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EDITORIAL

“MALADROIT.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE well-known expression “to abuse one another like pickpockets” has its origin in the experience that, when pickpockets, being at the end of their tether, fall out, they have a peculiarly reckless collection of charges to prefer against one another. The “bouquets” with which Mr. Samuel Gompers and the Volkszeitung Corporation are belaboring each other in these days, when the, to them, ominous Industrial Union Movement is rapidly looming up, confirms the experience.

Here is the Volkszeitung Corporation, a body, that, when five years ago the cigarmakers were thrown on strike in this city, kept on strike fully seven months after the strike was hopelessly lost, and the rank and file of Labor was being drained and assessed to “support the strike”, all for the sake of helping a raft of labor fakirs to keep their jobs as “strike committeemen”, played shuttle-cock and battledore with Gompers, echoed the lying declarations of the “strike committee” and picket men, all of whom were thus being supported in idleness with the money wheedled and extorted out of the workingman; a body, that, when three years ago, John Mitchell ordered the bituminous coal miners to scab it upon their anthracite fellows by remaining at work, allowing the former to have the Hanna bituminous coal beneficiaries of the strike check-off from their wages the strike assessment for the anthracite strikers and thus to keep up the strike long enough to enable the said Hanna bituminous combine to make millions out of a strike that almost quadrupled the formerly low price of bituminous coal, sang the praises of Mitchell as a “champion of labor”; a body that suppressed the iniquities of Tobin and his associates “Genosse” Carey and Frank Sieverman when they introduced convicts and other “Farley pets” into Lynn, the same as recently shown they did into Montreal, in order to break the shoemakers’ strike; a body that, when the Socialist

Labor Party man Corregan exposed the misdeeds of Gompersism and was therefor promptly expelled by the Cragg-Jorgensen labor-lieutenants of Capitalism in the Typographical Union without notification or trial, joined the Gompersistic hurrah of “Another De Leonite kicked out, good!”, and that, when Corregan went to court in the matter and was monkeyed out of his rights by a judge in the lower court, joined the capitalist papers’ shout of joy, and that, finally, when Corregan appealed and mopped the earth with the Gompers satellites, again joined the chorus of capitalist papers, but then in the silence with which they sought to hush up the discomfiture of Gompersism; a body that, only the other day, did its share to betray the Interborough strikers, and whose personal representative in the Central Federated Union and pet-perpetual candidate on its so-called Social Democratic ticket, Morris Brown, joined Belmont in calumniating the strikers by echoing the Gompers-Belmont charge that they had “broken their contract”; a body, to make short a very long and grewsome story of continuous chicanery, a body that, a couple of years ago, sold out the brewery workingmen in this city for a round sum of advertisements, and that by that act, more than by any other one act, helped to break the patient camel’s back and to goad into existence the present Industrial Movement, which sets Gompersism shivering in its stolen boots;—that body, that Volkszeitung Corporation, now retorts through its English poodle *The New Yorker Worker* to Gompers’s abuse of it by laying the Industrial Movement to the door of Gompers’s “maladroit” conduct.

“Maladroit”? Why, of course! So is Capitalism, so is every set of felons. But for their “maladroitness”, but for the law of their existence that drives them on and compels them to keep up the agony, Wrong would be made bearable, and Revolution never would be.

Aye, “maladroit”! Devoutly thankful is humanity therefor.

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