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GOMPERS AND THE SOVIETS

The capitalist press of the United States has again gleefully taken up the words of Samuel Gompers; for again has Samuel Gompers taken upon himself the role of "labor lieutenant of the capitalist class."

On February 27th Mr. Gompers issued a personal statement, allowing the capitalist press associations to send it out as an official statement of the American Federation of Labor, in which he calls upon labor organizations to "protest" against atrocities alleged to have been committed against labor unionists in Russia by the Soviet Government. In his personal statement of Mr. Gompers he speaks of the "Soviet Savages," and their "Bestial System." The evidence cited to uphold the charges made is taken from sources which have been intimately associated with the counter-revolutionary attempts to restore capitalism in Russia or from so-called "labor leaders" such as Gompers himself, who have always been ready to do the dirty work of the capitalist masters.

What are the facts in the situation of the trade unions in Soviet Russia? How do these facts compare with the conditions in the United States?

The best way to see Gompers & Co., in a full light is to compare the conditions of the Russian labor movement and that of the American Federation under their leadership. Considering the resources and development of the two countries, which of the two labor movements stands the highest in power and achievement? Put the two side by side:

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IN AMERICA:

"Open Shop" drive against Union labor; wholesale wage cuts and unemployment crisis, while warehouses are bursting with food and clothing. Unions fighting for life.

American wage-scale declining—wages going down, hours going up. In America "overproduction" means unemployment and starvation.

The Harding cabinet, just taking office, is a labor-hating bunch of corporation lawyers.

American millionaires grow fatter and new millionaires are made by thousands, during the war.

Production for profit only, controlled by capitalists. Government fights unions. Injunctions issued to break strikes of miners and railroad workers.

American miners are killed in West Virginia for trying to organize.

IN RUSSIA:

Closed shop for Unions under protection of Government; work for everyone, great demand for more laborers, with a guaranteed share in every resource of food and clothing available.

Russian standard of living going up; Soviet protection from all profiteering; with every increase in production, the worker's return increases and his hours lessen.

The Soviet Government is composed only of the leaders of Russian working-class. Leaders of Unions also leaders in Government.

Russian millionaires are in hiding, and their loot has been returned to the workers of Russia.

Production for use, controlled by workers. Government protects the unions and suppresses those who would interfere with them. 5½ million workers organized in unions.

In Russia it is the capitalists and their supporters who suffered, when they resisted the revolution.

Perhaps in the last comparison we have the emotional drive behind Mr. Gompers' manifesto. He has long been known to be very kindly disposed toward the American capitalists, although he has not issued any manifestoes about West Virginia or Alabama or Ludlow, Colorado, where workers were murdered in cold blood by the mercenaries of the employers. We heard nothing from Mr. Gompers about the "bestial system" which rode down the steel strikers with Cossacks. He did not protest against the bloody White Terror of Hungary which claims thousands of working-class victims. But Gompers has become alarmed about something. He sees something in danger. He tries to defend it. What is he really defending? It is the capitalist system; nothing more, nothing less.

Gompers attacks the Russian workers' government—the Soviets—because he knows that it is the deadly enemy of the economic system which enslaves the workers, and which Gompers has supported with all his power.

Gompers is for capitalism and the capitalist government; the Soviet Government of Russia is an example to the

workers of America that they must establish a working-class government before they can be free. This is the explanation of the hostility of Gompers & Co. to Soviet Russia.

But there is another reason, even more vital. While Gompers is trying to cut off the American Labor movement from every kind of affiliation with the organized workers of Europe and the rest of the world, and the same time the Russian unions are taking the lead in calling the trade unionists into a Congress for the formation of an INTERNATIONAL OF LABOR UNIONS which, together with the Communist International, SHALL CONQUER THE WORLD FOR LABOR. While Gompers betrays the American working class and sets up a smokescreen of denunciation of the "Soviet savages" in the name of the Russian trade unions, these same Russian trade unions are calling, in co-operation with the best unions of England, France, and Italy, a WORLD CONGRESS of labor unions to meet in MOSCOW on MAY 1st, 1921.

The very fact that such a Congress can be called to meet in MOSCOW gives the lie to Gompers' statement that the Soviet Government of Russia is hostile to the unions. In what other country will the Government give hospitality to a WORLD CONGRESS OF LABOR—not a congress of "leaders" such as Gompers, but of MILITANT, AGGRESSIVE LABOR; Labor which sees who its enemies are and is preparing to deal with them?

And let us ask Gompers a question: If the Russian trade unions are not satisfied with the Soviet Government, as you claim; if the Government of which they form a part is not to their liking; what better way of finding out all about it and distributing the information first-hand than to send a big delegation of laboring men from America to Russia to look it over? Not a delegation of men like you, Mr. Gompers, but some real working men from the rank and file, men who will have no interest except in finding out the facts. Send them over to the WORLD CONGRESS OF LABOR, of the International Council of Trade and Industrial Unions. Let them see the Labor Movement of Russia and of Europe in action; then let them come back and decide between your lying, treacherous, time-serving, capitalist lackies who, with yourself Mr. Gompers, are stabbing the working class of America in the back and, on the other hand, THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL UNIONS—the RED LABOR UNION INTERNATIONAL.

Will Gompers accept this challenge? Certainly he will not. He will exert every power he has to prevent any working man from getting a first hand view of Soviet Russia. He will continue to quote

from Russian counter-revolutionists and traitor labor leaders of France in a vain effort to convince the American workers that the example set by the workers of Russia should not be followed by them.

A vain effort; for workmen everywhere know, without being told, that Soviet Russia is the hope of the workers of all the world. If Soviet Russia should fall, with it would fall the hopes and aspirations of all Labor for many years to come. But Soviet Russia shall not fall; and the Trade Unions of Russia, in spite of Gompers' lies and calumnies, will continue to work in co-operation with the clear-visioned workers of all the world, for the complete emancipation of the working class.

WORKERS OF AMERICA! The working class of the world is uniting in the **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL UNIONS.** **THE WORLD CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN MOSCOW ON MAY 1st, 1921.** Pass resolutions endorsing the International Council. Demand that your National and International Unions affiliate with the International Council. Send delegates to the World Congress. **UNITE IN WORKING-CLASS SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD.**

AMERICAN BUREAU,

International Council of Trade and Industrial Unions.

