

Yet the socialist party has not grown as its advocates hoped. The rise of the Progressive party, and the development of a Progressive wing in the Democrat party, absorbed the radical sentiment that might otherwise have gone to the socialists. Possibly the present revival of the Republicans means a sharper contrast between standpatters and progressives, and may lead to a reaction in other circles toward the socialists. On the other hand, the growth of syndicalism and industrial unionism among the unskilled workers, especially those of foreign birth, is weakening the socialist party at the other end.

In the northern half of the continent socialism has found still less foothold. Canada is not yet as advanced in industrial development as the United States; agriculture dominates. Widespread poverty is unknown; the gates of opportunity are open wide. The power of the Catholic Church in Quebec erects a solid barrier in the path of socialism. The cabinet system inherited from Britain and the party machine adopted from the United States both make against group politics. Only in recent years, with growing immigration from continental Europe and with growing industrial complexity, has the movement gained any strength. Winnipeg has a strong socialist element in its motley foreign quarter, Toronto, Montreal, Cape Breton, and a few other industrial and mining centres have small coteries, but it is only in British Columbia that socialism has developed any political importance. In the Pacific province the comparative weakness of the farming class, the prevalence of mining and other industries requiring large-scale capitalist investment, the discontent of failure in the last and farthest west, the influence of American and English socialists, combined with aggressive leadership, have given rise to a socialism of thoroughgoing Marxian orthodoxy, and have enabled the party to poll one-fifth of the provincial vote. Even in British Columbia, however, there seems little scope for further expansion, and elsewhere in Canada the socialist movement is likely to remain for some years of minor importance.

In the English-speaking world organized socialism has made less headway than elsewhere, because of racial temper, political freedom, party methods, economic opportunity and other forces.

Is there a Drift toward Socialism?

The discussion above has been confined to the organized and conscious movement. Yet, it is often declared, we are