

# THE CLASS STRUGGLE

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## Left or Right?

By LUDWIG LORE

In discussing the situation that prevails in the Socialist Party of the United States at the present time it is hardly accurate to refer to the two parties to the controversy as Left and Right, at least in the European sense of those terms. The American Socialist movement has had, in the crisis through which it has just passed, no large and decisive group that would correspond to the European Right Wing, to the Scheidemanns and Davids and Suedekums in Germany, to the Plekhanoffs and Breshkovskayas in Russia, to the Renaudel and Thomas in France, and the Hyndmans in England. The small group of bona-fide social-patriots that our movement harbored have either left it voluntarily or have been expelled from membership in the Socialist Party. The few who remain are, so far as influence in the party is concerned, a negligible quantity.

The political sins of the American "Right Wing" have been sins of omission rather than of commission. Its great fault lay in its failure to act at a time when action meant life and growth to the party, in failing to crystallize the tremendous anti-war sentiment that existed in the country at the time of our entrance into the European war into a great mass movement for political and economic liberation. It adopted a radical platform at the St. Louis convention, and failed, miserably, to live up to its tenets. It was theoretically in opposition to the war, and yet allowed Meyer London, again and again to vote in direct opposition to the avowed stand of the party when war-measures came up in Congress—