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EDITORIAL

GIVING AWAY THE SNAP.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SAMUEL GOMPERS'S *Weekly News Letter* No. 7 has an item to the effect that William B. Wilson, "Labor's coal miner Representative in the House" delivered in Congress a speech in which this passage occurs:

"The American wage earner has come to thoroughly understand that there is more virtue and more protection to him and his family in a strong, well equipped labor organization than there is in all the tariff walls that you can build. Take the trade or calling in which I was raised, a protected industry, one in which the percentage rate is possibly as high as that of any other industry in the state of Pennsylvania, where I come from, where the workers are organized, there they are able to deal with their employers as an organized body, they are paid for mining the coal at the rate of 69 cents per ton, while right in the same field, having the same protection, but where the workmen are unorganized, they are mining the coal for 35.1 cents per ton."

The paragraph is correctly quoted. On last May 6, Representative William Bauchop Wilson of Pennsylvania did deliver a speech in Congress containing the above passage. Whereupon, having made sure of the fact, one bows reverently to that Providence, whose ways are said to be inscrutable.

Here we have a statement, made by a Gompers unionist, and the statement and the stater both enthusiastically endorsed by Gompers himself, from which it appears:—

1st. That the difference between the coal miners who are organized in the Gompers style is only 33.90 cents more per ton than the wages received by unorganized coal miners;

2nd. That the pittance of 69 cents is all that the Gompers unionist gets in the coal mines;

3rd. That, seeing the Gompers style of unionism claims that Capital and Labor

are brothers, the sort of brotherhood that Gompers unionism preaches translates itself into starvation wages for the working miner, Asiatic luxury for the idle mine owner;

4th. That, considering that the miners, “organized” under Gompers, must share with Gompers, in dues, their 69 cents a ton pittance, the wages that these “organized” miners actually enjoy are considerably below even that 69 cents a ton grandeur.

5th. That the condition of the miners who, being “organized” under Gompers, are affiliated with the National Civic Federation, is hardly, if at all better than the condition of the miners, who, not being “organized” under Gompers, do not enjoy the sweet boon of National Civic Federation affiliation.

It was hardly necessary, after this speech, for “Labor Representative” William Bauchop Wilson, about three weeks later, to march, as he did, one abreast into the House Committee on Rules, at the head of a delegation of Westmoreland county miners on strike, and have them testify to the Russia-like condition that the mine owners keep the Westmoreland coal fields and the miners in. A system of unionism, so thoroughly Civic-Federationized and Militia-of-Christized, as that which Gompers is president and Representative Wilson a booster of, is bound to be reflected in serfdom on the part of the wage earners.

Inscrutable are the ways of Providence which cause the Wilsons to give testimony against Gomerism, and Gompers himself to boost the testimony.

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