

Preface.

Vienna is the only city on earth, counting millions of inhabitants, that is governed by a Socialist majority. This majority, which was secured in the year of Revolution, has been brilliantly maintained, and even strengthened, in two electoral struggles. Whereas after the overthrow of the old order, 100 of the 165 members of the Vienna Municipality were Socialists, the proportion is now 78 out of 120 members. At the first municipal elections held after the War, in May 1919, 679,728 votes were cast. Of these 368,228 (54.17 per cent) were Socialist, while 311,500 (45.83 per cent) were divided among all the other parties. In April 1927, when 92 per cent of the electors voted, 1,152,155 votes were cast, of which 694,457 (60.27 per cent) were Socialist, while 457,698 (39.73 per cent) were divided among the other parties.

There is no city about which so many lies have been told in recent years as about Vienna. It has been decried as a Bolshevist centre, as a city that is being ruined by its rulers. Yet the truth has prevailed. Civic representatives from all parts of the earth are now coming to the Town Hall of Vienna, in order to learn something from the Socialist administration of the city. It is therefore a useful work to give an account of the achievements of the Socialist Town Hall of Vienna.

The following account was first published in the year 1924 in the Berlin periodical "Die Gesellschaft" and was then issued as a booklet by the publishing house of J. H. W. Dietz of Berlin, a second edition appearing in the year 1926.

The work was also translated into French and English. Both editions are exhausted, and will be reprinted in revised form. An abridged edition has also been published in the Hungarian language. A Tcheck translation is now appearing in the periodical "Socialistická Obec", while a Dutch translation is in preparation.

The work describes the general features of the administration according to its position at the close of the year 1927. It contains much material that has been hitherto unknown. The fiscal figures are based on the assessment for the year 1928. An Austrian schilling is worth 7d.

VIENNA, April 1928.

THE AUTHOR.

