

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 223.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

JOHN GOLDEN'S FEBRUARY JUDAS KISS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE is a monthly publication entitled *The Union Worker Magazine*. The magazine says of itself that it is “published in the interests of organized labor, Union labels, working cards and buttons—Rhode Island and South Eastern Massachusetts.” The headquarters of the magazine are in Providence, R.I. It sports the name of Clarence Spooner as “managing Editor.” Fact is the concern is the mouth-piece of John Golden, International President of the United Textile Workers of America, affiliated with the A.F. of L., hence also with the National Civic Federation and Militia of Christ.

Through this his mouth-piece Mr. Golden drops upon the cheek of Labor the monthly Judas kisses which he has no opportunity to drop in person. Through the current month's issue, Mr. Golden bestows his Judas kiss upon the Lawrence textile operatives on strike.

With much unction the Lawrence operatives are told that their strike will end “in defeat and suffering,” and they are urged to “go back to work” in the interest of themselves, their wives and children; and he weeps over them for the error of having struck, at all.

A man may honestly, however mistakenly, believe that men on strike should give up a fight; a man may honestly, however mistakenly, believe that a given strike was ill-advised. When, however, into such opinions and advice a man weaves, as does Mr. Golden, the false statement that “times are hard” as an excuse why the mill owners can not pay more—as though the mill owners ate one meal less, drank one cup of wine less, or deprived themselves of one single luxury due to the “hard times,” and as though “hard times” affected any but workingmen; when into his opinion that the strike was ill-advised, a man weaves, as does Mr. Golden, the insinuation that operatives can not expect to receive for 54 hours the same pay that

they received for 56—as though, even if the hours are reduced to 54, the operatives would not be working two score and more of hours for which they get no pay; when into his opinion that the strike should be given up, a man weaves the fraudulent prospect that “fair treatment” will be given to the workers—as though mill owners know of any “treatment” for their operatives other than squeeze out of them the very last drop of blood that the operatives will allow to be squeezed out of them; when into his opinion that the strikers should go back to work, a man weaves the mendacity that wages will rise again when the state of trade will once more be prosperous—as tho’ the intensity of labor does not increase with prosperous times when the mill owners’ appetite is sharpened by the increase of their profits.

When, into his blandly expressed belief that the continuance of a strike means only sufferings to the strikers, a man weaves such fallacies and economic falsehoods, known to him to be such, then that man proceeds from dishonest impulses in the direction of dishonorable purposes—such a man is playing the Judas trick with the Judas smirk.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded January 2013

slpns@slp.org