

# 'An Injury to One an INJURY to All.'



VOL. 4., NO. 108. Registered at the General Post-office, Sydney, for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper. SYDNEY, February 10, 1917. ONE PENNY.

## FELLOW WORKERS, Your Mates in Jail Are Calling Will YOU HELP to Set them FREE?

### Release Agitation.

#### SYDNEY.

The agitation in Sydney is going along as well as ever. The chief difficulty is trying to supply speakers for the various places, and keep the country meetings going. All our speakers are now working overtime and going their hardest. The agitation we have now started must be kept going in all its vigor. We hope that the time will not be long when the boys will be out of jail and then some of our propagandists can have a spell.

#### NEWCASTLE.

For the past fortnight F.W.'s Farrell and Keer have been busy around Newcastle and district. At first some opposition was shown to the speakers, but at last they won out. The miners here had only the bosses' version of the treason charges, and it was only natural they should look upon the I.W.W. as a lawless gang. The coal miners' lodges are as a result much bigotry, prejudice and misunderstanding has been wiped out. Good work is now being done amongst the northern coalfields, and the tide is now turning our way.

Many miners who were at first prepared to jeer at the street meetings, are now earnestly working on our behalf. Truth will out, and its the truth we are after.

#### LITHGOW.

Things are moving well up here. A Defence and Release Committee has been formed, and things are now going along very well. F.W.'s Wilson and Sinclair arrived last week-end, and several very successful meetings were held. There is great interest being shown in the I.W.W. cause, and we hope that great success will result.

#### ADELAIDE.

FEDERATED IRONWORKERS' UNION.  
That the F. L. P., Attorney-General of N.S.W., and the P.L.L. be asked to take action towards the annulling of the sentences imposed upon members of I.W.W., as a fair trial was impossible, after the action taken by the Prime Minister and the daily press prior to their cases being heard."

#### ANTI-CONSCRIPTION LEAGUE (SOUTH AUSTRALIA).

"That this meeting enters its emphatic protest against the unjust sentences meted out to the members of the I.W.W., in the recent conspiracy charges by a class-biased and vindictive judge, and that we do our utmost to obtain their immediate release."

#### A.W.U. (ADELAIDE BRANCH).

At a meeting of the above, held on January 15, and at which delegates from the Workers' Defence Committee attended to put the case for the men in gaol, it was resolved that a recommendation for financial assistance be sent along to the conference of its members about to sit in Sydney.

The I.W.W. is called a lawless bunch. What about the food poisoners, coal barons, mine owners, child sweaters?

What about the sugar-growers in Queensland who refused to pay the award rates and thereby broke the law? What about members of the capitalist class who are guilty of trading with the enemy? What about the men who pay starvation wages? The crimes perpetrated against the working class every day are innumerable.

#### SCARBOROUGH.

A splendid meeting was held on the beach on Sunday afternoon, 28th January. Mr. McGhee, President of the local Coal Miners' Lodge, chaired the meeting, and outlined the persecution which members of the I.W.W. were now going through. Mr. McGhee emphasised the fact that the mere passing of resolutions were not of much benefit unless the workers were prepared to back them up with their industrial might.

F.W. West, who is at present having a spell at Scarborough, was the first speaker, and handled the subject in fine style. He contrasted the police methods of different countries with Australia, and finished with an eloquent appeal for assistance for the imprisoned men.

F.W. Wilson followed, and in his old familiar style, dealt at great length on the I.W.W. cases. Collection amounted to £3 3s.

Things are looking well here, and the agitation goes on apace.

The collection for the last fortnight at the mines amounted to £22 16s 1d. Good luck.

BENT AXLE.

#### SOUTH COAST TOUR.

On Thursday, the 25th, F.W. Wilson and H. Melrose journeyed to the South Coast in connection with the cases of the imprisoned men. On arrival at Stanwell Park, they found that where at Xmas time about 800 men were employed, there are now only between 80 and 100 employed, this being part of the sacking scheme of the Holtman Government. This practice has been indulged in by the Government on almost all of the railway works of N.S. Wales. Notwithstanding the paucity of numbers, supplies of "Direct Action" and "Speeches from the Dock" were sold, and also money collected for the Defence Fund. Further meetings were held at Port Kembla, Woonona, Bulli and Scarborough, at all of which places the speakers got a good reception; also sold quantities of literature, and took up collections—which goes to show that the enthusiasm of the workers of this district has not abated, and they are prepared to keep the agitation going until such time as justice has been done, and the men in gaol released. In every centre, visited, militant fighters are carrying on the struggle against the oppressor, in the interim, which makes the work of the visiting delegates much easier. At Bulli a concert and dance is being arranged to take place within a month, to augment the funds, and the promoters are hopeful of its being a huge success. Despite the holidays and counter attractions, the speakers had a good meeting at Bulli on Saturday night, and then proceeded to Scarborough, where a monster meeting

was held on the beach on Sunday afternoon, when boundless enthusiasm was displayed, and a collection of over £3 was taken up. On this occasion the delegates had the valuable assistance of that well-known battler in the cause of Labor, Stanley West, whose poems and writings have been widely read throughout the working-class movement of Australia.

As a criterion of the feeling of the miners of the South Coast, it is but necessary to say that the moneys collected at the meetings, from sales, collections and subscription lists for the few days' tour, amounted to £28 3s 8d. Such a splendid spirit of solidarity exists there that it makes one hopeful of the future. Fall into line, ye workers of Australia! Emulate the action of the South Coast men, and I feel assured that when the call comes, the gates of the gaol will swing open, and our fellow-workers inside will walk out, free men.

H. M.

#### MELBOURNE.

Resolution carried at Yarra Bank protest meeting:—

"This meeting of Melbourne citizens protests against the unfairness of the trial, and undue severity of the sentences accorded to the twelve I.W.W. men now lying in jail in N.S.W., and against the prosecution of H. E. Hoote, editor of the Sydney "Worker," and urges all sections of the Australian Labor Movement to participate in agitation to see justice done to all those men named, and all others who are persecuted or prosecuted, as the result of their activities in the interest of working class solidarity, and further asserts that until the workers so bestir themselves no militant agitator will be safe from the coercive designs of ruling class conspirators who seek to smash working-class organisations."

(carried unanimously.)

"Brevity is the soul of wit," observed the sage.

"Maybe," replied the fool, "but I can never feel very witty when my pay ticket is so short."

Sergeant—Now, then, Private Hogan, why aren't you holding your rifle in the proper hand?"

Hogan—Sure, I've a splinter in me 'and.' Sergeant—Been scratchin' yer head, I s'pose. —Melbourne "Punch."

### Defence Agitation.

#### QUEENSLAND.

##### WEEKLY REPORT.

ENDING JANUARY 21, 1917.

#### FELLOW-WORKERS.

On Monday last I tried to get into the Queensland Railway Union. I was unsuccessful, but I am pleased to say that there is a notice of motion asking me to speak at their meeting on the 29th, and also an held-over motion donating £5 to the D. and R. C.

On Tuesday I spoke at the Builders' Laborers' open meeting. I was well received.

Resolution carried, and a collection of £1 18s 2d to the D. and R. Committee.

On Wednesday I was invited to speak before the Industrial Council, the most influential body in Queensland. They have already donated £1 to the Fund. I was well received. Assured all support, and delegates appointed to committee.

On Thursday I spoke at the Butchers' Receive tumultuous ovation. Moved a recommendation to the Executive to donate £50 to Defence Fund, and authorise collecting lists being circulated to find money for wires and children. Delegates appointed to committee.

The Butchers' Conference is sitting, and I am invited to attend, so I think the £50 is certain. I was informed by the Painters that they have donated £1 1/- to Fund. Also that a joint meeting of all building trades unions be held to hear me on the matter.

On Friday, after the A.W.U. Conference had passed a resolution of sympathy. We held a meeting at Siones Corner on Friday night. Fair meeting. Collection 10 8j. Sold 6 dozen "D.A.s." On Friday F. W. Purcell arrived from Mackay, and paid over £8 15s being collected on the wharf at Mackay.

A resolution of committee (local) agreed upon printing 4,000 copies of the Resume of Evidence.

Arrangements for concert going apace, and will be a great success.

The Theatrical Union has passed a resolution. Due at Gympie next Saturday. Will get results, I expect.

On Saturday night, in spite of the rain a successful meeting was held at Market Square. Speakers: F. W. Anlezark (chair), Mr. Brazier (Industrial Council), and F. W. Jackson. Good hearing. Collection, £1 5s 8d. Good sales "Direct Action."

Defence Committee making arrangements for Art Union. A.W.U. local conference has sent instructions to General Convention, Sydney, to grant financial assistance to Fund, as a result of my talk to them.

Water and Sewerage Workers, Sunday morning, recommended A.W.U. to pass funds, and decided to send out subscription lists on the jobs.

Committee decided to remit £15 cash in hand, to Sydney by Bill Jackson.

Meeting held today, Sunday, afternoon interfered with by rain. Still fair crowd turned up. Collection, £3 5s 1d. Speakers: Barker, Dunne (Butchers), Anlezark, (I.W.W.) Gordon Brown (Insurance Agents), and Bill Jackson.

Large sales "Direct Actions." Weekly report, you will see, is improving.

Yours for Liberty.

TOM BARKER.

Delegate to North.

"You are lying so clumsily," said the observant judge to a litigant who was before him "that I would advise you to get a lawyer. They have made a study of the law!"

## Direct Action



WEEKLY  
OFFICIAL ORGAN  
of the  
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF  
THE WORLD.

(Australian Administration)  
Office: 403 Sussex Street, Sydney,  
Australia.

Subscriptions: 4/ per year; New Zealand,  
6/ per year; Foreign, 8/ per year.

HEADQUARTERS, I.W.W. (Australia):  
403 SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS: 164 W.  
Washington Street, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

## STRUCTURE OF THE I. W. W.

There is much talk nowadays about the I.W.W. wishing to damage machinery, take human life, and destroy society. These false stories about the I.W.W. which are trotted out every day by the master class and its satellites would not worry us over much, were it not for the fact that some wage slaves still believe that the I.W.W. is out on a campaign of destruction.

The working man who swallows the foregoing mendacious statements only proves himself to be in complete mental darkness as to the principles of the I.W.W. and the structure of its organisation.

A glance at our preamble will prove that the I.W.W. wishes to preserve and conserve human life and not destroy it, and a study of the constructive programme of the I.W.W., shows very plainly that we wish to use the machines and tools of production in the interest of the working class, therefore by destroying same we only militate against ourselves.

The I.W.W. is out to try and LIGHTEN LABOR AND DECREASE TOIL, therefore we wish all machinery and buildings to be kept intact.

It is not destruction or chaos that the master class are so vitally concerned about, but it is the SCIENTIFIC AND UP-TO-DATE STRUCTURE OF THE I.W.W. that causes all the alarm.

By the coming into being of an organisation built upon the constructive lines laid down by the I.W.W., the master class know very well that the day is not far distant when parasites and criminals will be no more.

Owing to the many failures made by merely mass organisations, the I.W.W. was given birth to. Something more than a mere Federation of Labor was wanted. These unions of the working class proved themselves to be nothing but large unwieldy mobs without any concrete system of organisation.

In different parts of the world, large labor federations have met with disaster time and time again when disputing the issue with the boss, simply because they were not scientifically organised on modern industrial lines.

The I.W.W. starts out by forming LOCAL RECRUITING UNIONS, or propaganda leagues in different localities where there does not exist a local industrial union. The work of the propaganda leagues is to gather together as many workers as possible to discuss the principles of INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM and spread the gospel of ONE BIG UNION amongst the toilers.

Propaganda leagues serve a valuable purpose by spreading around industrial literature, holding meetings for the purpose of teaching working class economics, and educating the workers to realise the necessity of organising on the sound principles and structure laid down by the I.W.W.

The main fundamental unit of the I.W.W. is the LOCAL INDUSTRIAL UNION, "welded together into trade or shop branches as the particular requirements of the said industry may render necessary." THE SHOP BRANCHES make

it possible to maintain SOLIDARITY amongst the workers in the said industry, and be able to get at the boss RIGHT ON THE JOB. Very often trouble arises in one shop alone, and in the event of the shop branch not being able to effect a settlement, all the branches which are welded together in the Local Industrial Union stand together in the fight, realising the principle of "AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL."

In order to maintain local unity amongst the Local Industrial Unions, the I.W.W. provides for what is known as the INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, which is composed of representatives of all Local Industrial Unions in that given locality. This Council shall keep in touch with all the local unions, and at the same time be in direct communication with the GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, so that whenever necessary, a short, sharp, decisive blow may be struck at any time.

The above form of organisation with the local industrial unions and the District Council, is about as perfect as possible for bringing about solidarity in a given locality, but the workers are not confined to one place, but spread all over the nation, and all around the world.

In order to meet this universality of the working class, the I.W.W. provides for a NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL UNION, for the purpose of grouping all Local Industrial Unions in a certain industry into a nation wide organisation.

In order to facilitate business, the NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL UNION elects a national committee, which deals with national matters in the said industry. Its business is to hold together in unity and harmony all Local Industrial Unions and keep in direct touch with General Headquarters.

Although the above plan of organisation is fairly extensive and covers a lot of ground, still it does not go far enough. The I.W.W. constitution now provides for what is known as an INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

When two or more National Industrial Unions exist, they are linked up with all closely kindred industries into an Industrial Department.

As, for instance, the municipal workers, theatrical employees, hotel, restaurant, and club employees, and all such allied industries would be united under the Industrial Department of Public Service. Loco engine drivers, teamsters, marine workers, wharf labourers and all such closely allied industries would be united under the Industrial Department of TRANSPORTATION. And so on throughout all the industries of the world.

The I.W.W. constitution provides for the six following industrial departments:

1. Department of Agriculture, Land, Fisheries and Water Products.
2. Department of Mining.
3. Department of Transportation and Communication.
4. Department of Manufacturing and General Production.
5. Department of Construction.
6. Department of Public Service.

Under the six departmental heads we believe that the whole of the working class can be organised into ONE BIG UNION. It will then elect its General Executive Board which will represent the whole organisation.

The above form of organisation can apply to all nations and finally be linked up into One Big Union of the working class, throughout the world. Each nation, of course, will attend to its own administration.

A universal transfer card is in existence, and once a man or woman joins, he or she can work at any industry or go to any part of the world, and the one card will hold good all the way, and all the time.

The I.W.W. does not claim to be perfect, but it does claim to be MODERN AND UP-TO-DATE. With the progress and development of capitalism some small changes may be needed in the constructive programme, but while we are prepared to keep our eyes on the development and changing form of the industrial system, and be prepared to MOULD OUR ORGANISATION TO MEET THE NEW CONDITIONS, we need have no fear.

By building up such a form of organisation the working class is preparing itself to manage and run the industries when capitalism totters and falls.

—N.R.

Applications are called for  
EDITOR OF "DIRECT ACTION."

All applicants must have been a member of the I.W.W. for at least six months, and must have application in at this office before March 15th, 1917.

All further particulars from  
F. BROWN, Manager "D.A."

# Speech from the Dock.

F. W. HORRICKS, W.A.

At the outset I must deny that conspiracy or crime has at any time in my life entered my head, and, further, I do not sympathise with those who do commit crime. True, I am a member of the Industrial Workers of the World, that might be explained by saying, I was born in an atmosphere of unionism with class conscious tendencies, and first joined a miners' union at the age of thirteen, and the remaining 27 years I have remained a class conscious unionist. And in joining the I.W.W. I did so for union purposes only, because I realised the principle of the One Big Union was good, and I fully subscribe to its preamble. I'm at a disadvantage during this trial by having been brought 300 odd miles away from the people who know me best and made it difficult for me to call evidence as to my character, but I wish your Honor to bear in mind this in determining what punishment I merit. That I was on the committee of the Miners' Union for six years, and treasurer of it for three terms, during which period it was the most financial Mines' Union in West Australia, and they accepted my resignation with regret, showing I must have retained the confidence of a great number of my fellows. (Judge Burnside: There is nothing against your character.) But I understand the jury has found me guilty of conspiracy. (His Honor interrupted again, and said: "I am not assuming you are not of good character.") Another thing I wish you to remember, I was merely the custodian of I.W.W. goods found on my property, which, in my opinion, is of an entirely innocent nature. I am a hard-working, uneducated working man, with no other desire but to make the world brighter in the future for my children, who, I hope, will not have to be taught in the school of bitter experience as their father was. And in admitting I am a member of the I.W.W. I must now give you the reasons which actuated me in joining and subscribing to its preamble and principles.

In the first place, it was that twopenny stamp that was awarded the miners in the 1912 industrial agreement, which was based on the barest necessities of life at a normal time when food prices were fixed, and which did not provide for abnormal times that followed shortly after, when the cost of living went up and up until it reached between 30 and 50 per cent., while the miners' wages remained the same. (BURNSIDE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE 1912 TRIBUNAL.) I then realised if arbitration was going to be just between master and slave it should provide for abnormal along with the normal, so as it would provide for the proverbial rainy day. Your Honor, you made reference in addressing the jury to the dangers you had faced when you were a young man; but you know nothing of the dangers of a miner's every day life. As a matter of fact, had I been a selfish man I would have been gazing at you now with two eyes instead of only one. I don't like mentioning these things; it's the first time I have; but I give it to the world now, because it's true. Imagine a man inside a space four feet square and a hundred feet deep when a fall of ground occurs, with a mate a few feet below under your feet, and you have to remain there until he gets clear. (Interrupted and asked to prove it.) Yes, your Honor, I can prove it. I had two witnesses subpoenaed, but for some unforeseen circumstances they never put in an appearance. (Who were they? — Dr. Mitchell, of the Wooroloo Sanatorium and Arthur Wilson, M.L.A. for Collie. (More interruptions, and Tommy Walker and Burnside exchanged compliments, and assured me my character was clean). I wish, your Honor, to take into consideration my wife and young family, for myself I do not ask for pity. I have faced danger without a shiver, whereas sentiment may make me cry. I only ask you to think of the life I have led.

## Workers, Arise.

The I.W.W. is passing through a phase that is inevitable with any advanced organisation. Upon all sides the organisation has incurred the displeasure and condemnation of the existing ruling class — the capitalist class.

Seemingly this class is for the present triumphant, but only seemingly; oppression is always followed by reaction and enlightenment. As knowledge spreads so will it become apparent that the aims and objects of the I.W.W. are sound, truthful, and honest. Upon every side exists lying misrepresentation, class bias, prejudice and spiteful attacks. Any real live movement that is worth its salt must fight hard and often for its existence. The gloves are off, and lives and liberties are cheap under capitalism.

What is the reason for the existence of the I.W.W.? Why are men and women risking their all, their happiness, their home, their freedom, health and comfort? Because they shout aloud for expression, because the system of exploitation, greed, robbery, treachery and violence, known as capitalism, is doomed!

Because the profit making system shrieks its violence aloud, because poverty, hunger, want and destitution mean and sob for redress. Because slums, filth, rottenness and evil stalk broadcast in the shameful day. Because honesty is ground underfoot, innocence, blasphemed and ugliness shrouds the face of nature's fairness. Because slavery is the lot of the worker and worry is his bedmate. Because the gaol and asylum yawns wide its jaws for the helpless, and because corruption, festering and depraved, is the foundation and ethics of the capitalist system of production.

The I.W.W. stands for One Big Union of the working class. Anything wrong with that. To bind together with one banded voice the producers of the wealth of the world, to say that we, the working class, are the strong men and women, the REAL MEN AND WOMEN, to stand together, and fight and struggle for the

full product of our labor.

It is the one object. Short of that everything fails. There is no reform under capitalism. There is no bettering of conditions, that is impossible, it is war, bloody if necessary, but grim, stark war. The war of the classes. Capitalism throttles the free aspiring growth of the people. The gruesome monster clutches with its suffocating coils all the life, all the vigor, all the health and vitality from its victims, the working class. Do we not produce all the wealth? Do we not find the brains and the brawn, the vitality and the life. And our lot if a tragedy, a mockery, a hollow fraud of putrid slavery and foul servitude. Shall we wait for some kind Moses, comfortably seated at the full and ample board, snugly reclining in the boss's parliament, look to hymn singers or soul snatchers, to deliver us, pray for the "lead, kindly lighters" to take our hand, or shall we as men and women do something for ourselves?

We, the working class, have one thing for sale, that is, our labor power. Are we any different to the woman at the street corner? No! We sell ourselves, soul and body, for life and a bit after. The working class must gain control are not new, they are the natural products of evolution. There have been thousands contained in history. Capitalism is decayed and doomed. Let it perish as the darkness before the dawn. When truth and freedom shall prevail, and the working class arise, then shall we be free.

WYATT JONES.

Teacher—Johnny, if four men are working twelve hours a day—  
Johnny—right on, teacher; nix on those non-union problems, please.

Proacher: "You must be born again."  
Bill Smith (tired of the struggle): "Struggle, mate, isn't once enough?"



# THE I. W. W. CASES.

## EXPERIENCES OF A LABOR ORGANISER.

And then, Mr. Ferricks, with this international and intelligent organisation, the Industrial Workers of the World will democratise the diplomatic service, and thoroughly with long handled shovels.

King was convicted on the evidence of a detective who, although he said that King had made a speech of ninety-five words, yet he (the detective) could not repeat five words of it. Scully, the police agent, had tried hard to inspire the members of the I.W.O. with practical incendiarism. He it was who told them about certain chemicals, and how to use them. HE (SCULLY), UNDER THE GUISE OF GIVING A MEDICAL LECTURE IN MELBOURNE, ENTERED INTO A FULL-

At the close of her lecture Miss Grant received an ovation.

## HER VOTE.

'YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK,' SAYS SHE.

So, much to-day, this 1917, says, "Men, you can have a present of your precious vote, and all its spurious ~~glamor~~ <sup>into the bargain</sup> for. I'm out for intelligent investigation: you've fooled me some of the time—as you've fooled yourselves—but you're not going to do it all the time!"

1, a woman, refuse to function as a female, with nerve-wrecked body, closeted in silence with weeping eyes, gentle, sweet and forgiving, because you in your ignorance wish it.

think you are—rebel men.

He thought within himself, that it was the bounden duty of every class conscious member of the working class community to carry on the fight for freedom, to keep the agitation going for the release of our boys in gaol, and he registered a vow that his message to his class conscious fellow workers would be—Go into the highways and the byways, the cities, the towns, the hamlets, the bush, go into the mills, the mines, the factories, and preach the class war. Educate the ignorant, rouse the apathetic and enmesh the intelligent with the need for immediate action. Preach the gospel of scientific industrial organisation. Show the workers that instead of the shattered idols of patriotism, pelf and place, they have a higher ideal, a nobler goal to strive for, that of fellowship, fraternity, freedom.

HENRY MELROSE.

## OBITUARY.

All live wires in the working-class movement will regret to hear of the death of Mrs. Emily Paul, who died in Sydney, January 26. Mrs. Paul has always been an active worker in the cause of the working-class. A few days before she died her wish was to know how the boys at Long Bay were faring. Her work in connection with the Labor Movement will not be forgotten for many a long year.

BETSY H. MATTHAIS.

**TOM BARKER**

## Economics.

(MARY MARCY).

## LOW PRICES AND MORE ABOUT PROFITS.

We know that strength to work, or labor-power, is a commodity. The value of a commodity is determined by the necessary social labor time contained in it.

If it takes three hours of social labor to produce the necessities of life for you one day, the value of your labor-power one day will be three hours of necessary social labor.

The capitalist who employs you will need to return to you sufficient value to enable you to pay for the cost of living.

We know also that the capitalist is constantly trying to prolong the work-day into ten or eleven hours, and that capitalists cut wages whenever and wherever possible. It is only by constant struggle that the working class has been able to maintain its position, to secure a, perhaps normal, increase in wages, or a shorter workday.

It is self-evident that if you secure more wages there will be less of the value of your product remaining for the capitalist employing you, just as a reduction in wages leaves more surplus value for him.

"An increase in the length of your work-day to ten hours will leave 7 hours of unpaid labor instead of six. A shorter workday will leave less surplus value for the capitalist.

Reformers believe that if he would decrease the cost of living we would better our condition. They think if the cost of living were lowered, we would save a part of our wages. Of course, the value of our labor-power falls with a decrease in the value of the necessities of life, but they imagine we might be able to lower the cost of living without suffering a corresponding decrease in wages.

Personally, you know if your landlord should cut your rent down one-half next month you would have more money left to spend for other things. Personally, you know if your brother offered to board you at half the regular rate, you could save a still larger sum of money next month. This is true of your individual case.

But we are not talking about individual cases, though we use concrete examples for the sake of making things clear. We are asking if low prices would benefit the wage-working class.

We will suppose an extreme example in order to illustrate our explanation. Suppose the City of Chicago should buy up all the houses, flats and cottages that rent to the working class here, and suppose this city should cut rents down one-half. Suppose that Chicago had municipal ownership and it was possible for the city to reduce the cost of living here 50 per cent. What we want to consider is—would the reduction benefit the working class or that part of capitalist class not directly engaged in producing the necessities of life?

When the cost of living is greatly reduced at any city, workmen and women flock to that point to sell their labor-power. They believe that if they can get jobs where it costs less to live, they will be able to save money, and, perhaps, finally climb into the capitalist class themselves.

But note what happens. There is an immediate influx of workers into the city of low prices. The competition among workers for jobs becomes more keen at once, and it is always keen. Capitalists purchase labor-power at the lowest price. Men and women offer to sell their labor-power at a lower and still lower price till wages again fall to the cost of living. In a very short time these workers will find that they have gained nothing.

When the cost of living is cut in half, the competition among the sellers of labor-power, reduces wages accordingly. If your capitalist employer is a steel manufacturer will he be able to appropriate more, or less of the value of your product?

Capitalists rarely start industrial enterprises in Alaska, because the cost of living (or value of labor-power) is so extremely high in the far north that there is very little surplus value left for them.

The value of a commodity is determined by the average social labor contained in it. The Alaska steel manufacturer would have to compete in a world market just as the Bethlehem and Gary mills compete, and it is necessary social labor only that makes value.

Reports are coming from Guatemala of cotton manufacturers who are locating and establishing cotton mills there. The natives of Central America can live on very low wages. Almost all natives in Guatemala build and own their own thatched huts. The climate is warm and artificial heat is never needed. No hot requires steam heat or base-burners. A cotton shirt and cotton trousers clothe a man as well as his neighbors, and that the cost of living is a very negligible quantity. Bread fruit and banana grow wild, and 10 or 12 cents a day will keep a native in comfort. A recent magazine article, which dwelt upon the advantages of capital in Central America, reports that Guatemala natives receive, on the

## Tom Glynn.

"Spanwire": Tom Glynn, editor of "Direct Action," who has been sentenced in Sydney to 15 years for preaching the wrong brand of politics, served in the S'frican expedition with a Victorian contingent. When the war was over he joined the Natal Mounted Police, served during the Bambata dust-up, and was suspended from duty for refusing to shoot a Zulu boy during a drive of the rebel blacks. He was imprisoned, and put back for court martial for disobeying orders. The court martial never eventuated, for Miss Colenso, the Bishop's daughter, heard of Glynn's case, and he was released. He never returned to the Police, but went up country to Jo'burg where he got work on the trains, became interested in the radical movement, and was the main-spring of the first great tramway strike. He got a spell of gaol for that. He edited a few issues of "Voice of Labor," which was run by Archie Crawford, one of the deported union leaders in 1914. Following this, he tracked to Galway, Ireland, and then made for the States, which he toured in hobo fashion. After a wheat harvest in Calgary, he went down below among the Makura's fires and worked back to Australia. He is a profound admirer (what Galway man is not?) of Robert Emmet, and could be induced in convivial moments, to give a first rate recital of his hero's historic speech from the dock.

—"Bulletin."

## Man.

By J. F. Anstett.

Offspring of elements kindled;  
Chaos of love and of hate;  
Creature with instincts dwindled,  
Still fearing the rod of Fate.

A spawn in the grip of nature,  
Rising from depths that immerse—  
But, ever a primal creature,  
Environed in the universe.

His span in the evolution  
Of time, on its mystic flight,  
Is granted not the solution  
Of existence's formal rite.

Down thru the infinite ages;  
On thru the ages to be,  
Tho versed in lore of the sages,  
Gro'ler in blindness is he.

His soul he bequeaths to others  
To watch, to guard, to protect,  
To ward from evil—and smother  
His will in a narrow sect.

Oh, that he yet may awaken,  
The power in his dormant self,  
And wrest from his Gods forsaken  
Their bloody and purloined pelf;

The time has come to stand erect,  
In noble, manly self-respect;  
To see the bright sun overhead,  
To feel the ground beneath our tread.  
Unled by priests, uncured by creeds,  
Our maphood proving by our deeds,  
The time has come to break the yoke,  
To set the tolling millions free;  
Whatever price their liberty,  
Better a few should die than all  
Be held in worse than deadly thrall.  
The time has come for men to find  
Their statute book within the mind;  
To read its laws and cease to pore  
The dusty tomes of ages o'er.  
Truth's golden rays its page illumine;  
Her fires your legal rolls consume.  
The time has come to preach the soul;  
No meagre shred, the manly whole.  
Let agitation come: Who fears?  
We need a flood: the fifth of years,  
Has gathered round us. Roll, then on:  
What cannot stand had best be gone.

WILLIAM DENTON.

average, 2, 10 or 12 cents a day.

If the Central American natives were driven to toil as fiercely as we are of the states, Guatemala would be a heaven for capitalists. But it is still possible for them to live without much labor. When, however, the capitalists gain the control of the land, so that the natives will be forced to sell their labor-power in order to live, more exploiters of labor will turn toward the land where the cost of living is almost nothing (labor-power of little value), and where they will be able to appropriate a still larger portion of unpaid labor.

From no angle can we find where low prices will benefit the working class for any appreciable length of time, because the struggle for jobs soon brings wages down to just about enough to live on.

(To be Continued).

Conscription denies man's ownership of his body. It violates the integrity of his soul.

## Others' Views.

(Editor "Direct Action")

At the Labor rally, held at Studley Park, Victoria, to celebrate the glorious anti-conscription victory, I heard an imposed appeal for support to inaugurate another trial for the members of the I.W.W. Association, now imprisoned. In search of information as a citizen interested in justice and mercy for the toilers, who are, after all, the one indispensable host for all solid and practical purposes in this world. I then followed up every meeting on Yarra Bank, near the City, and at the Guild Hall. I found public interest becoming focussed, as the weeks passed, on this trial demanded by various speakers. Militant womanhood, alert to the subtle and menacing danger to future liberties of the masses; all too severely threatened should they dare to strike, by the recently passed Crimes Associations Act, were courageously giving lucid explanations re nature of evidence, and uttering denunciations expressive of horror of the savagery of the excessive nature of sentences. The I.W.W., according to information we have here, is branded as an unlawful association. Twelve members incarcerated under charges of arson, treason, sedition, etc., and on the plea that all unlawful associations must be put down for public safety, all other unlawful associations are henceforth bracketed under this Act, as menaces to public safety, also to be put down with a strong hand should occasion arise. So far so good, but have we any organisation that interferes with the supply and manufacture, and production of any war material brought under these penalties, should any organisation dare to cause any delay in furnishing such war material. This Act, ostensibly directed to the suppression of one so-called unlawful association by the powers that be (the I.W.W.) is, in reality, directed against all unions and organisations of a Labor movement, and hangs today, like the famous sword of Damocles, suspended and threatening, over the head of every worker in Australia.

Think of the position. War material is drawn from every source of labor. Our primary products, wool, wheat, meat for export. All manufacturing concerns employed in the leather, clothing, and canning industries. All metals. All the great transport activities on land and on sea.

The great food, fodder, fuel supplies, and endless secondary adjuncts thereto. Ammunition works, etc. Any future strikes, occurring under these heads can be most summarily dealt with: no matter how desperate the need for such, nor how strong may be the right of the worker to demand better conditions. First of all, the way out is to prove that the I.W.W. is not an unlawful association, and one step in the right direction is to obtain for the unfortunate twelve a new trial, and a speedy trial. Once the I.W.W. is cleared, it will be a hard task to prove any existing organisation in Australia unlawful, and the Act falls to the ground. No one is out for favors. It's a fair and open trial, and an intelligent jury, prepared to demand full and corroborative evidence about every charge preferred that is wanted, and a judge who can be just. And every word of the evidence reported in the press.

Some of our Victorian champions of democracy, who are evidently prepared to fight, from the soap-box to the polls for the 'liberty of these men, inform us that amongst them (the prisoners) is an eloquent orator, and also a man with decided literary talent. Men of his calibre are too valuable to the cause of democracy to languish behind prison walls for a whole decade and more. Why in the name of Christ, and commonsense, should the voice of the people be stifled, and literary talent be allowed to perish, when there is such pressing need for both in the Labor movement to-day?

Every citizen who sympathises with Labor aspirations knows how necessary it is for the workers to pull well together, and use all their available talent, with the Niagara-like volume of forces pitted against them, for military denunciation during the last few years.

The perverted pulpit, with the sixth Commandment left out, the perverse politician, and capitalist press, all leagued in a mighty coalition against the true interests and progress of democracy.

I am not a member of any organisation, and simply write to add my appeal, for the cause of these twelve men, whom, I believe, in the light of information given by conservative people, to be condemned to the unspeakable degradation of prison on wholly inadequate grounds.

Yours faithfully,

MARION W. THOMPSON,

School of Horticulture,

Burnley, Victoria.

## Shows.

As a boy I was a great reader and lover of fairy tales, evidently even then perceiving that in the most fantastic creations of "Grimm" or "Hans Anderson" there was more of truth and beauty than in the brain-deadening dope with which my masters and pastors would fain fill me. But in those rare intervals, when the endless chain of "Go to work," etc., slackens a little, I sometimes enter a picture show in search of distraction, if only for an hour, from the sordidness of a wage-slave's life. In the early days of cinema shows the films were various and sometimes instructive, but not for long. Our masters, with their eyes upon everything likely to effect their interests, created the office of film censor, and now we see only what they think fit to see. What must their opinion of our intelligence be if we judge it by the kind of photo plays the censor passes? "Comics" that can only appeal to children of eight or ten years of age, long drawn out dramas, depicting the costly dresses, dwellings, motor cars, expensive gorgings, and debauched lives of the idle rich. The generosity of our masters prompts them to let us see the shadows of the good things they enjoy, and what we produce. One wonders if the element of vice that runs through the society dramas thrown on the screen is exhibited with the intention of debauching the minds of the audience, or to show them what horrid brutes their masters are. Whatever the intentions are, our rulers have turned the picture shows from places of amusement and instruction into places where drivel, slush and shoddy sentiment bore and degrade the minds of those who seek amusement.

J. Z. J.

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

## THE CONCERT.

The Women's Defence Committee was well rewarded for their work in connection with the concert and dance which was held in the Southern Cross Hall, Saturday, January 27.

From 7 p.m., when the band began to play outside the hall, until 12 p.m., when the last dance finished, not a single hitch occurred. The hall was crowded to its fullest extent, and many a ticket holder could not get inside.

Musical items were rendered by Miss Harkins, Miss F. Ryan, Professor Pieschel, Mr. Deppro, Mr. Muldoon, the Slade Babies, and the "Two Nippers."

Everything went off successfully, and good financial results are assured.

"Send me a photo of the King." Is one of the latest songs. But readers might be surprised to hear that the photo referred to is the one on a quid.

Published by Tom Barker, of 28 Francis Street, Sydney, for the Workers' Defence and Release Committee, at 403 Sussex Street, Sydney, and printed by H. Cook and Co., 200 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.