

Socialist Labor Party of Australia.

REPORT

To the International Socialist Congress,
Stuttgart, Germany, 1907.

COMRADES,—Being unable, through distance and expense, to send delegates to the International Congress, and in order to place before the Socialists of the world the position of the Socialist movement in Australia, the following brief statement is submitted for your information by the Socialist Labor Party:

The population of this country is between five and six millions—scattered over a great continent, though the greater part of it is concentrated in the larger cities—notably Sydney and Melbourne. Australia's staple products are mainly pastoral, agricultural, and mineral, with a growing tendency toward a larger expansion of secondary production in its towns and cities. The evolution of capitalism in the direction of concentration and trustification is a marked feature of the country's industrial activities, thus keeping in line with the modern industrial development that presents itself in every capitalist country. Consequently, there exists in Australia as elsewhere the inevitable class struggle and a condition of wage-slavery—the natural concomitants of capitalism. Unemployment and insecurity faces the working-class on every hand, while the wage-rate is steadily declining, as shown by the statistics issued by the capitalist State statisticians. Female and child labor is on the increase, following the march of machinery into factory and workshop.

members is the general rule both in connection with Federal and State parliaments.

Since the first Federal Parliament the Federal Labor Party has held the balance of power, and for a brief period of four months held the reigns of government, the leader of the party holding the position of Prime Minister of Australia; but, holding power only by the grace of bourgeoisie politicians, was defeated by the capitalist sections—Free-traders and Protectionists—combining together.

The policy and programme of the Labor parties—Federal and State—is merely radical and reformistic, denying the class-struggle and aiming at the perpetuation of capitalism and not its abolition. The following Objective defines the policy of what is known as the Labor movement and its attitude towards Socialism, invented to cope with both economic development and Socialist agitation:

- (a) The cultivation of an Australian sentiment based upon the maintenance of racial purity, and the development in Australia of an enlightened and self-reliant community.
- (b) The securing of the full results of their industry to all producers by the collective ownership of monopolies and the extension of the industrial and economic functions of the State and Municipality.

including the so-called Labor party, which for the first time, in the election of 1906, nominated the full Senate ticket.

The issue at the 1906 elections was much more definite and the line of party cleavage between parties more clearly marked than at any previous election, the leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament and the capitalist press making the election battle-cry, "Anti-Socialism v. Socialism." In this connection the Labor party were labelled (for political purposes) a Socialist party, but on every occasion the candidates of that party went out of their way to contradict the imposition, and emphatically repudiated having the least sympathy with "extreme" or "Continental Socialism." The Socialist Labor Party was uncompromising in principle, action, and methods, and only asked for class-conscious, convinced Socialist votes; so the lowest vote recorded for the S.L.P. may be taken as the approximate Socialist vote—which is regarded by the movement as highly satisfactory.

At the last Annual Conference of the Australian Socialist League it was decided to adopt the title of the Socialist Labor Party for all purposes, so that the organisation will for the future be known as the Socialist Labor Party of Australia.

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