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EDITORIAL

GOMPERS IN HIDING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE rifles of rough-rider-led bandits crack in Colorado, and at each crack a workingman drops, shot in the back. Where is “Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor,” who habitually in fair weather stands up on his hind legs and claims to “speak for the American working class?”—In hiding!

The eight-hour law, for which Gompers perennially lobbies in Washington, and which was constitutionally adopted in Colorado, is being riddled with the bullets of capitalist bandits, and judges and other officials who seek to uphold the men who are on strike to uphold the law, are given the alternative of hanging or resigning. Where is “Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor,” who habitually in fair weather, stands up on his hind legs and claims to “speak for the American working class?”—In hiding!

Unarmed workingmen are “deported,” “exiled,” and “dumped” out of the State in Colorado—new and unheard-of methods, unknown to the law of the land—because they refuse to go to work and earn the salary for Roosevelt’s nasty pet the rough-rider Sherman M. Bell, who, along with Roosevelt “triumphantly march up San Juan Hill” where no enemies interfered. Where is “Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor,” who habitually in fair weather stands up on his hind legs and claims to “speak for the American working class?”—In hiding!

Workingmen on strike for better conditions are being arrested on trumped up charges and sentenced to long terms **WITH THE ALTERNATIVE OF WORKING TWO DAYS IN THE MINES**, that yield the profits, that pay the salary of the coward rough-rider Sherman M. Bell, and, refusing to be thus rough-ridden, are dynamited. Where is “Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of

Labor,” who habitually in fair weather stands up on his hind legs and claims to “speak for the American working class?”—In hiding!

It is now fully thirteen years that the Socialist Labor Party has been warning the American working class against this preposterous lump of turpitude, who fattens in even tempo as his capitalist principals fatten, while the American working class, whom he and his principle of Unionism misrepresent and leave with breasts and backs bare to the capitalist bullets, steadily have been sinking in welfare! It is now fully thirteen years that the Socialist Labor Party has been pointing to the coward, the ignoramus, the wind-bag, the self-seeking Gompers as a traitor to the working class. Where is he now?

In hiding! Waiting till the clouds roll by!

The emancipation of the working class means revolution. That revolution is predicated upon a previous one—upon the revolution in Labor’s mind that will dump scab herding Gompersism.

Events have ripened the ulcer. Its putridity is now hiding; it must not be allowed to hide by scattering back into the system; it has come to a head—lance it!

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

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