

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 310.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## WHAT'S AMISS?

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** STRIKE has been in progress for some time in Chicago; for fully a week it has been at an acute stage;—and yet Mr. Samuel Gompers, “President,” “Editor” and “Undertaker” has not yet shown up on the scene to preside over, editorialize upon, and officiate as undertaker at the funeral of an endeavor of Labor to wrest better conditions from the capitalist exploiter!

Something must be amiss.

We recently had a sample of Gompers or A.F. of Hellism in New York. Just as soon as the Interborough strike threatened to be a serious affair to “President,” “Editor” and “Undertaker” Gompers’ patron Belmont, the gentleman alighted on this city, like a ready mosquito on a palpitating vein, and, together with his friend, Grand Chief Stone, and his fellow Cigarmakers Unionman, the *Volkszeitung* Social Democrat Morris Brown, stabbed Labor in the back by declaring that “the strikers broke their contract and were in the wrong”!!

It has been so every time. Every time Labor threatened to seize the vulture exploiter by the throat, the latter knew how to connect with Gompers, just where to find him and to turn the worthy into a “Johnny-on-the-Spot” for “Undertaker” purposes. How comes it Gompers and none of his assistants have yet turned up in Chicago with the declaration that “the striking teamsters are wrong,” that they have “broken their contract,” and that “the sacred rights of the employer must be protected”?

There certainly is something amiss. Can it be that the reason for the gentleman’s scarcity in Chicago is that bullets are flying around, and he fears to have his precious hide perforated? Perish the thought! Whoever saw Gompers, as, with military tread and thrownout chest, he exhibits himself in public with the three turkey-feathers of “President,” “Editor” and “Undertaker” in his hair, can not

but dismiss the idea that cowardice could ever find room in his valiant chest. Some people have claimed that, whenever there is real trouble, Gompers is in hiding. But these people are mere “assassins of character.”

If, then, it is not the violence, prevailing now in the Chicago strike, that keeps Gompers away, what does?

Something is amiss!

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

Uploaded January 2008

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