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# The Onward March of the Socialist Party.

by Adolph Germer

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These are days that test one's faith in and devotion to the Socialist Party. But few have faltered and fallen, in spite of the intimidation and threats by insane and drunken mobs and by nagging public officials.

The Socialist Party, numerically, is stronger today than at any time since March 1916. The average monthly due stamp sale for the last three months of 1917 and the first three months of 1918 is 88,903.

When we compare the first three months of 1918 with the corresponding months for 1917, we have every reason to feel highly encouraged. The sale of due stamps were as follows:

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>
<b>1918</b>	86,650	97,510	101,571
<b>1917</b>	86,834	79,653	74,327

Going over the yearly membership averages from 1903, we find that the past six months have been the highest since 1914:

<b>1903</b> .....	15,975
<b>1904</b> .....	20,763
<b>1905</b> .....	23,327
<b>1906</b> .....	26,784
<b>1907</b> .....	29,270
<b>1908</b> .....	41,751
<b>1909</b> .....	41,470
<b>1910</b> .....	58,011
<b>1911</b> .....	84,716
<b>1912</b> .....	118,045
<b>1913</b> .....	95,957
<b>1914</b> .....	93,579
<b>1915</b> .....	79,374
<b>1916</b> .....	83,284
<b>1917</b> .....	80,379

But while the foregoing points to a bright future I am not in the least unmindful of the pressure that will be brought to bear to banish the Socialist Party as a political factor.

We will be charged with every conceivable crime in a desperate hope to force members out of the party. Every sin, of which the old parties are guilty, will be laid at our doors with such persistent regularity that the unsuspecting public, which is at the mercy of the bought and kept press, will see us as arch devils. The masses will be blinded to the perfidy of the profiteers as they coin their fortunes. One law after another will be whipped through congress, under the pretense of "necessary war measures," to outlaw the Socialist Party. In brief, the Socialist movement of this country will be forced through the same bitter and trying experiences of our European Comrades. And all this, not because we are guilty of any crime or criminal intent with which our enemies charge us, but because we have proclaimed our uncompromising opposition to the exploitation of the American people. The nearer capitalism comes to its end the more desperate and oppressive will be the methods employed against us.

According to capitalist reports, nearly 8,000 new millionaires were made last year by the war. These millionaires want to become billionaires. Smaller capitalists want to become millionaires. Hence the class conflict is intensified.

We are further told, by capitalist sources, that today there are three times as many persons in the United States drawing incomes of \$1,000,000 a year than there were on December 1, 1916. Ten persons have incomes of more than \$5,000,000 per year. It is but natural that we should encounter the most bitter opposition from this element and that the purchased press should inflame the people's minds. It explains

why legislative bodies are prevailed upon to pass laws to banish the Socialist Party.

The outstanding feature in the present crisis is the utter disregard that the self-styled “loyalists” have for laws and for the institutions to which they proclaim consecration. In the past we were charged with defiance of law. We were looked upon as law breakers. But who is it, now, that is actually setting the law at defiance? And who is it that inspires and agitates the utter disrespect for law and legal process? If you want to find the guilty element, look in the direction of those who hurl abuse upon the Socialist Party and who are coining fortunes out of war.

It is nothing new for the industrial overlords to corrupt every avenue of life in the hope of fastening their sins upon the Socialist Party. They may assert

their loyalty and love for the country from the rooftops, but “the thunder of their actions ring so loud in our ears that we cannot hear their words.”

The new capitalist powers created during the war will be added opposition to the labor movement after the war. And it devolves upon the workers to solidify their ranks, politically and economically, in order to make their power felt when our social fabric is reconstructed.

During the war and after, new and important problems will demand solution, and labor’s interests will be protected so far as its solidarity commands.

The hope of the exploited millions lies in unconquerable loyalty to the labor movement, political and economic. Inscribe upon your banners: “Through Organization to Victory.”

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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