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EDITORIAL

## THE 'LONGSHOREMEN AS OBJECT LESSON.

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**I**T not infrequently happens, in warfare, that the enemy sees the weaknesses of an army's position better than the army itself. Aided, perhaps, by a superior knowledge of the lay of the land, by greater experience, or by secret information, the enemy may know to a dot just where lie the vulnerable points in the position which the army itself may hold to be impregnable. It is quite in the nature of things for the enemy to make notes and records of such information, for its own use. Should a page of these notes and records fall into the hands of the army to be attacked, it becomes criminal, suicidal negligence for the army not to act at once upon the tips thus given it, and strengthen the faulty and untenable position thus revealed.

Such a page has fallen into—nay, been thrust into—the hands of the working class. What use is it going to make of it?

A “strike blocker,” as the name implies, is a man hired by the capitalist to prevent strikes from being called in his establishment. Acting on the theory that “prevention is better than cure,” the capitalist who has been cutting wages, intensifying labor, or refusing to raise wages in keeping with the increased cost of living, and who hears murmurs of dissatisfaction among his hands, summons the “strike blocker,” who then exercises his ingenuity in preventing the workmen from taking the last and often efficacious step of stopping work to protect themselves from the increased exploitation.

Listen to the confessions of a boss “strike blocker,” one Thos. J. Farrell, with offices on Union Square:

“Take the 'longshoremen's strike. It was booked for a fizzle from the

start, and yet the organizer pulled out ten or twelve thousand men. But after he had his union out to a man he didn't know what to do with the strikers. He lacked generalship.

“He should have insisted on the 'longshoremen having an understanding with the freight handlers and teamsters before declaring war. Such a combination would have tied up all New York, and very probably have won.

“Too late the men learned their mistake.”

Boss “strike blocker” Farrell has dropped a page from his note-book. The working class, whose enemy his profession and his activities stamp him to be, should not be slow to take advantage of it. The disunited condition of Labor pointed out by him should be remedied as rapidly as the reorganization can be effected {effected?}. The working class should throw away the obsolete craft demarcations which keep it the laughing stock of the Farrells and their employers. They should remodel their unions on the lines of Industrial Unionism; and the 'longshoremen, whom Farrell has made an object lesson, should reward his frankness by heading the move.

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

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