
Workingmen's Party of the United States: To the Workingmen of All Countries

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Friends, Comrades, Fellow-laborers:—

The same wrongs, the same sufferings which compelled the workingmen of Europe to organize for mutual assistance and protection, and through the organization to struggle for the emancipation of the human race, have obliged the toilers of America to unite for a similar purpose, since industry is paralyzed, wealth becoming more and more concentrated, and the real producers of all this wealth reduced to a shameful condition of social misery and degradation.

Disunited as the Socialistic societies of Europe were in earlier years, so also in America numerous small bodies of earnest seekers after true freedom have for a time maintained a precarious existence, but with a lamentable absence of harmony among the various grades or denominations.

Finally, however, a complete and successful union such as proved so beneficial to the movement in Europe has been accomplished through a joint convention of the different party held at Philadelphia on the 22nd of July last [July 19-22, 1876]. The result of this convention was the organization of the Workingmen's Party of the United States upon a platform radical and comprehensive;

and although the organization will be conducted upon a National basis, which is more popular and favorable to agitation, still the platform recognizes the necessity for an international bond of union between the parties of the different countries, and to secure this the Executive Committee wishes to enter into friendly relations and correspondence with all similar organizations throughout the civilized world. We extend to you the hand of fellowship, although oceans separate us and differences in manners, customs, and languages would seem to present insurmountable obstacles to an effective union. Yet the same sufferings, the same necessities, arising from the same cause are common to us all; and since the perfect organization of the capitalists is not merely international, but worldwide, their means of communication the electric telegraph, their means of subduing and enslaving the suffering workers the highest and best appliances of science, the minds to direct these powerful agencies cultivated through leisure and opportunities gained by defrauding Labor of its just reward — in view of these overwhelming odds against us, we cannot hesitate a moment on grounds of National prejudice, but hasten to secure that only means of success, a perfect international bond of sympathy and union between the workingmen of all countries, knowing that the power of numbers if properly directed can

† — The task of writing this address was assigned jointly to English-speaking Corresponding Secretary Philip Van Patten and German-speaking Recording Secretary Conrad Pfeiffer by the Executive Committee of the WPUS at its meeting of August 18, 1876. The final document was published over the signature of Van Patten alone.

conquer, and considering that the attainment of all government, “the greatest good to the greatest number,” is most effectively and infamously prevented by the inhuman system of competition, our cause ought in all justice to triumph, and by all the powers of the Universe, it will!

We will struggle not in a spirit of envy or misanthropy, not with feelings of revenge or desire for anarchy, but with the earnest determination to secure justice to all, to relieve men’s lives from the degrading and unnatural competition for bread, the chief cause of the evils of society, and to make true merit and worth the measure of greatness, instead of riches wrung from the necessities of others.

We wish to act in unison with you in the great struggle for true Freedom of the Individual, and this end will be kept in view in all our agitations and in all our teachings.

Therefore, in the name of the Workingmen’s Party of the United States, we invite correspondence from all societies having the same end in view, and will prove our sincerity and devotion not merely by words but by substantial assistance when necessary.

Our earnest wishes are for the welfare and progress of Humanity, and our unanimous shout is Welcome the union of all workingmen! Welcome the Social, the Universal Republic!

*The Executive Committee, WP of US,
P. Van Patten, Corr. Sec.*

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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