

The Indianapolis Convention (August 6, 1901)

It is not to find fault, but to commend and approve that I write [about the] socialist convention held at Indianapolis. While I could wish results [differed in] some particulars, in the main the work accomplished by the delegates [meets with my un]qualified approval. The best was done that could have been expected [under the] circumstances, and now it remains for us to ratify the labors of the [convention in] a united and determined effort to make the Socialist Party the socialist party of America.

The general plan of organization adopted by the delegates makes [it possible] for all hands to work in harmony in building the party, and if the [energy] hitherto exerted in factional strife is now employed in the right direction [we shall] soon have a socialist party that will make its influence felt in the pol[itics of the] country and strike terror to the exploiters of the working class.

The convention, while providing for an efficient national organization [with] states and territories free and untrammled in their own jurisdictions, [and each] of them is the master of its own propaganda and can proceed with the [building of their] organization according to its peculiar conditions and tendencies, [provided] only that the fundamental principles of the party are kept inviolate.

The platform as finally adopted is a clear and forceful expression of the principles and purposes of the party. While uncompromisingly socialistic in [each] plank, it is broad enough as a whole for all socialists to stand upon. The [party] is not the less revolutionary because of the “demands” attached to the platform, [as] these clearly explain themselves and furnish a working program that will [bring] many to the party’s standard who otherwise would keep aloof from it.

It is possible to make a platform all “science” and no sense. The one [adopted] at Indianapolis has both. It is the socialist conception of present political and economic conditions and tendencies and is so clearly expressed as to co[m]pel con]viction.

The new name of the party is more suitable than the old, for the present [time] at least, and until socialism has disinfected the term “democrat”

from the foul pestilence of capitalist politics which clings to it like the garment of a leper.

The national headquarters are well located in St. Louis and Leon Greenbaum will make an efficient National Secretary.

For the rest I am entirely satisfied to trust to the logic of events. The [wide] field of socialist activity spreads out before us and there is ample work and opportunity for all.

The enemies of the party relied on the efficacy of falsehood and misinformation to disrupt the convention and defeat unity.

From the opening to the closing day they had the writer [turned down with] the heel of the convention on him to keep him there. All of which is ve[ry] <illeg.>, or would be if it had not been otherwise. The convention had other [business] and transacted it with fidelity and earned the respect and gratitude of its [constitu]ents; and as for the writer, he will “turn up” often enough before he gets [through] to relieve all anxiety on that score.

I feel as if a special word is due our own delegates. They represented the party ably and faithfully from first to last, and contributed in full measure to the success of the convention. In the debates, in the counsels, and on the committees they won honorable distinction, and their work should be ratified [by every] member of the party.

I rejoice that the *Herald* is not only to live but to expand. It was [a bright] light during many dark days, and I feel for it the attachment of an old [comrade]. In Milwaukee it has a future. With Comrades Edwards, Berger, Heath, Thomas, and others in control, it will be heard from as the battle proceeds.

All success to the Socialist Party of America!

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