

GOMPERS NOW A PIVOT IN LABOR BALANCES

His Personality an Important Element in Adjustments at Nation's Council Board; Mighty Change in Brief Decade

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1919, by Public Ledger Co.

Washington, Sept. 13.—Mr. Gompers recently returned from Washington and had had no sooner arrived than he sought and secured an interview with President Wilson.

Etiquette suggests, though it does not require, that the seeking shall come from outside rather than from within the White House.

It had not come from outside in this instance and came quickly, there would have been anxious moments and careful searchings of the horizon.

One does not write "Mister" Gompers without a certain self-consciousness, especially if a few years ago one used to write editorials for a New York newspaper, highly respectable and conservative and retained by the best traditions of journalism.

Times Have Changed In those days if one were sufficiently young to question the existing judicial methods of safeguarding established institutions, one would write a labor controversy that it was between Mr. Smith, the capitalist, and Mr. Gompers.

The editor would say "Gompers" when he discussed the article with you the way the archangel Gabriel would say "Satan."

That was how society was kept upon its legs a short decade ago. Society now, at least in Washington, looks easier on its legs when Mr. Gompers makes his earliest visit, upon arriving in this town, at the White House.

Upon Mr. Gompers' first visit, including Mr. Wilson, the future of the Democratic party, the relations of labor and capital, the existing compromise or modus vivendi, perhaps the Plumb bill, perhaps—

Has he not come back from Europe, bolshevism's boldest foe, a stone in the path of "direct action," a resolute obstacle to internationalism, a cheval de frise in the way of the future, anathematized as "Sammy" by all the hasty spirits who are impatient of any compromise—

Labor participates in every plan that is formed under which life is to go on in the coming decade, the decade of "Mister" Gompers or of "Mister" that terrible person, Mr. Gompers's successor—

For example, virtually all the bills for the administration of the railroads when the present period ends place labor along with capital and the public upon the board of directors.

That sitting in of labor is what is known as the participation of labor. It is universally conceded, within certain limitations, in some degree or other, it is to be the new modus vivendi, the new compromise.

Labor, in the person of Mr. Gompers, has been sitting in ever since the war began. The participation, or partnership, was signified by President Wilson's going to Buffalo, a couple of years ago, at the time the American Federation of Labor was choosing a president there, and telling assembled labor, and the nation, that he and Mr. Gompers's minds were twin minds, and that they worked together in especial harmony.

A League of Nations Himself Mr. Gompers had been sitting in in Europe for Mr. Wilson, a sort of league of nations all in himself, doing his best for the status quo, when Messrs. Stone and Plumb teamed up a right under the White House window. Mr. Gompers heard the racket and bought a ticket for home.

With his coming home Washington revolves in its mind ways of making definite and unmistakable the participation of Mr. Gompers.

For want of a better name under the thing is created and the inevitable name becomes apparent. It is well to call this proposed circle of advisers the President's industrial peace cabinet, a counterpart for the new emergency of the war cabinet.

FARIS'S AUTOMOBILE GUIDE—NEW FICTION

PENNSYLVANIA IN ANECDOTE Doctor Faris Has Written Motorist's Guidebook That Will Interest Everybody

Dr. John T. Faris has accomplished what he has hitherto been regarded as impossible. He has written a book about Pennsylvania for motorists which will be as interesting to readers not so fortunate as to own a motorcar.

It is called "Seeing Pennsylvania." In it he describes eight tours. Three of them are from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, the first by way of the Lincoln highway, the second by way of the National highway, and the third by way of Reading, Harrisburg and the William Penn highway.

There are several hours of unalloyed delight for admirers of William De Morgan in his posthumous novel, "The Old Madhouse." The tale moves with all the leisureliness of those which have preceded it.

The book takes its name from a private insane asylum, long unoccupied, which some of the young people in the book are thinking of taking as a residence after they are married.

Mr. Bennett has taken many liberties with the original story. He has Judith marry Achior, the captain who warned Holofernes that he could not defeat the Jews unless they had sinned and he had Judith kill Holofernes with her own knife while she is fondling him in his tent.

The English girls who helped him by working on the land remained quiet and contented with their conditions the same as when they lived in the towns and went to parties.

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THE TRAGEDY OF AN OLD MAID

May Sinclair Tells the Story of a Woman Not Allowed to Live Her Own Life

Persons interested in the technique of novel writing will find the study of the method pursued by May Sinclair in "The Old Madhouse" most fascinating.

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THE CRITIC TALKS TO MUSIC LOVERS

Weekly Comment on Things Musical Written for Discriminating Philadelphians

THE music season of Philadelphia for 1919-1920 is now under way, and it promises to be the busiest and the most brilliant that the city has ever known.

It is made possible for us to hear the Beethoven Sextet, the Schubert Octet, the Brahms Sextet, the Mendelssohn Sextet, the Spohr Sextet, for strings and woodwind, works not often given except by amateurs and then generally not well performed because of their great difficulty.

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