

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 200.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1904.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

GOMPERS FALLS IN LINE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT has been repeatedly shown in these columns that when the capitalist papers say that anything has befallen the nation, care must be taken to find out what part of the nation it has befallen. Is it prosperity? Then watch the Bradley-Martin balls and the cup races—the workingman gets none of it. Is it depression? Then the workingman gets it all, while the balls and races go on as before. In short, when the capitalist talks of good times, it is good times for himself; when of hard times, it is hard times for the laborer.

Like master, like man. Gompers, as president of an essentially capitalistic body, the A.F. of L., can not but talk in the same strain. A panic is at hand. That means hard times—but for whom? For the workers, of course. Witness Gompers: “All union men should prepare themselves for a depression by the exercise of frugality.” It is not the capitalist who is forced to frugalize by a panic, but the worker. On the other hand, if any crumbs of prosperity remain, they belong of right to the masters. Witness Gompers again: “The National State per capita tax of the A.F. of L. should be increased.” Of course, so that the “presidents” and other union officials—the representatives of the only-prosperity-enjoying capitalists—may not fall below their “station in life.”

Gompers has done as much as he could not help doing, fallen in line with his capitalist employers, whom he apes on the pure and simple caricature scale.

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

Uploaded April 2007

slpns@igc.org