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EDITORIAL

A MYSTERY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHAT'S the reason Gompers is wroth at Van Cleave? What's the reason Van Cleave is wroth at Gompers? Why do they call each other "liar"? 'Tis a mystery.

Van Cleave is a capitalist. He who says "capitalist" says "a man whose welfare depends upon and is grafted on human suffering, the suffering of the wage slave." No wage slave, no capitalist. A wage slave is a being who stands, or, rather, lies flat at the bottom of the social ladder. Accordingly, no human suffering no capitalist enjoyment. Van Cleave is a capitalist; accordingly, he is a profiter by human suffering; accordingly, he needs human suffering. That much for Van Cleave.

Gompers is a habitual twister of the workingmen's mind. He has twisted their minds on the subject of Unionism and politics. His motto has been: "No politics in the Union." This was a fatal motto to the workers. It kept the blinkers clapped to their eyes, disabling them from realizing that the Union alone could do nothing permanent for them, and would sink them in ever deeper misery in the measure that they remained split into warring political parties. Gompers's work was essential to capitalist safety. Human suffering requires ignorance. Gompers watered the suffering of the workers by the ignorance which he cultivated in their ranks.

Thus Gompers seconded the needs of Van Cleave. Why should these two be at war with each other? They are supplemental forces.

There is a mystery in the hostility of these two men. Van Cleave should love Gompers dearly; Gompers should esteem Van Cleave on the principle that a man should esteem him who profits by his works. Van Cleave profits by Gompers: what stronger link to bind two men together?

Who can solve the mystery of these two men's enmity.

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