REPORT

of the

Australian Socialist League

to the

International Socialist Congress at
Amsterdam, August 14, 1904

AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST LEAGUE,
GENERAL EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS,
231 Castlereagh St., Sydney.

To the International Socialists, in Congress assembled:

Commune,—We, members of the Australian Socialist League, located in the City of Sydney, State of New South Wales, Australia, being unable on account of distance and lack of funds to send delegates to the Congress, forward by letter greetings to all organized Socialists in Congress, and a brief history and statement of the Socialist Movement here as we see and know it since Congress last met.

The Australian Socialist League is the only political organization—within its party, the Socialist Labor Party—standing definitely for uncompromising Socialism, having within the last three years contested two Federal and one State election, and, at time of writing, preparing for a coming State election.

In 1891 the first elections under the Federal constitution were held, and under the constitution the States were one electorate, each returning to the Senate six Senators, and it being mandatory for each voter to record a vote for all the candidates or his vote would be informal. The League contested both Federal and one State election, with the following result: A. Thomson, 52,079; J. O. Moroney, 4,237; H. E. Holland, 4,771; J. Neill, 3,528; J. J. Monash, 3,199; T. Holling, 2,984.

The State of New South Wales was, until 1904, divided into 425 electorates, each electorate returning one member to its State Parliament. The League contested five electorates with the result: J. Neill, 36; A. Thomson, 34; H. E. Holland, 33; J. Monash, 50; J. O. Moroney, 186.

In December last year—the Federal elections took place and the League placed three candidates in the field for the Senate, the conditions being similar, the State one electorate, and mandatory on the part of the voter to record his or her vote for three of the candidates to render his or her vote formal.

But the first Federal had passed an electoral act which contained a penalising clause compelling each candidate to deposit with his or her nomination paper a sum of £25 to be forfeited in the event of the candidate not polling one-fifth of the votes polled by the lowest successful candidate. This to us means a fine of £73 for placing our candidates in the field to uphold Socialist principles.


The Australian Socialist League owns and issues weekly a four-page newspaper, "The People," which is the only Socialist paper published in the Australian Commonwealth.
In the other Australian States there exist organisations more or less socialistic, under such names as International Socialist, Vanguard, Fellowship, and Social-Democratic clubs. None of them take definite political action, being mere advocates of the existing Parliamentary Labour Parties of the different States, who endeavour not to overthrow the capitalist system, but to make such system more or less compatible with capitalist rules. This attitude is identical with the attitude of all our other socialist movements. We are not concerned with the attitude of the existing Parties. We are concerned with the attitude towards the existing economic conditions we obtain in all capitalist countries. THOUSANDS lack employment, and poverty, with its attendant misery, and degradation is always with us.

In most of the Australian States the railways, and in most of the tramways, are owned and managed by the government on strict'commercial principles.

In other directions the State has extended its functions and employ many more employees. But the worker remains in Australia, whether employed by the State government or by the individual private employer, an exploited wage slave, as his exploited fellow wage slave in other countries.

In conclusion, the appended manifesto sets out clearly our economic, industrial and political attitude. For years to come our primary work must be the making of Socialists, and, isolated as we are, to some extent we must carry on that work in our own way. In other words, we must "develop the capacity to abolish Australian Capitalism," aided by the experience of our comrades in other countries when that experience is available to Australian industrial, economic and political conditions.

On behalf of the General Executive Committee,

JAMES O. MORINKEY,
General Secretary,
May 14, 1904.

MANIFESTO OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

To the mental and manual Working Class and all other honest Citizens of the Australian Commonwealth, we Socialists ask you to organise with us in the Australian Socialist League, because we are face to face with conditions that require united action. We are divided into classes, a few of whom control the ballot box. It is to point out these conditions that we have prepared this Manifesto, and we hope that every member of the Working Class into whose hands it may fall read it carefully. For it is only by careful reading and close investigation that we (the Working Class) can learn the cause of our industrial and economic enslavement and how to free ourselves.

THE PRESENT FORM OF SOCIETY.

The present form of Society rests on ownership of the land and the tools of production.

The owners of most of the land and the tools of production constitute what is economically known as the Capitalist Class. Hence the use of the term Capitalist form of Society.

TWO CLASSES IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Ownership divides Society in the Australian Commonwealth as in all capitalist countries.

One is the class of Employers, and the other is the class of Wage-workers.

The employers are the Capitalist Class and the Wage-workers are the Working Class.

THE WORKING CLASS SUSTAINS SOCIETY.

While the Working Class, by their labor, produce to-day—as in the past—the wealth that sustains Society, they lack economic and industrial security, suffer from overwork, enforced idleness, and their attendants misery, all of which are due to the present Capitalist form of Society.

THE CAPITALIST CLASS.

The Capitalist Class, through the ownership of most of the land and the tools of production—which are necessary for the production of food, clothing, shelter and fuel—hold the Working Class in complete economic and industrial subjection, and thus live on the labor of the Working Class.

THE WORKING CLASS.

The Working Class in order to secure food, clothing, shelter and fuel, must go...
their labor-power to the owning Capitalist Class—that is to say, they must work for the Capitalist Class. The Working Class do all the useful work of Society. They are the producers of all the wealth of the world, while the Capitalist Class are the exploiters who live on the wealth produced by the Working Class.

**CLASS INTERESTS.**

As the Capitalist Class live out of the labor of the Working Class, the interest of the Working Class is diametrically opposed to the interest of the Capitalist Class. The Capitalist Class—acting as they do on the land and the tools of production—employ the Working Class, buy their labor-power, and return to them in the form of wages, only part of the wealth they have produced. The rest of the wealth produced by the Working Class the Capitalist Class keep; it constitutes their profit—i.e., cost, interest, and dividend. Thus the Working Class produce their own wages as well as the profits of the Capitalist Class. In other words, the Working Class work not only for them to produce their wages, and the costs of the day-to-day production of goods for sale, but also for the Capitalist Class.

The interest of the Capitalist Class is to get all the surplus (profits) possible from the labor of the Working Class. The interest of the Working Class is to get all their full produce of labor.

**THE CLASS STRUGGLE.**

There is always a struggle between these two classes. This struggle is called the "Class Struggle." It is a struggle between the owning Capitalist Class—which must continue to exploit the Working Class in order to live—and the non-owning Working Class, who, in order to save the work for the owners of the land and the tools of production, try to win Economic Freedom from the non-working Capitalist Class. The Working Class must fight this struggle both for political rights and use their political power (the ballot) to abolish Capitalist Class ownership, and thus participate in the interests of the Working Class the entire structure of Industrial Society.

**THE USE OF POLITICAL POWER.**

The Capitalist Class who own most of the land and the tools of production, own the Government and govern the Working Class, not for the well-being and profit of the Capitalist Class. It is only by using their political power that the Capitalist Class make their exploitation of the Working Class legal and the oppression of their system constitutional. And it is only by using their political power that the Working Class can make their own exploitation illegal and their own oppression unconstitutional. It is only by the use of their political power that the Working Class can establish Capitalist Class rule and privilege, and establish a plentiful form of Society based on the Collectives Ownership of all the land and the tools of production, in which equal industrial right shall be the share of all.

**THE MIDDLE CLASS.**

There exists between the Capitalist Class and the Working Class a number of small farmers, small manufacturers, small shopkeepers, and small workers, who together constitute what is called the Middle Class: all of whom do business on a small scale, generally with out-of-date machinery, or no machinery at all, and are therefore unable to compete with the Capitalist Class whose gigantic factories, farms, and shops are equipped with the latest industrial machinery, which lowers the cost of their productions and thus forces the small Middle Class outside the margin of profit. The Capitalist Class system of concentration in Company, Syndicate, Combine, and Trust absorbs a few of the small Middle Class, but thousands by far the greater part of them into the ranks of the Wages Working Class, to there intensify the existing struggle. As a class, the Middle Class are being annihilated by the evolution of the Capitalist System.

**THE FUTURE.**

We, Socialists, organized in the Australian Socialist League declare, that to the Working Class belongs the future. Organized in the political party of the League—the Socialist Labor Party—the Working Class (and all other honest persons in the Commonwealth) can, through the ballot box, abolish the Capitalist
System of Ownership—witnessing the accompanying Class Rule and Class Oppression; and establish in its place Socialism—witness Industrial Democracy—wherein all the land and the tools of production shall be the collective property of the whole people, to be operated by the whole people for the production of commodities for use and not for profit. We seek the Working Class of the Australian Commonwealth to organize with us and the Socialist forces of the world to end the domination of Private Ownership—with its poverty-breeding system of unplanned production—and substitute in its place the Socialist Co-operative Commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefits of his or her faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

The following is the Australian Socialist Labor Party’s full ticket for the Senate:

DRAKE, P. H.
MORONEY, J. O.
THOMSON, A.

If you believe in Socialism VOTE the FULL Ticket.

Presented to the International Socialist Congress of Amsterdam, August 14, 1904, by the delegate of the Socialist Labor Party of the United States of America, with credentials from the Australian Socialist League empowering him to act in its behalf.

DANIEL DE LEON,
Delegate of the Socialist Labor Party of the United States of America.