
The Michigan Convention

by W.E. Reynolds

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The Socialist Party of Michigan held its convention in Grand Rapids February 24th [1919], with 51 delegates present.

State Secretary Bloomenberg resigned. John Keracher of Detroit was elected at the convention to serve the unexpired term of the former Secretary, or until such time as the locals can elect a new State Secretary.

The convention was a harmonious gathering of boosters, the utopian element being either absent or without spokesmen.

Convention repudiated the National Office delegates to the Lausanne International.

A constitutional amendment was proposed to be sent to referendum calling for the abolition of all social reform planks in the Socialist Party platform.

A platform was adopted without any immediate demands and calling for the abolition of the wages system. As first drafted it called for the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat but when it was pointed out on the floor of the convention that the dictatorship of the proletariat was a transitory measure and not an ultimate end the wording was changed to mean the overthrow

of Capitalism and the establishment of an Industrial Republic.

A resolution on religion was adopted to the effect that religion was a social phenomena and as such required explanation, and all agitators and speakers were called upon to avail themselves of the opportunity to make such explanation "on the basis of the materialist conception of history."

A resolution endorsing the study class idea was unanimously adopted. The work of the Proletarian University of Detroit endorsed and all locals and individuals were urged to work for circulation for *The Proletarian*, *Ohio Socialist*, *Revolutionary Age*.

The convention adopted a part of the Left Wing program in its centering the attention of the abolition of capitalism instead of working for petty reform — but it did not adopt the Left Wing program of urging economic organization amongst the workers.

The ladies of Local Grand Rapids served an exceptionally well prepared banquet which was enjoyed by all during the noon recess.

Convention finished its labors and adjourned at 6 o'clock.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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