

THE PRETORIUM MUST BE DESTROYED

"Gompers Gives Views of I. W. W."

Washington, Jan. 21.—The interview had been pounding along for an hour or more toward the last question. He was smoking a thick, dark cigar, the odor of which suggested Porto Rico, or it may have been Connecticut.

"Where," I asked, "did the organization known as the Industrial Workers of the World originate?"

"In a lunatic asylum," said Samuel Gompers, "the grand old man of labor," as he is called. He stopped, and looked at me across his orderly desk, but went no further at the moment.

A little earlier he had said: "The socialists hold out the hope of wonderful things in the sweet bye and bye. Union labor wants a taste of heaven now, today."

"The socialists," another person in the audience had previously observed, "are like a certain kind of pickles and preserves—they are split into fifty-seven varieties. And what have they ever done constructively? Nothing up to the present time. They tried to run Milwaukee, failed, and the voters turned them out."

"You referred to the Industrial Workers as an organization," Mr. Gompers presently said in continuation of his answer. Smoke hung over his head until he looked, shoulders upward, much like a smudging brush heap of early spring. "It is not an organization; it is a conglomeration. Union labor believes in the doctrine of natural evolution. The socialists look off and into the future, and think they behold an ideal state of matters for the enjoyment of coming generations. The Industrial Workers of the World seek to upset everything—labor, capital and government."

"Union labor is constructive; the Industrial Workers are destructive. Union labor builds on what is now in existence, seeing a better day when the world shall be a perfectly splendid place in which to live. But," and the Gompersian jaw, huge and warlike, burst through the smoke like the prow of a ship in a fog, "union labor maintains that the physical, material, political, moral and social uplift of American workers should begin in the present and not be postponed until those who are living and battling are dead."

The above "interview" with "the grand old man of labor," appeared Jan. 22d, in the Lake Charles, La., "American Press," one of the official organs of Congressman Puke-O and the Sawdust Ring.

"Gompersian Jaw."

Thus, after "pounding along for an hour or more," saith "the Gompersian jaw," the Industrial Workers of the World originated "in a lunatic asylum." "The Industrial Workers of the World is not an organization; it is a conglomeration." "The Industrial Workers of the World seek to upset everything—labor, capital and government." "The Industrial Workers are destructive." Whew! Gee-whiz! Ker-bang! Good-gawd-a-mitey! Dat sho' is some jaw-namiting!

Asleep in a Fog.

You will note, however, gentle reader, that, as usual, "the grand old man of labor" was seeing things "through the smoke," while "he looked, shoulders upward, much like a smudging brush heap of early spring," which, however, should not be construed as an insinuation that "the G. O. M. L." is trying to blow smoke in the eyes of the awakening workers, but rather as an insinuation that "the Gompersian" system is suffering from a bad case of senile debility, complicated with acute egomania and muttitis.

On Second Thought.

Gompersian Jaw, you are right—the I. W. W. did "originate" "in a lunatic asylum." Men who were afraid of losing their minds and guts completely if they stayed in your crazy house any longer, got out of it and organized the Industrial Workers of the World, which is "a conglomeration" only to "labor leaders" who do not believe the rank and file have sense enough to act for themselves and whose "generalship" has resulted in a series of "brilliant victories" for,—the Bosses.

"Forward! Backward!"

"Right! Left! Forward! Backward! Split in two! March both ways!"

This order was given by a Spanish American war militia colonel to his regiment when he met an express train coming down a track the regiment was going up and he didn't know how-hell else to avoid the unheroic death he had generated the patriots up against. The regiment, of course, didn't know what in the devil to do and went all to pieces, each man, squad and company, all, as it were, made separate contracts to get off the track within the quickest possible time limit, and they gat, each man for himself and the Mogul take the hindmost. That order "G. O. M. L." reminds me of the orders that are being issued by you and your lieutenants in the crisis now confronting society to the regiments of labor that an Unwise Providence has unfortunately placed under your command.

There was some excuse for the militia colonel, for he was a politician, and was drunk when he gave the order, but, can as much be said for you and your subalterns?

The "57 Varieties."

If, as your end man chirped in, "the socialists are split into fifty-seven varieties" and, therefore, couldn't even "run Milwaukee," which, by the way, your apologists, the Bergerlists, and not the Socialists, tried to run, then how in the name of Cholly Moyer can you speak of the American Separation, divided into 116 varieties of craft unions, two-thirds of them dead and the balance commanded by bughouse politico-religio,—economic militia colonels, as "Union labor?"

How, in the name of Billy Sunday's syndicated God, if the "57 varieties" of Bergerlists couldn't run the famous Bierhaus, how can 116 varieties of craft-cardists run the North American labor movement?

A New Science.

"Union labor believes in the doctrine of natural evolution." Some new science that. Jawn Hoohoo Kirby in the wildest flights of his Florrytine flub-dub, never beat it. Its the greatest discovery made since Feethajar found out that "murder is murder," the most revolutionary doctrine proclaimed since Hilquitt doctored Marx, since Job Harriman jobbed the jobhunters.

"Natural evolution?" Say, Sam, is the Buncebund locoed or dus dampschools, which?

Beat It!

"Take down your sign! It should no longer hang, You locoed leader of a locoed gang!"

Ann-ork-ists, Py Golly!

"The Industrial Workers of the World seek to upset everything—labor, capital and government." That is a goddamlie. You well know, you Hannaized old fossil, that what the I. W. W. seeks to "upset" is the Separation of labor, the Capitalization of toil, the Government of the workers by overseers and gunmen for Pretoriums and Plunderbunds,—you know it, and that's what's "upset" you, you old locoed natural evolution of the missing link. The whole gang of you must be looney, must think you have sabotaged the thought-tanks of the working class beyond repair and put its mental machinery on strike forever when you dish out guff like that to the Associated Press Polluters to be telegraphed to the voices of the Trusts to be used against the ONE BIG UNION.

Keep it up. The workers are fast learning to love the I. W. W. for the enemies it makes in its effort to unionize and free the proletariat.

Is It?

Is it because of this, this growing love and loyalty of the workers to the ONE BIG UNION, that your agents are now going among the Railroad workers and telling them that the organization they are trying to fool them into is "just the same as the I. W. W."—is it?

Holy Smoke.

The League for the Damnation of the I. W. W. is composed of the following liarcrafts, held together by the

cohesive power of public plunder: The Textile Child-murderbund, the Steal Trust, the Sawdust Ring, the Gompersian Machine, the Bergerlist Party, the Railway Manslaughterbund, the Burns Defective Agency and the Christless Militia. Holy Smoke, what "a conglomeration!" What a "lunatic asylum" is the Pretorium and the Plunderbund, especially when they are trying to "upset" the upsetting I. W. W.!

"Constructive" Destruction.

"Union labor is constructive," you say, and by "Union labor" you, of course, mean the Gompersian system of dividing the workers into as many warring, autonomous crafts as are necessary to make places for all the members of the Pretorium. But we will pass by sneering truths, "G. O. M. L." and deal only with cold, hard facts. The word "constructive" means:

"Having the ability to construct or form," that is, to build up. Now, for more than 30 years the American Federation of Labor has been in existence; during all that time, excepting one term, you have been its President, and you have formed, you have built up,—what? Beyond the Pretorium, nothing; but in the Pretorium you have formed one of the most effective machines for the constructive destruction of Union Labor the world has ever seen. If, as has been often charged, Andrew Carnegie furnished you the money with which to start your organization, he has received usurious compound interest on his investment. The first "constructive" act of the Pretorium was by scabberies that would make old Farley blush with shame, the destruction of the Knights of Labor; its next, and of this you have openly boasted, the wrecking of the American Railway Union, in which piece of "constructive" work your allies were Grover Cleveland and the Pinkerton Detective Agency; then Estes' Brotherhood of Railway Employees came in for a share of the Pretorium's "constructive" work; then the Cigar Makers of Tampa in their Resistencia, to destroy which the Pretorium furnished the bestial authorities of Tampa with "union gunmen;" then came the I. W. W., for the idea of solidarity is instinctive in the workers, the rank and file of labor will always stand by each other if but given half a chance, and again the Pretorium got busy and, what it could not do directly, it had its Bergerlist politicians attempt, but this time it was the Pretorium that failed. The workers had begun to see. It is true that its agents in the Western Federation of Miners succeeded in fooling the metal miners out of the army they had done so much to build and, by so doing, turned the W. F. M. into a coffin-fund; it is true that at Goldfield it succeeded in scabbling our unions, that had raised the wages of "common labor" there to \$5.00 per day, out of existence; it is true that its "International Brotherhood of Woodsmen and Sawmill Workers," going thru the forests of Montana with gunmen of the Lumber Trust, broke up the I. W. W. Forest and Lumber Workers Unions in that State; it is true that by fraud its agents disrupted our Union that had whipped the Steel Trust at McKees Rock, Pa.; all this, to say nothing of its attempt to destroy the United Brewery Workers Union, is true, but it is also true that it has not destroyed the I. W. W. This time it is the Pretorium that is billed for destruction.

But back to the "constructive" work of the Pretorium. We have glanced at its work outside the American Federation of Labor, now let us glimpse at what it has done within. There are more than 30,000,000 wage workers in the United States alone, not including Canada, where the A. F. of L. has membership, yet, at the Atlanta Convention of the A. F. of L., the Pretorium boasted of a membership of, in round number, 1,750,000—boasted that in over thirty years it had organized (?) less than ten per cent of the workers of this continent.

Think of it! Think of boasting over

a failure so colossal! Only the Pretorium could be equal to such an occasion. But this is not all. There were once unions in the Meat Packing, in the Steel, Iron and Tinplate, in the Tobacco, in the Sugar and other Trustified Industries,—where are those unions now? Either scattered to the four winds of the earth or absolutely impotent for good to the workers. Add to these the wreckage that until very recently called itself the Structural Iron Workers Union and the Railway Shopmen's Federation, as fine a bunch of fighters as ever drew the breath of life; add to this the loss, thru gross mismanagement of the Iron Workers trial at Indianapolis; add to this the fact that for 27 years its militia colonels of the Textile Industry never did a thing for the child and woman slaves that had been trapt by that Murderbund, but who did rush to the aid of the Bosses as soon as the I. W. W. organized the Lawrence strike; add to this the news just announced that it intends to spend \$30,000,000 in an effort to do what the Lumber Trust has been unable to accomplish in four years of war, to disrupt the National Industrial Union of Forest and Lumber Workers; then add to all this record of infamy the fact that the standard of living of the American working class has steadily fallen during the thirty year long reign of the Pretorium, and you will have a bird's eye view of the "constructive" work of the Pretorium, a definition of the new science of "natural evolution," which means to stand still while your enemies shoot you to pieces and make slaves of your women and children.

The record of the Pretorium is a record of "brilliant victories" for the Bosses, of disaster and defeat for the Workers. Every Union that has ever fallen under its malign influence has had its spirit castrated or been destroyed when it refused to submit to the operation. If "President" Gompers has ever "led" the workers anywhere, it has been on a retreat that has lasted for over thirty years. It is time to call a halt. It is time the workers turned on their foes and turned the rout to victory. It is time the Pretorium was destroyed. How?

By "Destructive" Construction.

To be constructive you must first be destructive; that is to say, before you can construct a railroad you first clear the right of way, before you can make a farm you must first destroy the jungle, and, before they can have a real UNION the workers must destroy the Pretorium,—they must learn to act as a Democracy, that is to say, on their own initiative, for themselves. For this purpose, to organize the workers democratically and against Pretoriums, the I. W. W. came into existence. It was born at Chicago in the summer of 1905, that is, less than eight years ago. In that brief time its propaganda has swept around the world, vitally affecting the labor movement of England, France, Scandinavia, Italy, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, stirring the heart of all labor and bringing a new and glowing hope into the prisons where so long have dwelt the Workers of the World. Fought with all the forces at the command of the Pretorium and Plunderbund, it has never been allowed, this "ever-victorious legion" of labor, to rest for a single day, yet it has never lowered the Red Flag of Toil or ceased to send its war cry: "Workers of the World, Unite!" ringing thru the convict camps of capitalism.

It is this deathless spirit, blind to everything but the interest of the working class, deaf to all pleas of compromise, that recognizes no defeat,—it is this that has finally "upset" the Captain General of the Pretorium; it was winning while he was losing, growing in spite of all his friends could do to stop it. While the Pretorium was leading the Railway Shopmen to defeat, the I. W. W. was winning the victory at Lawrence that added more than \$15,000,000 a year to the wages of the New England textile workers; while the Pretorium was talking "natural evolution," the Southern and Western

lumberjacks united in the I. W. W. and are surely, if slowly, fighting their way to a sweeping and tremendous victory; while the Pretorium was "generalizing" the Iron Workers into the penitentiary, the I. W. W. was turning E-tor, Giovannitti, Emerson and their associates free; while the Pretorium was sneering at the "ignorant" construction workers, the I. W. W. was organizing them and 7000 of these same "ignorant" workers are now on the Canadian Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad, like the 1300 lumberjacks at Merryville, showing the World of Labor an example of solidarity that has never been surpassed and seldom equaled; while the Pretorium is begging for laws to "protect" the working class, the I. W. W. is calling on the workers to make those laws for themselves and showing them how,—in the Union Halls, enforced by direct action upon the job, by the might of folded arms, in One Big Union that acts upon the principle that "an injury to one working man, woman or child is an injury to all the working class."

This, solidarity of labor, this is the power that is making the I. W. W. and upsetting the Pretorium and the Plunderbund. It, the I. W. W. does not believe in splitting the Railroad Workers, the Forest and Lumber Workers, or any other division of the army of toil into 116 "autonomous" companies, each acting for itself and therefore against itself and all the others; it does not believe any section of the working class has a right to make a contract to scab on another section; morning, noon and night it proclaims the doctrine of the UNITY of the working class, the ONENESS of the interests of labor and, so proclaiming, it holds anything that destroys that unity to be treason, anything that promotes it moral, just and right. It is, the I. W. W., not a "dual union"—it is an entirely new form of Unionism, INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM, the most effective ever organized. Its organization starts with the Local Industrial Union, which is composed of all the workers in a given industry in a given district; then to the National Industrial Union, which is composed of all the Local Industrial Unions in that whole industry; then to the National Industrial Department, which is made up of closely Allied Industries; then to the Industrial Workers of the World the ONE BIG UNION of the Working Class, the Labor Trust. Its paid up card guarantees you the right to work in any industry organized under its jurisdiction,—you do not have to pay a new initiation fee every time you change your work from one industry to another. Once a member of that UNION, always a member.

Briefly and roughly, that is the outline of the structure and principles of the I. W. W., the organization that is so badly upsetting the Pretorium and the Plunderbund.

A Definition.

Pretorium: "The general's tent in a camp; hence, also, the council of officers who attended the general and met in his tent." i. e. "The Inner Circle."

One Last Word.

One last word to you, the Workers: When a man who poses as a general of labor and his council of officers have, for over thirty years, aided and abetted in the destruction of every real Union of Labor; when they boast that in all this time they have succeeded in organizing (?) less than 2,000,000 of the thirty odd million workers in this country; when they hand you the wrecks of the Knights of Labor, of the American Railway Union, and finally, now of the Federation itself, don't you think it is about time you were doing some thinking for yourselves? Why is it that whenever a real Union gets the Plunderbund up a tree, the Pretorium always rushes to the scene, not to aid the fighting workers, but to damn and down if it can the Union that is winning for the Workers? Why is it?

Take up the cry: "The Pretorium must be destroyed!"

And

"Workers of the World, Unite! You have nothing but your chains to lose! A World to Gain!"