
Socialists Are At War:

Control of Campaign Funds Causes Split in Debs' Followers

(August 8, 1900)

There is a big row on in the Social Democratic Party. Two national campaign committees have opened headquarters in Chicago and Eugene V. Debs, the socialist candidate for President, has taken sides.

Thomas J. Morgan is secretary of one national committee and Seymour Stedman of the other.

Morgan represents the United Social Democratic Party, composed of seceders from the old Socialist Labor Party and the Social Democratic Party organized by Debs in 1898.

Stedman is backed by Victor Berger of Milwaukee; Theodore Debs, brother of the candidate; A.S. Edwards, editor of the *Social Democratic Herald*, and Jesse Cox, the lawyer. Stedman and his friends have been ardent followers of Debs and had arranged to conduct his campaign. Debs, however, has recognized the Morgan faction.

The split is said to have been caused by a dispute as to who shall handle the campaign funds.

The trouble began at the Indianapolis convention [March 6-9, 1900] which nominated Debs. A seceding faction of the Socialist Labor Party offered to unite with the Debsites. The Stedman faction objected to the amalgamation because it would take the control of the party out of their hand.

Debs has sent his letter of acceptance of the nomination to William Butscher, Secretary of the united party, thus ignoring the Stedman faction.

Immense sums of money are expected to be furnished by [Republican boss Mark] Hanna out of the trust contributions and the socialists claim this is behind the struggle for supremacy.

It is said that Debs will come to Chicago in a few days to remedy the differences.