

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 319.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1910.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

GOMPERS'S LABOR PARTY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AFTER having tentatively let out the news from Washington that his Executive Committee had decided to launch a "Labor Party," Mr. Gompers has been silent on the subject. Not, however, inactive. The gentleman's hand has been since plainly visible in several parts of the country where A.F. of L. Unions, alone in some places, jointly, in others, with farmers' organizations, or their spokesmen, have been holding public meetings, winking at politics, and resolving.

All this time Mr. Gompers has spoken not a word. Like Paddy's owl, he may have made up with thinking for what he failed to produce in words.

If Mr. Gompers has, indeed, been doing some thinking he must have reasoned as follows:

"I used to say, in the days when I held that the economic functions, pure and simple, were all sufficient to protect the workers and promote their interests—I used to say in those days; 'Let all come in; Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, Single Taxers, Anarchists—come, all of ye, into the A.F. of L.' My notion then was that, if I could only gather all the workers into my fold, we could then do what we willed. What we willed!? Aye, that's the rub! What did we 'will'? There were as many 'wills' as there were isms gathered in my fold. Sometimes it looked as if there were as many isms as there were dues-payers. Alack the day! This thing of 'coming together' is not a one-sided affair. There are more sides to it than to a snake a-wriggling. Cats and dog also may 'come together,' but they don't stay so long; only so long as they are in each other's wool. No; 'coming together' is no solution; at least not the first step to the solution. How will that Labor party of mine look? It would be made up of 'come togethers.' Lord! Lord! Have mercy upon me, miserable sinner. Let me not be around when the 'come togethers' get together. No; the dragnet policy will not substitute mental drill. I see it among my pets, the Socialist party folksies.

They have come together to kick one another to pieces. No; the thing to do is first to drill the minds up to a minimum. Then bring them together. Then they will stick. And there is where I'm at the end of my song. How can *I* do any drilling? The moment I were to start drilling I would make enemies—enemies, more enemies—still more enemies! That won't pay. The levelheaded thing to do is to be everybody's friend—except of course a friend of that crying abomination, the Socialist Labor Party, whose dart is in the hide of every foe it has. No, Samuel, go slow. You've had and are having quite enough experience with the 'come togethers' on the economic field, without you look for more trouble on the political field also. Go slow, Sam; Sammy, keep your trap shut."

And Mr. Gompers's Labor party remains at the resolving stage.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded May 2011

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