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EDITORIAL

## ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE!!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE local newspapers announce that Farley the strike breaker has left New York City for San Francisco. In the latter city a strike is due on May 6. Farley is going there to break it. That he will succeed, is a foregone conclusion, for, up to date, the Gompers brand of Unionism has shown itself to be so constituted as to make the success of the strike breaker a certainty. This brand of unionism splits labor into unions whose prime object is the defense of the interests of its own members only. These unions are based on capitalist principles. The result is that when a union is on strike it fights alone, unless other unions are directly involved. Then the fight is made an opportunity for one union to succeed at the expense of the other. There is, in brief, no sympathetic and spontaneous action on the part of the labor unions in the interest of labor, but a warring and selfish activity in behalf of their individual interests that insures their defeat and makes certain the triumph of capitalism. Imagine the Japanese regiments each pursuing the Russian troops with an eye to their own particular triumph, instead of doing so as a part of a well-ordered and highly mobilized army, moving on the object of attack in accordance with well-defined principles of tactics and strategy—imagine this, and a faint conception may be had of the suicidal policy pursued by the Gompers autonomous unions against the strike-breaker, behind whom stands all the well organized and highly centralized economic and governmental agencies of capitalism! Under the circumstance, capitalist success is inevitable.

Were labor united as a whole, Farley's strike breaker would be helpless; for where, then, would be the union men to transport his army, haul his supplies, furnish motive power to and repair the wires needed by his unions? Where the 2,000,000 union men who passively stand by declaring the fight no concern of theirs, except one of principle that affects them when an appeal for funds is formally

made? Where would be the appalling indifference that notes the enemy's possession of all the functions of government and their use against labor regularly and systematically, without resentment and action at the ballot box? This would all vanish, making labor powerful in its own behalf; whereas now it is a weakling whose efforts redound to the greater entrenchment of Capitalism.

Labor, in order to defeat the strike breakers, must organize. The Gompers brand of unionism is not that union in which there is strength, unless it be the strength of the capitalist. The Gompers brand of unionism is the dis-union that leads to defeat; the rope of sand that, when brought into contact with the stone wall is capitalism, is hopelessly shattered. Labor, it is necessary to repeat, must organize. Labor must organize on industrial lines, i.e., on the lines demanded by the concentration of industry, which, grouping many industries into one, no longer regards them as isolated and independent, but co-ordinated and a part of one great whole; which, being of immense capitalization and importance to the economic weal of the nation, being the very foundation of the latter, is in control of all the functions of government, using the latter for its own special protection and advancement, especially in all matters involving the rights and interests of Labor. In other words, Labor must organize on the higher industrial political plane demanded by modern evolution. The Gompers brand of unionism of a quarter of a century ago, is played out, as far as working class interests are concerned. It benefits only Capitalism.

**Organize! Organize!!**

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

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