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Politically Independent

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ARE PLURBLIND

A great many of the people of the United States are purblind in their political ideas. Owing to the fact that they will neither read nor hear anything which differs from their preconceived ideas, they assume that certain conditions, only, are true and, because of this assumption, they become blind partisan adherents. They assume that their party, alone, is right in every particular and that their opposing party or parties are always wrong. This purblindness is the basis upon which all corruption, class legislation, graft, etc., secure a foothold upon our body politic.

Every man who desires to arrive at the truth concerning the conduct of our political affairs, should be willing, aye, anxious, to hear both sides of all political questions discussed. He must not assume that neither party is all right nor all wrong. In fact any political party in order to obtain a respectable standing before the American people, must advocate some principle of merit—something that the people think will add to their welfare. It must do this, if it expects to win the confidence of the people. On the other hand, any political party which has held the balance of power for a number of years, is sure to become corrupt. Why? Because most men who hope to secure personal advantage will, surely, seek alliance with the party in control of the government. They do this, because they have a personal end to accomplish and they can only do so by aligning themselves with the party in power. The Republican party is now suffering from its association with men who have selfish purposes to accomplish. For these reasons, a minority party is, generally, more nearly right upon measures which concern the interests of the masses of the people, than is the majority party. The reason is simple. It wants to secure power and in order to win out, must convince a majority of the people that the principles of government it advocates will more nearly conserve the general welfare of the people, than that of the party in power.

SOCIALIST PLANS IN MILWAUKEE

Victor E. Berger, leading socialist and one of the new aldermen elected in Milwaukee, has given to the Associated Press a statement outlining the principles that will guard the Seidel administration during the next two years. Mr. Berger's statement in full is as follows:

"A detailed review of what the socialist-democratic administration of Milwaukee intends to accomplish during the next two years will be contained in the mayor's inaugural message. I wish only to state the general principles upon which we were elected on April 5. I, of course, will not repeat the platform.

"In the first place, the social-democratic party of Milwaukee is an integral part of the socialist party of America. In Wisconsin we are officially named the 'social-democratic party'—which is the customary international name.

"The socialist party of America is the American expression of the international movement of modern wage workers for better food, better houses, sufficient sleep, more leisure, more education and more culture.

"The founders of the republic declared for political freedom. But we call attention to the fact that since the birth of this nation a revolution in industry has taken place. Formerly hand labor and individual effort produced the necessities of mankind. Today machine labor and social or associated labor are the means of producing those necessities. And while in that former time it was the imperative duty of the government to protect the individual in possession of the property he had produced, so today it is equally the duty of the government to protect associated labor, that is to say, the whole body of working people in the

possession of the products of their toil.

"The present system of social production by individual ownership has produced two classes—the propertyless class and the capital class. The middle class, once the backbone of this great nation, is fast disappearing in the mill of competition and the issue is now between the first two classes. All attempts to obscure this issue or to delay the settlement are futile, for all other issues will be speedily absorbed by it. Thus it develops that the battle for human rights has become a battle to determine which form of government we shall have in the future—plutocracy or democracy.

"Political liberty alone has become inadequate; we must have both political and economic liberty. To secure this is the aim of the social democracy.

"In city affairs, we stand for the public ownership of municipal utilities. We are well aware, however, that Milwaukee does not enjoy self government, and that, as a rule, no steps can be taken in that direction without an appeal to the state legislature at Madison.

"In municipal affairs, the social democracy stands also for a radical change that will bring about means of production into the hands of the people.

It believes in self government for the city, the initiative, the referendum, and the right to recall, in a just and equitable taxation, in efficient sanitary inspection on workshops and houses and in the public control of the food supply in the interests of the public health and in the highest development of a reasonable public service. At the proper time the social democracy will initiate this and other things.

"We call attention to the fact that measures we urge are in no way a complete cure for existing evils, nor are they necessarily socialistic measures. They are to be viewed rather as needed palliatives capable of carrying out even under present conditions. Under no

Occasionally, members of the dominant or ruling party will rebel against the leaders of their party, when they become convinced that the measures advocated by the leaders, are not for the best interests of all the people. Such rebels have, recently, been dubbed "insurgents," and the Republican party of today, is contending with a rapidly growing insurgency which, unless checked, is a sure source of disaster to the party in the near future. Republican leaders would read these insurgent members out of their party, if they dared to do so. But the rumbling from the rank and file of their party, has convinced these leaders, that a majority would follow the lead of the insurgents.

Now as there is but slight difference in the opinions as to how the government should be conducted, in the minds of these insurgent Republicans and progressive Democrats, the wonder is that both factions are not brave enough, to pool their efforts, and both work in harmony for the welfare of the people. Should they do so, they would, almost instantly, become the ruling power of the nation.

The insurgent Republicans want the tariff schedules reduced to an equitable and revenue producing basis; so do the progressive Democrats. The insurgents want all laws repealed which confers special privileges and unfair advantages upon a few people, at the expense of the many; so do the progressive Democrats. Insurgency would curb the trusts, separate the government from Wall street, regulate railway freights, establish postal savings banks, deliver the nation from the clutches of Cannonism and Aldrichism and restore the government to the people, in fact as well as in name; so would the progressive Democrats. In fact, about the only difference between these insurgent Republicans and the progressive Democrats, is the party name and the old lingering party prejudice.

It is not unreasonable to suppose that full one-half of the Republican party endorse the action of these insurgent congressmen. It is, also, true, that fully two-thirds of the Democratic party endorse the actions of the progressive Democratic congressmen. Combine the two under a harmonious leadership, and the combination would be invincible. And the only obstacle to prevent the combination is a purblind partisanship. Why cannot such leaders as Senators Cummings, LaFollette, Beveridge, Bristow and the progressive Democratic members work in harmony for the common good of the people? If their public utterances can be relied upon as conveying their true sentiments and purposes, they all desire, practically the same congressional action in conserving the peoples interests. They would establish themselves as true patriots in the eyes of the American people, could they do so. And the only possible reason to prevent such an union of effort, is party prejudice on the part of the members, themselves, and the fear that such action might alienate some of their constituents at home. But such fears would be groundless. Political party lines have grown to be remarkably lax, of late years, all over the nation. The ranks of the independent voter, have grown with leaps and bounds. A man is no longer ostracized, as he was a score of years ago, if he chooses to vote for a candidate of his opposing party, because he is the better man for the office.

What the American citizen of today demand of government officials, from president down to constable, is a fearless and honest conduct of the office they have entrusted to his care. They demand of congress, the repeal of all laws which favor classes at the expense of the masses and the enactment of only such laws, as will conserve the interests of all the people. If, to accomplish this result, party lines must be broken and party prejudice sacrificed, well and good. Every true and patriotic citizen, regards the welfare of the whole country of greater moment, than the advancement of his party interests, and are, necessarily, insurgents against their party when it is wrong. All political parties, have for their central purpose, an economical and efficient conduct of government. Men differ in their opinions as to which is the better way to reach this end; but all desire the same result. No true citizen should ask for more, nor should he be content with less.

circumstances should the working people rest content with municipal improvements, which are merely temporary in their nature and must be entirely inadequate. They should move onward to the conquest of all public powers, to an entire change for the present system for one which shall secure to the people collectively the means of production and distribution.

"The main spring of corruption in municipal affairs is found in the fact that a few aldermen or officials have in their power to give away or sell franchises to capitalists, who thereby make millions. The temptation thus offered our public officials to secure a share in the millions thus given away is too great for the average man to withstand. If the city should operate its public utilities, the motive and the opportunity for bribery would be gone, even if minor evils and breaches of trust might continue, owing to the corrupting influence of the capitalistic system which makes money getting the sole aim of life.

"The social democracy therefore, objects to more competition in public utilities; more competition means more corruption.

"We stand for the public ownership of public utilities; but until we reach this, we will enforce the utmost extension and possible service from these utilities, as far as the present laws will permit.

"We look upon the contract system also as a danger. It constantly induces contractors to bribe city officials on one hand and to exploit their workmen on the other. Moreover, it is always in the interest of the city that citizens earn decent wages; therefore, instead of contractors, the labor unions ought to be encouraged.

"The city should stand pledged, so far as the charter permits, to employ only union labor, at eight hours a day, and should require that the same of all contractors doing city work.

(Continued on page 5)

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Administrator's Notice

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of Susannah Crabtree, deceased, by the County Court of Linn County, Oregon. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned at his residence at Kingston, Oregon, within six months from this date duly verified as by law required.

Dated this 9th day of April 1910. J. K. WEATHERFORD, P. P. CRABTREE, Attorney for Adm. Administrator.

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