
Socialist Party in Swing to the Left

by Robert M. Buck

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Unsigned article, attributed to editor Robert M. Buck.

A convention of the Socialist Party of Cook County held in the New Coliseum, Blue Island Avenue, Saturday and Sunday [May 17-18, 1919], resulted in the complete capture of the gathering by the so-called "Left Wing," composed mainly of the foreign language branches. William Bross Lloyd, multimillionaire, presided, and Isaac E. Ferguson, lawyer, steered the radical element to their triumph.

The principal demands of the Left Wing are the elimination of "immediate measures" from the party platforms, confining them to a demand for seizure of power by the proletariat; calling of a national convention; the refusal of the Socialist Party to cooperate with any "reformist" organization; recognition of the international organization summoned by the Russian Bolsheviks, and of no other; and a new method of party organization.

Nearly a Riot.

Saturday night [May 17] the convention approached the dimensions of a near-riot, but the Sunday gathering was peaceful and orderly, after the withdrawal of the moderate delegates, led by Seymour Stedman.

There was talk of a dual organization during the heat of the conflict, but so far as could be learned no definite steps have yet been taken.

A demand for a referendum of the decisions of the convention to the branches was voted down Saturday night, but was apparently carried at the close of Sunday's session.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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