EDITORIAL

THEY INDICT THEMSELVES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A printed circular has reached this office, dated Tampa, Fla., Nov. 14, 1900, and signed “International Cigarmakers’ Union No. 336.” The circular purports to give the International Cigarmakers’ side of the story in the conflict that has broken out between it and “La Resistencia,” an independent local of cigarmakers in Tampa. Last Sunday’s DAILY PEOPLE published La Resistencia’s statement. It is a great pity that the extraordinary length of the statement now issued by Union 336 makes impossible the giving of it also in full. Unable to reproduce it, we shall mention its salient features. These certainly are worth knowing.

The statement of Union 336 is addressed to the businessmen, but more especially to the cigar manufacturers of Tampa. These are told that Union 336, together with its national organization, the International Cigarmakers’ Union, is a “conservative organization,” whereas La Resistencia is depicted as a revolutionary affair, a body of “malcontents,” presumably, of course, malcontents with the existing social conditions; that Union 336, together with the whole International Union, consists of “American workingmen,” and the inference is allowed to transpire that the La Resistencia body consists of non-American workingmen; the further point is made against La Resistencia that it is guided by “imported agitators”; and finally the attention of the manufacturers is called to the great advantage to them of having Union 336 men for their employees, on the allegation that these men are infinitely more helpless in their dealings with the manufacturers than La Resistencia men would be. The exact language upon this last point is as follows: “This Union must, by its law and constitution, get a general vote of all American Unions of cigarmakers before your factories are closed by a strike”; this Union, consequently, “is a better friend to you than a local Union like the Resistencia,”

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1 [“Union Wrecking: Cigarmakers’ International Arousing Race Prejudice and Forming Rival Unions.” Daily People, Sunday, November 18, 1900. Reproduced on page three. Enlarge to read.—R.B.]
which “can vacate your tables on an instant’s notice,” and thus “damage your best interest.”

Union 336 could hardly have drawn a fuller indictment against itself, along with its Gompers-Strasser-Maroushek-Dan Harris International organization of cigarmakers. Out of its own mouth it stands convicted a body inspired wholly by sentiments, views and principles that are repulsive to Labor, and that can only be a curse to the Working Class.

It is not the voice of honorable Labor that ever breathes race or national distinctions. These distinctions are levers for the capitalist, the exploiter, to wield. The workingman who stirs up these distinctions is a reprobate; the organization of workers that utters such language is a libel upon a Labor Organization.

It is not the voice of virile Labor that ever is heard expressing “contentment” with existing conditions; least of all is it the voice of virile Labor that would ever take from the lips of the fleecers themselves the word “malcontent” with which these ever seek to stigmatize the virile worker, who, chafing under the yoke of capitalism, seeks to emancipate himself. The workingman who applies the word “malcontent” to his fellow wage slave is a poltroon; the organization of workers, guilty of such an act, is a barn of white-livered dunghill-cocks.

It is not, no, never is it the voice of loyal Labor that will make a virtue out of its own weakness with the capitalist, and that will raise the colors of the “Employer’s Interests” above the colors of the “Interests of Labor.” The workingman who hucksters his services with praises of his own “inoffensiveness” to the exploiter is a deserter; the workingman or organization of workers, that would warn the exploiter against the wage slaves who organize in such manner as to be most powerful in their conflicts with Capital,—such an organization is a traitor to the Working Class.

After sinning on these cardinal points, and standing branded by its own irons as a prostituted concern, it can hardly add much to the infamy of Union 336 that even in its cowardly posture, the colors it flies are fraudulent.

Odd, indeed, must sound the charge against the La Resistencia agitator that he is “imported,” when the charge comes from an organization whose Organized Scabbery swarms with such malodorous importations as the Marousheks, the Gomperses, the Strassers, the Dan Harrises, etc., etc., etc. Again, the infamy of Union 336 gains deeper dye—a dye that spreads over the whole International Union, which it seeks to boister itself with,—when its claim is considered that, by the International Union’s laws, “no shop can be closed by a strike without a general vote of all the Unions.” What about Davis’s shop in this city? No such general vote has been taken; indeed, none such is needed; the shop itself voted over-whelmingly
They Indict Themselves

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against a strike; and yet it was pronounced on strike by the "imported" agitators, in violation of the actual law of the International Union; and, based on this violation of its own laws, the Organized Scabbery of the International Union have had the effrontery to caluminate the Alliance men who went (back) to work at Davis's despite the bogus strike.

The organization of labor that is not planted squarely on the class struggle can develop only in one direction,—the direction of a buffer for the capitalist class, run by the Labor Lieutenants of Capital. Pure and simpleminded is the enemy born of the Working Class: it is twin brother to the Capitalist Class. The statement of Union 336, together with the conduct of the rest of the International Union, furnishes, though merely cumulative, still valuable evidence of this fact.

UNION WRECKING.

ORGANIZED SCABBERY Assumes to Force In Tampa—In the Interest of the Bosses It Works Hard for a Strong Union.

Statement Based on the Subject.

Tampa, Fla., Nov. 16—The officers, the Organized Scabbery, of the Tampa cigar workers, are making a desperate attempt to wreck the International cigar union organization of the cigar makers in this section of the country. It culminated last night in an attack on out of the largest cigar factories in the city. The building was surrounded and waves waved for half an hour by the International union men shot after shot at the building. Over 80 shots were fired but fortunately no one was injured.

The determined effort to smash the International union is due to the fact that the International officers draw no dues from the workers.

The following statement was issued last week.

TO THE PEOPLE OF TAMPA:

No, it is not true, as it has been stated by the officers of the International Union, that the conflict between their union and the International is due to race prejudices. No, it is not true, as they say through the press, that the Cuban return to work with Americans in the cigar factories. La Habanana is composed of several nationalities, including many Americans, and bosses are divided between their Executive Meeting. The Cuban element is the one that represents the interests of the working men. They have always been united with the International union, and they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union.

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This has not been the only activity of the International union, but it has been under the auspices of the International union, and we know it is true. The International union is the only union that has always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union. It is an open secret that they have always been in favor of the International union.

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