

'An Injury to One an INJURY to All.'



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Defence Agitation.

SYDNEY.

Propaganda for the One Big Union, and the case of the boys in jail is going on very successfully in and around Sydney. Meetings are held in the city and suburbs through the week, and last Sunday afternoon saw two I.W.W. platforms in the Domain. Both meetings were highly successful, and good results are shown. If successful propaganda is any criterion, then the I.W.W. is in a very healthy condition.

MELBOURNE.

Local propaganda activities have been very brisk this last fortnight, and the position generally is much better. Last week we had Fellow Worker J. R. Wilson to help us in the Yarra Bank meeting, when he spoke to a large crowd for about an hour.

The elements decreed, however, that the meeting had gone quite long enough, so he sent down his torrents to impress us. Consequently, the meeting had an earlier finish than was anticipated. A good collection was taken up before the meeting had its equilibrium disturbed, so that the God of the "Damp" did not have it all his own way. In the hall in the evening, J. R. Wilson again held forth, giving a clean-cut analysis of the Sydney cases. Afterwards he addressed the audience at the Socialist Hall for about half an hour on the same topic, where he received a good reception, etc. A retiring collection was taken up for the expenses of the trial.

South Melbourne meetings have been more than successful, big crowds greeting the speakers on every occasion. "D.A." sales were good also. Last Friday, for the first time, a collection was taken up, which amounted to £15 6d, being splendid for the first time in South Melbourne. This procedure will be continued every Friday night, as funds are urgently needed.

On Sunday last, one of the finest meetings held for many a week was held. The speakers were all in good form, holding the crowd interested all the afternoon. The collection also was one of the best taken for some considerable time, £5 11s 9d being the sum for an afternoon's appeal, which was ably put by Fellow Workers Alf. Wilson and C. Dunn. In the evening F. W. Jeffrey lectured on "The Preamble of the I.W.W."

Senator Watson's sensational disclosures in the Senate caused quite a flutter among the Liberal and Labor doves. It is rumored that (?) Honorable Members are shocked beyond control. Some rude individuals, apparently with no respect for the honor of the Prime Minister and the House generally, have said that visitors to the House are compelled to put a vice-like grip upon their noses as they are assailed by a pungent odour immediately on entering. Where it comes from is hard to say, although an investigation might disclose the fact that it comes from the direction of the Senate.

Anyhow, one thing the workers will be taught is the futility of depending on politicians. It should show them that working-class freedom is to be gained by means other than that of electing men to Parliament. Join the One Big Union of the I.W.W.

NORMAN JEFFREY.

Wretched is the infant's lot,
Born within the straw-roofed cot;
Be he generous, wise or brave,
He must only be a slave,
Long, long labour, little rest,
Still to toil, to be oppress'd.
Drained by taxes from his store,
Punish'd next for being poor:
This is the poor wretches' lot,
Born within the straw-roofed cot.

—Robert Southey.

APPEAL.

Fellow workers, the Appeal Court has given its decision, the conviction of our fellow workers has been upheld, a new trial has been refused them, despite the overwhelming evidence advanced to justify the granting of a new trial, which was their only hope from a legal standpoint. That they should have been granted a new trial is beyond all doubt, as politicians representing capitalism, and a powerful capitalist press were permitted to indulge in gross contempt of court, by referring to the men as GUILTY before the charges against them were investigated in the courts, thus prejudicing the public mind against them, and making it impossible in the early part of the trial to secure a jury unbiased, and prepared to consider the evidence and the evidence alone. That a gross outrage has been committed is beyond question, as a perusal of the depositions of both the higher and lower courts proves. In view of the injustice that has been done it is now up to ORGANISED LABOUR to take a hand, to take the case up, and conduct ceaseless agitation until the dullest wage earner understands, and compels the powers that be to do them justice. In order to do this, money is required, money to flood the country with literature, money to send out capable speakers to awaken the public mind to a realisation of the Wrong done. There must be no leaving the men where they are, there must be no letting their case drop, to do so would be an act of TREACHERY despicable beyond words to describe.

Further, there is a danger of other men sharing their fate unless this is done, and it is not only the members of the I.W.W. that will suffer the organisers of no trade union are safe. Already a start has been made in dealing with trade union members, H. Melrose, member and delegate of the A.M.A., having been convicted.

Comment upon his conviction and the sentence of six months' imprisonment passed upon him we cannot make at the moment, and do not intend to, as an appeal has been lodged, but unless ORGANISED LABOUR steps in and calls halt in no uncertain voice to those behind the persecution of MILITANT ORGANISERS of Labour many will lose their liberty, and the working class movement suffer generally. Persecution petty and underhand of I.W.W. members continues, employers being approached by officers of the LAW and asked to dismiss even WOMEN members of the organisation for no other reason than that they are members of the I.W.W. In view of the injustice done, believing, yes, knowing, the MEN TO BE ABSOLUTELY INNOCENT, we appeal to you for financial assistance to enable us to carry on the fight on their behalf. WILL YOU ASSIST? If so, every reader of this paper is given an opportunity to contribute. No matter what the amount is, large or small, it will be thankfully received and promptly acknowledged. Let everyone assist, and send all cash to

J. R. WILSON,

Sec. Defence and Release Committee,
Box 98 Haymarket, P.O., Sydney.

LA CARMAGNOLE. WORSE THAN THE I.W.W.

(New Translation).

The people's aim, what shall it be?
To rise and fight for liberty.
To rise and fight for liberty.
Faithless promises we spurn,
The system we will overturn,
Like brothers, then, in peace we'll be.

Chorus:—

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear,
Come, let us dance La Carmagnole,
Away with fear, away with fear,
Come, let us dance La Carmagnole,
The cannon's sound no more we'll hear.

Then our desire—what shall it be?
For the human race, equality:
So, let this be our battle cry—
No more at tyrants' feet we'll lie,
But from our fetters we'll be free.

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear.

Ah, had we but the common sense
To organise in self-defence,
Instead of shedding our own blood,
Roll onward like a cleansing flood,
All misery would vanish hence.

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear.

Oh, what do the people cry?
Arise and make all traitors fly.
No more by liars we'll be led,
Each man must work to earn his bread;
Tyranny cold on earth shall lie.

The cannon's sound no more we'll hear.

J. P. Q.

(Vic.)

Wonders never cease. Anyone who takes the "Sunday Times" as his advocate must have the idea that the I.W.W. is just about the worst thing that could exist in any country. The "Sunday Times" has adopted the yellow-press methods when talking of the I.W.W. All the lies, slander, and abuse that any "rag" could be guilty of has poured through the columns of Holman's and Macintosh's journal. But now they have discovered something which is "narrower than the I.W.W. and shorter-sighted than the P.L.L."

The organisation picked out for this denunciation is the poor, simple, harmless Temperance Association! The fact that the teetotalers are taking part in the present parliamentary campaign has been responsible for the above outburst.

It sounds very much as if we are becoming respectable when the cold-water crowd is branded by the "Sunday Times" as being worse than the I.W.W.

Very likely next week we will read of a raid that has been made at the meeting place of the teetotalers, and see several of them charged with treason and other crimes. Some funny things do appear in the press at times, and especially a yellow press of the "Sunday Times" stamp.

A fig for those by law protected!

Liberty's a glorious feat!

Courts for cowards were erected.

Churches built to please the priest.

—Robert Burns.

We're the sons of sires that baffled,

Crown'd and mitred tyranny—

They def'd the field and scaffold

For their birthrights—so will be.

Defence Agitation.

BROKEN HILL

Activities have been booming of late, though reports of same have not appeared in our paper. F. Worker Wilson visited here at a very opportune time, as the agitation for the defence and release of our fellow-workers in gaol needed an impetus.

The local bosses "rag" attempted to connect our Fellow Worker's visit with the somewhat sensational episode of the "bombing" of the "Miner" office. The attempt failed. It was too palpably ridiculous.

The agitation of the Defence and Release Committee still continues, and the toilers of the Barrier are determined to see justice given to the gaol agitators.

Propaganda meetings are held every Saturday and Sunday evenings, and the old battlers of the cause up here hold forth to large and sympathetic crowds.

Speakers are not too plentiful at present and an additional soapbox, or more, would be welcomed by the local.

Indications point to a sharp struggle by the militants against organised scabs in the near future.

A bogus union, known as Barrier Workers' Union (Blue Whiskers) has been formed, and it must be smashed.

An attempt may be made to force wobblies to join the A.M.A. We have no desire to conflict with any craft organisation at present, but should any reactionary "crafties" attempt to bludgeon the I.W.W. as an organisation to join a craft union, the boys must be on the watch, and resist.

Individual I.W.W.ies can join any craft union, should they desire but the organisation, as a body, must refuse. We have no desire to fight any militant section of the workers. Our enemy is MASTER.

Three more slaves were blown to pieces recently. Fatal accidents are becoming far too numerous lately, but under the contract system—a system whereby master is enabled by economic pressure to force the toilers to speed up to the utmost degree (wobblies excepted)—such revolting accidents are of common occurrence, and will happen again, until all workers unite in One Big Union, determined to put an end, forever, to the tyrannical reign of their master, and usher in the new era of industrial, economic and social liberty.

HARRY MEATHERINGHAM.

Press Corr. to "D.A."

ADELAIDE.

A branch of the Workers' D. & R. Committee has been formed in Adelaide for the purpose of conducting an agitation for the defence and release of our twelve fellow-workers who are now lying in jail in New South Wales.

A great amount of prejudice and ignorance exists in the minds of workers here with regard to the cases of these men; this has got to be shifted before much progress can be made.

The small bunch who are active in running the meetings, etc., are doing their utmost to get a live agitation going, but we are handicapped by a shortage of speakers at present. I have, therefore, been instructed to ask, through the columns of "Direct Action" for any speakers who may happen to pass through Adelaide from time to time, to get into touch with us at the above address with a view to arranging meetings.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,

B. T. WALL, Secretary.

Announced that the N.S.W. Police Force is 200 short. Concurrently comes another announcement that crime is decreasing every day. The logical inference is that if the Police Force isn't strengthened there will soon be no crime at all.

Direct Action



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UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATIONS.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

In all ages and at all times, there have been fools who thought they could destroy a social idea, and kill a soaring ideal by repression and force.

All history teaches that Thought cannot be gagged and ideas cannot be hung. Principles can never be suppressed, and stone walls cannot silence the voice of Progress.

If it were so, thep the working class would be down in the dire depths of an awful slavery, such as the world has never known.

It is the "unkillable" spirit of agitation that has been responsible for the liberties the working class enjoy to-day.

The rack, the thumb-screw, the inquisition, and the stake FAILED TO KILL THE IDEAS AND TEACHINGS of the philosophers and scientists in the days of religious bigotry.

The very ideas for which men were stretched on the rack and burnt at the stake are now TAUGHT IN ALL THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS throughout the land. Force and persecution have never yet killed a growing ideal, and they never will.

It is only IN THE ORDER OF THINGS that the time would come when the I.W.W. would be branded as an unlawful association. It is only in the NATURAL COURSE OF EVENTS that members of the I.W.W. would be denounced and persecuted by those in authority.

The master class in its attack upon the I.W.W. is only following in the footsteps of all its predecessors.

Right through history, from the earliest times, all working-class organisations which have been in the vanguard doing the pioneering work, have met with persecution by those in power and authority.

One has only to let his mind run back far into the dim and distant past to a few hundred years B.C. and there is one BLOOD-RED TRAIL RUNNING THROUGH ALL AGES UP TO THE PRESENT DAY, which tells of the persecution handed out to the slave agitator.

But there is no power in the world that can hold back social and industrial evolution. And in time, evolution makes many changes and rights many wrongs.

There was a time in the history of England, when the men who were fighting to establish the House of Commons were branded as CONSPIRATORS AND TRAITORS. They were plotting to interfere with the established constituted authority of the lords and barons. Many of those men as a consequence, suffered torture and death.

The House of Commons to-day is a honoured and respected institution, and many members of that institution would be shocked and insulted if they were told that the early founders of the House of Commons were branded as criminals and tortured as such.

The Chartist Movement stands out prominently in English history as an organisation that had MANY HARD FIGHTS AND SUFFERED MUCH PERSECUTION. This simple reform organisation was branded as "unlawful" by those in authority at that time. Ernest Jones, the chartist, poet and agitator, was jailed and persecuted again and again. But despite the repressive tactics of the powers that were, the chartist Movement continued to grow and in the shadows of the jail and the gallows, the members of this "unlawful association" fought on and on until their organisation was RECOGNISED, AND THEIR REFORMS LISTENED TO. Every reform the "criminal" chartists fought for, is now upon the Statute Book of England.

All who are familiar with the trade union movement, know full well that the early trade unionists in England were, according to law, MEMBERS OF AN UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATION. Under the "Anti-Combination" laws, men were forbidden to join trade unions. But the apostles of trade unionism believed they were right and continued to fight on. Many leaders were arrested and thrown into prison. Their union funds were seized and their property confiscated by the Crown. Some unions sent their funds out of the country to prevent them from being seized.

In the face of great opposition and persecution, the early pioneers of the trade union movement continued to fight for their principles, and AT LAST, WON OUT.

The authorities at last saw that it was IMPOSSIBLE to suppress this growing and vigorous movement, and they were compelled to relax their tyrannical measures.

Trade Unionism is now a recognised and respectable institution in England, and in Australia we see the sight of "preference to unionists."

When prating of the glories of trade unionism, Mr. Worker, always remember that the inaugurators of that movement were branded as criminals and many suffered jail and death for their principles.

In the very short history of Australia, there have been men and movements that have been condemned as unlawful, but in time became lawful and respected.

Most Australians are familiar with the history of the Eureka Stockade. Peter Labor, one of the leaders of the rebellious miners, was OUTLAWED and the sum of £500 PLACED UPON HIS HEAD—DEAD OR ALIVE. But what do we find? The time came when this very same man stood for parliamentary honors, and was soon afterwards made Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

Time plays some funny tricks, and makes some revolutionary changes.

No member of the I.W.W. has as yet been outlawed. Perhaps it is because we are afraid to go as far as the agitators of the past, who now wear a martyr's crown and stand upon a hero's pedestal, honoured and revered by all fighters for Freedom.

In the early history of the Australian Labor Party, when it was getting in its propaganda, it often bumped up against the law, and several of its members went to jail for their outspoken utterances on behalf of the working class.

The Labor Party, in face of great opposition, persisted with its agitation until they at last won out and got into power. Now they are assisting in the persecution, of men and women for preaching similar doctrines to what they did in their early days.

Last, but not least, is the A.W.U.

Most workers have a knowledge of that organisation's early history. The very mention of the A.W.U. was the signal for a torrent of abuse from the squatter fraternity. The name of "criminal" was a very mild epithet for the squatters and the Government to call those men who dared to attempt to organise the pastoral workers. Many of the early pioneers of the A.W.U. were sent along for long terms of imprisonment, and some died of bullet wounds from the guns of the pastoralists. This organisation has now grown and spread, and it is recognised to-day as a RESPECTABLE INSTITUTION, and the Government gives its members preference on different jobs. What a change!

No need to cite any more cases. The few that have been produced should be CONVINCING PROOF that it is impossible to strangle social ideals and useless to attempt to repress an advanced and growing working-class organisation.

The persecution now being meted out to the I.W.W. is only another case of HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF. The I.W.W. is now going through the same experience, having the same fights, and meeting with the same persecution, that

I.W.W. THE ONLY REMEDY.

Owing to the very much disturbed state of the political field, the ever occurring ruptures in the industrial arena, and the death like silence of the majority of toilers, one is sometimes in a quandary as to what to do for the best.

We look around, and on all sides we see men aspiring for Parliamentary honours and others holding prominent positions in the land we would not trust with a candle. We see men dictating policies and endeavoring to run the country whom we would not trust in our back yard.

We find men in the industrial arena aspiring for place and pay, and seeking pelf and self, who would sacrifice their followers to-morrow for a mess of pottage.

We behold acts of political injustice, that should stagger the public mind and shock the nation, but the perpetrators still go on their way, free and unchallenged.

Dark clouds of suspicion hover around many of our leading statesmen, and political crimes are heaping up against others.

The world seems to be in the hands of the enemies of mankind who are rushing it on to its doom.

Above the din and roar of industry, can be heard the monotonous tramp of the Unemployed Army. Hunger and want stalk throughout the land, naked and unashamed.

The beneficent rays of nature's healing sun streams down upon poverty, misery, and crime, and reveals the revolting conditions of the poor. Slums and tenements, shame and disease mar the beauty of this Austral clime. The outlook is sordid indeed.

After a diagnosis of human society, and probing deep into the social sores, only one remedy presents itself.

A multiplicity of political charlatans and industrial quacks have for many years past been dealing out nostrums of all descriptions to toiling millions, but the student of working class economics, has arrived at the decision, that "he who would be free, himself must strike the blow."

The working class must give up all hope of looking for any one to lead them out of the social quagmire, and drop the idea of waiting for some redeemer to come to their assistance.

After a long and deep study, there is only one sure and certain remedy for these social ills that afflict the working class. Industrial Unionism is the only way out.

If the working class wish to abolish all the ghastly sights and monstrosities which surround their daily lives, they must take part in the clean up themselves.

We must recognise the principle of working class solidarity, unite into One Big Union, and unfurl the banner of "An injury to One an injury to All."

When once the workers accept the principles of the I.W.W., they will be on the right road to rid the earth of all social sores and political diseases, and inaugurate a sane and harmonious system of peace and plenty for all.

Let us hope it will not be long.

The British Board of Trade stated that the number of workpeople, exclusive of seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in November, 1916, was 316; an increase of 11 on a month ago, and of 32 on a year ago. The mean number in November during the five years 1911-15 was 282, the maximum being 306, and the minimum 269. The total number of fatal accidents to seamen during November, 1916, was 219, an increase of 73 on a month ago, and a decrease of 31 on a year ago.

All other working class organisations have had who dared to fight in the vanguard of Labor and pioneer the cause of industrial freedom. Because we believe we are right; because we believe our cause is just; because we believe we have Truth and Reason on our side, we intend to fight on until our ideals of Industrial Democracy are realised.

—N.R.

Around Central Queensland.

(By Tom Barker.)

I am getting near the end of my wanderings in Bananaland. There are great possibilities for the One Big Union in this part of the world. The A.W.U. officials, at least some of them, have missed no opportunity of maligning the I.W.W., which none of them seem to understand. However much they talk in the absence of an able propagandist, they keep well in the background when an I.W.W. speaker takes the platform. Whether they are ashamed of their ignorance, or doubtful about their knowledge is not discernable.

A meeting was held in Mount Morgan on Friday last. The weather was propitious, but notwithstanding the heavy showers, a large and generally appreciative audience turned up. A local store-keeper, whose giggles hadn't grown up with its owner, provided the comedy part. He is one of the town fathers, they say. Anyway, after he had advertised himself well, I recounted to him the fate of a Broken Hill hotel-keeper, who, instead of confining himself to the intellectual business of "filling 'em up," went into a side line breaking windows. The boss counter jumper reckoned the boycott was a dirty business, which I replied coincided with his own. The meeting was orderly, and terminated with a collection for the Defence Fund and a sale of literature. F.W. Clark was the chairman.

On Saturday F.W. Clark and myself journeyed to Rannes to hold a meeting at the ballast pit. On our arrival at Rannes we expected to catch a ballast train to the pit, which is about 12 miles away. We were disappointed, however, and had to live a couple of fiery steeds, who, somehow or other, had contrived to miss the Winter Cup. After getting a couple of miles on the wrong road (?) we struck right. The rain came in torrents, and we both enlivened the time between much swollen creeks, with language that was more descriptive than polite. Anyway, it hurt no one, except the jackasses, who blasphemed eloquently in return.

At six o'clock we slithered into a canvas village that was liberally decorated with intimations that there was to be an I.W.W. meeting. After getting dry clothes, hobbling the fiery chargers, and filling up the inner man, the population was rallied up into a very large dining tent that was kindly lent for the occasion. At 7.30 I opened out with the case of the treason prisoners, and kept the packed audience until after ten o'clock with the recital of the arrest, convictions and appeals of the twelve good men and true! The meeting was O.K. meeting. No opposition. A few questions, sympathetically asked, terminated the meeting, which was one of the most inspiring and encouraging I have held in Queensland. A little solid job propaganda will inevitably bring the bulk of these men into the ranks. F.W. Kelly acted as chairman, and Hugh McFarlan rendered invaluable assistance in advertising and organising the meeting.

On the Sunday morning we were to have taken a trip to the head of the line (9 miles away), but the weather was abominable, so it had to be deferred. After lunch we cornered up the horses, and steered for Rannes again. The Almighty turned on the water-canon, and drenched us again and again as we picked our way back to the hamlet. Once we dived into a fence's tent to dodge the elements, but at last, wet and sore with unaccustomed riding our thoroughbreds landed us "home and dried." We stayed in Rannes over night. Tried to get a meeting, but there is only a few in the township. On Monday we caught the wild cat train, that stops ten minutes in stations where you don't see a soul, and probably never will, and eventually arrived after a century of judding and panting and groaning, at the stink laden air of Mount Morgan. To-morrow we hold a meeting at Barce, and to-morrow I leave the Mount and head for Rockhampton, Gympie, Brisbane, and then to Sydney once again.

PRESS REPORT.

At a meeting of the Press Committee, held on March 15th, Fellow Worker N. Barker, who has been acting editor for the last six weeks, was unanimously elected as editor of "Direct Action."

Press Committee: G. P. Wilson, H. McFarlan, E. A. Giffoney, F. Brown.

International.

About 350 negro longshoremen at Savannah affiliated to the International Longshoremen's Association, suspended work when they were refused wage increases. They ask 20 cents an hour and 25 cents for overtime. They have been paid 16½ to 18 cents and 22 cents for overtime.

A jury in the Federal court at Memphis, Tenn., on December 21, returned a verdict awarding 22,500 dollars damages to Matthew Harris, a negro, in his suit against former Sheriff John A. Reichman. Harris was injured while resisting forcible entry into his home by a sheriff's posse which was searching for one of his relatives. In charging the jury Judge John E. McCall declared "a man's home is his castle, and he has a right to defend it."

It is reported that a boycott of Irish working men is being propagated in Lincolnshire, England. The Huddersfield "Worker" reports that Irishmen have been refused work by farmers. The Irishmen are being boycotted, it is said, because they are exempted from the Conscription Act, and because of the Irish rebellion.

Thousands of workers have been arrested and jailed in Russia, particularly in Odessa, Moscow and Petrograd, because they opposed the continuation of the war, conscription measures agitated against the high cost of living, or struck for more wages, and better conditions. In Warsaw, one of the two councilmen elected on the Socialist ticket has been arrested.

Figures obtained as to communal feeding in Germany as the result of an official inquiry have been published. In the sixty-four towns taken into account 223 war kitchens, in all were found to have been established. In two of these towns there were in addition a total of twenty-six kitchens in the middle class, while fifteen towns had special depots for children, and in three others there were seven travelling kitchens. In thirty-two of the towns inspected the system of communal feeding had been instituted by the municipality, and was being administered by the municipal authorities. Only in five towns was it being conducted as a purely private concern. The procuring of provisions was being effected in forty-nine towns by the town itself, and only in fifteen towns were the kitchens obliged to do this for themselves. In most cases, in forty-seven towns, in fact, the system had been so arranged as to admit of the food served out being consumed on the premises or taken home.

One hundred thousand Chinese workmen are being imported into France, including carpenters, joiners, and masons, whose workmanship is said to be of the best. Viewed through European eyes, their pay is small.

Male and female workers in Japan are taking up the organised labor movement with vigor according to Bunji Suzuki, president of the Laborers' Friendly Society of Japan, who told the convention of the American Federation of Labor that during the last eight months the members of the society he represented had increased from 10,000 to 30,000.

The "Daily News" foreshadows an important announcement shortly about the employing of women in agriculture, the idea being to raise 200,000. Several schemes have come before Mr. Prothero for special consideration. He has referred one to the National Service Director, Mr. Chamberlain. It provides for women being billeted and paid 1s a day in factories.

That the French government take over and operate all mines throughout France is proposed in a measure recently presented to the French Chamber of Deputies. This bill provides for nationalization of the mines, so that they will be exploited exclusively by the Government. It stipulates that no further mining concessions shall be granted and that concessions already granted, but unexploited, shall revert to the State. The mining concessions that are in active operation must be transferred to State management within six months after the promulgation of the proposed law, the Government to pay for the buildings, the equipment, and the existing material at an inventoried price determined jointly by representatives.

A movement for a conference of national federation of labor was started recently by several Italian unions, it was learned. The conference was to be held in Switzerland, but the organizations in the latter country objected on the grounds that the meeting would not be representative. It is probable that the federation in some of the other countries will agree to hold an informal gathering at some later date.

The Militant Proletariat.

To-day in the industrial movement, in the midst of persecutions and persecutions, when the word MILITANT is mentioned with bated breath, it would be perhaps a pertinent question to ask: Who are the militants?

If we glance back through the working class movement to its infancy, we find that a certain section was always in evidence, was always in the forefront; prepared to agitate for better conditions, prepared to act as the mouthpieces of their apathetic fellow members.

In addition to the persecutions, goadings, victimisations, and general anathema hurled at them by their economic masters, they had to withstand the jibes, vilifications, and betrayals of members of the class for which they fought, the class to which they belonged.

History is full of instances of cases in which members of this militant section of labor, have been applauded and almost worshipped while they were in the ascendant, but when the crisis arrived and persecutions began, they were deserted by the very men who previously applauded them.

Ignorance, apathy, jealousy, or sheer pig-headedness may each be said to have been contributing factors.

Despite the fact that these militants, who are the ever watchful vanguard of the vast industrial army, realised that perhaps these factors would militate against them, and that the lynx-eyed laws of capitalism would pounce on them at the slightest opportunity, they stuck manfully to their post.

It is to these men, and these men alone, that the working class movement owes its present status. It is these militants of the present, who are prepared to come out and tell the truth, that the future generations will thank.

Right through that bloody drama that men call history, open it where you will, and you will find its pages soiled and reddened with the blood of the crushed and broken masses, crushed for the sake of gold and power, crushed by the myriads of the powers that be, connived at by the church, in retaliation for some rising on the part of the submerged class as a protest against damnable conditions.

In all these risings we can plainly discern the figures of men who have had the courage to speak on behalf of their class, to give expression to the unspoken thoughts of the huge majority.

Such is also the case to-day, such will continue to be the case if the workers do

not awake from their sleep-like slumber, rouse themselves from their criminal apathy and callous indifference, and demand that these persecutions cease.

The position that confronts the working class of all countries to-day is the same. With twenty millions of the world's manhood at each other's throats on the corpse strewn battlefields of Europe, and as a result laws in existence which make it unsafe for men to give free expression to their thoughts, the lot of the propagandist is a hard one. Almost daily we read in the press of some member of the working class being gaoled on charges of sedition, conspiracy, for breaches of some acts which have been cunningly worded to entrap the unwary. These cases will occur as long as the class war continues. Internecine wars only add to the frequency of the prosecutions.

But despite these master class activities the struggle must and will go on.

There can be no industrial peace while the class struggle lasts, and it will last just so long as the workers remain unorganised and divided amongst themselves, and allow those members of their class, those valiant fighters for freedom, to be persecuted and gaoled.

Fellow workers, the issue rests with you. The militants are prepared to fight your battle for freedom. All they ask of you is that you grant your co-operation. Do not desert them in their hour of trial. Think for yourselves. Reason with yourselves, what would be your position to-day, had not sacrifices been made in the past by members of your class?

These men are prepared to voice your opinions, to give expression to your thoughts, to fight for you in the present and in the future, off the platform and through the press.

Will you let your voices be heard in a mighty protest, should these men be gaoled? Are you prepared to fight for those already there, or will you let it go down to history that you were afraid to speak? Ask yourselves these questions, read these lines of the poetess and say, fellow worker, what will your answer be?
Oh! man bowed down with sorrow,
Oh! woman, young yet old;
Oh! heart oppressed in the toiler's breast,
Crushed by the weight of gold,
Go on with your weary battle
Against triumphant might,
No question is ever settled,
Until it is settled right.

HARRY MELROSE.

Progress.

"Since the advent of civilisation, the outgrowth of property has been so immense, its forms so diversified, its uses so expanding and its management so intelligent in the interests of its owners, that it has become, on the part of the people, an unmanageable power. The human mind stands bewildered in the presence of its own creation. The time will come, nevertheless, when human intelligence will rise to the mastery over property, and define the relations of the State to the property it protects, as well as the obligations and the limits of its owners. The interests of society are paramount to individual interests and the two must be brought into just and harmonious relations. A mere property career is not the final destiny of mankind; if progress is to be the law of the future as it has been of the past, the time which has passed away since civilisation began is but a fragment of the past duration of man's existence; and but a fragment of the ages yet to come. The dissolution of society bids fair to become the termination of a career of which property is the end and aim; because such a career contains the elements of self-destruction. Democracy in government, brotherhood in society, equality in rights and privileges, and universal education, foreshadow the next higher plane of society to which experience, intelligence and knowledge are steadily tending. It will be a revival of a higher form, of the liberty, equality of the ancient geniuses."

LEWIS H. MORGAN, LL.D.

As Good as They Have.—A small boy astride a donkey was taking some supplies to an army camp in Texas not long ago, and got there just as a detachment of soldiers, preceded by a band, was marching past. "Why are you holding on to your brother so hard?" asked a group of soldiers who were standing near, and wanted to tease the country boy.
"I'm afraid he might enlist," said the lad, without batting an eyelash.

O.B.U. AND PARLIAMENT.

army, navy, etc.—are possessed by Parliament, how is the O.B.U. or any other organisation going to bring its principles and ideas into force, if it does not first capture Parliament by putting its own representatives there and getting the power that is represented in these forces into their own hands?"

In granting you your hypothesis: "That all the powerful forces—police, army, navy, etc., are possessed by Parliament," one presupposes Parliament, with a huge sum of money—constantly in its possession—for their upkeep, as none of these forces are capable of keeping themselves. With this in our mind's eye, and, knowing full well that Parliament gets possession of this money through the taxes, we shall see who pay taxes.

The workers' wages being determined by the bare necessities of life, it presents itself clear to all, that as a class they must spend all of their wages to live. So the workers are not in a position to pay taxes.

There are two classes in society—the working class and the capitalist class. It must necessarily follow that if one class does not pay taxes, the other must.

Although the capitalist pays the taxes in ordinary times, the question you have got to ask yourself is: "Who will pay for the upkeep of the army, the navy, the police or the politicians, when they are working in the interests of the working class, if they capitalists refuse to pay taxes?" This form of action the Capitalists used in America, and so challenged the financial position of the Government of that State, that in the end the Governor was upon the bum. This explains clearly the uselessness of the next part of the question, "That the O.B.U. in capturing Parliament by putting its own representatives there and getting the power that its representatives there and getting the power that is represented in these forces into its own hands."

The only power that the working class has is the power to produce wealth, and the fight between the working class and the capitalist class, is not fought in Parliament, but in the industries where the workers are robbed of the greater portion of that which they produce.

The preamble of the I.W.W. clearly states, "the army of PRODUCTION must be organised," which can only be brought about by the education of the workers in the field, factories, and workshops, not only of the necessity for One Big Industrial Union, but the necessity of a shorter work day, followed by a rise in wages, thereby cutting down some of the surplus—that the master class would have got. Not satisfied with this, the I.W.W. proposed to further educate and organise the working class to reduce their output by again going for a shorter work-day, and a still shorter work-day, until the point is reached where the working-class will not be producing one minute's surplus, thereby taking from the capitalist class, by means the control of their labor power, that which they at the present are able to live upon in luxury, and explaining "How the O.B.U. is going to bring its principles into force."

MATADE.

The workers of New South Wales will presently be asked for an expression of opinion re the matter of wearing the chains. The approaching elections are not elections proper—the real thing is a referendum; the question is conscription or no-conscription? Should Labor-renegeate Holman and his gang of freedom bushrangers be given a conscription mandate by the votes of paunch, of the petty bourgeois, the shoddy aristocrats and the mental cripples of the labor world, he will try his damndest to hand us the goods. But what is virile, vigilant labor going to do?

Capitalist's existence depends upon our wearing the shackles in the workshops, the factories, and the mines, etc., our freedom and the freedom of the future depends upon our not wearing them!

WE REFUSE TO BE CONSCRIPTED.

But only our union force can save us. "Union will be strength" only if it be efficient, and it can be that, only if modernised—the One Big Union must come, if capital gives us time. Why not make sure of it now while there is still time?

REMEMBER! OUR LETHARGY MAY YET COST THE WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA A THOUSAND YEARS OF SLAVERY!

Working men and women! This is the "try-out"; either you will be on top after the struggle (which may last for a decade) or you'll be at the bottom with no hope of escape. "The day of reckoning is here; the time to struggle is now!"

A. MACK.

What We Want.

(By J. Hill).

(Tune: "Rainbow").

We want all the workers in the world to organise

Into a great big union grand.

And when we all united stand

The world for workers we'll demand

If the working class could only see and realise

What mighty power labor has

Then the exploiting master class

It would soon fade away.

Chorus:

Come all ye toilers that work for wages,

Come from every land,

Join the fighting band,

In one union grand.

Then for the workers we'll make upon this earth a paradise,

When the slaves get wise and organise.

We want the sailor and the tailor and the lumberjacks,

And all the cooks and laundry girls,

We want the guy that dives for pearls,

The pretty maid that's making curls,

And the baker and staker and the chimney sweep.

We want the man that's slinging hash,

The child that works for little cash,

In one union grand.

Chorus:

We want the tinner and the skinner and the chambermaid,

We want the man that spikes on soles,

We want the man that's digging holes,

And the trucker and the mucker and the hired man,

And all the factory girls and clerks,

Yes, we want every one that works,

In one union grand.

Spasms

By Tom Barker.

The Defence and Release Committee in Queensland are making great headway both in propaganda and financially. Cash is rolling in from all parts of the State, and assurances of future support are many, and much appreciated. The income to date is not far from £190, of which close on £150 is clear above expenses of printing, travelling expenses, etc.

The State has been flooded with literature dealing with the case, and the prejudice created by the lying press and the enemies of Labor are being counteracted, and quite a feeling of determination is being displayed everywhere, to effect the release of the boys in gaol. Other cases will engage the attention of the Release Organisations. The fustian sentence upon Harry Melrose in Sydney for public speaking, the equally stupid imprisonment of Mick Sawtell over in the West, and the heavy fines inflicted upon Fred Holland and Norman Anderson in Melbourne are all matters for immediate agitation. And we may as well say that we expect little more from the official Laborites if they are returned. I'll gamble that the Illegal Associations, and Crimes Amendment Act will be used in less than 12 months after they get in.

Art union tickets for the wives and children of the boys are now ready for sale. Books can be obtained from Mr. G. Johnson, c/o "Daily Standard," Brisbane, by reliable industrialists. We welcome all assistance to make the matters a success. The first prize is a £75 piano, the second a £25 bedroom suite, and the third a gold watch and chain. Several other valuable prizes are also offered. The tickets are in books of 25. The drawing will take place in the Trades Hall, Brisbane, on the 7th June, and results will be published in "Direct Action," "Daily Standard," "Innis-fall Democrat," "Barrier Daily Truth," and the Melbourne "Labor Call."

The Brisbane Committee are also running a concert and dance to be held on the evening of Eight Hour Day, the 7th May, at the Cafe Majestic, George St., Brisbane. A splendid programme is being arranged, and a large balance will be available for the dependents of the boys. The brothers on this committee are the salt of the earth, and they know not defeat.

A large sum is expected to come from the butchers in Rockhampton. On my way through the Dawson Valley, I addressed a meeting and received a very good reception. Members assured me of their determination to fight for the boys' release, both morally and assist their dependents financially. The butchers are the most powerful organisation in Queensland.

CO-OPERATION.

Co-operation is a good thing. It is a grand ideal. It is something worth while striving for. When once the working-class understand the principles of co-operation and commence working for that end, the world will become much brighter and the lot of the working-class much lighter.

A labor journal in "Sydney, trading under the grand-sounding name of "The Co-operator," starts off in its issue of March 8th to violate its good name and sacrifice the principles for which it is supposed to stand.

In a report of the conference of the Railway and Tramway Service Association, a motion was put to expel all I.W.W. men from the Association, unless they resign from the I.W.W. and sever all connection with I.W.W. advocates.

If some working men really think the I.W.W. is a danger and should be shunned, they are at perfect liberty to think so, but when they show themselves as rank hypocrites, their word cannot be taken for much. In trying to expel I.W.W. men from its Association, the Railway and Tramway workers are acting contrary to the name of their paper, and helping to bring about dissension and division in the ranks of Labor.

We hope that "Co-operator" will cease advertising itself as a journal of hypocrisy and start helping to get co-operation amongst all sections of the working class, by uniting into One Big Union and help to bring about the ideals and aspirations of organized Labor—political and industrial freedom.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

TO

"DIRECT ACTION."

The subscription to "Direct Action" to any address in the Commonwealth, including postage, is as follows:
4/- Yearly. — 2/- Half-Yearly.
Apply, The Manager,
Box 98 Haymarket P.O., Sydney.

Ablast from the Bugle of Defence Fund.

Industrial Solidarity.

FELOW WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA.

Women and Men! Rally to the standard of the working class—your class—the oppressed class—the opposing class to capitalism in the war of all wars—of all the many wars, the longest in duration—that can have no ending "while millions of working people suffer hunger and want, whilst the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life." The great class war is now raging. Where is your place in this conflict. No fences or rails to sit on in this mightiest of fights—your place must be for or against your class.

Everyone of the men who languish in Long Bay Penitentiary—while you read these lines of appeal—can, with all the force of his being, say: "He who is not with me is against me." These men of the working class are under the ban of the unjust and cruel imprisonment for the common cause of all the women and men of their class, not alone in Australia but in every land on earth.

Don't misunderstand the great import of this term, "working class." You, by being a "living wage" earner, are a member of that class only—and remember that all other classes constitute your oppressors, opposers, and exploiters, the capitalist class, the employing class, "who have all the good things of life," out of your toil and waste of tissue—on a bare "living wage." To fully know this simple fact, that on this earth there are in the final analysis only these two classes, "with nothing in common, but with an ever increasing hostility." THAT constitutes the "Class War."

When you understand this state of THINGS (three things)—TWO classes, and the war between them—then you are a fully class-conscious worker, and have ceased "to be in any sense a bonehead," and have become a brainy-headed worker who will, without any prompting know your place and line of action to best help to effect the liberation of the men of our class from the cells of Long Bay. And, remember, you are under no obligation to anyone BUT your class. There is no duty

superior to, or above the one you owe to your class. You owe no fealty or good faith, no service of valor, or intellect, only TO YOUR CLASS, and until the working class of Australia and the planet are animated by this devotion to mutual service of "each for all, and all for each," Labor will remain enslaved. You will perceive from the foregoing the need of EFFICIENCY in the organized effort to redeem to liberty and restored to the full service of their class, for which past service they are the victims to capitalist tyranny. This is no work for faint hearts—no task for weaklings. Our tyrants have snatched our strongest and most invincible spirits from our ranks—twelve of them—and each a valiant champion of the people's cause. They can't be spared. They can be restored to their places again—some of them to home circles of affections—to wives and children. One united front of the organized working class of Australia and our Fellow Workers can be free, and their liberation will demonstrate the power of the solidarity of Labor to ensure to itself freedom of thought, freedom of speech and a free press, free from the penalties of a life time in gaol, and a wholesale confiscation of our printed thought.

Workers of Australia, from Barrier Reef to Indian Ocean, surge!—from Carpentaria to the Bight, rally financially, rally in your moral strength and myriad numbers! Rally to the rescue from the infamy of felons' cells, the twelve-free-souled gladiators in the class war—your class war—forward!

Oh! Invincibles of Labor, while our fellow-workers languish in Long Bay Bastille, tyranny prevails; and no man worthy of our class, is safe to speak his mind. Arise! Oh, Australian! "Snatch from the ashes of your past the embers of EUREKA fire," and if any in the strife expires, "will add to their name a name of fear, that tyranny shall quake to hear."

Forward, as One Big Union! Unite, protest until our fellow-men of our class are FREE again.

MONTY MILLER.

Perth, West Australia.

OH, GRAND DEMOCRATIC AUSTRALIA.

Where the people's choice governs according to the dictates of the people.

Where Labour rules politically: vide, years of newspaper print.

Where men of "Big Business," Experts etc., declare fifty million people can live with abundance.

Where the working class portion of five millions are without a continuity of employment, a holiday (seeking a boss is not a holiday) a decent place to live in and proper nourishment; and in numerous starve though there be wheat in abundance, and the store-houses be full.

Where men speed up to give more luxury to the idlers and more misery to the workers.

Where unionists, yes! men agreeing that they have a kindred interest, race one another up the boss's side-alley to get the chance to do the work.

Where men who have given the full working capacity of a lifetime get twenty-six pounds a year; and men who have done nothing get thousands to still do nothing.

Where all of our very own, Labor Government, makes and upholds by armed forces, laws to prevent uprisings of the poor.

Where able and educated toilers are imprisoned for voicing their desire for less slavery and for exposing to their fellow-toilers how they are being gulled by institutions based upon superstition.

The worst, the Parliaments and some individuals adorning them, are suffering a terrible slump though—Judge Pring, notwithstanding.

Where the few producers of everything for the many are satisfied with an arbitration system, which measures their necessities of life in the same manner as the big bosses measure coal to a locomotive, food to a working horse, and oil to machinery.

Where I work (at the instant) it's usual for men to knock-up and lie flat down long before blow-up time. Can the same thoughts emanate from one living in ease and plenty, as develops in the rust-clogged minds of those poor dejected, energy-spent hunger-driven fools.

Where's the medicine to cure our ignorance, inherited servility and hypocritical unionism to give us the knowledge and courage to make better things for all?

The I.W.W. has the remedy.

O.B.S.

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Total income ending 7th February, 1917.

J. R. WILSON,

Secretary,
Defence and Release
Committee.

Far dearer the grave or the prison,
Illumed by one patriot's flame,
Than the trophies of all who have risen,
On Liberty's ruins to fame.

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