

# Home rule sought by Socialists in 1913

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ics for the children. For the adult population, the schools would provide free night classes and trades training. Schools were to be meeting and social centers for their respective neighborhoods.

The document concluded, "The Socialist Party does not beg for votes. It does not put its candidates forward as individual good men, but as representatives of the party of the working class . . . Vote the Socialist ticket and help to change the present capitalistic industrial system. Vote to abolish exploitation

and to substitute cooperation. Committee — George W. Myers, chairman; Kenneth Steen, secretary; A.F. Bumpas and J.E. Stewart."

The Bloomington Socialist Party was not alone in advocating change in the area. In May 1914 the Indiana University Socialist Club sponsored a lecture-circuit visit of Eugene V. Debs. The notice of his speech in the Bloomington *Telephone* may have been written as an advance press release by a member of the club. It begins, "Hoosierdom has produced many persons of much talent in literary and many other lines, and a man who is being recognized as one of the most bril-

liant products is Eugene V. Debs."

Though a St. Louis labor newspaper was underwriting the Debs speaking tour, \$200 was collected in Bloomington "to pay expenses." Debs denounced child labor as "the greatest crime in all history," advocated women's suffrage and blamed the war in Mexico on capitalists.

The 1914 *Arbutus* contains an article about the IU club. It advocated university ownership of picture shows, boarding clubs and taxi-cabs; favored public control of the Jordan (River) and the Well House and "demands an equal division of dance proceeds among those who attended."