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EDITORIAL

## CONGRESS.

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**C**ONGRESS has adjourned. What has Congress done that the working class should rejoice in the session just closed? It has done one thing of inestimable value to the nation. It has made it patent to even those possessed of less than average intelligence, that it is the great conservator, promoter and reflection of plutocratic interests; that it is by, for and of the plutocracy, instead of the people, as is generally supposed. When Gompers reproached Congress for its neglect to legislate in the interests of labor, its treatment was such as to drive that worthy to threaten political retaliation. When the President fought the railroads and the beef trust, Congress rendered him ridiculous in the first instance and impotent in the second. In all the fury and fustian of the attacks on plutocratic interests, in and out of governmental, executive and judicial circles, Congress stood by and protected them, while advancing them, as in the Panama Canal legislation, at home and abroad. It cared not for the 2,000,000 workmen alleged to be behind Gompers. The immense executive power of the President affected it not. Nor did the frenzied clamor of the middle class whom it helped to crush. These only served to whet its zeal for the plutocracy, and to embolden it to entrench the latter more firmly.

Congress, in thus upholding the plutocracy, did so conscious of the fact that it is the only powerful class in the nation; and, therefore, the only class to be feared. The plutocracy owns the means of production, distribution and exchange, without which American life and government are impossible; and for the protection and advancement of which the latter primarily exists. What are Gompers' alleged 2,000,000 workmen to this class, with its great power, based on the ownership and control of the economic foundations of modern society? Did not the plutocratic class, by a threat to close down all the essential industries, frighten three times that

number into voting for McKinley in 1896? And as for Roosevelt, what power has he independent of the co-operation and support of the ultra-capitalists? Could he—unlike the coal operator who cannot get his coal to market because of a lack of cars due to opposition—move a regiment of soldiers, if that class did not so will it? The government, as well as the working and middle classes, is, both figuratively and literally speaking, in the hands of the plutocracy. The plutocracy can, in the language of the street, “make it or break it.” Congress both reflected and was inspired by this profound fact.

In showing so unmistakably that it was by, for and of the plutocracy exclusively, Congress has once more demonstrated that the only political agency possessing force is that actuated by a great economic power. Such the working class will be when, industrially and politically organized on class-conscious lines, it seizes the powers of state, locks the plutocracy out of factory, mill and mine, and takes and holds that which its labor produces, i.e., the concentrated capital of the nation, preparatory to the inauguration of the Socialist Republic.

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

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