

importance from the revolutionary standpoint which nevertheless largely engross the energies of the members who might be better engaged in work tending to the commonweal; take for example the co-operative store — Social Democrats have maintained a critical attitude towards such enterprises since the initiation of the movement because of the extravagant and untenable claims made by its advocates, and to entertain the belief that the social revolution is possible of achievement by voluntary co-operation — as some well-meaning but ill-informed people do — in face of the facts, can only result in bitter disappointment to those who cherish such a notion.

My chief reason, <sup>however</sup> for resigning is the determination of the organization (so far as it has been consulted,) to enter

300 Queen St.

Melbourne.

August 8<sup>th</sup> 1907

W. H. H. Champion,

President, Socialist Party, Melbourne

Sir,

I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Socialist Party. The paramount reasons that actuate me in taking this course may be briefly stated as follows:— That the Party lacks a definite organization inasmuch as there are no standing orders governing its procedure and protecting the rights of members, and consequently important questions of tactics may be and are decided by the Executive without giving members an opportunity to express an opinion before the Society becomes virtually pledged to a new and possibly disastrous departure. This may be anarchy but it is certainly not social democracy. Then the undue prominence given to matters of minor

the political field in direct opposition to the Labor Party. Having been present at the birth of the Party as the delegate of the Social Democratic League at the last and greatest Australasian Trades & Labor Congress held at Ballarat in 1891, and representing the same League in the convention held subsequently in Melbourne which formulated the first ~~constitution~~ avowedly Labor platform and Constitution in Victoria, and having a fairly wide acquaintance in this and other States with ~~the~~ ~~members~~ members of the Party and its history generally, I am compelled to characterise this action of the S.P. as absolutely unwarranted and calculated to seriously retard the more general acceptance of the principles of socialism. Instead of segregating Socialists like Jehuachites their bounden duty to the cause and best tactics is to join all the Labor Party and the industrial unions

and permeate them with the Socialist philosophy, and give those organizations the benefit of their knowledge, thus making them more effective instruments for the elevation of the masses. The Socialist ideal can never be realized without the intelligent assent and co-operation of the People. The Objectives of the Australian Labor Party can be endorsed without reservation by every Social Democrat, and its platform compares favorably with those of the really national Socialist or Labor Parties who are seriously in politics in other lands. The constitution of the Party is democratic and a large majority of its C.W.P. - if not the whole - are avowed Socialists.

Hoping that wiser counsels will soon prevail in the S.P.

I am,  
yours fraternally,  
W. Dudley Phin