

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 285.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## BERGER'S MISS NO. 1.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**P**AGE 6 of the *Congressional Record*, which records the transactions of Congress on its opening day, the 4th of this month, records miss No. 1 of Victor L. Berger in Congress.

It there is entered that, the roll call by States of the members of the House of Representatives being completed, and the Clerk having called for nominations for a Speaker, Representative Albert S. Burleson of Texas nominated, in the name of the Democratic caucus, the Hon. Champ Clark; and Representative Frank D. Currier of New Hampshire, in the name of the Republican caucus, nominated the Hon. James R. Mann, whereupon the Clerk having asked: "Are there any other nominations?" and hearing none, the House proceeded to vote viva voce for a Speaker. On the same page the names of the Representatives are entered alphabetically as they answered to their names, the names of all appearing on the roll—the 220 who voted for Champ Clark, the 131 who voted for Mann, the 16 bolting Republican Insurgents who voted for Cooper, the 1 bolting insurgent who voted for Norris, and Berger, who abstained from voting on the Speakership.

This was a miss on the part of "the first Socialist Congressman."

Whatever dissentient opinion Socialists, here and elsewhere, may entertain for the Socialism of Berger, it is a recognized member of the International Socialist Family; and his election to the parliament of the United States, by whatever methods achieved, was conducted under the banner of SOCIALISM. Under these circumstances, Socialism, the world over, looks, in a broad, however broad the sense, upon Berger as its sole representative in Congress. As such it behooved him, when the Clerk asked: "Are there any other nominations?" to have risen in his seat, and, in the most sonorous voice he could muster up, say:

"In the name of the American division of the International Socialist Movement,

I place in nomination the Representative from the Fifth Congress District of the State of Wisconsin—Victor L. Berger”; and, when his name was reached in the roll, boldly, self-possessed, cast his vote for Victor L. Berger for Speaker.

The Socialist Movement lets no post go by default. It contends for, conscious that it will capture all.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded February 2012

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