
The Party Press.

by A.M. Simons

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From the statement of the National Executive Committee, appearing in the last number of *The People*, it seems that the national organs of the party, *The People* and *Vorwärts*, are in the control of the Socialist Cooperative Publishing Association, as they state that the

Association has always been and now is a sole owner of both *The People* and the *Vorwärts* and everything connected with them, including the mailing list as well as the right of issuing the said organs in any form it may desire, and with or without a supplement, as it may think best. The rights of the Party to those organs are limited to the choice of the editors in conjunction with our Board and to the unrestricted use of a limited space of each of the said organs for Party purposes.

Since this practically amounts to defying the party in its control of its most vital organ — the party press — the NEC have submitted the following question to a referendum vote:

Shall the Party sever all connections between it and the Socialist Cooperative Publishing Association; continue, through its National Executive Committee, the publication of its organs, *The People* and *Vorwärts*, and demand from the said Association the unconditional surrender of all property belonging to the said organs, including their respective mailings lists and the amount of subscriptions paid in advance?

Therefore the Sections of the Party are hereby called upon to take a vote on the above question; to report the vote cast, giving the exact number for and against, and send returns to the National Secretary,

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not later than August 1, 1899, on which day the vote shall close.

Under these conditions there is but one thing to do. It is not a question of taxation or of trades unionism, but simply one of shall the party control its press or shall the national organs be at the disposal of some irresponsible and perhaps directly hostile body of persons. If the mailing lists of the party press are to be used to disseminate the opinions of individuals, then it is time they were taken from the individuals' control. This is the point under discussion and all other questions that may have previously arisen are now beside the point.

The question is considered of such great importance that a special meeting of the Illinois State Committee has been called, who will issue a statement defining their position in this regard which will be published in the next number of *The Workers' Call*.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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