

# Socialistic Labor Party of North America

## National Platform

*Adopted by the First National Convention, at Newark, N. J.,  
December 26–31, 1877.*

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Labor being the source of all wealth and civilization, and useful labor being possible only by and through the associated efforts of the people, the means of labor should therefore in all justice belong to society.

The system under which society is now organized is imperfect, and hostile to the general welfare, since through it the directors of labor, necessarily a small minority, are enabled in the competitive struggle, to practically monopolize all the means of labor—all opportunities to produce for and supply the wants of the people, and the masses are therefore maintained in poverty and dependence.

Since the ruling political parties have always sought only the direct interests of the dominant or wealthy classes, endeavored to uphold their industrial supremacy, and to perpetuate the present condition of society, it is now the duty of the working people to organize themselves into one great Labor Party using political power to achieve industrial independence.

The industrial emancipation of Labor, which must be achieved by the working classes themselves, independent of all political parties but their own, is consequently the great end, to which every political movement should subordinate as a means.

The material condition of the working people, in all civilized countries being identical, and resulting from the same cause, the struggle for industrial emancipation is international, and must naturally be cooperative and mutual; therefore the organization of National and International Trade and Labor Unions upon a Socialistic basis is an absolute necessity.

For these reasons the Socialist Labor Party has been founded.

We demand that the resources of life—the means of production, public transportation, and communication, land, machinery, railroads, telegraph lines, canals etc., become as fast as practicable, the common property of the whole people

through the Government, to abolish the wages system and substitute in its stead cooperative production with a just distribution of its rewards.

The Socialistic Labor Party presents the following demands as measures to ameliorate the condition of the working people under our present competitive system and to gradually *accomplish the entire removal* of the same.

1st. Eight hours for the present as a legal working day and prompt punishment of all violators.

2d. Sanitary inspection of all conditions of labor, means of subsistence and dwellings included.

3d. Bureaus of Labor Statistics in all States as well as in the National Government. The officers of the same to be elected by the people.

4th. Prohibition of the use of prison labor by private employers or corporations.

5th. Prohibition of the employment of children under fourteen years of age in industrial establishments.

6th. Compulsory education of all children under fourteen years of age. All materials, books etc., necessary in the public schools to be furnished free of charge.

7th. Prohibition of the employment of female labor in occupations detrimental to health or morality, and equalization of woman's wages with those of men where equal service is performed.

8th. Strict laws making employers liable for all accidents resulting through their negligence to the injury of their employees.

9th. All wages to be paid in the lawful money of the nation and at intervals of time not exceeding one week. Violations of this rule to be legally punished.

10th. All conspiracy laws operating against the right of workingmen to strike or induce others to strike shall be repealed.

11th. Gratuitous administration of justice in all courts of law.

12th. All indirect taxation to be abolished and a graded income tax collected in its stead.

13th. All banking and insurance to be conducted by the Government.

14th. The right of suffrage shall in no wise be abridged.

15th. Direct popular legislation enabling the people to propose or reject any law at their will, and introduction of minority representation in all legislative elections.

16th. Every public officer shall be at all time subject to prompt recall by the election of a successor.

## RESOLUTIONS

*Adopted at the Congress of the Socialistic Labor Party held at Newark, N.J., December 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st, 1877.*

1st. The emancipation of Labor is a social problem, a problem concerning the whole human race and embracing both sexes. The emancipation of women will be accomplished with the emancipation of *men*, and the so-called women's rights question will be solved with the Labor question.

All evils and wrongs of the present society can be abolished only when economical freedom is gained for men as well as for women. It is the duty therefore of the wives and daughters of the workingmen to organize themselves and take their places within the ranks of struggling Labor. To aid and support them in this work is the duty of *men*. By uniting their efforts they will succeed in breaking the economical fetters, and a new and free race of men and women will rise recognizing each other as peers.

We acknowledge the perfect equality of rights of both sexes and in the Socialistic Labor Party this equality of rights is a principle and is strictly observed.

2d. All laws threatening with imprisonment and fine those unemployed workingmen whom necessity compels to wander as "tramps" in search of work, are unconstitutional and inhuman—as poverty is thereby made a crime—and as this injustice is committed in the interests of the capitalistic class—we demand the immediate repeal of these disgraceful laws.

3d. The importation of Coolies under contract must be immediately prohibited, and the Coolies already in America released from all similar obligations.

4th. The National Executive Committee shall aid and when possible undertake the publication and distribution of Socialistic circulars and pamphlets.

5th. Every member is expected to subscribe for at least one of the Party organs.

*[Transcribed by John-Paul Catusco for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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