

SOCIALISM

AIM METHODS AND TACTICS
AS APPLIED TO TWENTI-
ETH CENTURY CONDITIONS

BY T. J. HOLMES



*"Socialism is nothing if not
scientific."—Daniel De Leon.*

PRICE FIVE CENTS

PUBLISHED 1915 BY THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY
45 ROSE STREET, NEW YORK CITY

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YOU ARE DEPENDENT

upon the capitalist class for a chance to earn a living as long as you allow that class to retain its autocratic hold on industry. If you would attain

THE RIGHT TO WORK

you must organize with the rest of the working class on proper lines. What kind of organization is needed, and what tactics should be pursued to end the serf-like conditions in the shops and industrial plants of the United States is pointed out and explained in

THE WEEKLY PEOPLE

45 ROSE STREET

NEW YORK CITY

The Weekly People, being the Party-owned mouthpiece of the Socialist Labor Party of America, aims at industrial democracy through the integral industrial union and revolutionary working class political action. It is a complete Socialist weekly paper, and sells at \$1.00 a year, 50 cents for six months, 25 cents for three months. A trial subscription of seven weeks may be had for 15 cents. Send for a free sample copy.

SOCIALISM

BY T. J. HOLMES.

[The subject-matter of this pamphlet was first presented in a lecture entitled, "What Do the Socialists Want to Do?" and was delivered by T. J. Holmes before Section Cleveland, Socialist Labor Party, on April 4, 1915.]

It is well for the adherents of a movement which has set for itself such a herculean task as that which the Socialist Movement has set for itself, to pause once in a while, and after looking over the ground and prospect of their activities, to state, to re-state their position, so to clarify their vision as their object and goal draws nearer.

The history of the development of Socialism from the first glimmerings in the early Utopias up to its present day scientific position has seen many such re-statements. "Time makes ancient good uncouth," says Lowell. Re-statements are helpful in so far as they make *clearer* to the understanding the old object; the same old object that even the dreamers of the old Utopias had in mind,—the establishment of an industrial co-operative commonwealth.

The re-statements that do *not* make clearer to the mind and make more possible the realization of the Industrial Republic are not helpful to the movement, but rather a danger and a menace.

Purpose of Lecture.

To anticipate objections and criticisms on this point I will say that it is *not* my purpose in the present re-statement to "revise" the Socialist tactics or objective. We have seen the usual result of "revisionism" throughout the Socialist movement has been, to lose sight of the Socialist *objective*; to substitute in the propaganda something allegedly more easily

obtainable; something thought to be more "practical." They have trimmed the "impossibilist" so as to make him possible. They have revised the objective of the movement till the Socialist Republic has become a meaningless empty sound to most adherents of the so-called Socialist parties throughout the world.

The Socialist parties themselves have in some countries become mere reform or "opposition" parties. The "Socialist Party of America" is not a Socialist party. The Social Democracy of Germany—that classic ground of Socialism—has lately shown that in spite of the great increase of its numbers in recent years it has lost, as a whole, to put it mildly, much of its old grasp and perception of Socialist principles. England has seen more varieties of Socialism than there are varieties of garden fence cats. In fact, Socialism has suffered revision to such extent that in almost all countries where the movement exists there are "good government" parties, "municipal milk" parties, "old ladies' home sewing parties," so to speak, all calling themselves "Socialist."

This much to show that it is not any purpose to try to "revise" the Socialist program. It is this "revision" thing that we have had altogether too much of. I desire merely to try to get right at, and to summarize, the Socialist position from the impressions that years of sympathy and contact with the movement have given me. I expect to re-state the old, the recognized, the orthodox, and to say nothing new. However, the imperfections of this presentation of the Socialist position must be laid to myself and not to the movement, or the party.

False Accusations Against Socialists.

In setting forth what the Socialists are trying to do, it would not be amiss to clear away a little fog by naming a few things that they are *not* trying to do;—some of which things our friends the enemy in their terror of, or admiration for, our activities and great ambitions have falsely credited us with doing.

In the first place, we are not trying to destroy the family. We have noted, however, that the family is not of divine origin, as the enemy were accustomed a while ago hypocritically to claim. We have looked over the history of the institution and have found that the family had its origin in property considerations. Nevertheless, we are entirely satisfied with the family

