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EDITORIAL

“THE LABOR COMBINE” AS A MENACE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the Massachusetts capitalist candidates for Congress is William C. Lovering, a manufacturer of Taunton. Mr. Lovering’s occupation, seconded by his capitalist political affiliations, constitutes more than presumptive evidence that he is a fleecer of the working class, and that he is such, not by accident or lack of knowledge, but from choice. It is presumptive evidence that he considers the capitalist system of plundering the working class to be the right one, and that he does his share to continue the system in force. In this particular case, presumption is confirmed by direct evidence. As an employer of Labor Mr. Lovering is a scheming fleecer, who clips the wool so close to the skin of the workers that his employes bleed.

Now, then, this worthy being up for re-election, to whom does he go for endorsement and backing, so as to be able to wheedle their votes from his employes and their fellow wage-slaves, on top of his other fleecings? Let undisputable facts answer the question.

Before us is a copy of the Brockton, Mass., *Times*, of the 11th instant. On its 5th page, conspicuously facing the editorial page, there is a two-column-wide heading, “Gompers Endorses Lovering;” below that a double-column space, occupying eleven inches in length, is filled up with a facsimile letter signed by “Sam’l Gompers, President American Federation of Labor;” in the letter Gompers “takes pleasure” in booming Mr. Lovering’s labor record, and he appends to it a postscript over his initials, saying: “The facts to which Mr. Tracy testifies I fully verify.”

This should be sufficient of a side light into the camp of the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. But the fates are evidently in a mood favorable to the Socialist Labor Party policy of exposing the treason of that gentry to the working class, and in a mood to photograph the dogs in the kennel relations that exist among these traitors in their

scramble for the opportunity to do the employers' dirty work—and earn his {their?} reward.

Before us is another copy of the same Brockton *Times*. It is a later copy, four days later. It is dated the 15th. This trip, almost the whole of a page, the 8th, is taken up with Lovering. Again facsimile letters are reproduced, one from Geo. E. M'Neill to Gompers, and one from Gompers in answer to M'Neill. M'Neill berates Lovering's Labor record in Congress and booms against him seven other capitalist politicians, Gov. Thomas Talbot among them. Gompers crawls. The same man, who in a postscript stated, "The facts to which Mr. Tracy certifies I fully certify," now dodges and seems to throw blame on Tracy.

What does all this music mean? Why this anxiety to boom Lovering on the part of some, and to unboom him on the part of others, who are seeking to boom some other capitalist? Need the question be answered? The two sets of letters are two living coals thrown up from the seething furnace of the Labor Fakir world, where each has his particular capitalist colonel, and is seeking to earn his wages as that colonel's lieutenant in the camp of Labor.

[N.B.—1st. The documents from which the above facts are taken are not forgeries; they are for inspection in this office.

[2d. This is the same Gompers who, in 1892, endorsed over his signature the Democrat Jacob Cantor, who had applauded the Democrat Gov. Flower for sending the militia of the State to Buffalo to help the railroad magnates break the 10-hour law.

[3d. This is the same Gompers who, in 1894, ran on the Populist and the Republican tickets simultaneously in this city, and then dodged, as he now does, saying that when he heard of his nomination, it was too late to get his name off the ballot, notwithstanding there was a whole week in which to do so.

[4th. This the same Gompers who is Hanna's Vice-President on the Civic Federation.

[5th. These are the same Gompers and Tracy, who, as officers of the Cigarmakers' Union, condoned, if not engineered, the arming of their rank and file in Tampa to break a Union and lower the wages of the cigarmakers.

[6th. Finally this is the same Gompers whom the Social Democrats at the last

convention of the A.F. of L. unanimously voted for as President.]

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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