

Appendix C: Political Demands of the Socialist Labor Party.

As Simon Wing became aware that the profitability of his photographic business – and that of his colleagues – was declining in the late 1880s, he found explanation and a compatible philosophy in the teachings of socialism. In particular, he was drawn to the Socialist Labor Party and became one of its earliest and active members. He committed to the revolutionary tenets which followed an intriguing combination of empathy for the poor classes and a preference for a revised form of government that would be controlled by the people rather than being run by a President.

The political demands of the Labor Party, as outlined in the 1911 edition of [George] Cram's *Unrivaled Atlas of the World*, follow:

- 1. The people to have the right to propose laws and to vote upon all measures of importance according to the referendum principle.*
- 2. Abolition of the presidency, vice presidency and senate of the United States. An executive board to be established, whose members are to be elected, and may at any time be recalled by the house of representatives, as the only legislative body. The states and municipalities to adopt corresponding amendments to the constitution and statutes.*
- 3. Municipal self-government.*
- 4. Direct vote and secret ballots in all elections. Universal and equal right of suffrage without regard to color, creed or sex. Elections days are to be legal holidays. The principal of minority representation to be introduced.*
- 5. All public officers to be subject to their constituencies.*
- 6. Civil and criminal law throughout the United States. Administration of justice free of charge. Abolition of capital punishment.*