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EDITORIAL

QUESTIONING QUESTIONERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Gompers “independent” “labor” “party” has announced its arrival with a manifesto which declares the “party’s” intention to ask certain questions from the candidates of the dominant parties with a view to endorsing them in localities where the “independent” “labor” “party’s” chances of electing its men are not considered favorable. In all other localities the “independent” “labor” “party” will set up its own choice morsels. People who ask questions should be willing to answer questions put to them. Except in the few districts where lie the Tuxedos, the Euclid avenues, the Beacon Hills, the Narragansett Piers, the “Lake Fronts,” the Nob Hills, etc., the working class voters are vastly in the preponderance. Articulating the growing sentiment among this large mass of the people, we propose to put just three questions to the candidates that the “independent” “labor” “party” of the Civic Federation’s first Vice-President Gompers has foaled.

First Question: Do you consider that the Working Class and the Capitalist Class, which grows fat only in proportion as the Working Class grows lean, are brothers?

Second Question: Do you consider that the Capitalist Class, whose property is but stolen goods, stolen from the Working Class; whose “Law and Order” spells “Outrage”; whose “Morality” spells “Debauchery”; whose “Religion” spells “Hypocrisy”; whose “Patriotism” spells “Sell-out”; and whose flag is emblazoned with the \$ mark rampant, over the workingman’s skull and cross-bones couchant;—do you consider that that class has any “rights” whose abolition civilization does not demand peremptorily?

Third Question: Do you consider that the capitalist system—under which the workingman is but an article of merchandise, the price of which is regulated in the Labor Market by the identical law of supply and demand which regulates the price

of bales of hay and kegs of pork—can be mended, or do you hold that it is sooner ended than mended, and should be ended none too soon?

The awakening Working Class voters of the land insist in deep base notes upon a categoric answer to these questions. Their wives, bowed down by the cross of capitalist Usurpation, their children, robbed of the joys and opportunities of childhood, raise their treble voices and cry—“Answer!”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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