

EDITORIAL

## A WRONG TOLERATED IS A WRONG ENCOURAGED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**G**OMPERS'S *Federationist* for this month contains a fifteen-page article by himself, Mitchell and Morrison entitled, "The Decision Reviewed." The proper title would have been "Mea Culpa" (Ours the Fault).

The allegation is therein made, and the facts bear out the allegation, that, as soon as the injunction of Judge Gould became operative, the name of the Buck Stove and Range Company was taken from the "We Don't Patronize List," and that, "from that time until this the name of the company has not appeared therein."

The long process that followed, the final trial before Judge Wright, and Judge Wright's sentence—all becomes plain after that statement in *The Federationist*. All those succeeding steps are logical sequences the one from the other, the first being the inevitable result of Gompers's conduct—obedience to an order that was illegal, the court having no power to issue it. This by no means cures the iniquity of Judge Wright's subsequent conduct; it nevertheless explains it. Gompers invited the act.

There is no simpler way of inviting a wrong than to tolerate it, unless it be submission itself. This simplest of means was adopted by Gompers. Not only did he tolerate the wrong done by Judge Gould in ordering the publisher of a paper not to publish a fact—not only did Gompers do that, he bowed before such an illegal order, he struck out of his publication the truth, the fact that the Buck Stove and Range Company was not patronized by the A.F. of L.

Having tolerated, and gone even further, submitted to a wrong, what else could Gompers expect but another wrong?

It matters not how illegal Judge Wright's decision be. To fasten the public eye upon that exclusively is harmful. While one eye should be steadily kept upon an act, Judge Wright's, that cries aloud for impeachment by Congress, the other eye should

not be removed from that act, Gompers's, which as loudly calls for impeachment by the working class.

Gompers's submission to a judicial wrong has encouraged a flood of further judicial misdemeanors against the proletariat of the land.

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

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