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EDITORIAL

## CORRUPTING EUROPE?

By DANIEL DE LEON

**F**ROM the city of Berlin, Germany, and from the office of the “International Secretariat of National Trade Union Centres,” with Karl Legien as Secretary, the “news letters” with which Mr. Gompers sought and failed to check the growth of Socialism in America, are now given a broader field.

The “News Letter” that radiated from Berlin on last April 16 is a corker. Listen:

“President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, in a most interesting communication, deals with the bill for the establishment of a Department of Labor with a secretary at its head as a member of the President’s cabinet. The bill had passed both Houses and went up to the President for his signature. He did not sign it until early on the morning of March fourth, in the very closing hours of the Congress. Our friend and co-worker Hon. William B. Wilson, formerly Secretary of the United Mine Workers of America, and for two terms Member of Congress from Pennsylvania, has been appointed by President Wilson as Secretary of the new Department. Mr. Wilson was Labor’s choice and we worked unceasingly to secure his appointment, says Mr. Gompers in his letter. We are deeply gratified that after forty years of effort we have at last secured the establishment of a Department of Labor with a secretary a member in the President’s cabinet.

“There is no doubt that Mr. Wilson’s appointment will be extremely valuable and helpful to organized labor. His many years of service in the cause of labor have made him one of the most popular and esteemed members of the American labor movement.”

The Int’l Congress of Amsterdam repudiated Millerand and the methods of Millerandism. And yet from what may be called the Capital of the Socialist Movement of the world, and from an office filled by a Social Democratic member of the Reichstag, there issues a letter praiseful of the acceptance of a cabinet position by one who is represented as “Labor’s choice.”

## Will Europe be corrupted by the deadwood of Gompersism?

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