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ADELAIDE, APRIL 16, 1892.

THE SOCIALISM THAT IS NOT RADICAL

Now that the politicians are beginning to realize how extensively Socialism is finding favor among the working classes there is great danger that this word will be outraged by unscrupulous place-seekers merely to catch the popular vote or retain the popular confidence; and this is a danger which cannot be too carefully guarded against.

Socialists are sometimes charged with a want of Radicalism in their proposed remedies. Considering in their entirety the programmes most approved by them, this charge cannot be sustained. It is, however, unfortunately true that there are many who, while they thoroughly sympathize with the aspirations of Socialists, are not conversant with the means whereby the most prominent of the socialistic bodies seek to attain their desired ends. This is the large class that will, unconsciously, easily lend its sympathies and energies to be diverted into side issues by any politician who, fearful of radical measures of reform, will yet declare himself a Socialist, confident of securing a following, and knowing full well that the vagueness of the term "Socialist" will leave him practically unpledged to any measures of definiteness or real importance.

Such gentry will grow very eloquent over such minor matters as the enforcement of an eight-hours' working day, while utterly ignoring the fact that it is the sting of poverty that forces men to wish to work as long as strength remains unspent, and any practical proposal to remove the cause, to do away with the necessity for involuntary poverty, will meet with but little support from such clap-trap reformers.

The main plank in any Socialist programme up to date must necessarily be the nationalization of the land. There is a tendency to overlook this, and a danger that the body of laborers

will be led off on to minor points. Many of these may in themselves be valuable adjuncts to socialization of rent, but, nevertheless, it must never be forgotten that this should be the first and most important point pressed for. Energy diverted from the main issue is, for the time being, practically so much wasted.

It will be well for our labor leaders to bear this little point in mind, and Socialists of the true type, such as the Hon. D. M. Charleston, will do well to continually force upon their colleagues the imperative necessity of first and foremost throwing open to all alike the natural opportunities for wealth production.

This is the lesson that cannot be too thoroughly learned.

INTERESTING ITEMS.

The delegates of the New South Wales Trades and Labor Council have withdrawn from the Central Committee of the Labor Electoral League, which has apparently become a Single Tax body.

In spite of all his eccentricities and curious ritualistic notions the Rev. C. L. Marson has done a good deal towards the awakening of the public conscience of South Australia on matters social, and his proposed departure for England will be sincerely regretted by many of the workers and by those persons with whom the "priest of St. Oswald's" has come into close association. Mr. Marson may not be an economist of a very profound type, but his sympathies are all with the down-trodden and the toiling, and there are few men in similar positions who dare publicly to denounce the greed of monopolists and the vile spirit of "commercialism" as he has done. The formation of the S.A. Fabian Society was an act of his that may yet bear good fruit, and Mr. Marson's lectures at the Democratic Club and elsewhere have been productive of no little good.

The Tasmanian Railway Department has reduced the hours of labor for all permanent-way men from nine to eight hours per day. The Legislature there has also a law in operation for the suppression of codlin moths, under which gardeners, on complaint from Government appointed Inspectors, are frequently fined for non-suppression of the pest. It is worthy of note that the Tasmanian DEMOCRAT of April 15