

Release Labor Agitators.



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Defence Agitation.

Tom Barker in Brisbane

As the result of a meeting in the Market Square on Saturday night, a resolution was carried demanding the release of the 12 I.W.W. men recently sentenced to cruelly long terms of imprisonment in New South Wales, ranging from 5 to 15 years. There were three speakers, and the meeting was presided over by Mr. F. Page.

Mr. Gordon Brown condemned Judge Pring as a man without a conscience, for he was a member of the master class, and had no sympathy with the men he had tried. Hughes himself was not fit to unlace the shoes of the I.W.W. men who were now in gaol. Hughes never was a working class advocate. The movement now asked for a new trial for the convicted men, and they would get it. And after that it would not be long before they were once again outside the prison gates. (Applause.)

Tom Barker, a clean-shaven young man, apparently not more than 30 years of age, spoke next. He is the editor and publisher of "Direct Action," whose name is famous throughout Australia, mainly by reason of the harsh sentence of 12 months' imprisonment imposed on him some time ago because of his freedom of speech, and whose comparatively early release was secured by the working class agitation that resulted. Mr. Barker proved a fairly effective speaker, with an intimate knowledge of his subject. He explained right off that one of the fundamental reasons why the 12 men were in gaol was because they had attempted to get him out of gaol.

Mr. Barker contended that the I.W.W. was a victim of a gigantic conspiracy. Other conspirators could conspire behind closed doors, get into the Legislative Council, become respectable members of society, whereas men of the working class were gaoled for conspiracy because they stated that the workers must be organised right from one end of the country to the other in order to meet the machinations and the oppression of the master class.

"They talk of conspiracy," cried Barker, vehemently, "Who are the conspirators? Hughes and Pearce! They took the children years ago to make them conscripts. They talk of murder! I would not like to have as many murders on my conscience as the politicians who have attempted to force conscription on this country. Our whole crime consists in having raised the workers from their apathy." (Hear, hear.)

In conclusion, Barker stated that he had come to Queensland to arouse the people of this State to the iniquity of the affair. The workers of Broken Hill had said, "We are with you." Money was required to fight the case legally.

Mr. J. Read said he was almost sure that the I.W.W. had not committed the crimes of which they had been accused. But even if they were guilty, he asked if they had a fair deal.

—Brisbane Standard.

THEATRICAL UNION.

In discussing the recent Industrial Council's motion in regard to the I.W.W. prosecutions, the executive decided to recommend to the general body that the following motion be forwarded to Mr. Holman, Premier of New South Wales, and Mr. Hall, Minister for Justice,—"Whilst holding that sabotage and other methods of the I.W.W. are detrimental to efficiency of the workers, without which their class cannot fulfil their social and industrial aspirations, the Queensland branch of the Australian Theatrical Union (in conjunction with other unions affiliated with the Industrial Council) protests against the manner in which the recent trial of I.W.W. men was carried out, and urge that in the interests of the workers and democracy in general a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate the case, or a new trial be granted the men."

—Brisbane Standard.



1916 TO 1931

Fellow Workers : Remember !

We are in Here For YOU.
YOU are Out There FOR US.

Sunday Propaganda.

Further I.W.W. propaganda speeches and, incidentally, an appeal for funds for the release of the men who are serving sentences of imprisonment for alleged crimes against society, were made on the Domain yesterday afternoon before a fair crowd.

Mr. Tom Barker, who was the principal speaker, introduced himself as one of the "I.W.W. criminals" who had been sent to Long Bay Gaol for 12 months for the heinous crime of issuing a poster in connection with recruiting, urging the "workers to follow their masters." He proceeded to recapitulate the particulars relative to the arrest, trial, and sentence of the 12 I.W.W. men.

The speaker emphasised that the object of their mission in Queensland was to obtain a new trial for the men in gaol, and he hoped that the working classes would not be lacking in their support.

Rev. J. H. McDougall said he came to say a word in the interests of justice. He did not know I.W.W. so well as to come in the interests of the I.W.W., but he felt that an injustice had been done to some men, and he believed all fair-minded Australian hearts would be with him in that opinion. By trying to bring about a fresh trial for these men they would be helping to condemn "Billy" Hughes and crushing the pernicious influence of vested interests. The rev gentleman showed a good example to the remainder of the gathering by contributing 5s on the spot, which was the largest individual amount handed in during the afternoon's collection.

—Brisbane Standard.

MOUNT MORGAN.

Last Friday night's meeting was a great success. The I.W.W. is being freely discussed here and we should have a good crowd this Friday night. I have secured a hall for Sunday night. I wish particularly to emphasise the fact that there is a great opening here for a capable man from our ranks. Results are what we want and the workers are prepared to pay all expenses and guarantee that the one who comes up will receive every consideration—the position will be perfectly secure as 20 of them have guaranteed £10, and £2 weekly to enable a start to be made.

I will get rid of another 200 "Direct Actions" on Friday night and forward to you, the collection.

—W. JACKSON.

SYDNEY.

Sir,—Herein I convey to you, by direction, the following resolution passed at a meeting of A.W.U. members held here on 31st December, 1916:—

"That this meeting of members of the A.W.U. protests against the severe sentences passed on those sentenced for sedition, etc., and urges that they be liberated at once."

We trust that you will comply, not only with this resolution, but with others which have been sent to you to the same effect.

J. W. BURN, A.W.U. Rep.
The Minister for Justice, Sydney.

Defence Agitation.

SOUTH COAST TOUR.

F.W. Melrose, delegate from A.M.A., Broken Hill, and F. W. Rancie, delegate from I.W.W., Sydney, travelled the South Coast last week on behalf of the Release and Defence Committee, and met with great success.

Meetings were held at Port Kembla, Wollongong, Woonona, Helensburgh, Scarborough, Stanwell Park and Otford.

At all meetings a representative of the local union took the chair and explained the objects of the meeting.

Great indignation was shown all along the South Coast at the heavy sentences passed upon the working class agitators, and resolutions were passed at every meeting protesting against the persecution and demanding the immediate release of the imprisoned I.W.W. men.

Subscription lists and petition forms were left with different secretaries of the coal miners' lodges, and they have promised to do all in their power to help in the fight for the release of the imprisoned fighters for freedom.

The coal miners and navvies along the South Coast must be admired for their display of solidarity and their willingness to assist in every way possible in the present fight.

The tide is beginning to turn our way. The lies and prejudice spread by the capitalist press and conscriptionist politicians are rapidly vanishing and the truth of the whole capitalist conspiracy is coming to light.

The future is with us, and we look forward to big events.

—N.R.

Messrs. G. Kerr, of the Broken Hill A.M.A., and M. Rudolph, of the Workers' Defence and Release Committee, and also secretary of the Shearers and Shedhands' Dispute Committee, have during the past few days been addressing meetings in opposition to the conviction of the 12 members of the I.W.W. in Sydney recently. On Friday night they spoke at Kurri Kurri, and on Saturday night at Cessnock, where Mr. J. Roach, of Kurri Kurri also spoke. Yesterday they addressed a meeting at Cessnock Lodge. They intend placing their views before the South Maitland Miners' lodges, as far as practicable. Though receiving some opposition, on the whole, the speakers are being attentively listened to.

BROKEN HILL.

The women's corps has carried the following resolution:—"We, the ladies' corps, of Broken Hill, condemn the action of the 'powers that be' for sentencing 12 I.W.W. men to long terms of imprisonment for fighting in the anti-conscription cause. We demand the immediate release of the prisoners, and we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to assist all organisations with the same object in view."

ROZELLE.

At the Rozelle P.L.L. meeting last night Mr. Lagerlow proposed a motion in favor of a Royal Commission to investigate the cases of the 12 members of the I.W.W. who were recently sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. He stated that he had no sympathy with the I.W.W. or its works. The Labor movement and the I.W.W. had nothing in common, but they were both working for the same thing—the emancipation of the workers. Their methods, however, were as wide as the poles.

Mr. Young opposed the motion, and said that the Labor Leagues should cut themselves away from the I.W.W.

The motion was carried, Mr. Young and three women members dissenting.

MELBOURNE.

The following resolution was carried at a Yarra Bank mass-protest meeting, against the gaoling of the 12 I.W.W. men.

"That this meeting protests against the unfair trial and unjust sentences accorded to the twelve I.W.W. men now lying in prison, and in demanding that the said men be released from jail. No militant agitator will be safe from the coercive designs of the ruling-class conspirators who are seeking to smash working-class organisation."

—R. S. ROSS.

Direct Action

The Factory Evil.

Efficiency.

A SLAVE'S DUTY.



WEEKLY
OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF
THE WORLD.

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Washington Street, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

Saving Labor Power.

To such an extent has the damnable "slow down on the job" poison been eating its way into the heart of labor during recent years that scarcely a day passes without some paper or some public man exposing and condemning—quite justly—the lazy attitude of many of our workers.

Men, we are told, who a few years ago proudly boasted that they were the best and the hardest workers in the world, no longer talk that way.

As was to be expected, the I.W.W. have been blamed for this growth of laziness. However, we are not to blame. We believe in hard work quite as much as the employers do. We realise perfectly well that the nation—as a commodity producing concern—would fall to pieces were all to work as slowly as the employers and the I.W.W., and hence, although we don't believe in hard work for ourselves we are with the capitalists in advocating it for others.

Now, while the I.W.W. and the employers are in harmony with regard to their horror of slow work—for others; we quarrel with the crude way they have of presenting the economies of the tragedy—as Mr. Fraser, Chief Railway Commissioner terms it—to the workers.

Although the I.W.W. are shouldering the blame for the "slow down" style of work, we are not responsible for it; the whole trouble comes from the example set by the employers. It was—we frankly admit—from them we learned the trick, and we suppose it is from them the other workers are learning it—if they are learning it. The "despicable" slow down system, if reduced to its logical conclusion and practised by all the workers would mean national starvation. The I.W.W. have persistently pointed that fact out. Suppose the whole working class to go so slow that they stopped, who is going to do the work? There'd be only the respectable citizens—the parsons, politicians, prostitutes, pimps, police and plutes—left to do it! No sensible person would expect them to do work capable of producing the necessities of life! They're not used to such lowly toil and even if they knew how, it would be unreasonable to expect them to do it in addition to their own useful work.

We don't advocate the "slow down on the job"—now. But we do advocate six hours' work a day; not because 8 or 10 or 16 hours is too much for the average worker "to go his hardest," but because there are, and will be, thousands of men and women who will have no jobs at all if half a dozen are going to do all the work. We argue (crudely of course) that under an 8 hour day, three persons can fill in the day, but under a 6-hour system, it takes four to do the day's work, and thereby most of the unemployed could be absorbed and saved from the pain of an empty stomach. Maybe the profits would fall a little under this arrangement, but what would that matter so long as the workers were better off as a class?

We have yet to see the employer who, being assured the workers would be better off, would raise the slightest objection to the introduction of a 6-hour day. The I.W.W., in this agitation for the labor-saving day, are convinced of support from all Christian employers—and about 99 per cent. of these are Christians who believe in the "golden rule" and who "love their neighbors as themselves."

We now enter the year 1917 still under capitalism with its factories and the direful results to all who labor therein. In factory towns of Australia, as in other countries, the physical decay of our women and girls is very marked. The greed manifested by the "owners" is such, that although they have seen the physique of man, woman and child noticeably declining for years they resist every attempt to improve the conditions of work and living for those who labor in the factories. The individual liberty which they preach so much, as justification for their shameless treatment and exploitation of the workers, has been preached with "tongue in cheek."

The regard of the "owners" for wealth has even been greater than the regard for the virtue of working class women. From no other cause than hunger thousands of women and girls offer up their sex for sale, every day and night in every factory centre in the world.

Every true report on the condition of modern workers reads more like the life story of some race of cannibals than like that of so-called civilised humanity. Looking back through English history we note that it is not many years since the Government interfered with the employment of women and children in the coal mines. The coal owners, like the factory women, were satisfied to let children and women, broken in health, perform the vilest and heaviest work in their mines. It was some years later before women and child labor were banished from the mines, and the men who pioneered this very necessary reform were met with the bitterest opposition from the employing class. Any move that seemed to endanger profits was a thing horrible to contemplate to the greedy capitalist vultures.

Several useful reforms fell to the workers through the quarrels that raged between the capitalists and landlords of England about a century ago, but since that time concessions have been wrung from the employers only by a display of working class solidarity and determination.

The conditions under which factory "hands" work and the speed at which they are driven has no other object than the squeezing of the last ounce of surplus value from their hides. Men, women and girls "put up" with these conditions merely because they are ignorant of the structure of society.

Were they to listen to, read and study the propaganda and literature of industrial unionism they would probably develop the desire and the knowledge to improve the conditions of factory life. A class-conscious determination will alone enable the working class to materially better their working and living conditions.

Nothing ever came to the workers of any country without a struggle, and that struggle has always been branded as crime by the governing class. This struggle for better things is a class struggle, and it must go on until the working class organise as one body and take possession of the earth and the machines of production. By doing this, by abolishing exploitation and by making every man produce for himself and those dependent on him, we will have brought about the overthrow of capitalism and established a new civilisation.

—BLUE JEFF.

Set Them Free.

The birds whistle merrily in the trees and the summer sky is clear and beautiful; the rich aristocrat sits in his chair smoking the most expensive cigars and enjoying his slothful life to the utmost; finance is good and sound, and his employees down in the dingy factory are producing at a high speed. His mind is free from any worry, life is indeed lovely.

In a dark stone dungeon, a man gazes through a barred aperture at the barren stretch which forms his sole landscape. For fifteen years he must endure this living tomb-like agony . . . because when he was mixing with the outer world, he dared to endeavour to emancipate his fellow-men. He thinks of the toilers slaving in the sweat hells, and curses their ignorance and susceptibility to the cunning of the capitalist. But surely the workers will not let him rot in jail when they have the might to set him free! Hope that right will triumph still burns

FORCING THE PACE.

How the nation can add to its efficiency and the supposed benefits that are to be derived from the Yankee ideas of ever-accelerating industrial processes, are matters which have recently been dealt with very exhaustively by Mr. J. A. Butler in "Stead's Review." According to Mr. Butler's article, the methods and practices of business, such as organisation, planning, routing, stockkeeping, waste-saving, incentives to good work, etc., are matters which need looking into with a view to increasing output. The ideas of this "efficiency engineer" are not new, but are comparatively new to this country.

Briefly, the idea is wherever possible to "check" the output of every individual employed with a view to securing the utmost exertion from each individual, and to weed out every employee who falls short of a fluctuating standard of efficiency, with a constant endeavour on behalf of the employer to raise the standard of efficiency insisted upon. This is to be supplemented by a system of piecates to be substituted for the day-work method; special premiums are to be provided for exceptionally large output and for special skill. According to Mr. Butler, this country will before long follow the lead set by commercial enterprise in other countries. As a matter of fact, the system has already to some extent been introduced wherever industrial processes lend themselves to the system of part-production. But seeing that such schemes are devised and introduced by the employers with a view to accelerating output and gaining increased profits, it is as well that the workers should be alive to the dangers inherent in the schemes, and should be on their guard against any measures that may be used as a lever to break down the advantages they have already gained by bitter struggles. The proponents of schemes to improve the efficiency of the working class usually start from the assumption that the interests of the employers are synonymous with the interests of the country. The interests of the working class are left to take care of themselves. The idea uppermost in the commercial mind is that the working class live to work, not work to live. Again, as to the physical well-being of the employees, that is a matter which receives very indifferent consideration. Possibly, if these people had it all their own way, the same state of things would ultimately prevail in Australia as is prevailing in the Land of Dixie, if we may believe reports. There, it was that one man of note is reported to have asked, "But where are your old men?" and have got the answer, "In the cemetery."

We can imagine that it would be a matter for great satisfaction to the individual manufacturer if he saw every employee straining every nerve and muscle and keeping his mind constantly concentrated on his task with the object of exceeding the output of everyone else in the factory. But suppose such a pace-making competition were carried to its logical conclusion. In that case no employee would dare to fall much below the maximum efficiency for fear of being dismissed, however nerve racking and injurious to the health it might be. Every factory would be driven to speed up in equal manner and competition would be as keen as ever. Moreover, as a consequence of the increased output the danger of a glut in the market would be greater than ever. We should not forget that although the Finnish devices adopted by the up-to-date capitalist to squeeze the last ounce of energy out of the employee may cause fortunes to be made quicker, the murmur of discontent will inevitably increase in proportion to the increasing brutality in the method of exploitation and a too vigorous policy of "putting the screw on" may lead to other results that the capitalists expect. It would at least open the eyes of those who would be thrust out of work, unable to stand the strain of the industrial mill and of those who could see their health waning as "national efficiency" increased. It would show them definitely where their interests lay.

The theory that the accelerated rate of productions might lead to a raising of the standard of living of the working class must not be accepted too readily. So far the forces which govern production have been far more inclined to augment the production of luxuries for the idle and weapons of destruction to be used by one section of the working class to destroy another section, than to increase the scant comforts that have been left to the workers, when the world's mighty have wasted what others toiled to create.

—H. CHRISTOPHERSON.

in his breast, and he sits calm and resolute, waiting for the class for which he gave his life's energy, to come and succor him. All true working-class men will stand by him and help to drag him from the pits of Hell and finally unite to crush the iron jaws of the system through the "One Big Union."

SEJAM.

I am waiting on the breadline singing patriotic songs,
For, in my way, I'm as happy as can be;
Still I know my dear kind master would rectify my wrongs,
But it's hard to bear his generous sympathy.
I shake hands with my starvation in a merry kind of way,
And I'm tickled when my stomach does a roll;
I list with rapt attention when the parson has his say,
For he's deeply interested in my soul.
I'm happiest when hunger grips with fierce intensity,
For I know that heaven's only for the poor;
It's sublime to see my loved ones writhe in painful agony;
With starvation's spectre knocking at the door.
My kind and generous landlord, he treats me like his own,
And he teaches me the wisdom of content;
That with supreme satisfaction I may view my cheerless home,
And with joy unbounded always pay the rent.
I laugh at haunting terrors, and seek solace in prayer;
I'm as merry as a victim on the rack,
A comfortable living's a delusion and a snare;
I'm so happy and so glad I've got the sack.

—PETE.

THE GAOL ARGUMENT

Funds are very necessary in this FIGHT FOR THE LIVES OF OUR CLASS BROTHERS FELLOW-WORKERS; IT IS UP TO YOU! GET BUSY AND KEEP BUSY IN YOUR UNION HALLS AND LEAGUES. Keep the workers alive to the danger that threatens. Arrange monster protests, agitate and organise unceasingly and forward unlimited funds for the Defence to

J. R. WILSON.

Box 98, Haymarket P.O.,
Sydney.

Daylight Saving.

One would think that this innovation, according to reports, is the politicians' ideal—a measure introduced for the benefit of all classes of the community—having been highly praised by the employing class and not adversely regarded or criticised by the workers. But let us examine this tampering with the clock a little closer. We are told that in England and other countries where it operates "large savings have been effected in artificial light and power; also that the workers spend most of their spare time in the cultivation of gardens."

Now, apart from the displacement of labor as a result of saving light and power, which is bound to be extensive, let us consider the cultivation of gardens. First of all I believe it will be conceded that work is work, regardless of where it is done, but, unfortunately, Mr. Back thinks work done in the garden is done for himself, hence he bogs into it, forgetting that he is relieving the "boss" of responsibility in providing a sufficient wage to buy vegetables.

I venture to affirm that although it has not received any adverse comment, and is treated with indifference by the working class, this is a scheme which has the effect of almost unconsciously increasing the hours of labor. At one swoop "Fat" has brushed aside all the arbitration award dictums about starting time and knocking off time. In conjunction with all the moves for economy it is apparent that the worker is to be "kidded" that for health reasons he should get to and grow his own vegetables and thank a kind patronising Government for being so thoughtful of his welfare. It is not my object to discourage "home enterprise," but merely to point out to our thoughtful "Labor bleeders" how much more satisfactory a reduction in the work-day would be for the health, and garden cultivation, and as a means of assisting to relieve the ever-growing unemployed problem, than a sly innovation like "Daylight Saving."

ERASMUS.

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"DIRECT ACTION."
Enclosed please find P.O. for 4/ for which please send "Direct Action" for one year to the following address:—

Name

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FILL IT IN NOW!

A Modern Delusion

A great number of people, despite all evidence to the contrary, still look to Parliament, and to the various political bodies, to bring about a new and better order of things. They fail to realise, in spite of all past experience, that Parliament is nothing they are not forced—by one side or the other—to do. With equal vigour and confidence, as each election comes round, they support and place in power different political parties and different individuals, and the result is always the same. Each political party that comes into existence, has for its principal object, the betterment of the conditions of the working class. No party would live to see the light of the political world if it came into being for the benefit of any other class, and yet, the passing of each of these parties invariably finds the working class still struggling for its emancipation.

Parliament, like the police, soldiery and the church, is merely a weapon of the ruling class. Parliament does not rule. The Government, as most people understand it, is not the Government, but simply one of the instruments by which the working class is ruled. Once a man "gets into power," his environment is changed, and is liable to change him also. There are very few men who, when once they get into power, do not want to stay there, and who are not particular about the means they adopt to remain in that highly desirable state. But no man can, through Parliamentary action, do any lasting benefit to the working class. He may deal out sops, such as have already been dealt out, in the shape of wages boards, arbitration courts, maternity houses, etc., but the moment he attempts to do any real good, he runs the risk of having the armed forces of capitalism—the world over arrayed against him.

The cause of the Napoleonic wars was the fear of the rulers of the neighbouring European countries that Napoleon was endeavouring to give the people of France more liberty, a desire for which would, in all probability, spread into their own people, and result in the overthrow of the monarchical system. The present system can only be overthrown by educating the people on the right lines; by bringing them to realise that they and their employers have nothing in common, that their interests are diametrically opposed—they are the exploited and the exploiters. To "industrialise" Kipling—"For the boss is boss, and the slave is slave, and never the twain shall meet."

It is on the industrial field that the class war must be fought out. The workers are always asked to settle their troubles peaceably—by arbitration or similar means. It is deplorable that the men should take the law into their own hands, and break it by going out on strike, because, under the provisions of our arbitration acts, striking is illegal.

Industry must not be paralysed, transports must not be held up; the brave boys in the trenches must not be kept short of supplies. They are fighting for us—our homes, and our freedom—not for the employers' property; not to keep the German and Austrian capitalist from displacing the Australian or British capitalist. These brave boys, when they return after fighting for their country, will be permitted to buy a piece of it.

It is time the working class became alive to the real situation. The present system must pass away. As all other systems that have gone before have had their day, so will this. Social systems, like all other things in this world, are subject to the evolutionary process, and to endeavour to change the system is merely to become an instrument of evolution. It is not wrong. It is simply natural. After all, a system can only be judged by its results. "What are the results? Does this system produce war, disease, poverty, prostitution, starvation, slums? Could not all these things be prevented? Are there no means whereby a new system cannot be brought into being?"

Why do we have wars? Do the workers want war? Only when they are worked-up into a highly hysterical state (false-called patriotism) by various capitalist agencies, such as the Press, and public speakers, etc. It is easy to play on the minds of the ignorant. And it is high time there were no ignorant. As time goes on, more and more of the working class are forced to realise their true position. The capitalistic system has reached that stage of perfection when most of its laws operate automatically.

The recruiting poster, "Do it now" is not bad advice with regard to this par-

ticular subject. The study of this matter cannot be begun too early.

E.P.

Chidley.

The Dean-Meagher case, the Land Scandals, and all those other cases which "grace" the history of our State pale to insignificance when placed in comparison with the Chidley scandal; perhaps the Chidley Conspiracy would be a more fitting title, as doubtless a conspiracy has been constituted in order to crush this man.

To the over-fed, red-faced man, standing in the street with a over-plus of half-a-dozen stone of poisoned flesh, puffing a cigar, and feeling, contented with a few inches of Scotch whisky in his stomach and gazing at the stalwart philosopher, Chidley, was indeed a crank. A man so unconventional as to do without tobacco and liquor, to live without animal food, to keep healthy with but 10 tuns of gill on his body and to control his passion for six months or six years at a stretch! A man of that calibre, to the man whose brain is saturated with alcohol and nicotine, is a crank—a hopeless lunatic.

But the unbiased, the scientific man, could see nothing amiss, either in the man Chidley or his philosophy.

Independent of Chidley's research, the writer had come to the same conclusions, both in theory and practice, as Chidley did. Then I knew Chidley and his family intimately. Within the last few years, we often went touring together—in the summer months we used to go swimming. He could dive, swim, box, row or skip with the agility of a man half his age.

I have travelled much—I have met all sorts and conditions of men, but I never came across so honorable or so reasonable a man generally as the deceased.

I am sure he never inherited disease. From my conversation and observation, I should say that Chidley had no more venereal in his body than the man in the moon.

Chidley has awakened the people to the fact that they are living in a fool's paradise. The lunacy that the little band of medics saw in Chidley was through their diminishing bank accounts; and the heart disease, syphilis, and other blemishes that the asylum people saw in him, were like some of the things Prince Hamlet saw, "They are the mere coinage of their brains."

The Prime Minister in one of his big speeches during his Honisling tour of London observed:

"If the Empire is to continue as it is, and as it has been, it would be better to go down in the war." For years Chidley has been telling his hearers much the same thing—"We can't go on as we are going," he has said—"We are like sheep going over a precipice—Those behind do not know the fate of those in front."

In England the mandate has gone forth that the people must live simply.—Ship-space must not be given over to lollies, laces, cigarettes, and other dispensables. Here in Australia we have recently had a Royal Commission on venereal. The liquor hours have been reduced and we are now under daylight saving legislation. Vegetarian cafes are springing up, and there is a wide-spread movement for reform in diet, dress and sexual matters.

Much of this is due to this done-to-death Chidley. A hundred thousand of Chidley's books have been sold. Practically the whole of the Commonwealth has studied his teachings; but not a single person can upset his contentions, whilst many well-known scientific men endorse them.

What is our civilisation? or perhaps to be correct, our syphilisation.

Three quarters of human effort is expended in producing things, not only that are not wanted, but all this effort is putting into the hands of the people that which is destroying them. The major portion of our industrialism is so much wasted energy. It is reduced to a burlesque, and we should be more fittingly employed in shovelling bubbles or chasing myths.

The cry of lunacy has never been swallowed by the people. Now that Chidley has been crucified, his persecutors talk of syphilis and heart disease.

It is too thin! This Chidley conspiracy is a big blot on our history. It must be cleared up.

An independent tribunal should go into Chidley's persecution, outside the Asylum, as well as his death inside.

EMANCIPATOR.

Workers, we produce as a class, we are robbed as a producing class let us face that robbery as a class. We need fear no entangling alliances, all will be opposed to us. We will then have running orders on a clear track to the co-operative Commonwealth.

—Western Clarion.

There is only ONE working class, logically there should be only ONE union. That is the I.W.W.

Unlawful Associations, Debate.

I.W.W. Sentences.
(To the Editor.)

Senator Mullan: As I am not going to vote for the suppression of a body unless I am satisfied that it is criminal in itself, or incites to crime or interference with the proper development of civilisation or society, I want to vindicate my vote and attitude by reading that (the I.W.W.) objective, I shall show by so doing that all this talk about the institution, and all this coupling of it with acts of individuals, is so much rubbish. It reads as follows:—

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Is there anything wrong with that? Will any one on the other side take exception to that clause?

Senator Senior: That is not an objective.

Senator Mullan: It is, just as the Labor Party has its objective, which is the quittance of its platform.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organise as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

The abolition of the wage system, that is all. We have at all times advocated the abolition of that system. Does Senator Senior believe in it?

We find that the centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping to defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

I do not agree with that, but is there anything criminal in it? It is merely a difference of opinion as to political methods, and there is nothing in it for which this body should be suppressed any more than some of our unions might have been suppressed years ago.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

What is wrong with "an injury to one the concern of all"?

Senator Bakhap: Is not a general strike dangerous to the public safety?

Senator Mullan: The general strike may be wrong, but it is part of their propaganda, and you can hardly regard it as a criminal act. If you advocate a strike at all it is only a question of degree. The general strike simply happens to be a bigger strike than a single strike. Of course Senator Bakhap is against all uprisings in the interests of liberty, and for the improvement of working conditions. He would not be true to his party if he were not.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword: "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organised not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

What is wrong with that?

Senator Shannon: What are they going to put in its place?

Senator Mullan: That is a matter which the evolution of politics will determine later on. The wage system every day is growing weaker and weaker, but so long as we have it we shall have industrial slavery. Sooner or later wagedom will go, as serfdom and slavery went.

I appeal to every fair-minded man and woman to say whether that objective, as an objective, shows criminal intent.

—(Extract from "Hansard.")

"Slaves, obey your masters," has been taught in a thousand ways for ten thousand years by the stuffed prophets for the profit-stuffed rulers of the robbed and ruined workers of the world.

—Geo. R. Kirkpatrick.

Others' Views.

Sir, Mr. Justice Pring, when pronouncing sentence upon the 12 members of the Industrial Workers of the World, described the I.W.W. as an association of criminals of the very worst type, and a hotbed of crime. Possibly Pring honestly believed it to be so. Class prejudice has been the cause of worse charges than that, as the late conscription campaign demonstrated. The paraisitcal portion of the Australian community believed Pring's accusation to be true, for the sycophantic press, which panders to this section, made undue haste to inform the public so. With Pring and the parasites we are not much concerned; their whole outlook necessarily is warped by their economic position. It is to members of our own class that we address ourselves.

Unfortunately many workers are influenced by capitalist morality, much to the detriment of their own class interests. The ruling class in all ages have taught, or have paid hirelings to teach, those moral precepts which tend to maintain their power and privileges. Perhaps it would be nearer the truth to say that each ruling class has sought to have moral precepts interpreted in such manner as to safeguard its interests.

Thou shalt not kill, nor steal, nor destroy thy neighbor's goods except it be in the interests of capitalism. Then, of course, the worker can kill wholesale, and instead of the rope, a medal and a regular job (albeit at seab rates) is his portion.

Stealing is no longer an infraction of the moral code when carried out on a large scale, and so long as the victims are members of the subject class. As for the destruction of property, capitalism condones it when it connotes increase or safeguarding of profits. Understanding the foregoing, crime in the present capitalist society necessarily takes on a class aspect. The intelligent worker before passing judgment on his fellow's action will ask himself the questions: "How does such and such an action affect my class? Will it strengthen or weaken the worker's position as against that of the capitalist?" Remembering also that tactical blunders can be made he will be charitably disposed towards those comrades who in their zeal may make mistakes.

Had the 12 I.W.W. men been arraigned before a judge and jury, of their own class, would they have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from five to 15 years? Certainly not. On the evidence produced by the prosecution the verdict would have been "not guilty" on the three charges levelled against them. The only charge that intelligent, class-conscious workers can bring against these 12 imprisoned men is that they did advocate certain methods of attack on predatory capital, which were futile and liable to react against the working class. Personally, I am not prepared to say that they would be proven guilty on that charge. Changing circumstances of the industrial battle compel a change in tactics. It may be adopted by the working class army, nevertheless it does not follow that the section that uses them is to be condemned. However, I do not purpose creating a controversy regarding the advisability or wisdom of certain tactics. Sufficient it is for me to be convinced that guilty or not guilty of this latter charge (which was not made by the police) certainly the 12 should not now be in gaol.

In conclusion, let me state that I am personally acquainted with several of the unfortunate men and am proud of that acquaintance. One of them I met six years or more ago on the West Coast of America. Between stretches of work, this man was propagating, without pay, the idea of a more rational and efficient form of industrial organisation. He was an ardent and militant fighter in the working class army, and however eagerly Justice Pring and Australian parasites may proclaim him and his fellow-workers as vicious criminals, I for one would rather spend my time in the company of such men than I would in the presence of the virtuous crowd who condemn them.—Yours for freedom,

GORDON BROWN.

South Brisbane.
Brisbane "Standard."

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

All articles should be in ink, on one side only of the paper, and owing to our limited space and the necessity for concentrating on the conspiracy cases, should be of not more than six or seven hundred words.

