

GOMPERS AND CO., SCABS.

AN INDICTMENT AND EXPOSE OF AN ENEMY OF LABOR

Gompers, Charlatan, Falsifier, Coward, Ignoramus Proves Himself to Be Also a Scab Furnisher-Characteristics, Will He Accept?

CHAPTER I.

In Washington, D. C., there was an organization known as the Federation of Labor, commonly called "The Local Union." This body was organized in the '80's, and was the central labor organization of the city. It included the unions of the District of Columbia, and to it belonged all the Local Assemblies of the Knights of Labor.

Previous to 1895—the year this history begins—the A. F. of L. had made attempts to organize a Central Labor Union in opposition to the Local Federation, by organizing delinquent members of the already existing unions, but had failed in every attempt.

In December, 1895, the brewers were organized by Bechtold and some others. Negotiations were carried on with the brewery bosses by Bechtold, and some of the G. E. B. of the K. of L.

The above is a short sketch of actual happenings in Washington, D. C., between the years 1895 and 1897. There is nothing therein but a plain statement of facts that can be verified by witnesses and affidavits.

ARTHUR KEEP.

The New York "Journal" has entered into a terrible contest with the "World," and accuses it of imitation, of pilfering, and of other unseemly crimes. The trouble seems to be that the "Journal" finds the "World" treading on its corns, and the "World" has discovered that the "Journal" treads on its neck.

tailors, granite cutters and some others, were appealed to to compel the local unions of their organizations to join the new Central Labor Union.

CHAPTER II.

The plasterers were one of the oldest organizations in the District of Columbia and belonged to the K. of L. In 1886 they were the only building trades union in the city which secured the eight hour day.

The C. L. U. set about organizing (?) the plasterers and painters. To do so they had to organize (?) the scabs. After they had got them they did not know what to do as the old organizations were still intact.

The painters soon got their dose of Gompers and Company. Every year he had been employed to paint the river steamboats, and in 1896 they were engaged in the work of painting the boats when Mr. Gompers and a committee from the C. L. U. showed up.

Or the undersigned will agree to meet him before any of the unions in Washington, D. C., and prove him an organizer of scabs in the interest of the bosses, as he has already done on one or two occasions.

Later on there will appear a third and final chapter in this history that will go to show how Gompers personally and with malice aforethought tried and failed to break up the tailors union of Washington; how he ascended to the tricks of the three card monte man, and was caught in the act and branded as a scab to his face in the company of Frank Morrison, Secretary of the A. F. of L.

The "Post" of Washington failed to treat its printers as it had agreed to, and they struck. The Local Federation boycotted the "Post" and any and all business men who advertised in it.

When the bricklayers were expelled, a committee was appointed to organize a Central Labor Union that should be attached to the A. F. of L. On this committee there was only the representatives of the printers and the bricklayers, with a delegate, an anarchist by the way, from a small union of bakers that had been organized of scab bakers.

A PLUTOCRATIC AGENCY.

The Interstate Commerce Commission—Its Use as a Bailwart.

In our editorial columns of January 5, we considered that ghastly part of the advance report of the Interstate Commerce Commission which is, beyond question, of uppermost interest to the workers engaged in transportation: namely, the number of railroad employees killed and injured in the year ending June 30, 1899.

While the statistics of accidents are never published until eighteen months have elapsed since the end of the fiscal year in which they occurred, the far more extensive and complicated figures of railway traffic, gross and net incomes, operating expenses, etc., are almost immediately accessible, not only for the year at its close, but from month to month.

For the year ending June 30, 1900, the gross earnings of companies operating 190,500 miles of line for about 98 per cent of the whole railway system of the United States, footed up the sum of over 1,380 millions and the operating expenses nearly 957 millions, leaving a net balance, or profit, of about 523 millions.

Observe that from these figures, supplied by the companies themselves, it would appear that the operating expenses were nearly 65 per cent of the gross receipts in the year under review.

Before Piece-work was Introduced. Year. Output. Emps. Wages. 1897..... 77. 72. \$1.10. After Piece-work was Introduced. 1898..... 86. 68. \$1.19. 1899..... 127. 88. 1.18. 1900..... 135. 95. 1.18.

But everybody knows that this account of "operating expenses"—the ratio of which to gross income has been steadily increasing every year in the face of such well-known facts as we have just enumerated—is a tissue of fraud.

A noticeable feature is the Employment Department. Instead of having a daily throng of men about the entrance pressing their claims for work, while the selection is made at random, the Company has a thorough system of record of employees, former employees and applicants for positions.

The departments in offices and factory showing the highest standing on the monitor-boards for each month are the "prize department" and receive a banner which hangs in their room during the succeeding month.

Facts of such import should be stated clearly, but although they may be deduced from the statistics of the Interstate Commerce Commission by anyone who possesses a file of its reports, that body itself is apparently careful to avoid drawing to them the public attention.

period, brought, in one way and another, under the control of other lines. Why does not this poor and ungrammatical commission, which has no official knowledge yet can inform itself "as well as possible" from unofficial sources, state at once the total amount of consolidation which the whole railway system of the United States has now reached?

But the Interstate Commission was especially instituted to humor and befuddle the stupid middle class. It does its appointed work "as well as possible." Occasionally it indulges in glittering generalities of the sort that stir the enthusiasm of a Nebraska Populist.

There is only one body more important than the Interstate Commission; and that is the Debsites, which chiefly relying upon the support of railway workers and middle class bankrupts, holds out to the latter as a "possible and practical" measure of relief their under-capitalism, and measure of relief their under-capitalism, and measure of relief their under-capitalism.

"BETTERING" THE WORKER

(Continued from page 1.)

the employees was the introduction of piece-work recently. Here is the result in one department, best shown by the following table.

Table with 5 columns: Year, Output, Emps., Wages, and another unlabeled column. Data for 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900.

What the company terms "increase" in wages. In every department similar results were obtained. The main point is that in order to obtain the desired co-operation, plans were adopted which made it apparently advantageous to employees while at the same time concealing the fact that it is a scheme, the sole object of which is to create a paying investment to the company.

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extension of influence in many ways. It has a better class of employees to draw from in the immediate neighborhood than would live there before—adds to the stability and permanence of the company's business; the value of land owned by the company is enhanced by attractive surroundings; and so on.

To go into details would take up the space of more than one issue of the DAILY PEOPLE. A Sunday School, now one of the most successful and best organized in the country, is run by the company.

"Our duty is to be useful, not according to our desires, but according to our powers." "Work as if, though you could not see Him, you knew that He saw you. Be faithful to the Christ who shall some day make himself known to you."

"Who never finds the ready hour to sow, Who watches clouds, will have no time to reap."

It is alleged that this system of affairs is productive of the welfare of the company. As shown repeatedly in the foregoing the one thought is the advancement of the material interests of the National Cash Register Company.

The employees' benefit is trivial in comparison to the company's gains. Not only do the employees surrender the best of their mentality, in the way of suggestions, improved methods and invention, without a just remuneration, but they also surrender their manhood.

SOCIALIST BOOKS.

In proportion as the Socialist Labor Party grows and the interest in the Socialist Republic increases, there is an ever increasing demand for Socialist books. The faint of death is already on the Capitalist System of Production, but in order to steer through the existing chaos the Working Class must be equipped with the best mental training obtainable.

Intermediate Books on Socialism.

When a workman once gets started in Socialist literature, he develops an insatiable appetite for the Revolutionary Literature of Socialism. The following four books are especially of value as follows: "What is Socialism?", "Reform or Revolution," and "McClure's Socialism."

THE PROLETARIAT. By Karl Kautsky. Adapted to America. 6 cents. "The Proletariat should be read after 'The Capitalist Class.' The history and growth of the working class and the effect of capitalist production on the working class are vividly portrayed.

THE CLASS STRUGGLE. By Karl Kautsky. Adapted to America. 6 cents. "The struggle for supremacy between the Working Class and the Capitalist Class becomes more marked and acute as Capitalism develops.

New York Labor News Company, 9 to 6 New Bond St., New York.

"PROFIT-SHARING."

ITS REAL MEANING AND USELESSNESS EXPOSED.

One of Its Apostles Quoted—Not Philanthropy But "Sagacious" Business Policy—The manner in which the Great Capitalists Cling to it.

In an article entitled "Fallacious Remedies" in the PEOPLE of December 31, it was therein shown that profit-sharing is but an intensified form of labor exploitation, which increases labor's productivity and curtails its opportunities. It was shown therein that the yearly percentage paid labor on wages was not proportionate to the increased production of labor and its saving of time, machinery and material.

Nicholas Paine Gilman, in his work entitled "Profit Sharing Between Employer and Employee," in order to win employers to an adoption of his favorite hobby, points out and emphasizes the fact to them that "profit-sharing" is not philanthropy, but a sagacious business policy.

Who never finds the ready hour to sow, Who watches clouds, will have no time to reap." Parents are requested to make plain the meaning of the mottoes and it is suggested that at least one of them be memorized each day.

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they are no more artists than Mr. Gilman's ideal employers are philanthropists—but because they like their profits more.

Morgan, Rockefeller, Hill, Clark, Whitney, Gates, Carnegie nor any of our great leaders of capitalism, extol profit-sharing as a profit miracle worker. Their capital, their resources for crushing competition, purchasing raw material, supplanting old with new machinery of increased productivity, displacing labor and crushing it with the army of unemployed thus manufactured, are boundless and, at present, unlimited; so why should they bother with cumbersome methods that save them a comparatively small sum, while they can otherwise reap millions?

What are strikes to Morgan? A welcomed, a manufactured, means of crushing independent collectives, subjugating the mine workers, and perfecting the anthracite railroad and coal combination: a process that is not so great in its incidental expenditure as in its ultimate financial gain. Does profit-sharing prevent the wear and tear of machinery? What is machinery to Carnegie? It is a thing that is to be continually thrown out on the junk heap, as fast as new and improved machinery is invented and substituted for it. It is a thing to increase the unemployed and to use them to break strikes. On Carnegie's junk heap there is often better machinery than his "profit-sharing" competitors have in their works.

Profit-sharing saves raw material. What is raw material to our great capitalists? They possess the oil field, the coal beds, the iron mines, the timber lands, the farming soil—in a word, the vast natural resources of this country, which they have wasted and squandered in the pursuit of profit. Profit-sharing increases the quantity and improves the quality of the products—what are these things to our great capitalists? Machinery, the laborer that never strikes and subsists on crude oil, providing the increased productivity; while technology, with its underpaid engineers and experts, furnish the quality. Profit-sharing is a delusion to all workmen who believe in it. It is a means, wherever practiced, of intensifying the exploitation of labor. It cannot stop the larger processes of capitalism from making the class struggle more intense. It only accelerates the evils of capitalism which prefer to flourish without the capitalist evolution is going on under "the simple wages system," and will only end with the destruction of that system.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in full name under an assumed name, will attach their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]
Excellent Feeling in Peoria, Ill.
To the DAILY PEOPLE.—Section Peoria, S. L. P., has not forgotten you...

methods. There is enough truth in the stories you quote to make the case apparent. I make no defence of employers in this particular case...

the mask from the Democratic party and all politicians.
The election over let the S. L. P. secretary without a job, and though work was plenty, none could be obtained by him...

the company. Shortly after this, in answer to a petition of the men, the company gave an increase in wages. Thirteen cents an hour for those in continuous service less than a year...

"Geo. S. Holmes and Lewis Rentlemann will represent the De Leonite faction of the S. L. P."
As Geo. Holmes and Lewis Rentlemann had belonged to the S. L. P. up to two weeks prior to this...

that difference inside the party and obey the majority, we can easily forget, but those who use the knowledge they have attained in the party, to stab it in the back...

him to immediately return the presents. If the Union believes he snared inadvertently, it may stop there. If it is not perfectly clear upon that, should be proposed, and another walking delegate elected.

