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THE MIDDLEMAN.

Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty!

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# Manifesto

OF THE  
**SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATIC  
VANGUARD.**

The Cause of Labour is the Hope of the World!

# The RED LIGHT.

Handbook of the Queensland Social-Democracy.

TOGETHER WITH THE

## OBJECTS and RULES, &c.

*"Let no man fear the name of Socialist. The movement of the working class for Justice by any other name would be as terrible."*  
FATHER WILLIAM BARRY.

BRISBANE:

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC VANGUARD, 53A QUEEN STREET.

1901.

United Effort for the Collective Whole; and Public Needs by Collective Control.

Competition is Division and Strife. Socialism is Co-operation and Peace.

Government of the People, by the People, for the People.

# The Social-Democratic Vanguard.

HEADQUARTERS: 53A QUEEN-STREET, BRISBANE.

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY: ERNEST H. LANE.

NOTE.—The following newspapers are contributed to by Vanguard writers: *Worker*, *Truth*, (Gympie), *People's Newspaper* (Rookhampton), *Advocate* (Cairns), *Eagle* (Charters Towers), *Alert* (Maryborough), *Patriot* (Bundaberg), *Truth* (Mount Morgan), *Railway Times* (Ipswich), &c.

## "Help the Cause Along."

BY VANGUARDIAN "JOHN SMITH."

There's an army ever battling, ever battling day and night,  
For the cause of Social Justice, for the triumph of the Right;  
Have you listed in it, comrade? Are you helping it along  
In its fight for Truth and Freedom, in its war against the Wrong?  
While the Good with Evil grapples, while the Truth with Error strives,  
While the clouds of toil and sorrow fill our fellow-creatures' lives,  
Will you rest in tame inaction, watch unaiding, while the throng  
That is battling in the Vanguard, fights to Help the Cause Along?  
Though with generous profusion Nature stores with wealth the soil,  
There are men deformed in body, starved in mind with endless toil;  
There are women, gentle girls whose lives should teem with joy and song,  
And they suffer, sometimes fall, mate—won't you Help the Cause Along?  
There's the crying of the children: have you heard it, mate?—it comes  
To the soul more awe-inspiring than the roll of battle drums;  
Onward, comrades! let us battle with the foul and fiendish Wrong  
That would make the children suffer; let us Help the Cause Along!  
When our little lives are ended, when in mother earth's broad breast  
We are laid to sleep for ever in our long eternal rest,  
Shall we sleep the sounder, comrade, if instead of sorrow, song  
Is the portion of our brothers through the Cause we've Helped Along?

## Our Name Defined.

(Webster's Dictionary.)

**SOCIAL**—Pertaining to society or to the public as an aggregate body.

**DEMOCRATIC**—Pertaining to Democracy, i.e., movement by the people, in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of the people collectively, or in which the people exercise the power of legislation.

**VANGUARD**—The troops in front.

# MANIFESTO

OF THE

## Social-Democratic Vanguard.

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### "LET THERE BE LIGHT."

"More Light, more Light!" cried dying Goethe. From the beginning "Let There be Light" has been the prayer of the reformers of all ages. To-day in its heart agony because of the pains and woes of the peoples the Social-Democratic Vanguard thunders again "LET THERE BE LIGHT"—RED LIGHT. And in doing so the Vanguard invites the workers to rally round the Red Flag—the emblem of Unity, Liberty, Fraternity, Peace and Plenty.

### Business Meant.

Queensland Comrades of the great international Labour Movement, the Social-Democratic Vanguard has something to say, and it means to say it. It trusts you will agree that such is well-timed and necessary.

It is manifest to the Social-Democratic Vanguard that at the present time less enthusiasm and less strenuousness is displayed in the battle for social justice than in the stirring days of the birth of the Queensland Labour Movement—days of industrial combat that witnessed the awakening of the conscience of the militant people in so emphatic a manner as to introduce to the Legislature a compact body of representatives fully seized of *the spirit of the movement* which gave them political being. These representatives were vigorous in their proclamation of liberty and justice, and imperious in their demand for a collective form of society.

Notwithstanding that the opponents of this demand have abused all the privileges of Government to retain for the capitalistic oligarchy control of the colony's administration, we have to confront the fact that on the part of many Labour leaders there has been—if not a departure from—a less valiant and earnest adherence to the basic principles of social regeneration, and corresponding thereto a reprehensible lack of public spirit in national affairs on the part of the people. A cursed apathy has fallen upon the land, and to-day is exhibited an indifference and callousness in the public weal which can only portend decadence. These conditions demand a *clarion call to activity*, a reminder of the high mission of the movement for social righteousness, and the emphasising of the need—nay, the duty—of determined, zealous and persistent effort in social emancipation. The Social-Democratic Vanguard indicates the dangers of the times, and urges a revival of Socialist activities.

### The Vanguard and Its Programme.

Fittingly may here be mentioned something of what the S.D.V. has done and aspires to do. The Vanguard is an organisation adhering to the principles of Democracy and Socialism. It came into existence in March last as the result of an earnest desire for the advancement of Social Reform along the speediest, most practicable, and permanent lines. Prior to its formation there existed in Queensland no avowedly Socialist propagandist organisation, and the need of such had become so obvious that a few Social-Democrats determinedly set to work to effect a change. That its inception filled a want is attested by its rapid expansion. The organisation has secured the hearty co-operation of the Labour Press, by the agency of which it appeals to a weekly audience of not less than 25,000. It has published six tracts (including Tolstoy's "Patriotism and Government" and its President's "Municipalism") and has gratuitously distributed over 25,000 pamphlets from British and other Socialist houses, and, in addition, a large number of progressive journals. It purposes establishing Vanguard Groups wherever openings can be made. It has established a Club Room in Brisbane (its headquarters), has started a Students' Reading Circle, and has opened up communication with kindred Australasian, British, and Continental organisations. At the recently-held Parisian International Socialist Congress it was represented by H. M. Hyndman. The Vanguard is governed by an Executive Committee, which is assisted by co-operators in various centres. It holds public meetings on occasions, and persistently attempts to forward Municipalisation in local government. It is rapidly perfecting its literature-distributing machinery, and aspires to the ownership of a Vanguard propagandist van and a collectivist literature dépôt. It is an organisation for self-culture and social service, seeks not only to make converts but to organise the already-converted, gives special consideration to Social Reform methods, and aims at being the auxiliary of all progressive bodies, as far as possible permeating such with the Socialist ideal. Briefly, the Vanguard seeks to impart information, arouse sympathy, encourage activity, and inspire enthusiasm in the cause of human betterment.

### The Economic Basis of Socialism.

Further, the Social-Democratic Vanguard believes the main cause of the world's poverty, misery, and ignorance is our false, insane, monopolistic competitive system. That dissatisfaction is world-wide, that discontent is growing, no intelligent person will deny. That poverty, crime, misery, dependence, and degradation are increasing the world over is a fact that can be substantiated in a thousand different ways and from all sources of truthful information.

The Socialists claim that their faith is based on principles economically true and sound, that Socialism is scientific, and that to account for the world-wide conditions of to-day, and the enslavement of labour, the enquiry must include a close and critical survey of the economic evolution of industry. The investigation of a generation of Socialist economists has shown and proved conclusively:—

- 1st. That land and labour are together primarily the source of all wealth.
- 2nd. That private property in land and free competition in labour have made the labourer the virtual slave of capital.

3rd. That as the industry of a country becomes more intensely developed the stronger becomes the operation of the "iron law of wages," viz:—That wages tend to sink to the lowest point which will afford subsistence to the labourer.

The division of Labour and the application of machinery to production have during the present century evolved conditions and methods of industry never known before in human history. These conditions, ever becoming more intensified, are but a phase of the great evolutionary movement towards the nationalisation of land and all the instruments of production and distribution—in a word, towards Socialism.

The vast aggregations of capital become greater and greater, and the most highly-developed communities present a spectacle on the one hand of organised capital, with its millionaires, its trusts, combines, monopolies and its syndicates, and on the other the proletariat, a disorganised rabble torn asunder by dissensions, the beggarly wages of mere subsistence between it and starvation. But it will be but a step from the highly-developed capitalist state to the Co-operative Commonwealth, with a complete reorganisation of industrial conditions. The watchwords of the new order will be "Production for use and not for profit," "Useful work and down with useless toil."

From the economic industrial standpoint Queensland presents all the conditions of the semi-developed community. There is already a large measure of State Socialism, and a great portion of the public estate is unalienated. The battle of the Socialist party is for the further extension of State and Municipal industry, and a stubborn resistance to all attempts to grant concessions to capitalist exploiters.

Following the recognition of the economic basis of Socialism comes the demand that legislation shall be strictly in accord with its basic principles, so that every legislative proposal and achievement may be regarded as a forward step to the attainment of the Social-Democratic Commonwealth. From this point of view there can be but scant sympathy with the many proposals put forward as a part of a reform programme—mere nostrums, the discussion of which simply serves to divert the attention of a sympathetic and convincing audience from the path of true reform. Let it not be thought from this that the Vanguard despises any genuine reform, either Democratic or Social, even if its achievement would result only in temporary advantage as a remedial measure. It is strongly Trades Union, in favour of shorter hours' legislation, taxation reform, and indeed every proposal in the Labour platform, but decries the elevation of any one or all of these reforms as the ultimate goal of the progressive movement. Take either side of the fiscal question as a typical nostrum—under Protection the workers are robbed ruthlessly, under Free-trade the workers are ruthlessly robbed. Let the workers treat such questions with contempt as herrings drawn across the trail, and WORK DETERMINEDLY AND UNITEDLY FOR SOCIALISM.

### Vote for Socialism.

The remedy for the social ills of to-day lies in the establishment of the CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH. The members of the S.D.V. are pledged to work for such. These require your assistance. You can help with your vote.

The Social-Democratic movement is world-wide. It is international. Its strength increases with the passing of the years. The working class in every nation have in Social-Democracy their power to win emancipation from wage slavery.

The most important thing is to VOTE FOR SOCIALISM. If you do not vote for it, then cease to prate about hard times, about low wages, about the fear of want, about victimisation. These and much besides are the results of the iniquitous, miserable, liberty-destroying social and industrial system under which you live. If you wish for a change you must vote for the only system that will be a change. That system is Socialism.

#### Political Action Necessary.

The Vanguard recognises that Socialism must come through Parliament, and that discouragement of political action would be destructive to the people's progress. Therefore the Vanguard would create a sentiment expressing itself in the increasing demand for social legislation. As a democratic organisation the Vanguard believes in adult suffrage and in the initiative and referendum, because by these means the people can give free expression to their will and control their servants, the politicians. But given these and other reforms the emancipation of the workers is by no means complete. Palliatives may improve conditions, but something more is required. That is why the Vanguard urges you thinking workers to vote for Socialists; and now is the time to act. *Mere political machinery is worthless unless used to produce good social conditions.*

#### The Vanguard and the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Here may be indicated the attitude of the Vanguard to the Parliamentary Labour Party. The Vanguard desires that the P.L.P. be an *avowedly* Socialist Party, with the Vanguard's object a permanent feature of its platform, and that the electors shall be clearly and decisively informed that underlying the present political aims of the party is the final establishment of a Collectivist form of society. Unless the Labour Party is for Socialism it has no fundamental status. For *the Labour movement is a Socialist movement.* The Vanguard urges its adherents to vigorously combat any proposal to modify "the platform." A decline to mere Liberalism is to be guarded against. From the worker's viewpoint a so-called Liberal Party is useless, an anachronism. The workers of Britain seek to force the Liberal Party into oblivion. The Vanguard thinks that disavowal of the principles on which the P.L.P. was founded should, and undoubtedly will, call into political being a straight-out Socialist Party.

Furthermore, the Vanguard desires to say that in its opinion the Labour M.M.L.A. should be prepared in and out of Parliament to preach Socialist economics and ethics. Let the workers beware of the politician who fears to speak of Socialism. Let them remember that the great Independent Labour Party and Social-Democratic Federation, of Britain, and the Continental and American Labour Parties, are pronouncedly and uncompromisingly Socialist in aim and action. Is Queensland to lag behind in the movement?

The Labour Party was born as a Socialist Party, and began its life with the following (among other) objects:

1. The nationalisation of all sources of wealth, and all means of producing and exchanging wealth.
2. The conducting by the State authority of all production and all exchange.

The re-organisation of society upon the above lines to be commenced at once, and pursued uninterruptedly until social justice is secured to each and every citizen (see WORKER, November 15th, 1890).

And this is what was said by the then editor of the WORKER:

What the Council [General Council A.L.F.] aimed at was evidently to lay down a basis defining as clearly as possible the ultimate aim of the Labour Movement, so that from the moment of its adoption Labour-in-politics would take up a position which would place it at once beyond the narrow party lines with which the masses have hitherto been deluded, and would raise a distinct political issue, which none but workers, or true sympathisers with the workers, would pretend to adopt.

And now after the lapse of a decade the Vanguard believes that the Party should get back to the 1890 Platform, and to the 1890 WORKER viewpoint. For itself the Vanguard has to say that its work is educational only. Education will bring the consummation of its desires. The "troops in front" must ever be propagandists.

#### Municipalism.

Modern Municipalism is presenting splendid object lessons in Collectivism to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, and its growth means the development of higher ideals of citizenship and an all-round exaltation of civic life. The Vanguard asks the workers to recognise that while Parliamentary action is needful and good, it is not more needful nor more worthy of attention than municipal action. The ideas of most people in regard to the functions and business of local bodies are limited and nebulous. It is necessary to perceive that municipal government is of far-reaching importance. The functions of local governing bodies have grown to an extent undreamed of at the beginning of the century. As municipal ownership is the corollary—and in many cases must be the forerunner—of State Ownership, it is necessary that greater activity be exhibited by the people in matters appertaining to local government. In the opinion of many the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth will be hastened by municipal action. Certain it is that in local administration lies splendid opportunities of demonstrating the wisdom and utility of Collectivism. Knowing the importance of the whole question the Vanguard urges the need of a radical amending of the Local Government Acts, providing *inter alia* that the franchise be broadened, taxation be on the betterment principle, and payment of Councillors be instituted.

#### Now a Word Particularly to Socialists.

You Socialists, how much do you want Socialism? Do you want it enough to do a little work for it—or do you want others to push it while you will take its benefits as they arrive? Will you do a little work? Will you help the Vanguard in its crusade against monopoly and greed? Be Something! Do Something! Help the Vanguard!

YOU CAN do this by helping the Vanguard propaganda. The literature of Socialism is the propaganda. HE WHO READS, RULES. The capitalists understand the power of having the people read their literature; they own or control almost the entire press of Australasia. You furnish them with the money to keep you under; you should do willing work to get them off your backs. Socialists must get their literature into the hands of the people. It will be cheaper to scatter literature than wait until you are bound hand and

foot. Use printer's ink! Fight opponents with their own weapons! Write to headquarters and enrol yourself in the Vanguard's regiment of propagandists. You will then be supplied gratis with forceful literature.

YOU CAN keep this on hand ready to give to those you meet and talk with. Many people have been turned to Socialism by the persistent agitation of one man. Such a man has lived to a purpose. You also can do it. Do your part. Remember that the bulk of Socialists have been made by reading. The propaganda is the most powerful defence you have. It precedes all reforms. The time for it is between and not alone in the midst of campaigns. Buy and distribute those papers which contain Vanguard columns. Build up your democratic Press.

YOU CAN help the Vanguard and the cause by pushing S.D.V. membership tickets. If you keep in your pocket a book of these, so that you can dispose of one to any person you have interested, you will be sowing good seed. If this were done by one or two Socialists in every locality Socialism would quickly be a mighty power in Queensland. It would mean awakening thousands of people to the need of reform.

YOU CAN help to form a Vanguard Group. (See page 8.) Get Queensland studded with earnest Groups, and the triumph of Democracy and Socialism will be easy. Little can be done for Social-Democracy without organisation. You can always educate! agitate!! organise!!

YOU CAN—do much more if you want to.

### Be not Half-hearted.

Comrades, it may be that the new era approaches slowly. Yet it will only be by *fighting* that Socialism will be gained. He who would be free must himself strike the blow. Keep on working, studying, pursuing your Social-Democratic objects with singleness of aim. Be thorough and bitterly-earnest. You are of those

Who rowing hard against the stream,  
See distant gates of Eden gleam,  
And know the dream is not a dream.

The Vanguard gives you a message of hope, of faith, of courage: hope in the final triumph of justice, faith in the ideals of the people, courage in espousing your cause. Don't be trampled under. Castigate hypocrites, sycophants, evil-doers. Strive for the social and intellectual solidarity of the people. For the creed of humanity is that we stand together.

The Vanguard wants every man and woman in Queensland who feels with it to join hands and help along the common cause. It wants to bring into the organisation every earnest Social-Democrat from the Gulf to the Tweed, and from the border to the sea. It wants to get into touch with those whose eyes are turning towards the light, and whose hearts are indignant because of the wrongs their fellowmen are suffering. It calls upon every lover of freedom to support it in its endeavours to form the Social-Democratic Vanguard into a strong and powerful Social force.

For the lords and liars are quaking  
At the people's stern awaking  
From their slumbers of the ages; and the Peoples slowly rise,  
And with hands locked tight together,  
One in heart and soul for ever,  
Watch the sun of Light and Liberty leap up into the skies!

# Social-Democratic Vanguard.

## R U L E S.

### 1—Name.

"THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC VANGUARD."

### 2—Object.

An industrial Commonwealth founded upon the socialisation of Land and Capital.

### 3—Methods.

The education of the people in the truths of Social-Democracy by—

- (a) Circulating information concerning its fundamental principles.
- (b) Devising practical methods of directing public attention to the need of Social Reform.
- (c) Publishing, at convenient seasons literature showing its bearing on public questions.
- (d) Securing the representation of its principles on public bodies.
- (e) Organising for purposes of literary and oral defence.
- (f) Establishing a reference library for the use of members.

### 4.—Membership.

Social-Democrats will be admitted as members on payment of a minimum annual subscription of 2s. 6d. The organisation's year will be from January 1 to December 31.

### 5.—Officers.

The Officers shall consist of President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the one person.

### 6.—Committees.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and three other members. Three members shall form a quorum. Vacancies shall be filled by the committees. The seat of a committee-man shall be declared vacant if he be absent (unless leave be given) for three consecutive meetings, or for other justifiable cause.

The Executive Committee shall conduct the general business of the organisation, prepare literature for publication, and in other ways give effect to the methods of the organisation, with full power to disburse monies. It shall present a report of its transactions at the monthly meeting of members.

Committees for special purposes may be appointed by either the Executive Committee or by members assembled in general meeting.

### 7.—Meetings.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of February, at which the Executive Committee's annual report and balance-sheet (made up to the 31st December preceding) shall be presented, officers and committee appointed, and the rules (if deemed advisable) amended. General meetings shall be held monthly. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as may be considered necessary. Public meetings may from time to time be arranged. Motions, of which seven days' notice have been given, shall be considered at the subsequent General Meeting. Motions shall not be considered without notice by advertisement or circular, unless a majority of members declare any such to be of an urgent character. The Parliamentary rules of procedure and debate shall be observed when practicable.

**8.—Referendum.**

The Executive Committee may at any time refer any question to the decision of the whole organisation, the voting to be by letter.

**9.—Groups.**

For the purposes of local work and the better co-operation with headquarters, members outside of Brisbane may form themselves into groups, such Groups to be registered at headquarters, and to be self-supporting. Each group shall elect its own secretary, who shall be required to advise the Executive Committee of the Group's proceedings, and of the enrolment of new members.

**10.—Alteration of Rules.**

No alteration of or addition to the rules shall be made unless carried by a two-thirds majority of those voting.

## Concerning Groups.

### A HINT OR TWO.

The Social-Democratic Vanguard realises that its work can only be made entirely successful by the cordial co-operation of bands of members operating as affiliated Groups. As reference to the rules will show, such are expected to be not alone self-governing but self-supporting.

Wherever half-a-dozen earnest Vanguardians can be brought together a Group should there be established. Having decided to act in this way, officers should be appointed and the Group registered with headquarters. The name of each subsequent member should be furnished to the General Secretary, together with the usual subscription.

Groups are expected to be actively co-operating centres with headquarters. Anything indicated in the methods of the organisation can be undertaken by such.

Once established, communication between Groups and headquarters should be regularly maintained, and reports of Group work should be periodically furnished.

Plenty of work can be found for Groups in the distributing of literature. By virtue of its unity a Group should be able to systematically propagate Socialist principles throughout the whole of its locality.

In addition to circulating literature supplied by headquarters, it is quite within a Group's province to issue tracts of local application.

Groups are strongly advised to establish reading circles. Members should choose a Social-Democratic book and meet regularly and debate its conclusions. There is strength in association. The Vanguard library can always be drawn upon.

Groups should hold public meetings as often as possible. Let the members publish abroad their Collectivist convictions and agitate continuously for the recognition of Socialist principles.

The Vanguard believes in Municipalism, and it especially commends to Groups this sphere of labour as being particularly within their province. Seek Socialist representation on all elective bodies. Aim at local authorities' control of all public utilities.

For the rest—work in harmony with S.D.V. object and methods, and always bear in mind the "Hints" on the back of membership ticket.

"The Socialists maintain that the present system (in which land and capital are in the hands of individuals) leads to social and economic anarchy, to the degradation of the working man and his family, to the growth of wealth and idleness among the wealthy classes, to bad and inartistic workmanship, to adulteration in all its forms, and that it is tending more and more to separate society into two classes—wealthy millionaires confronted by an enormous mass of proletarians—the issue out of which must be either Socialism or social ruin. To avoid these evils, and to secure the more equitable distribution of the means and appliances of happiness, the Socialists propose that land and capital should become the property of society, and be managed for the general good.—"Encyclopedia Britannica," vol. xxii. p. 206."

"The ethics of Socialism are identical with the ethics of Christianity."—  
"Encyclopedia Britannica."

"Socialism does not wish to abolish private property, or accumulation of wealth; but aims to displace the present system of private capital by a system of collective capital, which would introduce a unified organisation of national labour."—PROFESSOR SCHAFFLE.

"Socialism is the ideal and hope of a new society founded on industrial peace and forethought, aiming at a new and higher life for all men."—WILLIAM MORRIS.

"A theory of policy that aims to secure the reconstruction of society, increase of wealth, and a more equal distribution of the products of labour through the public collective ownership of labour and capital (as distinguished from property) and the public collective management of all industries. Its motto is 'Every one according to his deeds.'—"Standard Dictionary."

Is simply applied Christianity; the Golden Rule applied to everyday life."—  
PROFESSOR ELY.

A theory of society that advocates a more precise, orderly and harmonious arrangement of the social relations of mankind than that which has hitherto prevailed."—WEBSTER.

"The citizens of a large nation, industrially organised, have reached their happiness when the producing, distributing and other activities are such that each citizen finds in them a place for all his energies and aptitudes, while he obtains the means of satisfying all his desires."—HERBERT SPENCER.

"The answer of Socialism to the Capitalist is that society can do without him just as society now does without the slave-owner and the feudal lord, both of which were regarded as necessary to the well-being and even the very existence of society."—PROFESSOR W. CLARKE.

"Socialism being the product of social evolution, the only danger lies in obstructing it."—REV. F. M. SPRAGUE.

"Socialism is an endeavour to substitute for the anarchist struggle or fight for existence an organised co-operation for existence. It is also a distinct historical theory which accounts for the progress of man in society by his command over the forces of nature by the economical development of the power which it has of producing wealth."—H. M. HYNDMAN.

"No thinking man will contradict that 'associated industry is the most powerful agent of production, and that the principle of association is susceptible of further and beneficial development.'—JOHN STUART MILL.

"Any theory or system of local organisation which would abolish entirely, or in great part, the individual effort and competition on which modern society rests, and substitute co-operation, would introduce a more perfect and equal distribution of the products of labour, and would make land and capital, as the instruments of production, the joint possession of the community."—  
"Century Dictionary."

"Government and co-operation are, in all things and eternally, the laws of life; anarchy and competition, eternally and in all things, the laws of death."—  
JOHN RUSKIN.