
Report of South Slavic Socialist Federation to the National Committee of the Socialist Party of America, May 1913.

by Alex Susnar

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To the National Committee:

Dear Comrades:—

As I have been but a short time the Translator-Secretary of South Slavic section — from March 1st — I can not give much account of my work for that section, but will review the report which was sent out by the previous Translator-Secretary some time in February 1913, with additional two months of my work from March 1 until April 30.

The previous report follows:

“In the fall, Etbin Kristan, a Socialist lecturer from Europe, held in the United States 46 public meetings, at which the attendance was over 25,000. At these lectures \$426.12 was collected, and over \$350.00 worth of Socialist books were sold. The net income with the special tax for the E. Kristan tour (campaign committee’s \$100 donation included), was \$1,697.63, and the expense of the tour were \$1,957.63, a shortage of \$260 thereon.

“The Federation received from January 1 to December 31, 1912, \$4,315.53 as dues, book sales, etc., and its expenses were \$4,350.41, leaving a deficit of \$34.88 for the year. The National Office got \$796.80 for dues stamps; and from October the state offices got \$150.55, the locals having paid their state dues direct to the state offices previous to that time.

“In the month of December there were 85 active locals, with a membership of 1,800, and increase for the year of 480 members. These were 926 Slovenians, 710 Croatian, and 164 Serbian members.

“The total income of all the locals for the year was \$10,000; expenses, \$8,928.04. They have property to the value of approximately \$5,000.

“Of the 1,800 members, 660 were unionists, and about 670 American citizens.

“There has been an increase of 56 locals over the preceding year, and the Executive Committee has decided that an assistant will be provided in the office of the Translator-Secretary in order to meet the demands of the rapidly progressing section.”

Additional report:

From January 1 until April 30, seven new locals were organized. We have at present 86 active locals in 15 states, as follows: Arkansas, 1; California, 1; Illinois, 15; Indiana, 3; Kansas, 6; Michigan, 3; Minnesota, 2; Missouri, 1; Montana, 3; Ohio, 14; Oregon, 1; Pennsylvania, 27; Washington, 2; Wisconsin, 5; Wyoming, 2.

Six locals lapsed during that time for various reasons. From January 1 until March 31 there was \$1,047.86 income, and \$873.12 expenses, which leaves a balance of \$174.74. Liabilities are \$312.27, a shortage of \$137.53 thereof.

During January 1913, the locals paid to the national and state offices \$171.65; during February they paid \$151.65; during March they paid \$161.50; and during April they paid \$151.90.

Our Federation has three weekly papers, which are getting new subscribers every day. We also print books and sell them by thousands. Our local branches hold monthly propaganda meetings. Nearly half of our locals have among their own members singing groups or string band players. The Federation has among its members 31 able speakers, all of them wage-workers.

Lately we have pulled off a few debates with South Slavic Dollar Patriots, and it proved disastrous for them.

It is hard to believe how difficult it has been to carry on the education among South Slavic workers, as you know that patriotic dollar citizens in all countries have led and misled the workers time and again

under the pretense of saving them and their country, and how much they are doing to bring the bottom dog on top. Indeed, they have succeeded pretty well among the South Slavic workers.

As you understand, in our South Slavic Socialist Federation we have four of those small Balkan nationalities — the Slovenians, Bulgarians, Croatians, and Serbians. It was natural to expect that our Socialist Federation in America was going to suffer when the Balkan war broke out.

The Turkish misrule and feudalism on one had, and capitalism with jesuitical rotten monarchism on the Austrian side, were squeezing the life blood out of the Southern Slavs more and more every day. And as it was expected that revolt would break out at any time in the Balkans, so it was not very hard after all to crystallize the revolting sentiment and lead the army of hundreds of thousands of wage slaves to abolish the rotten rule of feudalism and to open the road for capitalism. The Balkan war did not do our Federation as much damage as we expected it would. Of course, our

priests and saloon-keepers, professional fakers and other rascals have done their utmost to put our Federation out of commission.

Years gone by we were forced to fight and expose these fellows, but when the Balkan war broke out there came opportunity for our dollar patriots in America to use their press, pulpit, speakers — yes, even dollars — to put our Federation down and out. As a result of this struggle our Federation came out stronger than ever, and our comrades have resolved to keep on and fight to the bitter end. There is no let-up or stop; our army is marching on and on; the victory is in sight already; the corrupt system of capitalism with its wage slavery is bound to collapse and be destroyed as its predecessor — feudalism.

Yours for Socialism,

Alex Susnar,
Translator-Secretary
South Slavic Socialist Federation

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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