
Is It Practical?

by Carl D. Thompson

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How is Socialism to come? How are you going to bring it about? What is your program?

These are questions constantly in the minds and on the lips of a great many very sincere people. The Socialist movement has now reached a point of development where they may be answered with a considerable degree of exactness and detail. We propose to give them careful and candid consideration.

And, besides, these questions often take the form of sincere and serious objections. It is often held that Socialism may offer a correct analysis of the present social order — that it may be a very beautiful ideal; but it is impractical; it offers no constructive program

Furthermore, the person who prides himself upon being a practical reformer holds that he cannot afford to join the Socialist Party and vote the Socialist ticket, because the Socialists can do nothing to improve conditions now. And, as he thinks that certain “reform” parties, or perhaps some “reform” wing of one of the old parties, is going to bring about certain improvements right away, he prefers to stay a non-Socialist.

It is, therefore, of vital importance to make it clear and positive that the Socialist movement does have a constructive program; that it does have a very definite and detailed program of procedure, which its representative follow consistently when elected to office. It is important to have it clearly understood that, while Socialism has a final goal, of which it never loses sight in the struggle for immediate and temporary gains, it does not, therefore, fail to fight stubbornly, as we shall show, and at

times very effectively, for every measure that would improve the immediate conditions of the common people.

No one need be afraid of the bugaboo of “throwing away your vote.” Every vote for Socialism has its effect for good at once.

In more ways than one it is true that it is better to vote for what you really want and not get it just yet than to vote for what you don't want and get it immediately.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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