

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 73.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

OUTSPOKEN HEARST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the delegates at the International Labor Congress, who sat in Paris, and from whom Gompers had to hear square pieces of their minds, was Huebers, an Austrian delegate.

Those who know Gompers can readily imagine the bombastic assurance with which the man must have reeled off the piece he was taught by the Civic Federation, and which he bestowed upon the Congress as the “views of American Labor.” Hueber punctured the bladder with the declaration that he did not believe that all American workers thought as Gompers did. Right is Huebers!

Gompers has boasted that his A.F. of L. is 2,000,000 members strong. On one occasion he made it out 2,500,000. It is not half the number. But suppose it is. Suppose it actually numbered 2,500,000 members,—that is but a small fraction of the men, women and children employed as wage slaves in the land. The overwhelming majority, the many millions more of wage earners in the United States are out, they repudiate the thing, which the Berlin *Vorwaerts* is now justly calling “dead wood” (duerres Holz), and to which they give a large variety of much harder names.

The bulk of the A.F. of L. is made up of compulsory recruits—just as the army of the Czar of Russia. Without the consent, frequently the lash of the employer, the membership of the Gompers-Mitchell concern would be what the Mitchell coal miners Unions periodically become when the coal mine baron refuses, or neglects to act as financial-secretary for the body by means of the check-off system. Surely, Gompers represents and voices the views of these as little as the Czar voices the sentiment of the large majority of his troops. Deducing the number of these forcibly impressed members, and considering the huge mass of the American proletariat that is beyond his tackles, it is safe to say that only a small number of America’s

workers think as Gompers does—how small a number poor Bryan was made to feel when they shut their ears to Gompers' siren songs in behalf of Bryan, and stampeded to Taft.

'Tis not the workers of America who think as Gompers does, 'tis the Top Capitalists who do.

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

Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

socialists@slp.org