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EDITORIAL

## A WORD FOR FARLEY TOBIN.

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**A**LL that the shoeworkers on strike are saying against John Tobin of the Boot and Shoe Workers' so-called Union is true—true it is that Tobin is an agent of the employer, and not of the employes; true it is that his label is intended to advertise the shoe manufacturers' goods, not to protect the shoe workers; true it is that, in pursuit of that purpose, the contracts engineered by Tobin are shackles on the limbs of the wage slaves, and assets in the coffers of the capitalists; true it is that, as a consequence of all this, Tobin's function in the contract is to supply scabs to the employers any time the men "break their contracts," that is, snap the fetters clapped upon them by Tobin; in short, true it is that Tobin deserves the name of Farley—the name that shoeworkers now on strike both in Brooklyn and in San Francisco are giving him. All this is true. And, being true, Tobin is fully entitled to the full measure of the execration that is being bestowed upon him. Nevertheless, policy, wise policy ever coinciding with justice, both justice and policy compel a little word to be here said for Tobin, aye, for Farley Tobin.

Everybody will admit that to single out one brigand from a gang of brigands, and to fall upon that one alone is both injustice and bad policy. By as much as the rest of the brigands are left unwhipped, the whipped one receives an excess of lashes—that is unjust. By as much as only one brigand is castigated, his pals are ignored and brigandage is acquitted—that is bad policy. Justice, combined with a wise policy, corrals all the brigands, and, administering punishment to all, at once gives even-handedly what is coming to each, and sets the stamp of condemnation upon brigandage itself.

Upon this principle a little word is timely in behalf of Tobin. By singling him out from his gang of A.F. of L. Farleys he is getting more lashes than in justice are

coming to him—an injustice to the man; by committing such an injustice, A.F. of Hellism is left unwhipped—a wrong to the Labor Movement, hence an unwise policy.

John Tobin is no worse than most of the “Presidents” and “Secretaries,” who, together with Samuel Gompers, constitute the A.F. of L. leadership—a veritable Farley constellation in the firmament of capitalist society. No less so than Tobin are the Mitchells, the O’Connells, the Perkinses, the Lynches, the Healeys, etc., etc., agents of the employer; no less so than Tobin are the labels these traffic in advertisements for the employers; no less so than Tobin are they peddlers of handcuffs, named “contracts,” for the workers; no less so than Tobin are they suppliers of scabs to the employer in his conflicts with his wage slaves. O’Connell engineered scabbery against the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance machinists on strike up the Hudson and in New Jersey; the Lynches engineered scabbery against the S.T. & L.A. wage slaves in the printers’ trade in this city; Gompers and his cigarmaker understrappers conducted scab campaigns against the S.T. & L.A. cigarmakers at Seidenberg’s and at Davis, and later against the Resistencia Union in Tampa, and later still against the I.W.W. Down or up the line, the history of Tobin’s fellow A.F. of L. officials is the history of scabbery against the Working Class. Such is the law of their existence. Accordingly, Farleyism is nothing peculiar to Tobin; it is the specialty of Gompers-Mitchellism;—the specialty of all organization of workers that is officered by the Civic Federation.

By praying mercy for Farley Tobin the Socialist Labor Party fulfills its duty of seeking to save the workers from the calamity that befalls all those with whom the removal of one tyrant ever is the crowning of his successor. The Labor Movement can not afford the stupidity of the scape-goat system. Evil is not removal in any such pagan style. Evil is removed by removing IT—not a scapegoat. Not Tobin is the Sin. The Sin is the A.F. of Hell.

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