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# *American Socialist* Forerunner of Powerful Revolutionary Press.

by Eugene V. Debs

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The National Committee did a wise thing when it changed *The Party Builder* from a mere official circular to an actual party paper.

*The Party Builder* (now *American Socialist*) under this change will be a success from the start and develop rapidly into a great and influential organ of the movement. Not only this, but it will be the forerunner of a revolutionary press (including daily as well as weekly papers, magazines, and other periodicals) which is more and more urgently needed and will have to be established as a part of the movement itself and which in fact constitutes its very life and existence.

It was a wise move, therefore, on the part of the National Committee to launch *The American Socialist* as a full-fledged party paper, a move that will mark the rise of a party-owned and party-controlled press in the United States, in full sympathy and in strict consonance with the principles of the revolutionary movement it represents. Parenthetically it may be remarked that the National Committee at its recent meeting did a number of other wise things and on the whole was the first session of that body to get down to a practical working basis and to deal efficiently and understandingly with the questions, more or less involved, which confront the party. Its harmonious deliberations and its militant and constructive policy were in striking contrast with some of the previous gatherings of the same body and distinguish it as the most successful National Committee meeting the Socialist Party ever held. This

meeting demonstrated that Socialists can work together in unity in the true spirit of their philosophy in the upbuilding of a great movement, notwithstanding the differences that constantly arise to set them at cross purposes, and the influence of this national gathering will have a salutary effect upon the party at large and tend to bring state and local organization into more efficient and harmonious cooperation upon the same high plane of party activity.

That *The American Socialist* will not have entirely smooth sailing goes without saying, but in the long run this will be more to its advantage than otherwise. If the waters are somewhat rough and the winds adverse at times it will develop a sturdiness and qualities of endurance which will fit it for the tempests it will surely have to weather if it is to safely reach its destined port.

There will likely be those who will argue that a party-owned paper will reflect the personal views of those in charge of it and tend to become oppressive and dominate the movement instead of representing it. There is something in this objection, but not enough to stand against the principle of a party-owned and party-controlled press. The comrades who are put in charge may not at once fulfill all expectations, for they have a trying task before them and therefore we must give them a fair chance to do they best they can and at the same time render them all the assistance in our power.

We who stand for collective ownership and

democratic control cannot logically argue in favor of a privately owned press, and without detracting in the least from papers that are still so owned nor underestimating the service they have rendered, the very logic of our development will ultimately necessitate the party ownership and control of the Socialist press.

Let us all unite to make The American Socialist, the Socialist Party's first real exponent, the greatest Socialist paper in America. It is OUR paper; it belongs to you and me and all the rest of us. Each of us is equally its proprietor and publisher.

Let us realize that its possibilities to serve us are great if we but stand behind it unitedly and wholeheartedly and develop its power to fight for our emancipation.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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