

Socialist Party sought city offices in 1913

Socialists, from page A1

newspaper printed in its entirety.

It began: "The Socialist Party of Bloomington is a part of the international movement of the modern working class for better food, better houses, sufficient sleep, more leisure, more education and more culture. As such we hereby re-affirm our allegiance to the principles of international socialism as embodied in the united thought and action of the socialists of all nations."

The party's statement recognized the reality of its minority status, but suggested that some of the aspirations of its members could be incorporated into Bloomington city government.

The first hurdle to change was thought to be a revision of the city charter. "In order that

Bloomington may have the powers necessary to satisfy the local needs of the community not inconsistent with the state constitution or general state laws, we demand of the state legislature provision for the calling of a charter convention, such convention to be elected on such basis that all parties shall be represented in proportion to their voting strength; the charter framed by such convention to be submitted to the voters for approval."

The primary object of the new charter was "home rule," a freedom not likely to appeal to the Indiana legislators. Nevertheless, the Bloomington Socialist Party platform which appeared in the *Telephone* set forth in detail what it wanted to accomplish in the way of change.

Next week: The Socialist Party Platform