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EDITORIAL

ERECTORS AND GOMPERS, GO SLOW.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE National Erectors' Association, the organization of bridge and structural iron works employers against whose works 113 dynamite outrages are said to have been perpetrated since 1905, and who through detective Burns ran down the McNamaras, is reported to announce that the incident of the McNamara arrests and sequel "is only the first chapter." The Association's present slogan is: "Now for the men behind {the} McNamaras!"

The Erectors' Association had better go slow.

At about the same time that the Erectors are making their announcement, Mr. Samuel Gompers states to a *Herald* reporter, as announced in the *Herald* of the 3rd of this month: "If there are any other labor men involved in this case let the Federal investigators make known their identity. 'Personally, I can not imagine where the McNamaras got the money to perpetrate their outrages, and I haven't the slightest idea who or what manner of men inspired them to act as they did.'"

Mr. Gompers also had better go slow.

The story is told of one of our gentlemen—or was it one of our ladies?—who, having a hankering after pedigrees, started a search after his, or her ancestors, when suddenly he or she stopped short, and "the subsequent proceedings interested them no more." What had happened? She or he had run up against an ancestor who was hanged.

It is not an unknown thing, as incidents in the fraternal relations of employers among themselves and with their employes, that occasionally one or other of the former, intent upon throwing a troublesome competitor, hires a "labor-leader" or two from the inner circle of Mr. Samuel Gompers, with the aid of which "labor-leader" the employer in the case starts a strike in the establishment of the competitor whom he has an eye upon.

We are not unsophisticated enough in the fraternal intercourse of capitalists among themselves and with “labor-leaders” to believe that all the members of the National Erectors’ Association are above the “wicked sentiment” that would prompt evil wishes in their hearts towards one another. Far otherwise, and to the contrary. We are inclined to believe there are such wicked ones in that noble and patriotic band. On the other hand, we have no doubt,—why not say so outright?—we are quite certain of there are many “champions of the Unionism” a la Gompers who would not mind doing, of course for a consideration, a kind turn to a Brother Capital by exploding a strike in the factory of a competitor.

Putting together these two categories of facts, it is clear that, if Messrs. Erectors and Mr. Gompers are to be carried away by the fires of righteousness which are now burning in their respective bosoms, they may, the one, bump up against some Erector who suborned a “labor leader” to dynamite a competitor’s iron works, and, the other, collide with some “labor leader,” alias “labor skate,” alias “labor lieutenant” of some Erector who accepted and, perchance, put through some of those 113 dynamite jobs.

Our sincere advice to both Gompers and Erectors, Erectors and Gompers, is—go slow; or, better yet, lie low.

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