
Mayor Van Lear Joins American Labor Alliance: Repudiates Socialist Anti-War Platform — Speaks on Loyalty with President Gompers

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NEW YORK, July 4 [1918].— Many formerly pacifist Socialists of prominence throughout the nation are lining up behind the government for a victorious war, declared Robert Maisel, Director of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy, here today on his return from the labor convention in St. Paul [June 10-20, 1918].

Particularly is this true of Minneapolis, said Maisel, where the Socialists had succeeded in electing Thomas Van Lear as mayor on the Socialist ticket. Mr. Maisel exhibited a membership blank in the American Alliance filled with the names of Minneapolis loyalists, containing that of Mayor Van Lear and his chief of police.

Mayor Van Lear has thrown his whole weight back of the American Alliance and during the sessions of the American Federation of Labor convention appeared at a mass meeting on the same platform with President Samuel Gompers, urging his hearers to back the United States government in its effort to make German autocracy a negligible quantity on the earth.

“One year ago, when the Alliance held its conference in Minneapolis, Mayor Van Lear refused to take part in the proceedings, insisting on standing on the anti-war platform adopted by the Socialists at St. Louis,” said Mr. Maisel. “Last week he joined the Alliance, thereby repudiating the St. Louis platform; took part in extending a special welcome to the mem-

bers of the labor mission to Great Britain and France, whose report the Socialist delegates to the AF of L convention refused to endorse, and aided in organizing a branch of the Alliance, which now has 2,000 members.”

Director Maisel predicted that within a short time the branches of the Alliance in Milwaukee and Detroit would succeed in overcoming the opposition to the war by various Socialist groups which have been waging pacifistic propaganda in those center.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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