

---

# “The Record of the Past is the Promise of the Future”

by C.E. Ruthenberg  
Socialist Candidate for Governor

Published in *Cleveland Socialist*, whole no. 36 (June 29, 1912), pg. 2.

“The record of the past is the promise of the future.”

These significant words appear in the state platform of the Democratic Party, adopted at Toledo a few weeks ago.

While appearing in a Democratic platform this sentence applies alike to the Democratic and Republican Party.

“The record of the past is the promise of the future.”

These are the words which should be ineradicably impressed upon the mind of every worker. They should be seared into the brain of every member of the working class.

We should judge the parties which have been in power by their past record and accept that record as the promise of what we will receive from them in the future.

What does this record promise us?

In it is written large the declaration that so long as the Republican or Democratic Party is in control all the powers of government will be used to continue the exploitation and industrial slavery which capitalism means for the working class.

This record tells us that when the workers organize on the industrial field to use their industrial power to force concessions from the masters, the policeman's club, the rifles and bayonets of the militia, and the judge's injunction will be ready for use against them and to assist the master class to force them into submission.

It damns the grandiloquent promises of the old party platform as hypocritical phrases used to delude and keep the workers in slavery.

The record of the past emphasizes the fact that neither of the old parties has a constructive platform to meet the problems which the industrial revolution of the past 50 years has brought into existence. It tells us that both are incompetent to help the workers in their struggle against the developing industrial plutocracy which is rapidly being brought into existence as the result of the concentration of industry.

The record of the old parties offers no future relief from the unemployment which the continuous introduction of the labor-saving machinery is making more and more extensive.

This record tells us that the grinding of little children into profits for capitalists will continue while men and women walk the streets of our cities begging for the opportunity to work.

Summed up, the record of the past tells us that both old parties represent the capitalist class and the promise of the future is that so long as either is in power the profit system, with all its attending misery and suffering for the workers, will be sacred.

For the workers this record of the past has just one lesson for the future, and that is that they have nothing to hope for from the parties representing the capitalist interests. From all the pages of the record of the past comes the cry to the

workers that their only hope is in their own power; that if they would emancipate themselves from the wage-slavery and serfdom of capitalism, they must organize on the basis of their own interests. They must organize in a party — in the Socialist Party — which represents their interests, which is controlled by them and whose candidates are subject to their directions.

Organized politically in the Socialist Party and industrially in the factory and workshop, the workers will be invincible and can throw back in the teeth of the political servants of capitalism their past record and future promise and march on to the working class victory.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

*Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2011. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.*