EDITORIAL

THEY INDICT THEMSELVES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A printed circular has reached this office, dated Tampa, Fla., Nov. 14, 1900, and signed “International Cigarmakers’ Union No. 336.” The circular purports to give the International Cigarmakers’ side of the story in the conflict that has broken out between it and “La Resistencia,” an independent local of cigarmakers in Tampa. Last Sunday’s DAILY PEOPLE published La Resistencia’s statement. It is a great pity that the extraordinary length of the statement now issued by Union 336 makes impossible the giving of it also in full. Unable to reproduce it, we shall mention its salient features. These certainly are worth knowing.

The statement of Union 336 is addressed to the businessmen, but more especially to the cigar manufacturers of Tampa. These are told that Union 336, together with its national organization, the International Cigarmakers’ Union, is a “conservative organization,” whereas La Resistencia is depicted as a revolutionary affair, a body of “malcontents,” presumably, of course, malcontents with the existing social conditions; that Union 336, together with the whole International Union, consists of “American workingmen,” and the inference is allowed to transpire that the La Resistencia body consists of non-American workingmen; the further point is made against La Resistencia that it is guided by “imported agitators”; and finally the attention of the manufacturers is called to the great advantage to them of having Union 336 men for their employees, on the allegation that these men are infinitely more helpless in their dealings with the manufacturers than La Resistencia men would be. The exact language upon this last point is as follows: “This Union must, by its law and constitution, get a general vote of all American Unions of cigarmakers before your factories are closed by a strike”; this Union, consequently, “is a better friend to you than a local Union like the Resistencia,”

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1 [“Union Wrecking: Cigarmakers’ International Arousing Race Prejudice and Forming Rival Unions.” Daily People, Sunday, November 18, 1900. Reproduced on page three. Enlarge to read.—R.B.]
which “can vacate your tables on an instant’s notice,” and thus “damage your best interest.”

Union 336 could hardly have drawn a fuller indictment against itself, along with its Gompers-Strasser-Maroushek-Dan Harris International organization of cigarmakers. Out of its own mouth it stands convicted a body inspired wholly by sentiments, views and principles that are repulsive to Labor, and that can only be a curse to the Working Class.

It is not the voice of honorable Labor that ever breathes race or national distinctions. These distinctions are levers for the capitalist, the exploiter, to wield. The workingman who stirs up these distinctions is a reprobate; the organization of workers that utters such language is a libel upon a Labor Organization.

It is not the voice of virile Labor that ever is heard expressing “contentment” with existing conditions; least of all is it the voice of virile Labor that would ever take from the lips of the fleecers themselves the word “malcontent” with which these ever seek to stigmatize the virile worker, who, chafing under the yoke of capitalism, seeks to emancipate himself. The workingman who applies the word “malcontent” to his fellow wage slave is a poltroon; the organization of workers, guilty of such an act, is a barn of white-livered dunghill-cocks.

It is not, no, never is it the voice of loyal Labor that will make a virtue out of its own weakness with the capitalist, and that will raise the colors of the “Employer’s Interests” above the colors of the “Interests of Labor.” The workingman who hucksters his services with praises of his own “inoffensiveness” to the exploiter is a deserter; the workingman or organization of workers, that would warn the exploiter against the wage slaves who organize in such manner as to be most powerful in their conflicts with Capital,—such an organization is a traitor to the Working Class.

After sinning on these cardinal points, and standing branded by its own irons as a prostituted concern, it can hardly add much to the infamy of Union 336 that even in its cowardly posture, the colors it flies are fraudulent.

Odd, indeed, must sound the charge against the La Resistencia agitator that he is “imported,” when the charge comes from an organization whose Organized Scabbery swarms with such malodorous importations as the Marousheks, the Gomperses, the Strassers, the Dan Harrises, etc., etc., etc. Again, the infamy of Union 336 gains deeper dye—a dye that spreads over the whole International Union, which it seeks to boister itself with,—when its claim is considered that, by the International Union’s laws, “no shop can be closed by a strike without a general vote of all the Unions.” What about Davis’s shop in this city? No such general vote has been taken; indeed, none such is needed; the shop itself voted over-whelmingly
They Indict Themselves

Daily People, November 22, 1900

against a strike; and yet it was pronounced on strike by the “imported” agitators, in violation of the actual law of the International Union; and, based on this violation of its own laws, the Organized Scabbery of the International Union have had the effrontery to calumnye the Alliancemen who went (back) to work at Davis’s despite the bogus strike.

The organization of labor that is not planted squarely on the class struggle can develop only in one direction,—the direction of a buffer for the capitalist class, run by the Labor Lieutenants of Capital. Pure and simpedom is the enemy born of the Working Class: it is twin brother to the Capitalist Class. The statement of Union 336, together with the conduct of the rest of the International Union, furnishes, though merely cumulative, still valuable evidence of this fact.

UNION WRECKING.

CIGARMAKERS INTERNATIONAL ARouser.

Organized Scabbery Resorts to Force in Tampa—In the Interest of the Bosses It Would Smash a Strong Union.

Statement Issued on the Subject.

Tampa, Fla., Nov. 15—The officers of the Organized Scabbery, the Cigar-makers International Union, those “untel union wreckers,” are making a desperate attempt to wreck La Résistance, the trade union organization of the cigar-makers in this section of the country. It culminated last night in an attack on one of the largest cigar factories in the city. The building was wrenched with men and women and, for the third and last time, the International men fled after a shot from the building. Over 800 shots were fired, but fortunately no one was injured.

The determined effort to smash La Résistance is due to the fact that the International officers draw no dues from us.

The following statement was issued last week.

TO THE PEOPLE OF TAMPA.

No, it is not true, as it has been stated by the officers of the International Union, that the conflict between their union and the Résistance is due to race prejudice. No, it is not true, as they say through the press, that the Cubans refuse to work with Americans in the cigar factories. La Résistance is composed of several nationalities, including many Americans, and Americans are today in the Executive Board.

The Cuban element is one that the officers—members—consider the majority of our members, because they are not of the same color or caste that sustains and gives life to the Havana cigar industry. And to illustrate it, here are some facts taken from our books:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Total Hours Worked</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americans</td>
<td>1,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cubans</td>
<td>1,244</td>
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It is quite evident that there is no race prejudice in the International Union. In their negotiations and relations with our national conditions, they have always looked for and brought conflicts and disputes, which have only been avoided by the good offices of our commissioners. It is an older tradition to have avoided disputes on street corners, in all places, and our National executive did not desire to bring the International union to the point where they would provoke a national strike, which would be a disaster to the cigar industry.

The idea of the Résistance would be wiped out and would be the result of the situation. In accordance with the plan they started, there would be a general strike amounting for a space of 64,000 men; and we have no reason to doubt the correctness of their estimate.

1,256 Americans
1,244 Cubans
1,210 Europeans

The total now is over 3,800.

As can be seen, we are not exculpating the conflict now existing due to the absent spirit of absolute and total, of those who are in the International Union, which forgetting that all of its union is the platform of the International, have pretended to dominate all and absolve itself in the most brutal way, having strength it is not done, and of course brand itself false where it is.

The officers of the International, with the cleverness to think that their union is the absolute, to be accepted by the Havana Cigar-makers, made use of the relative growth of the international union, the prestige and influence of the Résistance, tried to do as they always do in other places, to prevent direct talks to the bud’s backs, as to avoid it or destroy it, and to this end they prepared an实施方案, using as a shield the new union of strippers organized by them, as the International union had a strippers’ union, they organized them into the American Federation of Labor, an act opposed to all principles of trade unions and to the friendly spirit they should always show towards the strippers’ unions already existing and affiliated with La Résistance.

We know of their act in regard to the inauguration of the strippers’ union, as we have always warned them to be liberal in this respect, but we were not fined to a meeting of said union. They had established a new one, with a lower bound, they had established it in the columns of their organ in the press, our communication was forwarding and dignified before the aggression and internecine of the executive board of the International, they thought we were convinced of its badness and were afraid of their bashing claims of millions outside and power against the strippers. At the last minute we were informed that we were not to go on strike and that they only worked to have to come to the ground. They went to the strike braggart, or, better, they ordered us, on longings to the International, and their show that it is a balloon that is being prepared, to the general amusement of a score of people.

Now they went to take refuge in the banner of patriotism against the gold men of the bosses, no matter if it is the true Brotherhood of Men of the Working Class, and that the capitalists wish to express against the gold men of the bosses, no matter if it is the true Brotherhood of Men of the Working Class, and that the capitalists are the only way to the International, and that there only they can keep the laws which are being violated, to the general amusement of a score of people.

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