

---



---

## NEWS NARRATIVE

---

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before, continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

---

Week ending Tuesday, April 12, 1910.

---

### The Socialist Victory in Milwaukee.

The election returns of the 5th in Milwaukee, which came too late for more than mention last week (p. 321) show a sweeping victory for the local Social-Democratic party. The plurality for its candidate for Mayor, 7,178 over the Democratic candidate, was the largest ever polled for any candidate for mayor in Milwaukee. Not only the mayor but also all the other elective city officials (controller, treasurer and attorney), together with all 7 of the aldermen at large, 14 of the 23 aldermen from wards, 11 of the 16 county supervisors and 2 of the city judges were carried by the same party. The vote for mayor is reported as follows:

Emil Seidel, Socialist.....	27,708
V. J. Schroenecker, Democrat.....	20,530
J. M. Beffel, Republican.....	11,346

In the City Council there will be 21 Socialists out of a total of 35, a majority of 7; and in the county board the Socialists will have a majority of 3 in a total of 16. Of the 21 Socialist aldermen 18 earn their living at manual labor in such trades as machinist, painter, printer, carpenter, die-sinker, cigar maker, etc.

+

Following is a summary of the immediate demands embodied in the local platform of the Social-Democratic party, which it is pledged to carry out as fully as possible:

Home rule, initiative and referendum, better schools, municipal ownership, penny lunches for school children, street car company to sprinkle streets, trades union conditions for labor in city service, a seat for every passenger in the street cars, three cent street car fare, eight hour day for labor, cheaper gas, cheaper ice by means of municipal plant, cheaper coal and wood by means of municipal coal and wood yard, cheaper and better light—and more of it by means of municipal plant, corporations to pay their full share of taxes, clean street cars, street closets and comfort stations, work for the unemployed at union wages and eight hour day, widows who do washing for support of families to have water rates remitted by city, cheap bread by requiring standard weight in every loaf.

As reported by the Chicago Daily Socialist, Victor Berger (one of the new aldermen at large) indicated in an interview the significance of the election from his point of view, and he probably speaks advisedly. He said:

At this moment of victory we appreciate our duty towards the national and international Socialist movement. We have gone through such a campaign of vilification by the Republican and Democratic parties, mainly directed against the red flag, against the international Socialist movement and against the revolution, as has never been known in this city. We must now show the people of Milwaukee that the philosophy of international Socialism can be applied and will be applied to the local situation, and that it can be applied with advantage to any American city of the present day. On the other hand, we want to show our comrades all over the country that our principles will lose nothing of the revolutionary energy by being thus applied to a local situation. Our party is by necessity a city party, first and foremost. We have to win our cities first before we can win in a State, and then in the country at large. I know of no city where the Socialist movement is so thoroughly enlightened and so class conscious as in Milwaukee. Years of continuous literature propaganda has made it so. Therefore I am glad that this first victory came to Milwaukee, as I am sure we will take care of the situation to the credit of the city and the international movement.

Regarding their immediate policy, the mayor-elect in a speech on the 7th is reported to have said:

The modern city, while it has grown to large proportions and increased its population until hundreds of thousands of souls are huddled together in small areas, has developed swamps of a different nature than those our forefathers drained. Some of these have become cesspools, the stench of which rises to the heavens. Men and women, as well as innocent children, are wrecked and ruined in these swamps. We, the children of the settlers—the sons and daughters, true to the spirit of our fathers, who left their homes to look for a new civilization—must follow in their spirit. We must begin to add architectural ideal beauty. Our task is to take this, our city, and make of it a home—a real home—for its hundreds of thousands of men, women and children; a place where there is little room for tears and heartaches; a place where our boys can become men and our daughters women; a place where virtue is protected and a place where the strong stand for the weak, holding their hands over the heads of the weak, shielding them from all harm. Our task is the task of realizing the dreams of all the great men of the past.

+

Mr. Seidel is American born but of German parentage. He is a pattern maker and works at it. Along with his associates on the successful ticket, he will take the oath of office on the 19th. With that day the Socialist administration in Milwaukee, elected for two years, will begin.