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EDITORIAL

## NO WONDER GOMPERS WINCED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A**T the protest meeting, held in the Labor Temple in this city on the 15th of this month against the conduct of Tampa cigar manufacturers and public officials towards the Gompers cigarmakers on strike, Gompers, who was present, angrily interrupted one of the speakers when the latter declared that, if the strikers won out, the cigar manufactures would move their factories to where they could get cheap labor.

No wonder Gompers winced.

That speaker's words did, however unintentionally, remind Gompers of how it happened that so many cigar manufacturers moved from the North to Tampa. That speaker's words did, however unintentionally, remind Gompers what the attraction was for those immigrant manufacturers in Tampa. However unintentionally, that speaker's words disclosed to Gompers the perspective of woe that his labor-lieutenants of the capitalist class is preparing for the worthy.

Eight years ago Tampa was a place of fairly paid cigarmakers, as wages go, with prospects of steadily improving conditions. Tampa was not, then, a town upon which manufacturers doted, or to which they felt attracted. Those were the days of the Resistencia Union, a Union not built upon the principles of "brotherhood between capitalists and wage slaves"; a Union not officered by men who turn the workers' face skyward and away from terrestrial facts; a Union that moved to the overthrow of capitalism. Presently the situation changed. What changed it? Gompers, and Gompersism. The twin pestilence made common cause with the employer; scabbed upon and uprooted the Resistencia with gun and bullet and halter; and planted Gompers's cigarmakers' Union in the place held before by the Resistencia. From that moment all changed. To Tampa, the place of cheap labor, introduced by Gompers and Gompersism, flocked the cigar manufacturers. And the

appetite of these for big profits, increasing by what it fed upon, finally reached the point of demanding profits so much higher, that wages and conditions had to decline even below the Gompers scab level. Hence the Tampa strike.

No wonder Gompers winced. Presided over by him the standard of living of the American working class has gone down. Through him, as now done in this very region by the “Union” scabs that his associate Tobin is seeking to sandbag the shoemakers on strike with, Unionism has become such a stench in many nostrils, that disorganization is general—hence numerous the places that manufacturers can move to for cheap labor should their own locality harbor a dearer labor market.

No wonder Gompers winced—and the indestructible Socialist Labor Party will be cause that the wince be continuous and in crescendo scale until the Gompers nuisance is finally abated.

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