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EDITORIAL

## BOURBON GOMPERS.

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**A** CAPACITY never to learn and never to forget has become the distinctive batch {badge?} of the Bourbon. By that token Gompers, who blandly claims that Labor did not cling to Taft, is a legitimate member of the Bourbon family.

Gompers was the most effective agitator for Taft. This sounds absurd. In the fact that a correct principle looks absurd at first blush lies its deep importance. The day the truth of the statement shall have become part of Labor's anatomy, that day the Tafts will be blizzardarded—and the Bryans will not be heard from—nor yet the Gomperses.

What is the theoretical principle upon which Mr. Gompers stands? It is this:

“The relations of the Capitalist Class and the Working Class are reciprocal; both have rights.”

Two persons may stand towards each other in reciprocal relations without being equals; indeed, one may be the absolute dependent of and upon the other. Take the sweetest of relations—mother and babe. The healthier and happier the mother, all the happier and healthier the babe; and inversely, the happier and healthier the babe, all the better for the mother. All this notwithstanding, the two are not equals, leastways is the babe the superior of the mother. On the contrary. The illness or death of the mother is a calamity to the babe; while the illness or death of the babe, though painful to the mother, is not usually fatal. The Gompers principle of reciprocity of interests between Capitalist and Workingman, and their equality of rights, has for its practical result the placing of Labor in the category of a babe towards its mother. The man who stands upon that principle stands to-day, in America, upon a platform that may be termed a Taft platform; it is the platform of, for and by the Upper Capitalist.

Hold language to the effect that the “babes” shall not be run by the Capitalist and the practical result is to cause every “babe” to cling with increased tenacity to its Upper Capitalist mamma. Nor does the effect stop there. The “babes” held by the out-in-the-cold, or Minor Capitalist Class mamma will instinctively feel, seeing they are “babes,” that the more powerful the Mamma the better off they are. The consequence is obvious, their hold on their mamma will loosen: they will tend to herd with the Taft mamma. The final result is mathematical:

There being 50 “babes” in the tender care of the Upper Capitalist or Taft mamma to every 1 “babe” in charge of the Minor Capitalist or Bryan mamma, it follows that “babe hood” will overwhelmingly stick and pass over to the Taft mamma, leaving the Bryan mamma with a pitiful minority, if any.

“Gompers,” meaning all that Gompers symbolizes, against “Taft,” meaning all that Taft symbolizes, is an absurdity. Gompersism cannot breathe without it, economically, strengthens the arm of Taftism, adds grease to Taftism’s elbow, and then, politically, reflects the identical principle by stampeding the Labor vote to “Taft.”

The Labor vote will never fall away from Taftism so long as Labor is swayed by Gompersism. The “babe” will never rise above the babe mind.

No wonder all the agencies of Capital are straining to keep Labor down in the babe-mind state; and straining all their energies to block Socialist Labor Party education.

Labor will cling to “Taft” just as long as it fails to realize that “Taft” is a barnacle on its back. The day that fact is realized, the Gompers theory of reciprocal relations will be thrust overboard, and, with it, the theory that Capital has any rights whatever.

On that day Bourbon Gompers’s occupation will be gone.

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

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