
Minnesota Socialists Expel Van Lear for War Stand: State Referendum by 1,500 to 800 Also Reads His Local Out of the Party.

Unsigned article in the *New York Call*, v. 12, no. 190 (July 9, 1919), pg. 6.

ST. PAUL, Minn., July 8.— By a referendum vote of the Socialist Party of the state, Thomas Van Lear and the members of the 13th Ward local were expelled from the party. The vote stood, approximately, 1,500 to 800 for expulsion.

The charges for the expulsion of Van Lear were his pro-war activities and his repudiation of the majority report of the St. Louis Convention of the Socialist Party in March 1917.

Charges had been preferred some months ago against Van Lear in the Slavic local of the state, but the charges had been totally ignored by the 13th Ward local, whose duty it was to try him. The charges were then brought before the state membership with the result that not only Van Lear but also the 13th Ward local membership were expelled.

State Secretary [Charles] Dirba of the party stated that in addition to siding with the [John] Spargo faction in refusing to abide by the majority report of the St. Louis Convention, Van Lear had become a member of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy, led by “that archen-

emy of Socialism, Samuel Gompers.”

This is not the first rebuff that Van Lear has had at the hands of the Minnesota Socialists.

The Van Lear delegates from Minneapolis several years ago were thrown out of the state convention by the element led by David Morgan of St. Paul.

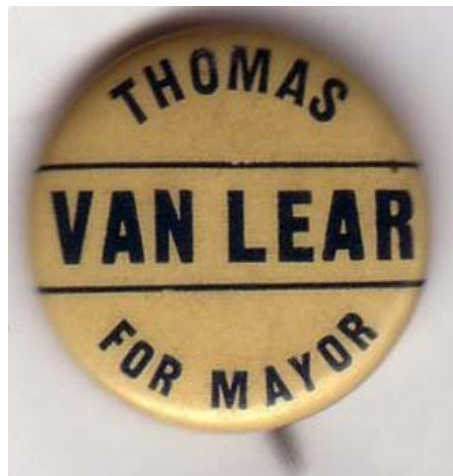
Morgan charged at that time that Van Lear was not a Socialist, although admitting that he stood for many good and necessary reforms and that he was an earnest, honest servant of the people.

Secretary Dirba declared the vote was a repudiation of Van Lear policies and an approval of the policies of those he termed “the

educators.”

These, he explained, do not favor going after political office until after the people have been educated to accept Socialism as a whole.

Van Lear is a director of the Northwest Publishing Company, an organization of workers and farmers which is going to publish a daily newspaper in Minneapolis. He is now on a lecture tour for the company.



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