

Debs' Last Call to Voters in 1920
AND HIS
First Call in the New Campaign

This will be my last word in the present campaign. It is enough for me to have been one of the standard bearers of the working class. I regret only not having been able to meet the workers face to face, as in other days.

There is one thing I know on the eve of this election. I shall not be disappointed. The result will be as it should be. The people will vote for what they think they want, to the extent that they think at all, and they, too, will not be disappointed.

In my maturer years I no longer permit myself to be either disappointed or discouraged. I hope for everything and expect nothing. The people can have anything they want. The trouble is they do not want anything. At least they vote that way on election day.

The Socialist party wants the people to want everything in sight.

If the earth and all it contains is not for the people (not a handful of them, but all the people), then there is certainly a mighty mistake somewhere that needs the Almighty's correction.

In every age a few have owned the earth and rioted in its fatness and abundance. This is as true of today as it was in the beginning.

A very small and insignificant minority of the people practically own and absolutely rule the United States of America.

That insignificant minority has its seat of government in Wall Street, and it is there that every solitary Federal judge is named who lays down the law to the people.

It is also there that the candidates are chosen and the platforms written for the two dominant political parties, through which this insignificant minority secures control of the government and rules the people.

Every man and every woman who votes the Republican or Democratic ticket on Tuesday registers his approval of Wall Street and his opposition to the people.

From the Library of
THEODORE DEBS

Every such voter certifies to his being satisfied with things as they are, and his willingness that they shall remain so forever.

These are the people we have to thank for the autocrat in the White House, the despots on the bench, and the crooks and corruptionists in legislative halls.

They, the great majority, vote that they are dependent upon and need to be exploited by and properly belong under the iron heel of the insignificant minority.

It is amazing, astounding, incredible, yet absolutely true—thanks to the efficacy of the insignificant minority's highly developed press and pulpit and educational system, and its vigilant lookout for and prompt suppression of persons and papers guilty of telling the truth and letting the light get to the people.

That is the issue in this campaign, and not the filthy slush tunds and other fake stunts they spring to keep you from seeing it.

The League of Nations is the biggest fraud and humbug of all. Its sole purpose is to link up the insignificant ruling and robbing minorities of the several nations and intrench international capitalism more securely, to insure the perpetual minority rule of the people and exploitation of the world.

They and their greasy retainers tell you it is to prevent war. They would have done this without a league had they wanted to. What is war to them? A slaughter of slaves for their plunder and profit. They do not go to war, and they certainly do not need a league to keep them from slaughtering one another.

The issue is revolution or reaction. Which side are you on?

The people all over the world are in revolt against capitalism and slavery.

Are you for or against them in their world-wide struggle to break their chains?

Do you or do you not share their noble aspiration and their heroic determination to be free?

That is the only question.

See that your children and their children are not disinherited and made to blush in shame for the vote you cast on Tuesday.

Long enough have the few lorded it over the many; long enough have the insolent parasites wiped their stolen boots on

the necks of the honest toilers; long enough the people have had the patience of dumb, driven cattle.

The tocsin of war sounds the death knell of capitalism, the despotic rule of the insignificant minority, and the liberation of the people.

The present campaign is but a political battle in the world-wide war of emancipation.

In this and every other political battle the Republican and Democratic parties fight for the insignificant minority and against the people.

In this and every other political battle the Socialist party fights against the insignificant minority and for the people.

What side are the slush funds on, who furnished them, and why?

Are you a slush-fund voting dub in this election?

Oh, for men and women today, as never before in the history of the world.

Life has never been rich and full and abundant for the great mass of mankind. They have sown in toil and tears that parasites might reap in luxury and vice.

The struggle today, as in ages past, is between producers and parasites. This struggle has now grown fierce and acute, and is approaching its culmination. The awakening workers are rising from their knees, standing erect in the consciousness of their power, hailing one another as comrades across boundary lines in every tongue of the race, and the whole world is aflame with the social revolution.

It is tremendously inspiring and magnificent.

The earth today trembles beneath the tramp of the marching hosts of proletarian emancipation.

The peasants and workers of Russia have spoken, and the whole world of plundering capitalism stands appalled, and vainly seeks with lies to turn back the tide that will soon engulf it with its crimes.

In England, in Italy, in France, in Germany, in the United States, everywhere, it is **THE PEOPLE**.

The workers are stirring and the people are rising.

No longer are they content to be sheared and fleeced and sent to slaughter like sheep for the benefit of their masters.

The insignificant minority of non-producing parasites shall no

longer rule and wreck the world. They have done their best and their worst. Their time is up. They must now go, and we Socialists are organized for that very purpose; and on election day we shall see how many of the people are with us in putting out the parasites and making the people their own sovereign rulers.

The people versus the parasites.

That is the issue, and the only issue that will confront you on election day.

The Socialist party demands the industries for the workers and the earth for the people.

Down with the parasites and their blood-sucking system!

Up with the people, and their right to life, liberty and happiness!

Workers of the world, arise! Break your chains and be free!

You have but to say the word, and the stars in their courses fight your battles and the world is yours.

You have never yet lived. The better part of you has never yet been born. The diviner part within you has never yet seen the light.

I appeal to you in the name of the past, in which you have left your trail of blood along the track of the centuries; I appeal to you in the name of the present, in which you are still exploited, and starved and degraded; I appeal to you in the name of the future, that is to see your class free and your cause crowned with victory.

It is for you to unite and strike the blow for the liberation of the race. It is for you to set the people free and make the earth sweet and beautiful for all.

It is for you to conquer the earth, and consecrate it to the service and happiness of mankind.

It is for you to put an end to war. to inaugurate peace, to banish poverty and ignorance, to organize the world's activities on a higher plane, to appeal to a nobler spirit, to point to loftier ideals, and to give to man a richer life and a rarer freedom, and to the race a higher destiny and a diviner civilization.

Join the Socialist Party

