
Berger Vote Soars; Leads by 4,722: Socialist Gets 14,004 Ballots While Harmony Man Gets 9,282: Bolo Bodenstab Proves to be Weak Candidate: Fusionists Fight.

Unsigned report in the *Milwaukee Leader*, v. 9, no. 2, (Dec. 9, 1919) "Home Edition," pp. 1, 5.

Victor L. Berger, J. Mahlon Barnes, and Oscar Ameringer will be speakers at a Socialist mass meeting in Bahn Frei Turn Hall, 12th St. and North Ave. Tuesday night. State Senator W.C. Zumach will preside.

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That the voters of the 5th District will go on record for representative government in the special congressional election, Dec. 19, by re-electing Victor L. Berger, the people's candidate, was forecast in Monday's primary, in which he polled 14,004 to 9,282 for Henry H. Bodenstab, "harmony" aspirant by Big Business, the profiteers, the so-called Good Government League, and the Republican and Democratic Parties.

Berger was accorded a splendid endorsement, receiving 5,607 more votes than in the primary preceding the regular congressional election in 1918, in which he was elected, although the total vote cast was 5,004 shy of the number in that battle of ballots.

Bolo's Showing Weak.

Bodenstab's showing was strikingly weak. He polled only 9,282 votes as compared with a combined non-Socialist vote of 19,892 given Alder-

man Joseph P. Carney, Herbert Laflin, W.H. Stafford, and Alderman W.I. Greene in the 1918 primary. Berger's voting strength soared from 8,397 to 14,004 during the year.

The Big Business contender, who has been posing as the "100% American" ever since the "Good Government" League and Republican and Democratic County Committees decided to sidetrack Carney to insure a candidate with a German name, carried only 3 of the 14 city wards in the district — 1st, 15th, and 18th — and Shorewood and Whitefish Bay.

Carries 11 Wards.

Berger carried 11 wards, North Milwaukee, Granville, and Town of Milwaukee. He triumphed over the fusionist in the 2nd, 6th, 13th, 19th, and 22nd wards, represented in the Common Council by non-Socialist aldermen. In the 22nd Berger polled 1,365 votes, 441 more than his opponent.

Bodenstab was swamped in the other wards — 7th, 9th, 10th, 20th, 21st, and 25th. IN the latter ward Berger received 1,638 votes to 393 for Bodenstab — more than 4 times as many.

Cold weather and lack of contests in either the Socialist or fusionist camps were assigned as reasons for the fact that the total vote did not soar above 23,286, although there are about 50,000

registered voters in the district.

Bolo Concedes Rout.

To qualify for a place on the ballot in the election, a primary candidate must poll a vote 10 percent as great as that given his party's last candidate for Governor. Berger required 1,666 votes for nomination and Bodenstab 1,741.

Bodenstab conceded he had been decisively routed soon after the polls closed in the city section of the district. He heard the returns in central police station, in company with Alderman W.I. Greene, whose hopes of again being a congressional candidate were dashed when he was eliminated in the conference of members of the Republican and Democratic County Committees that preceded the fusionist fiasco of a few weeks ago.

Dissension Among Boloists.

"I've been beaten by more than 4,000 votes," Bodenstab was overheard to say.

Dissension broke out afresh in the Bodenstab campaign headquarters Tuesday, as the result of Victor L. Berger's lead of nearly 5,000 votes in Monday's primary. Factional squabbles developed, accusations of desertion from the standard of Bodenstab being made on all sides.

Leaders in the so-called Carney following who do not like the sound of Bodenstab's name, were vehement in declaring his candidacy had been slipped over on them, and it was said there has been considerable feeling aroused because Carney had made a speech for him.

Answer to Carney Talk?

In some quarters the Monday vote was held to be a direct answer to the glib talk of Carney last week about Berger, stonewalls, and bullets. The suggestion of violence, it is said, will quite likely react still further and if there was any doubt as to the election of Berger, that doubt has been entirely removed.

When Undersheriff Leo Kryzcki announced primary returns, disclosing Berger's big lead Monday night in the Shubert theater, where a benefit performance was being given for the striking union steel workers by the Amalgamated Garment Workers, there was deafening applause by the audience that packed the playhouse.

Hoan Sees Victory.

"The splendid showing made by the Socialists in the primary indicates Berger's election," said Mayor Daniel W. Hoan Tuesday. "No stone must be left unturned, however, to bring this result. His election at this time will mean much more to the workers of America than most of us can realize. It will reflect in Wall Street the present temper of the American people; it will check the old ghoul profiteers in their mad race from liberty; it will cheer brave comrades now languishing in prison cells.

"Above all, it will give hope to the toiling millions that there is still left a chance to liberate themselves by peaceful means of an intelligent ballot. Comrades, every man to his post. Let Friday, Dec. 19, be dedicated to liberty by every honest man. Work, work, work for Berger's election."

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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