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EDITORIAL

## REMEMBER TAMPA!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**P**HILADELPHIA reports have it that Clarence O. Pratt, the leader of the strike against the Rapid Transit Company, feels confident that, if all the workers of Philadelphia join the strike, his men will surely win.

Pratt should remember Tampa.

About nine years ago substantially the whole working class of Tampa in Florida was organized into one Union. It was not a federation of autonomous bodies. It was an integral affair, every shop in the town being a limb of the body, with the subordinate crafts in the several shops functioning as the nerves and arteries that connected all the limbs with each, and held each in touch with all. Cigar factories, baker shops, restaurants, retail stores, etc., etc., each was organized from top to bottom, each as a unit, and all the units held together making a whole. That whole was called "La Resistencia." Obviously here was something vastly more cohesive than the sympathetic alliance of independent Unions co-operating in one incident only. Unity of action, accordingly, mutual support, was the law of existence of La Resistencia.

Almost as soon as it started forming, La Resistencia aroused the bitterest feelings among the employing class. When a strike took place, the whole shop went out. When several shops were organized in the body, a strike at any of them smote them all. The thing was redoubtable. The employing class of Tampa yelled "Anarchy!", and, the button being touched from the central bureau of capitalist news, all the capitalist papers of the land, North, South, West and East echoed "Anarchy!" That was in 1901.

The Pratt conditions under which the success of his strike is, according to him, to be made certain, existed in Tampa. But what happened then? Idle labor from all over the country poured in, headed by members of Gompers's International Cigar

Makers' Union. From the latter especially the "fittest" were picked out, sworn in as constables, armed and let loose upon La Resistencia. Its offices were shot through the windows; its officers shanghaied; some were shipped on board small vessels and marooned on rocky islands in the Gulf; others were thrown into trains at the point of the bayonet and railroaded away to goodly distances. La Resistencia was smashed. What is it that had happened? La Resistencia had organized on too narrow a basis. **THE BASIS OF PROLETARIAN SOLIDARITY, AT ANY ONE SPOT, IN ANY COUNTRY, IS THE BROAD CONFINES OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY.**

What does it matter if all Labor in Philadelphia strike? It will incommode the exploiter, but only for a while. Outside of Philadelphia is a mass of unorganized Labor. Even the allegedly organized are in reality unorganized. They are all unorganized in reality because ruptured on both the political and the economic field; and they are in that state of rupture because as yet the only light that can unify men to a purpose, the light shed from the beacon of the common class goal of a lofty ideal, has zealously been kept from reaching their minds' eyes by the Pratts themselves. A general strike in Philadelphia would have for its practical result the swamping of the city's proletariat by the floods from without.

Remember Tampa!

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