

# AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

## A MANIFESTO To the Working Class Electors OF N.S.W.

At the present time when the old political parties are appealing for the support of working class electors, the Australasian Socialist Party urges consideration for the following brief review of the present position.

No intelligent member of the working class is satisfied with his or her position in society. The lives of the workers are made up of worry, anxiety, insecurity, and hardships. There is the monotonous grind of uninteresting work, the constant pinching to make ends meet, and the continual necessity of learning to do without things.

At one time there was a possibility of a workman who pinched and scraped for years rising into the ranks of the employers. Every year it is becoming more and more difficult to rise out of the ranks of the wage-workers.

Great changes are taking place in the methods of production in Australia; improved and expensive machinery and larger factories are the order of the day. These improved methods have made it impossible for the workers to enter the ranks of industrial capitalists.

Although Australia has only just entered the manufacturing stage, class distinctions are becoming ever clearer, the gap between the classes ever wider. Society here, as in other countries, is divided into two classes—the class which does the work, the working class, and the class which works the workers—the capitalist class. The working class produce the wealth, but do not own it when produced; the capitalists own all the wealth produced, but take less and less part in its production. In most instances the capitalists today do no useful work. They are an unnecessary class, as all the necessary work of the world is done by men and women who work for wages. Not only is the method different by which these two classes get their livelihood, but their modes of life are different. Most of the good things of life are denied the working classes: things of inferior quality are specially prepared for their use. The workers have to be content with inferior clothes, inferior food, inferior drink, inferior homes, etc., while the capitalist can secure the best of everything.

The lives of the working class are absolutely dependent on the wishes and whims of the capitalist class. It is only by working for the capitalists that workers can secure a living: for all the means of producing wealth—the mines, factories, workshops, and all the machinery of production are in the hands of the capitalists.

It is on the ownership of these things that the power of the capitalists depends. They are supreme in the sphere of production because they own those things which are necessary for doing the

work of society. The workman, on the other hand, possesses only one necessary thing.—his ability to work, his power to labor, his labor power. It is this labor power which makes him necessary to the capitalists, for it is the only creative force in the sphere of production. Labor power creates all value. It also creates a value greater than the price which has to be paid for it. The difference between the value created by this labor power and the price paid for it constitutes a surplus which remains in the hands of the capitalist. This constitutes his profit, and the securing of this profit is the one aim and object of all capitalistic undertakings. The workman, thus, is compelled to work for another; he sells his labor power in order to live. As this labor power resides in his bones, muscles, sinews, and brains he is in fact selling himself to his employer for a number of hours a day. He is a slave, a wage-slave, and the wages he receives are evidence of his slavery. The amount of the worker's wage is not decided by the amount of wealth which he creates, but by the amount of things which are necessary to keep him in good working order. The wages of the workers are just sufficient to obtain the necessary food, clothing, shelter, and comfort for himself and his family. Every invention or improved method of production binds the workers more securely to these conditions. Less labor is required, and therefore the ranks of the unemployed are constantly growing. The existence of this unemployed army prevents the workers from permanently raising their wages above the subsistence level. It is true that up to a few years ago, more especially in Queensland and Western Australia, gold diggers and other miners were often able to earn a living considerably above this level. But "working men's fields" where reefs are shallow and easily worked have practically disappeared, and large mining companies now own and control the mineral wealth of the continent. The independent digger is disappearing, and the miner who works for wages is taking his place. In Australia, as in the older countries, all means of escape from wage slavery have been cut off. Thus we see that the wage-worker remains a wage-worker for life. The individual workman can no longer improve his own conditions. His conditions are the conditions of his class.

Machinery is becoming more complex, invention is following on invention, and the power of the owners of machinery is growing in proportion. The smaller capitalists are being crushed out because they cannot compete against the more efficient methods of the larger capitalists. They are forced into the ranks of the wage-earners. The number of the wage-workers is thus constantly increasing, and the capitalist class is constantly diminishing. The class which is interested in the continuation of the present system is constantly becoming less. The interests of the bulk of the people demand a complete change in the present economic system.

No great improvement can take place in the conditions of the workers as long as capitalism lasts. As long as the wages system continues, part of the wealth which the workers create will be kept back from them. The share which is withheld from the workers is the larger share, and as machinery increases and improves, this share will grow larger. The worker is getting a smaller and smaller share of the wealth which he creates. The

wage system with its continual anxiety, poverty, and degradation for the working class will continue as long as one class owns and controls the things necessary for the production of wealth. The ownership of these things by the capitalists is the means of robbing and oppressing the workers, and therefore in the interests of the workers, the ownership of all the means of production must be taken out of the hands of the capitalist class. These things must be made the common property of the workers themselves, and must be controlled by them.

To help to bring this about is the object of the Australasian Socialist Party. The A.S.P. therefore advocates the organisation of the workers, both on the political and industrial field for the purpose of taking control of the means of production.

There exists in Australia a Labor Party, which is often considered a working class party. The majority of its supporters are drawn from the workers, but this party is fast losing any working class spirit it ever possessed. It has never understood the make up of capitalist society. The Labor Party thought that all that was necessary was to get into power and administer the various departments of the State. This party has been in power in three of the States, and in the Commonwealth, and no noticeable improvement has taken place in the conditions of the workers. It has administered the various departments very economically and efficiently in the interests of the class for whom these departments exist. Every Government department was called into being by some need of the capitalist class, and by continuing to administer these departments Labor Ministers are serving the interests of the owning class. This Labor Party has curtailed the workers' right to strike, the solidarity of the workers has been destroyed by Wages Boards and Arbitration Courts: the workers of one trade find themselves tied down by the awards for a certain length of time, and thus they are not free to support or back up other unions in industrial disputes. By the Commonwealth Defence Act a force has been created which can, and will, be used to defeat the workers in their wage wars. Sons of the working class are being compelled to train to defend the property of the capitalists. Jingoism is fostered and race prejudice encouraged. Other races are regarded with animosity and hatred, and thus the workers are split up into hostile groups. The solidarity of the working class is ruthlessly sacrificed to the cultivation of an "Australian national sentiment." This sentiment with the famous catch cry, "Support Australian industry," reflects with great clearness the interests of the Australian manufacturers. The industrial capitalists are being aided at the expense of working class solidarity. The Labor Party is no longer a working class party: it is the party of the rising Australian manufacturers. Proof of this is to be found in their Industrial Arbitration Act with its drastic penal clauses. This party cannot, and will not, free the workers: the workers must free themselves.

It is only by united efforts that the workers can free themselves. The A.S.P. therefore calls upon the workers of Australia to consider their position and to join with their fellows of the A.S.P. in the work of freeing themselves. This can only be brought about by the overthrow of the capitalist system, and the substitution

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of the socialist society founded on the common ownership and control of all the means of production.

The Australian Socialist Party is not a political party in the sense that other parties are. It is in politics for the purpose of wresting out of the hands of the capitalist class the power which is used to oppress and rob the workers. It is also in politics for the purpose of re-organising society. It has to transform the state from a means of oppressing the workers into a means of administering the common property of the whole people. It is not in politics to administer the affairs of the capitalists, it has no reform to advocate. No reform nor series of reforms can ever secure freedom for the workers. Our one demand is abolition of wage-slavery. Our task is the organisation of the new society—the society of industrial and social freedom. It is for that object that we call upon the Australian working class to organise both on the political and industrial field. The future belongs to the workers. Prepare for that future now by supporting the Socialist party in its efforts to abolish the capitalist system.

To sum up:—

(1). The worker's position in society is unsatisfactory: his life is at the mercy of another.

(2). It is daily becoming more difficult to rise out of the ranks of the wage workers.

(3). The numbers of the wage workers are being continually increased by the crushing out of the little capitalist by the larger ones.

(4). An impassable gulf separates workers from capitalists.

(5). The ownership of the machinery of production is the source of the capitalist's power.

(6). Nothing short of a complete change of the ownership of these things can alter the worker's sad condition.

(7). Reforms are of no avail because they do not go to the root of the trouble.

(8). The Labor Party after 20 years political activity, is proving itself a dismal failure, because it does not realise the nature of the problem, and also because it has become the instrument of a section of the capitalist class.

(9). A Socialist party is necessary because such a party alone understands the causes of the failure of capitalism, and therefore understands the line of action necessary to emancipate the workers.

Fellow workers the cause is worthy, the struggle has begun. take your part and victory will be assured.

### **Socialist Candidates.**

With the object of spreading a knowledge of the Socialist philosophy, and also to test the growth of the number of those who are prepared to stand by the principles of Socialism, the Australasian Socialist Party has decided to contest the following State electorates, and has endorsed the candidature of the following members of the party.

Darling Harbour, F. J. RILEY;

King, J. W. ROCHE;

Balmain, J. BRICE;

Leichhardt, J. KILBURN.

Belmore, A. RUTHERFORD.

Newtown, L. JONES.

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