the publishers the immediate removal of an editor who may prove incompetent or disloyal, and in case of non-compliance with this demand, the

National Executive Committee shall at once repudiate the publication.

Sec. 5. No member, committee, or Section of the Party shall publish a political paper without the sanction of the National Executive Committee, and then only on condition that all the property of such paper be vested as far as practicable in the National Executive Committee free from any financial or legal liability, the editor of such paper to be subject to the provisions of the preceding section.

#### ARTICLE X.

##### Official Party Organs.

Section 1. The Weekly People (and such daily paper as the Party may at any time publish) shall be the official organ of the Party.

Sec. 2. The management of official Party organs shall be administered by the National Executive Committee, said committee to hold the property of the official Party organs in trust, subject to the Constitution and Resolutions of the Party affecting their management.

#### ARTICLE XI.

##### Miscellaneous.

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by the National Convention or by a general vote. Within five weeks after the issuance of a call for a general vote relative to changing the constitution, except that required for approving the acts

of a National Convention, amendments may be proposed by any Section to any proposition so laid before the Party, and such amendments shall then also be submitted to be voted on together with the original proposition. The result of the vote must be reported fifteen weeks after the first call was issued.

The National Secretary shall forthwith transmit to the Sections a tabulated statement of the vote cast by each Section.

Sec. 2. All officers and committees of a Section, or of state and local organizations, shall be subject to removal by their constituents upon charges duly made and tried.

Sec. 3. No applicant shall be admitted to membership without the presiding officer shall explain the significance of the class struggle to him, and his pledging himself in writing to its recognition and support. A copy of the constitution and platform shall be handed to every new member.

Sec. 4. In subscribing to the platform and constitution, the members take upon themselves the obligation to assist each other to the extent of their ability, in case of need.

Sec. 5. A member in good standing of one Section shall have the right to attend and speak at any meeting of another Section or branch of a Section, but shall not be allowed to vote.

Sec. 6. No person shall participate in

hearing or deciding an appeal who is a party to the proceedings.

Sec. 7. No person who has not been a member for at least one year, and who has not identified himself with the Party by active participation in its work, shall be nominated as a candidate for any public office, nor shall any such person be eligible to any office within the Party except in the case of a new Section and with the specific approval of the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 8. On accepting a nomination of the Party for a public office, the candidate shall at once give the Section in charge a signed resignation, dated blank, of the office for which he is nominated, and shall assent in writing to its being filed with the proper authorities if, in case of election, he proves disloyal to the Party, such resignation and assent, immediately upon execution, to be turned over to the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 9. At all elections and in all voting, unless otherwise provided, a plurality vote is sufficient to decide.

Sec. 10. Sections and local and state organizations may make rules for their action, but such must not conflict with any rules duly provided for their formation and procedure nor with any rules of the state or national organization, all rules of the Sections and local organizations to be approved by their respective State Executive Committees; and all rules of state or-

ganizations to be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 11. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the organization in so far as special rules are not provided.

Sec. 12. The functions of a State Executive Committee under the Constitution and Regulations of the Party shall be exercised by the National Executive Committee where no State Executive Committee exists.

Sec. 13. It is the duty of every State Secretary and Organizer to transmit promptly to their respective Sections and members all official matters and communications sent to them from the National Executive Committee for that purpose.

Sec. 14. If a member is expelled or suspended after being elected delegate to a State or National Convention, such member may be seated in the convention to which he has been elected, if it, upon investigation, so decides.

Sec. 15. No member of the National Executive Committee, nor any other national officer, nor any of their subalterns or appointees shall have power to raise any loan or loans or otherwise incur any liability in the name of the Socialist Labor Party, without first securing the express approval of the membership of the Party by general vote.

Sec. 16. No Party institution shall extend credit to organizations of the Party sending for supplies.

Sec. 17. The N. E. C. shall set aside five cents of the money received for every dues stamp sold (not including stamps sold to Language Federations) to be used as a propaganda leaflet fund. Propaganda leaflets covering various subjects shall be issued by the N. E. C. in the English language and furnished to the English speaking Sections according to the amount paid by each state or Section into the leaflet fund. The N. E. C. may also issue leaflets in foreign languages at its own discretion. S. L. P. organizations shall be required to render monthly reports to the N. E. C. specifying how many propaganda leaflets were received, how many disposed of, and the manner in which they were disposed of.

Sec. 18. The N. E. C. shall also set aside eight cents of the money received for every dues stamps sold (not including stamps sold to Language Federations) for the sole purpose of maintaining at least one organizer in the field continuously.

Sec. 19. All former provisions conflicting with this Constitution are rescinded.

## ARTICLE XII.

### Language Federations.

Non-English speaking language federations nationally organized shall be affiliated with the S. L. P. in the following manner:

Section 1. Each federation shall pay a per capita tax of four cents per member

per month into the national treasury.

Sec. 2. Each federation to be represented on the N. E. C. by one member.

Sec. 3. Each federation shall be represented in the National Convention of the S. L. P. by one delegate for every 50 members or fraction thereof.

Sec. 4. Sections or branches of federations shall be represented on the General Committees of the S. L. P. Sections, provided they pay the regular per capita tax, or by fraternal delegates.

Sec. 5. Branches of federations shall be represented in the State Conventions of the Party, provided they pay the regular per capita tax to the State Executive Committees of the S. L. P. or by fraternal delegates.

Sec. 6. The S. L. P. shall have full jurisdiction over all properties of the federations, as with all other subdivisions of the Party, without responsibility for any indebtedness incurred by the federations.

Sec. 7. Delegates, whether fraternal or otherwise, must be able to express themselves intelligibly in the English language.

Sec. 8. The basis of representation shall exclude those members of a federation who are members of a Party Section.

Sec. 9. Upon questions submitted to general vote of the Party, the members who belong both directly to a Section of the Party and a branch of a language federation, shall vote at meetings of the Section only.

Sec. 10. The constitution and by-laws of the national bodies of language federations shall be subject to approval by the N. E. C. of the Party, and shall contain all fundamental provisions of the National Party Constitution.

### ARTICLE XIII.

#### International Socialist Bureau Representative.

Section 1. The International Socialist Bureau representative shall be elected by the National Convention, the election to be specifically approved by a general vote of the whole Party.

## Socialist Labor Party Platform .

Adopted by the National Convention of the Party, April 30, 1916.

The Socialist Labor Party, in national convention assembled, reaffirming its previous platform declarations, reasserts the right of man to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We hold that the purpose of government is to secure to every citizen the enjoyment of this right; but taught by experience we hold furthermore that such right is illusory to the majority of the people, to wit, the working class, under the present system of economic inequality that is essentially destructive of THEIR life, THEIR liberty, and THEIR happiness.

We hold that the true theory of economics is that the means of production must be owned, operated, and controlled by the people in common. Man can not exercise his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness without the ownership of the land on, and the tool with which to work. Deprived of these, his life, his liberty and his fate fall into the hands of that class which owns these essentials for work and production.

We hold that the existing contradiction between social production and capitalist appropriation—the latter resulting from the private ownership of the natural and social opportunities—divides the people into two classes: the Capitalist Class and

- the Working Class; throws society into the convulsions of the Class Struggle; and perverts government in the interests of the Capitalist Class.

Thus Labor is robbed of the wealth it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessaries of life.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party raises the banner of revolt, and demands the unconditional surrender of the Capitalist Class.

In place of such a system the Socialist Labor Party aims to substitute a system of social ownership of the means of production, industrially administered by the Working Class,—the workers to assume control and direction as well as operation of their industrial affairs.

This solution of necessity requires the organization of the Working Class as a class upon revolutionary political and industrial lines.

We therefore call upon the wage workers to organize themselves into a revolutionary political organization under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party; and to organize themselves likewise upon the industrial field into a revolutionary industrial union in keeping with their political aims.

And we also call upon all other intelligent citizens to place themselves squarely upon the ground of Working Class inter-

ests, and join us in this mighty and noble work of human emancipation, so that we may put summary end to the existing barbarous class conflict by placing the land and all the means of production, transportation, and distribution into the hands of the people as a collective body, and substituting the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder—a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

# SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY

## ORGANS

Weekly People, 45 Rose Street, New York, per year .....\$1.50

Arbetaren, Swedish Weekly, 45 Rose Street, New York, per year ..... 2.00

A Munkas, Hungarian Weekly, 411 E. 83rd St., New York, per year ..... 2.00

Organosis, Greek Semi-monthly, P. O. Box 302, Cincinnati, O., per year 1.00

Rabotnicheska Prosveta, Bulgarian Weekly, Granite City, Ill., per year 1.00

Radnicka Borba, South Slavonian Weekly, 3413 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, O., per year ..... 2.00

He who comes in contact with workingmen reading any of these languages should not fail to call attention to these papers and endeavor to secure subscribers for them. Sample copies will be sent upon request. Address as per addresses given above, and not, as is often the case, to the New York Labor News Co.

Arnold Petersen, National Secretary,  
45 Rose Street, New York, N. Y.

# HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

All persons desiring to attach themselves to the Socialist Labor Party, either by the formation of a local organization known as a "Section," or by joining as members at large, may proceed as follows:

1. Seven persons, five of whom must be actual wage workers, may form a "Section," provided they acknowledge the platform, constitution and resolutions of the Party and belong to no other political party. But if more than seven propose to organize a "Section" then at least three-fourths must be actual wage workers.

2. Isolated persons, unable to find six others to join with them in organizing a "Section," but desiring to become members, may do so by becoming members at large by signing the application card, subscribing thereon to the platform and constitution of the S. L. P., and answering other questions on the application card.

For application blanks to be used in the formation of "Sections" and for application for the use of individual members as well as all other information, apply to the undersigned.

Arnold Petersen, National Secretary,  
45 Rose Street, New York, N. Y.



## PRINCIPLES OF THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

A perfect understanding of Capitalism is necessary to a clear comprehension of Socialism.

Under Capitalism Society is divided into two classes of people, as follows:

A possessing, or Capitalist Class, among the members of which is distributed in unequal shares and various forms the ownership of the whole existing wealth, including land, the machinery of production and the commodities that must be considered in the sustenance of life;

A dispossessed, or Proletarian Class, whose members own nothing but their labor power, which is useless unless it can be exerted upon Nature through the machinery of production.

Since machinery is owned exclusively by the Capitalist Class, each proletarian must sell his labor power to a capitalist or to an association of capitalists in order to obtain the necessaries of life.

Of the wealth produced by his labor power the portion which he receives is called "wages"; the other portion is appropriated by his employer and is called "profit."

Wages naturally depend upon competition among workers, and this competition increases with the displacement of labor by machinery. Each capitalist conducting his own business with a sole view to his own

immediate profit, regardless of the present or future public welfare, no provision is made for the re-employment of the labor displaced.

Not only, then, is the rate of wages steadily falling, but the number of proletarians who must starve in enforced idleness is constantly increasing. In other words, the struggle for existence among the workers becomes more intense as invention supplies the means of greater abundance with less effort.

But while **Progressive Competition** is the law of wages, **Progressive Concentration** is the law of capital.

First, as a tool develops into a machine, the artisan is driven from his shop into the factory of a small capitalist. Then, as the machine develops into a greater machine, the small capitalist is driven out of business by his more powerful competitor; and so on until the greatest capitalists, unable singly to possess themselves of the vast machinery required to carry on industry, unite into Corporations, which in turn unite into Trusts. Concentration in productive industry necessitates a corresponding concentration in the distributive agency, i. e., commerce.

Thus does Individual Capitalism develop into Collective Capitalism, less and less competitive; while Individual Labor develops into Collective Labor, more and more competitive. A point at last is reached where the class struggle culminates; a point where "To be or not to be" is the question for the majority of the people.

The end is in sight. The issue is plain, "The dispossessors must be dispossessed." The instruments of Collective Labor must be owned collectively by the whole people—that is, by the Co-operative Commonwealth; "a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties multiplied by all the factors of modern civilization."

How shall this great social revolution be accomplished?

In any form of Society the economic organism depends for its development and preservation upon its political organ; the organ, which under the name of "government" is simply the public agent of the economic rulers. In capitalism, government is necessarily the right arm of the Capitalist Class; its function is to promote by all means the interests of that class, to promptly obey its commands, and especially to protect at all hazards the very fundamental of the capitalist structure, namely, capitalist ownership of the means of production. Were government the organ of collective labor instead of collective capitalism, the capitalist structure would fall and the Socialist structure would rise. The proletariat must, therefore, constitute itself into a political party of its own class, in order to possess itself of the government, which, adapted to the changed requirements of the modified social organism, will no longer be, as it ever was in the past, a class executioner, but will be transformed into a public executive of the administrative measures adopted by a free people.

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