
Platform of the Social Democratic Workingmen's Party of North America [in effect 1876]

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A.

The Social Democratic Workingmen's Party seeks to establish a free state founded upon labor.

B.

Each member of the party promises to uphold to the best of his ability the following principles:

1. Abolishment of the unjust present political and social conditions.
2. Discontinuance of all class rule and class privileges.
3. Abolition of the workingmen's dependence upon the capitalist by the introduction of cooperative labor in place of the wages system, so that every laborer will get the full value of his work.
4. Obtaining possession of political power as the prerequisite for the solution of the labor question.
5. United struggle, united organization of all workingmen, and strict subordination of the individual under the laws framed for the general benefit.
6. Sympathy with the workingmen of all countries, who strive to attain the same object.

C.

We furthermore demand:

1. a) All public officers to be elected by a direct vote of the people.
- b) Every inhabitant over 20 years of age shall be entitled to suffrage.
- c) Introduction of the one-house representative system.

d) All enactments shall be laid before the people for ratification or rejection.

2. Improvement of our present judicial system and introduction of free administration of justice.
3. Abolition of conspiracy laws in all the states.
4. Abolition of all indirect taxes and introduction of a single progressive income and property tax.
5. Abolition of all monopolies; manufacturing to be carried on by free cooperative trade unions (labor societies) under the guarantee of the people with government credit.
6. Adoption of obligatory school laws for all children between the 7th and 14th year, and free use of all public educational institutes. Prohibition of children labor for industrial purposes.
7. Introduction of the 8-hour system for all workingmen.
8. Regulation of female labor in occupations detrimental to health or morality. Equalization of women's wages with those of men.
9. Prohibition of prison labor in the interest of private individuals. The prisoners to be employed by the state and only for public purposes.
10. As the contract system tends invariably to corruption, bribery, and felony, we demand its abolition by the state and that all work for the general and municipal governments shall be days wages, according to the 8-hour system, as prescribed by law.
11. Sanitary inspections of workingmen's habitations and work shops.
12. State and national bureaus for labor statistics shall be established.
13. Banking and insurance shall be conducted by the state.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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