

DIRECT ACTION



VOL. 3, NO. 72

Registered at G.P.O. Sydney. SYDNEY, May 27 1916.

ONE PENNY

Australian Trade Union

CONSCRIPTION CONGRESS.

This Congress opened in Melbourne on the 10th May and concluded on the 11th. Three hundred thousand members of unions were represented on it, and although the attitude against conscription was strong the action necessary to combat it was very much lacking.

Two delegates from Local 8, I.W.W. were permitted to sit after a debate which lasted half an hour. Considine and O'Rielly of Broken Hill bullied for us, and eventually we took our seats without the right to vote. A politician, one Guthrie by name, who will be well remembered in connection with the Seamen's Union, was very much in evidence against the entry to the Congress of delegates J. R. Wilson and R. J. Farrall. The first resolution to be carried was:— "That this Congress records its uncompromising hostility to conscription of life and labor, and, on behalf of the industrially organized workers of Australia, resolutely declares against any attempt to foist conscription on the people." The card system recorded 258,836 for, and 753 against.

The framers of the next motion evidently forgot that the Labor Party in power is the executive of the Master Class. It read: "That this Congress is firm in the belief that the system of voluntary military service has been successful, and, if supported by the financial resources of the nation it will be most effective, while it would leave no machinery—as would conscription—to be used after the war, to crush the aspirations of the workers." This was carried by 199,384 to 40,737. The next motion brought forth a brilliant speech from J. R. Wilson. He pointed out the unscientific nature of the proposal, the uselessness of calling upon a child-conscriptionist, striker-jailing, militaristic, imperialistic capitalist Government, to do anything that would hinder capitalism in any way. His speech brought a reply from Frank Anstey, who pointed out that it was impossible to go to the people without a counter cry to the conscription of men, which would seem that it was good to teach a myth in order that some day you might bring off a miracle. The motion was agreed to unanimously. It read: "That, as the war policy of the capitalist class consists of the conscription of human life, and unlimited robbery of the nation that protects them, this Congress affirms that it is the duty of the Labor Party to reverse the capitalist war policy, and prohibit exploitation of the public.

The next motion was decidedly reactionary and anti-working class. It was to increase the pay of soldiers, a thing that in no way effects the working class, at least that section of them that understand their class position.

The next proposal was of one interest: It read, "That in the event of the Federal Parliament attempting to impose conscription upon the people either by Act of Parliament or by regulation, this Conference recommends the Unions throughout Australia to declare a general cessation of work." Here the A.W.U. delegate showed his hand, casting 77,000 votes against the proposal. Many delegates supported motions 2, 3, and 4 in their anxiety to get to this motion, and any fight that may have been coming. Delegates fell out when the numbers went up 129,730 against and 103,728 for. The Congress had sat for two days, and had not even registered a threat against the master class.

It was decided to take a referendum of all unionists in Australia on the question of the 'General Strike' in the event of Conscription.

The A.M.A. delegates brought forward a motion asking unionists to de-

Atrocities-British.

"BLOODY" ASQUITH'S FRESH CRIME.

After the shooting of James Connolly we should hear no more from John Bull about "German atrocities." There may or may not be in the recent history of Germany something equalling this act for sheer inhuman brutality, but certainly there can be no act for which there could be less justification. Soldiers, be they German or English, in the heat of battle; we know, will commit acts from which they would recede in calmer moments, but the execution of a man who was so desperately wounded that he was unable to get out of bed to meet his executioners has no such excuse to justify it, and can only be described as calm, premeditated, cold-blooded murder.

Recently in Sydney citizens were shocked on reading of a lonely restaurant keeper who was strangled and brutally done to death in his shop in the middle of the night. The capitalist press marked its appreciation of the enormity of the crime with the usual headlines, but the same vile sheets have the audacity to inform us that "intense satisfaction was expressed in London" at the execution of a man who was in such a serious condition on account of wounds received in fair and open fight that, on their own admission, he was unable to stand up. "Intense satisfaction"—yes, on the part of the exploiting class, whom Connolly had all his life stood up and fought—a man whom their craven hearts feared so much that when no longer able to stand they propped up and murdered.

"Bloody" Asquith is certainly keeping up his reputation. It was at Asquith's orders that striking miners were shot down at Featherstone—not so long ago, that one wonders why British workers have so soon forgotten. It was during Asquith's administration that Imperial troops shot down by hundreds defenceless men, women and children in the streets of Johannesburg less than three years ago. It was the Government to which Asquith belonged that permitted the wholesale slaughter by British troops of unarmed Zulus in 1906, when atrocities were committed which in their bloodthirsty ferocity were more revolting than even the execution of Connolly; and now "bloody" Asquith, on finding that not ALL of the British workers are dupes of the class to which he belongs, is forcibly compelling them to shed their blood in defence of the economic and financial pirates in whose interests these outrages have been committed.

But Jim Connolly's name will ever be revered not alone by the toilers of Ireland, but by the working class throughout the world. And a higher civilisation of the future will do honor to his memory on a regenerated earth when that of Asquith and the tyrants he typifies will be abomination even in hell.

T. GLYNN.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Aif. Andrews 1s, J. Brown 2s, Jack Brennan 2s, J. W. Brennan 1s, C. Cullane 1s, W. F. Charters 1s, E. Combes 1s, John P. Corless 1s, W. Durrall 1s, Reg. de Valder 2s, A. Edwards 1s, Tom Gardiner 2s, Sam Garrad 1s, Dennis Hastings 2s, Jos. M. Johnston 2s, Patk. Lathroy 1s, Tom McEwan 2s, Tom Mainwaring 2s, S. Miller 1s, C. Miller 1s, L. Ritchie 1s, F. Roderick 1s, Jas. Reay 1s, Tom Sheehan 2s, H. Webster 2s, F. Winer 2s, C. Winters 1s, W. Turbit 2s, John Nielsen 1s, G. Niblett 2s, Mrs. McDonald 2s, A. Leith 1s, J. D. Hemming 2s, C. J. Hannan 2s, W. Cooley 2s.

clace a 24 hours strike for the release of Tom Barker, Leslie, and others. It was ruled out of order, and an amendment carried: "That this Congress protests against the imprisonment of Messrs. Barker, Leslie, and others, and appoints a deputation of seven to wait upon the Prime Minister to request their immediate release."

R. J. FARRALL,
Corr. Sec., Local 8.

The Bulletin's Bosh.

BARRACHI'S BARRACK.

A very much mixed economist is Guido Barrachi of the "Bulletin." He is going to marry the One Big Union (when he gets it) to the State and get a pup out of them which is going to be called the "National Guild System."

Now Guido is not altogether such a durrud fool as might be inferred by the above. He believes in industrial unionism, but when it comes to it's alias, viz, social revolution, he seems to get a bit uneasy about the number who would lose their present billets. He thinks it would be better to have half industrial democracy and half capitalism—then everybody would be satisfied. As I have said Guido starts out pretty well. Listen:—

"The Australian unionist must remember that the attempt to emancipate himself through politics is foredoomed to failure. . . . If he will study the matter he will see that political power cannot be transmitted into economic power, that economic power precedes and dominates political power, that the last without the first is "the shadow without the substance." The battle of the worker must primarily be won on the economic field. If he is to smash the wages system, he must realise that he can only control two factors—labour-power and labour organisation. He must resolve that he will no longer degrade himself by selling his labour, which is his life, as a mere commodity in the market. He must transform his union from a mere means of defence against his economic foes in to a constructive corporation capable of controlling it's own work." So far so good, and then he goes drunk on himself completely. He wants the State to still continue—he has got used to it now, and would feel cold without it. Says he:—

"The State will confine itself to politics, the guilds (industrial unions) to economics. But the State, as trustee for the whole community, must own the industrial assets which it will lease under charter to the appropriate guilds. The guilds in return for their charters will pay the equivalent of economic rent in the form of taxes to the State. In this way will statesmanship, released from the industrial considerations that corrode it (Petrol, etc., Ed.), be set free to grapple with its own problems."

It is evident that this man has been to a few of our meetings, and mayhap, has read a pamphlet or two. It is evident also that he has done no more. If he understood what the modern State is, or what any State of the past has been, he would see that when the unions are "constructive corporations capable of controlling their own work," the State will necessarily be out of a job. For what is a State in any epoch? It is a system of political management by which a given system and given conditions of wealth production are upheld and protected. It can only function in accordance with that system; and with that system abolished, it has no functions at all, and dies a natural death. Take the functions of the State of to-day. They are:—

1. To regulate the relations between various individual property owners, traders, and companies within its own nation. To do this it resorts to laws relating to trade; finance, insolvency, and Companies Acts, etc.
 2. To regulate the relations between various capitalist nations. Vide Tariffs, Foreign Policies, Naval Policies, Warships, Conscripits, etc.
 3. To keep the workers at work, and keep them from helping themselves to their products. Vide Arbitration Acts, Wages Boards, Police Courts, Prisons, Home Defence Forces, etc.
 4. To allay the dangerous discontent of those entirely scrap-heaped by the industrial system. Vide Subsidised Hospitals, Pensions for the Aged and Invalid, Almshouses, Workhouses, Compensation Acts, etc.
- There we have the functions of the State

in modern times. We don't say that it has always been a very wanton wicked institution. In the past individuals have had control of the scattered and half-organised productive forces of capitalism. They had to have control, because machine production was not sufficiently developed and concentrated to render it workable that the workers should control it. And while individual plutocrats or nations of them controlled, the capitalist State had to be there to uphold their control, and adjust their differences; in short, to manage society on the basis of their control. Otherwise society would have fallen to pieces. As Masfessed wrote:—

"To get the whole world out of bed, And washed and dressed and warmed and fed,

To work and back to bed again, Costs worlds and worlds and worlds of paid." But already the functioning of the State is being challenged or ignored by a new State just beginning to rear its head in modern society; and this new State is on its way to strip the old one of every vestige of responsibility, and supplant it entirely. And the rise of the one spells in letters of red the decay of the other, just as surely as more control by labour means less need for Companies Acts, etc. In the end the industrial committee will have to take full control of society, for only a Parliament of industry will be competent to undertake the job.

Just one thing more, my dear Mr. Guido Barrachi. What do you mean by the term "Community"? which in your funny scheme is going to lease the industries to those beastly, obnoxious workers. The new society will be all workers—some producing boots, some bricks, some bread, some education, some entertainment—like you are doing now—and so on. And all the political say that you or any other member of the—Ah—community gets will be your vote as a wealth producer. So if you are now a capitalist, get work—to be in readiness on the great day. And if you are a worker, come right along, and the cold white logic of the I.W.W. will murder those prejudices that you seem to have fought against in vain. All other workers who read this paper and can't dispute a line of it, you come along too. We want you, and you want us. Present conditions have spread a feast of opportunity for us. Let's get together and dine off it.

ANON.

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 243 William Street. Monday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting. Thursday, 8 p.m.—Educational Class. Working Class Economics.—T. Turner, Instructor. Friday, 8.30 p.m.—Propaganda Meeting, Brunswick, corner Sydney Road and Victoria Street. Sunday.—Propaganda Meeting, Yarra Bank.

The rooms are open to all workers every night. All working class papers on file. Good Library. A welcome to all the "disobedient ones."

I.W.W. PRESS.

JEWISH PUBLICATION.

M. Kurnitsky, 222 Livonia Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, writes that an I.W.W. paper called the "Industrial Unionist" is being published in the Jewish language. All Jewish fellow-workers who wish to subscribe should address communications to Box 7, Station P, Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A. We understand the subscription fee is 6s. a year.

Subscribers who do not receive their "Direct Action" regularly and promptly are requested to write to the Manager, and give particulars, so that he may take steps to get the matter remedied.

DIRECT ACTION



WEEKLY
OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF
THE WORLD.
(Australian Administration)

Office: 403 Sussex Street, Sydney,
Australia.

Editor: Thos. Glynn.
Manager: J. B. King.

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.

Mitchell's Scabbery.

SEQUEL TO THE BROKEN HILL STRIKE.

It will be within the memory of those who take an interest in labor matters that during the late Broken Hill strike, Mitchell, general secretary of the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association, did all in his power to assist the bosses to break the strike, and to induce the members of his organisation at the Barrier to scab. At the memorable meetings in the Sydney Labor Council when the question of moral and financial support was being discussed, it was chiefly at Mitchell's instigation that the proposition was turned down. The failure of the Port Pirie workers to respond to the call for a strike was also in a large measure due to the influence of this "safe and sane" labor leader. The capitalist press took him to its bosom; his speeches were published verbatim, and he was hailed on all sides, especially by the reactionary union element, as the saviour of Australian unionism, while the strikers were being condemned as being in the pay of Germans and desiring to "smash the labor movement." One would imagine from Mitchell's utterances at the time that unionism in Australia would be on the rocks if the scabby tactics he advocated were not carried out.

Some light may be thrown on Mitchell's professions of sincerity to union principles when it is stated that he has now resigned the secretaryship of the union and has been installed in charge of all industrial matters connected with the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. at Newcastle at a salary of £500 a year. In the light of that bald statement of fact, it is scarcely necessary to examine the reasons for Mitchell's virulence against the Broken Hill strike. Considering the number of German shareholders in that company the rumor of "German pay," circulated at the time, would seem to have been well grounded, but the strikers would appear to have been its victims, not its recipients.

Mitchell is now the company's advocate on Wages Boards and in Arbitration Court proceedings. There will be seen to be some humor in the situation—humor, however, that the engine-drivers and firemen are not likely to relish—when it is mentioned that a week or two ago he opposed on behalf of the company, at a board sitting in Newcastle, certain plaintiffs by the E.D. and F. Association, plaintiffs which he himself filed when general secretary of the organisation. We gather that some members of the organisation who were witnesses before the board were never so struck before with Mitchell's remarkable energy in cross-examination.

After this there is no doubt that Mr. Mitchell will be a more firm believer than ever in the principle of Arbitration in industrial matters; though to judge from the report submitted to the Federal Council of the E.D. and F.A. by the official who took over Mitchell's job, his "sincerity" in that direction would appear to have been manufactured for press publication rather than taking the direction of doing something to give effect to his beliefs.

The report is too voluminous for publication in full. It seems, however, with references to Mitchell's laxity in carrying out the duties for which the wage-slaves of the E.D. and F.A. were paying him £6 10s per week, besides other "perks" incidental to his position as the union's representative on Wages Boards, etc. Here are a few extracts:—

"The reason is not apparent why Mr. Mitchell put members to the trouble of compiling information re the cost of living as he has made no effort to check, compare or compile returns from the numerous affidavits and returns he has received in connection with same.

"There is no document showing any preparation for case as apart from jurisdiction as before mentioned. Letters from Branch secretaries on the case are neither arranged, indexed or recorded; they are merely kept in one box."

Plaint No. 24 of 1915.
"No preparations have been made in connection with this Plaint whatever. The Plaint has been lodged and no preparations whatever have been made to place the matter before the Court."

"Extraordinary laxity as regards this matter is displayed, as there is no record of the proceedings or result of the Judges order has not been procured. . . . We have been lead to believe that these matters were being pushed on, but now find that the resolutions from the sub-branches and branches re employers obstructing in these matters were groundless, as no application has been lodged to vary the Awards or Claims. I do not intend to express an opinion on the way the Arbitration matters have been dealt with, but merely to give you the facts in connection with the matters as discovered by myself. . . . When I asked Mr. Mitchell for a list of Agreements made, I was shown a box and told that all agreements were in there. . . .
Dispute with Electric Light Companies.
"The application for a Compulsory

Conference in connection with this matter has not yet been made, but was to be made on Saturday.

There does not appear to be any other matters that the General Secretary has been attending to. I can find not traces of the many months' hard work, Mr. Mitchell has often stated he has put in preparing the cases for the Court."

Further comment would be sacrilege. It is to be hoped the Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association is now satisfied with its attitude towards the Broken Hill strike. It is also to be hoped that they have seen the splendid possibilities of the Arbitration principle, and how easy it is for the workers to emancipate themselves—one at a time—provided they get the chances and opportunities of Mr. Mitchell.

The Sydney Labor Council, too, is to be congratulated on the manner in which it has allowed itself to be hoodwinked and cajoled into virtually censuring the Broken Hill miners at the instigation of an unscrupulous and unprincipled scab.

A 'Bonehead's' Indictment.

(To the Editor "Direct Action.")

A "boneheaded" member of the working-class sends you these few lines in hopes that from them you may glean something that may be useful to you. They will at least enable you to see the effect of your pamphlets and your street-corner meetings. I am a bonehead. Your speakers have called me one. I cannot speak or spell correctly without assistance. However, I think, in a confused sort of a way. My clarity of thought gets interfered with by cigarette smoke, beer fumes, etc., but I have hopes that when the pubs are closed at six p.m., I will not have the opportunity of beer.

However, since the outbreak of the war I have been working with a member of your I.W.W., and in order to compare his with other people's opinions, I have read all works on war I could get. Modern war, ancient war, war of the elements, intellectual war, all sorts and conditions of war, and my opinion now is, that all wars that ever have been, that was, that is, are wars for power. The present world war is a war for power.

The rulers of the nations at war want more power.

The working-class do not rule one nation. The capitalists do control and rule ALL nations. The capitalists are international. They rule both nationally and internationally. They do not want more power over themselves. The only enemies of the capitalist are those who threaten his security. The hatred born of fear is the most intense. The hatred of the international capitalist for the international working classes is a hatred born of fear. Until the working-class of the world are joined together into one international brotherhood the international capitalists are secure. Their power to exploit the working class is secure.

Just prior to the outbreak of this war the hope of an effective working-class combination appeared on the horizon. The working class of the world were beginning to forget national hatreds, national boundaries. They were beginning to realise their identity of interest. Then the international capitalists set in motion all their powers, exerted all their strength, to prevent the realisation of a United Working Class of the World. War was declared. A war for power. Power to continue the present system of exploitation of the worker; to further enslave the people to kill their hopes for emancipation. A brutal conspiracy of international capitalism to kill for the present all hopes of an international brotherhood, to re-kill and fan the fires of racial hatred.

We saw that but a few years ago, when Italy was seething with industrial discontent. On some trivial pretext she declared war on a neighbouring State, not for love of conquest, but for the purpose of diverting the attention of the people from their own misery; for the purpose of keeping their eyes turned from themselves, and causing them in their hatred of some imaginary enemy to forget for a time their real foe. This has to a large extent been successful, and those of the people who had lost dear ones at the front, blamed for their slaughter those whom they had met on the battlefield, instead of fixing the blame on the real murderers—the capitalist class at home.

As in that war so it is in this one. The working class of the world were becoming closer in touch with one another. The conferences of working-class delegates that assembled at different intervals, and in different parts of Europe, speaking all languages, discussing and planning, seeking to bring about a world-wide combination amongst the workers, with the ultimate object of the overthrow of capitalism, struck terror into the hearts of the capitalist. The growing internationalism of the working class was, they realised, a greater menace to their power than

any other probable danger. The day the workers have a strong international organisation, that day the death-knell of the capitalist system is sounded.

Desperate diseases call for desperate remedies. As Italy did yesterday, so did the capitalists of to-day. Any trivial excuse suffered. Servian trade a few months before the war was the export of pigs to Austria. Austria put an import duty on pigs; that killed Servian trade. A disgruntled Servian killed the Crown Pig of Austria, so in the final analysis the excuse for the present was—is—Pigs.

But, although the ruling classes hope that the hatred that is being daily fomented between the workers of one nation and the workers of another nation, will prevent the spread of internationalism, without which the working class can accomplish very little, they are yet going one better. They are attempting to still further divide the workers within the nations. The newspapers, the politicians, the parsons, all the servile mouthpieces of the masters, tell us that all the hardships of the men at the front, the slaughter of a few thousands because of some General's mistake, or a few hundred thousand because of some politician's mistake, the shortage of food, the shortage of ammunition, are all because of the action of the workers who are still upholding the real banner of working class freedom. Every little strike is magnified a thousand-fold, and astoundingly circulated amongst the men in the firing line, with masters' comments thereon. The minds of the workers at the front, away from all educational and refining influences, are being moulded in the direction the master wishes, and are poisoned and prejudiced against their fellow-workers at home. And one by one the privileges of the working class at home are being taken from them—free speech, free assemblies, free press, where are they now?

The last blow will soon be struck. The right of the working man to refuse to fight for master's profit and his own confusion will soon be taken from him. Conscription soon become law unless the workers wake up. Conscription means discipline; discipline means obedience; and a disciplined, obedient working class means a docile working class. Discipline stands for obedience to authority; obedience to authority means the continuance of the present system. That much-to-be-desired feeling of security that a platitude of docile, disciplined slaves always give to the man with the whip, is what conscription aims at.

The capitalist has succeeded in the older countries. Will they succeed in the new? The answer to that question depends alone on the action of the militant section of the working class—a general strike the moment the Bill is introduced, is the only way by which its passing may be prevented.

In conclusion, were this war to cease to-day, it would for many years continue to extort its toll of human suffering. In every village, town and city in every country engaged in the war, each year during this generation, the hardships in the trenches, the wounded, the weakened constitutions caused by the unnatural condition, will hurry some over the great divide. In the heart of every bereaved mother, child, wife or father, the war will be fought over and over again until time brings forgetfulness.

—G. Treadon.
A.M.A., Broken Hill.

In future all communications to the Literary Secretary, and Secretary of Sydney Local No. 2, the General Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor and Manager of "Direct Action" should be addressed to Box 98, Haymarket P.O.

Speeding-up schemes are put forward in the interests of the boss. You and he have nothing in common.

FREMANTLE ACTIVITIES.

Hall, 35 Phillimore Street.
Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Hall: Lecture night.

Friday, 8 p.m., at Hall: Economic Class.
Saturday, 8 p.m., at Hall: Business Meeting.

Sunday Afternoon, 3 p.m., Esplanade, Perth: Propaganda.

Local 5 has now a library of up-to-date revolutionary economic working class literature at the Hall, and all rebels after some mental dynamite are invited to blow in and help swell the ranks of the rebel army.

ECONOMIC CLASS.

The above Class will be restarted by the Sydney Local, commencing Wednesday, 24th inst. Fellow Worker King will again take charge of the class, and members and others interested are urged to attend, as a sound knowledge of economics is essential to every good propagandist.

Some Strike Lessons.

A short-lived but successful strike of clerks employed at Garden Island and Cockatoo occurred on Friday and Saturday of last week. It appears that the clerks some time ago received that much-coveted phenomenon, an award, from the Arbitration Court, but probably owing to the fact that clerks have an unenviable reputation for lack of militancy, the award, as it frequently does where economic power is lacking, remained a dead letter. Direct action, therefore, became necessary, which might have been applied in the first place, and saved the expenses of Arbitration. The strike resulted in a complete surrender of the bosses to the demands made, the Minister for Defence giving his promise in writing that the dead award would be immediately resurrected—which will doubtless be hailed by the award-loving type of unionists as another "victory" for Arbitration.

A significant incident, by the way, and one which throws a flood of light on the Labor Government's alleged policy of preference to unionists, occurred in the Federal Parliament in connection with the matter. A gent named Piggott inquired of Jensen, Assistant Minister for Defence, whether he would not replace the clerks on strike with returned soldiers, which brought forth the extraordinary statement that "it was not the intention of the Government to put any one on that island in place of the clerks unless they are bone-fide unionists." So it appears we have reached a stage in the so-called labor movement of Australia when, in order to have the privilege of scabbing, it is necessary first of all to become a bone-fide (!) unionist. There was nothing added the Minister, to prevent a returned soldier from joining a union." Under the benevolent auspices of a Labor Government, Unionism in Australia would appear to be rapidly shedding the few shreds of principle remaining to it and developing into a strike-breaking agency under Government protection.

Another instance of a Labor Government's solicitude for scabs comes from the strike on the Hill End Goldfield. News from the scene of the strike on Monday last informs us that "the Hawkins Hill Reward Mine is working with non-unionists, and woodcutters are engaged carrying under police protection." No doubt this is Holman and Co.'s conception of "preference to unionists."

News from Rockhampton would indicate that efforts of the "heads" of the A.W.U. to induce the strikers in the pastoral industry to scab on their own jobs have proved abortive. Both "old man" Spence and General-secretary Grayndler have apparently bitten off more than they can chew on this occasion. Notwithstanding that they have refused financial assistance to the strike, and have endeavored to stampede the strikers by craftily-worded announcements in the A.W.U. press that the strike was "unofficial" (whatever that may mean), the men are still standing firm, thanks to the levelling of I.W.W. rebels amongst the slaves in the North. Spence, Grayndler and Co. and their press have been telling us that "the I.W.W. is not a factor," etc. Of course not; they are now daily realising it. Latest news from Brisbane says that "the position is somewhat serious, inasmuch that the trouble may be expected to extend to other States."

Set Barker Free.

Members and other workers interested are reminded that Barker is still in goal, despite the shoals of protests that have rolled in from all quarters of Australia. The I.W.W. has stated that directly or indirectly the capitalist class will be made to pay dearly for every minute of Barker's incarceration. Sabotage is a powerful weapon, wielded by the determined man who knows his business. "Rebs," what are you doing in the matter? Remember one of the best fighters for your class is behind prison bars because he dared the powers of Capitalism in your interests. You are called upon to strike a blow for Barker's release—and MAKE THE MASTER CLASS PAY.

P.L.C. PROTEST.

The secretary of the Melbourne branch of the P.L.C. writes:—

"I am directed by resolution of the Melbourne Branch P.L.C. to inform you that in accordance with your desire a protest against the prosecution of Tom Barker has been forwarded to the Minister for Defence.

I was also instructed to forward the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Branch the editor of 'Direct Action' should publish cartoons more in accord with the canons of good taste and decency in future."

This resolution was carried because it offended the religious susceptibilities of some of our members who looked upon the cartoon in question as travestying the Crucifixion of Christ.

(The Crucifixion of a religious fanatic two thousand years ago seems of more importance to the "religiously susceptible" than the crucifixion of millions of wage slaves right now.—Ed.)

A.L.F. "PATRIOTISM."

The "West Australian" of May 5, 1916, has the following report of a meeting of the Metropolitan District Council (Perth) of the Australian Labor Federation:—

BARKER DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

A letter was read from this committee, asking the council to pass a motion of protest against the sentence imposed upon Mr. Barker, the publisher of "Direct Action," and respectfully requests the Minister for Defence to exercise his prerogative and cancel all further proceedings against Barker." He said that he held no brief for Barker or "Direct Action," but he did hold a brief for the right of free speech and consistent action in the administration of the law. Barker had published a cartoon symbolical of their opposition to the huge profits being made by the capitalistic class out of the war. If it were wrong that the cartoon in question should be published, it was equally wrong that other papers should publish somewhat similar cartoons, and yet go unpunished. The weakest paper had been prosecuted and the strong papers left untouched.

A Voice: Those responsible for the publication should all be imprisoned.

Mr. Cameron: If that is so, why should this one man be singled out and others allowed to go free? We want just administration.

A Voice: Two wrongs do not make a right.

Mr. Cameron said that they, as unionists, claimed the right to criticise and challenge action taken from time to time and no one should take exception to that.

Mr. Tweedall opposed the amendment to the executive's recommendation. Any action, he said, which tended to diminish recruiting was against the interests of Australia. (Hear, hear.) It had been declared by the Court that the cartoon in question was against the interests of the country. Mr. Cameron did not show samples of cartoons in other papers, but simply declaimed, in his usual manner against the other journals.

Mr. Cameron: I drew attention to one from the "Labor Call."

A Delegate: Then they should be fined too.

Mr. Tweedall deprecated the council passing hastily any motion which would give rise to the belief that they were opposed to recruiting.

Mr. Cook supported the amendment, and said that, while the capitalists were making money out of the war, they were keeping married men from enlisting.

Mr. Burgess said that the matter was one they could very well let alone. His knowledge of the Independent Workers of the World was such that he had no confidence in them. They in Australia interned Germans, but from what he had heard of some of the speakers of the I.W.W. he considered they were more fit for internment. Some of them would do worse than the Sinn Féin if they had the chance. They (the council) should trust the Federal Government in a case like that under review.

The council did not know all about the case.

Mr. Lines said that any man who published a cartoon influencing men against recruiting was in his right place behind iron bars. There

were many men walking about the streets of Perth who should be in the same place.

Two delegates supported the amendment because they held that the principle of freedom of speech was involved.

After a further discussion the amendment was rejected by 33 votes to 28, and the executive's action was endorsed.

(The "patriots" who represent (?) the workers of Perth would seem to be glad of the state of affairs which the Barker cartoon depicted, namely, that the capitalists throughout the world are turning the rivers of blood flowing in Europe into gold. One thing, however, is sure: If the cartoon had been intended to prejudice recruiting its publication would be altogether superfluous if the manhood of Australia were of the same mould as the cowardly crew who run the Perth District Council of the A. L. F.—Ed.)

Melbourne "Socialist" of May 11, says:—

"Last week we received a wire from the secretary of the Sydney Local of the Industrial Workers of the World, to the effect that Tom Barker had been sent to prison for twelve months. As far as we saw, no report of the appeal appeared in the Melbourne dailies. We await with interest further information from Sydney. However, the chief act is that Tom Barker did not succeed in his appeal, and is now in jail under sentence of twelve months. Is it disgraceful? It is scandalous! That the matter will not be allowed to rest here we feel certain. Every trade union, P.L.C. branch, and militant organisation must immediately begin participating in a campaign designed to secure the release of Tom Barker. His release should be unconditionally demanded. We are glad to say that, at the May Day celebration at the Yarra Bank on Sunday, and at the rally in the evening, the Tom Barker case was strongly mentioned by the speakers, and that great sympathy was met with from the large concourse of hearers. 'Set Barker free' must be the working-class slogan in an agitation that should shake Australia."

IN THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY.

At a recent Sunday evening lecture in the old hall, while endeavouring to present the subject of "Parliament and the Workers," the following question was put to the present writer: "Do you believe in Majority Rule?" The obvious answer of course is:—"Yes, if the majority agrees with me."

This question of majority rule, however, raises an interesting point as to the function and power of majorities in the new order of society—the Industrial Democracy.

"Will there be Majority Rule in the days of the One Big Union?"

I do not quite see how we can avoid it, so long as differences of view-point and consequently opinion exist. Differences of opinion there will be to the end of Time. Indeed, for the matter of that, we have them already with us in the I.W.W.—the nucleus of the new order of society.

We do not all see eye to eye on every subject; neither is it necessary that we should do so. The point that needs to be emphasised is this: That, however we may differ on all else, we all agree on one thing, namely, the necessity for organisation by the working class on Industrial Union lines!

In the new order of society (may it soon be established!) workers can afford the utmost divergence and difference of opinion; every view-point may have free play; so long as all agree on this one vital principle, namely: That Production shall continue to be carried on for the use and benefit of the working class, and not for the profit of a few capitalists, as at present.

To bring the matter to its logical conclusion, however (and we need never be afraid of doing this): If a majority of workers in the Industrial Democracy wished to revert to Capitalism (that is, present-day capitalism), I suppose it would be open for them to do so. Doubtless, in that case, the minority would strive as best they could to carry on in the old way (for capitalism as we have it to-day will be deemed in the new order of society a doubtful experiment).

This is a point we may impress in urging the trial of the new order of society—the Industrial Democracy.—That if the workers do not like the new system they can always revert to present-day capitalism!

The question now arises: Can we imagine, for one moment, that when the Industrial Democracy is firmly established, the working class will ever desire to exchange it for our present capitalism system?

Some of us think they will not!

E. A. BROWN.

NOTICE.

All communications regarding literature not controlled by the Press Committee should be addressed to the Literature Committee, Box 98, Haymarket P.O., N.S.W.

The Irish Rebellion.

Now that the disturbances, which have taken place in Ireland are past history, we are better able to distinguish the causes and estimate the results than in the excitement during the events. It is true, the distance is so great, and the information we get so garbled, that it is hardly possible to be clear as to the details of the movement. Nevertheless, from the meagre facts we do know, and from the names of the leaders, we can gather enough to give us an idea of the personnel and objects of the movement.

It has been alleged that the Irish rebellion furnishes convincing proof of the complete uselessness and disastrous effects of direct action. Before we rashly accept such a statement, let us consider the objects and the results of the insurrection. There is no doubt the movement was partly nationalist, partly industrialist, and the industrialist elements of the movement had their origin in the past oppression and exploitation of Ireland. But we should not forget that many of the leaders were purely and simply nationalist politicians, having no enthusiasm for working class emancipation, but simply wishing to emancipate the Irish from British domination; so that, as far as the movement was nationalistic, we could not expect economic results.

Nevertheless, it is pretty certain that had it not been for the vigorous direct action by the Irish workers, they would to-day have had conscription, like their less fortunate English fellow-workers. And it may well be asked whether they would not have lost more people through conscription than they did by the rebellion, and whether the ghastly price they had to pay was not after all worth while. A hundred years of political action has not given Ireland autonomy. The outcome of the rebellion may be Home Rule. Considering all this, it is doubtful whether even in the circumstances it can be said that direct action has been a failure. What would Australian workers have to do under similar circumstances? Of course the rebellion has shown that drilled soldiers will shoot down their fellow workers, and that it is not safe for poorly-armed workers to face machine guns. If the workers will ever emancipate themselves they must either break up Imperialism and militarism, or they must gain half the army to their side. Or, if they fall in that, their tactics must be scientific and often more passive than active, unless they are prepared to pay a heavy price.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON.

I.W.W. Preamble.

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 centreing 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 allow 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 wages 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 everyday 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.

SYDNEY HEADQUARTERS.

All concerned are notified that the address of the Sydney Local is now 403 Sussex Street, Sydney. Correspondence, however, may still be addressed to Box 98, Haymarket.

Our Growing Press

"DIRECT ACTION."

English. Weekly, 4s. per year. Published by the I.W.W., 330 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

"SOLIDARITY."

English. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. Published by the I.W.W. Publishing Bureau, 112 Hamilton Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

"A BERMUNKAS."

(The Wage Worker.) Hungarian. Semi-Monthly, 6s. 6d. per year. 350 East 81st St., New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

"ALLARM."

(The Alarm.) Swedish-Norwegian-Danish. Monthly, 4s. per year. 164 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

"SOLIDARNOSC."

(Solidarity.) Polish. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. 164 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

"DARBININKU BALSAS."

(The Voice of the Workers.) Lithuanian. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. 869 Hollins St., Baltimore, U.S.A.

"HET LIGHT."

Flemish. Monthly, 4s. per year. Franco-Belgian Hall, 9 Mason St., Lawrence, Mass., U.S.A.

"IL PROLETARIO."

(The Proletariat.) Italian. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. Gen. Del. Hanover Sta Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

"EL REBELDE."

(The Rebel.) Spanish. Bi-Weekly, 4s. per year. Bundle rate 1d. per copy. Address all communications and remittance to Administrator, El Rebelde, Box 1279, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

"RABOCHAYA RECH."

(The Voice of Labor.) Russian. Weekly, 4s. per year. Bundle rates, 1d. per copy outside Chicago. Address: 1146 South Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

"A LUZ."

(Light.) Portuguese. Semi-monthly. Subscription 4s. per year. Bundles of 50 1d. per copy. Address, 699 South First St., New Bedford, Mass., U.S.A.

ADDRESSES OF I.W.W. LOCALS.

Adelaide Local 1.—Secretary-Treasurer, S. G. Drummond, 43 Charles-street, Unley, Adelaide, S.A.
 Sydney, Local No. 2.—Secretary-Treasurer, T. Glynn, 330 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W.
 Broken Hill, Local No. 3.—Secretary-Treasurer, E. J. Kiely, Palace Buildings, Sulphide-street, Broken Hill, N.S.W.
 Fremantle, Local No. 5.—Secretary-Treasurer, C. T. Reeve, 18 South-street, Fremantle, W.A.
 Boulder Local, No. 6.—Secretary-Treasurer, F. H. Luna, Lane-street, Boulder, W.A.
 Brisbane, Local No. 7.—Secretary-Treasurer, G. E. Bright, Redfern-street, Woolloom-Gabba, Brisbane, Q.
 Melbourne, Local No. 8.—Secretary-Treasurer, R. Power, 243 William-street, Melbourne, V.
 Perth, Local No. 10.—Secretary-Treasurer, A. Westbrook, Victoria Park, East Mount Morgan, Local No. 11.—Secretary-Perth, W.A.
 Treasurer, A. Murphy, Queensland National Hotel, Mount Morgan, Queensland.
 Cairns (Russian), Local No. 12.—Secretary-Treasurer, W. Yudeeff, Box 201, Cairns, N. Q.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

For

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

Name

Address

Fill it in NOW!

Noble Ideals.

By "Ajax."

The saintly "S'merald," in its issue of May 20th has a long leader on noble ideals. There is precious little in it anent noble ideals, but one could hardly expect lofty thought from a paper that has consistently stood for low commercial ideals. The writer starts off with a sentimental story of a wounded soldier, who, while waiting for the ambulance, thought of God, and found a new way to prayer. The whole article is replete with references to God; indeed the "S'merald" pleads piteously with its readers not to forget God and spiritual things, and speaks tenderly of Belgium's noble King, who, according to Granny, lost everything except his soul. As this "hero" took refuge in Antwerp on the outbreak of war and further bolted to England with many carriages, horses and servants, without waiting to see if his alleged impregnable fortress could stand a siege, one fails to perceive the alleged nobleness of the King. Further, judging by the way the Belgium dynasty grew wealthy, sweating the workmen at home and cruelly ill-treating the natives in the Congo—an action condemned by the same press that lately acclaimed the King as a hero—one seriously questions whether this hero had a soul. Moreover, the coward got away with enough wealth to make most men envious and the "S'merald's" statement stupid.

The scribe hints darkly that peril and self-sacrifice are purging us of our grossness though one can hardly believe this when one peruses the "S'merald's" advertisements. "We are learning a new way to prayer" whines the saintly sheet. Unfortunately the new way is not explained, and one can only hope that it does not lie in the direction of writing articles pandering to superstition in the hope of snaring clerical advertisements, which the "S'merald" with pious propriety designates as religious announcements, not gospel-shop business feelers, mind you, but religious announcements. As the "S'merald" desecrates the Sabbath and other holy days by forcing its staff to work on religious festivals perhaps a new day for prayer would be judicious.

We are further informed that the war has given birth to new ideals, one of them being the League of Honor, the members of which are conducting a week of prayer to get God on our side against the Kaiser. Granny apparently is enamoured with this ideal. Granny, since the war, has also been partial to such ideals as "efficiency," "national service," "conscription," and similar high ideals but the writer forgot to mention these and proceed thuswise:

"God does not intend this war to be a blood-drunk orgy. There must be a purpose in it. As individuals who break the laws are punished, so national sins must be paid for. Can we not see, in this war a punishment for our national sins—a punishment not falling on Germany alone, but on all the nations that were forgetting God."

One would hardly think a "progressive" journal in the twentieth century could stoop to such trash. The "S'merald" thinks otherwise, and is at some pains to suggest that God is a particular pal. Evidently the editor is an intimate acquaintance of the deity, knows God's intentions and sees in every truth the hand of God.

It is rather late in the day for such a paper, run on very materialistic lines, to talk about spirituality. The "S'merald" has ever and anon stood for sweating and superstition. Nowhere in its pages, replete with dubious advertisements, can one find any guide to higher ideals, rather does it delight in patriotic and political piffle except in times of industrial trouble when certain skeletons named "Pro Bono Publico," "Disgusted Unionist," etc., carefully kept in the editor's cupboard, are requisitioned to attack the strikers, for verily, they are the shades of the "S'merald's" noble ideals.

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITIES.

Hall: 316 Argent Street.
Wednesday Evening, at 7.30 p.m.—Educational Class.
Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Economic Class.
Sunday, at 7.30 p.m.—Outdoor Propaganda Meeting, near Post Office, in Argent Street.
Good Library. Also good collection of Literature for sale. All live rebels welcome.
Secretary-Treasurer, E. J. Kiely, 316 Argent Street, Broken Hill, N.S.W.

Tinkerings of A Tinker

(Or Labor's Love Lost in One Act.)

Scenario—The Man of Destiny's Stronghold in the Great Smoke.
Discovered—The Man of the Hour, communing with his scribes.

The Man of Destiny:

To civilize the Austral wilds—to tame the Labor hordes—
To flirt with governors and things, a certain joy affords;
But Labor in Exceelsis must tame dukes and earls and lords.
There will be jibes, as you, my scribes, fond parkers in my fun,
Will renounce, but let's to work, for Labor must be Done!

How goes 'my mail, my scribesmen? There must be quite a ton.

First Secretary:

There is, my Lord—Pray pardon me, for making such a slip—

Man of Destiny:

Tut! Tut! Forget that ancient gag regarding cup and lip—

First Secretary:

I merely meant, most honored sir, to give you a nibs a tip
That certain folks did intimate a quite potential peccage—

Man of Destiny:

Oh, pray, tush tush! You make me blush. I used to travel steerage.

Personal Secretary:

I'll tell, if I may, your engagements to-day.
And please, my dear sir, be advised;

You have promised so much as to matters you'll touch,

That, really, you're quite compromised.
As an instance I'd cite that you're talking to-night

On Empires and how they are built,
At the gilded Guildhall you have promised to hawl

How the Workers are Stealing the Gilt.
Another big thing, you're to lunch with the King—

At that Palace of Buckingham try
To tell all the "guns" how to milk all the Huns

By your method of suckin' 'em dry.
At nine you are due—and you'll have to come through—

With your dope on "Australia's Wheat,"
And at ten you must tell—as none can so well—

How the Workers should Work but Not Eat.
Between that and four there are things by the score—

In fact there is quite a congestion—
Man of Destiny:

I know it's a mess, but just tell the press
It's merely acute indigestion.

Three breakfasts, four luncheons, five dinners—then suppers—

If I keep the pace up I'll be back on my uppers.
These tinkerings with Empires have really no end—

Reminds me of crying: "Umbrellas to Mend!"

First Secretary:

Regarding your mail, sir, I know MY enslavement—

There is much to be done. It is blocking the pavement.

A missive from Lord Grindemdown
Who'd like to know if Canvastown—

Such as you have in Sydney—
Would be efficient as to tents.

As houses cost much more than tents!
And much more of that kidney.

From bishops, viscounts, dukes and earls—
From capitalists and working churls—

From titled ladies—servant girls—
And whips from starving pommies;

Admiring, everyone, your gall—
All answering your Empire call—

Then, comes along—the worst of all—
Cries from the crippled Tominies.

Another hatch from Jap and Greek—
From Serbian, Belgian, Maltese meek—

From Ind and from that brunette freak
Who's loyal in Ismailia.

All voicing in their various tongues
Their grievances—their rights and wrongs.

But this, the tune of all their songs:
Is there a White Australia?

Man of Destiny:

There is no one so deaf as the man who won't hear!

Chorus of Secretaries:

All hail to the Chief! Moreover, Hear! Hear!

First Secretary:

Here's one—Who knewed that you'd been broke,

An' knowed about the under bloke;
That you'd got fat on London smoke.

He wants your recipe.
He says he met you in the camps,

When you were patching pots and ramps,
And as he writes, he raves and ramps:

"You ain't no good!" says he.
An Anzac sends the following:

"I've lost a leg an' half a wing—
An eye, an ear—most everything

That some folks think worth saving.
You've promised fifty-thousand more

That hasn't reached no foreign shore.
How can you settle up that score?
An answer, please, I'm craving."

Man of Destiny:

It seems that all my critics must be sceptics.
What can I do—a victim to dyspeptics?

Private and Confidential Secretary:

A method I'd suggest: It might set the world at rest;

Your scribe I am, and here at your desire;
Forget these Wicked Sceptics, Anticreptics

—your Dyspeptics—
Dictate to me and set the world afire.

Tell "Those Germans How You Dodged Their Submarine!"

Tell "The British How You Fought for King and Queen."

You can tell a thousand things, with a Bite that Always Stings—

In the greatest works of fiction ever seen;
Dictate to me of "Wharries I have Met!"

Or "Why I Worked and Yet Have Never Sweat!"

"How I Smelled the One Big Onion which induced a Mental Union—

A Union which remaineth with me Yet."

Man of Destiny:

You have put my heart at ease—it was nigh on Heart Disease—

At last I realize what's meant by fiction.
Get Busy on the Job—Convince the Thoughtless Mob—

And put it in My Very Best of Diction.
(Doubtful Curtain.)

S.W.

ECHOES FROM THE WEST.

Sunday, May 7th.—Propaganda meeting on Perth Esplanade, in which the Fremantle and Perth forces united and made a success of the afternoon's proceedings. F. W. Monty Miller chaired the meeting with a preliminary address and called the next speaker, F. W. Westbrook, who spoke at considerable length, and retired in favor of F. W. Reeves. The latter treated the Esplanade crowd to one of his most characteristic and forcible orations. It was his last address in the open in the Land of the Black Swan.

The usual evening meeting at the Literary Institute, 8 p.m., was the occasion of a rousing lecture on "The Coming Storm," in which F. W. Reeves reviewed the late and present signs of the times, and by their co-relation gave a forecast of its nature, extent and resultant effects to the workers as a class, such effects being for good or for ill in proportion to their organized solidarity or their weak unpreparedness.

The public who frequent the people's forum beside the Swan River will miss the voice of Charles Reeves, and the struggle of the little rebel band of I. W. W. in this State will be to do their utmost to make amends for his absence by imparting increased zeal and vigor of speech to our propaganda.

Collections afternoon and evening specially to auxiliary fund of travelling expenses of Organizer Reeves amounted to £2 10s. Our fellow worker leaves on Saturday by "S.S. Koombana" for Eastern States and carries with him our best wishes for his welfare and activities in the movement.

"Direct Action" and literature sales as usual.

M.M.

SYDNEY LOCAL.

Meetings, &c.

Street Propaganda at Bathurst and Liverpool Streets every Friday and Saturday Evenings, at 8 p.m.; also Sunday Evening, at 7.

Meetings in Hall:

Sunday, 8 p.m.—Propaganda.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Economic Class.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Saturday Evening—Speakers' Class.

Also Public Meeting every Sunday Afternoon in the Domain.

Briefly, the reason for unemployment is that there are not enough jobs to go around. What about a shorter work-day and slowing down?

BARKER DEFENCE FUND.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mr. Long 4s, Boulder I.W.W. 5s, E. F. Sauer 1s, L. Gray 4s, A. Friend 2s 6d, "Galty" 2s 6d, Cairns I.W.W. 18s, Per D. Johns, North Lyell, Tas., £1 10s, A. Martin £1, Jas. Gordon 2s 6d.

The Mderon Moloch.

I am the Profit System!

I haunt the lives of men from the cradle to the grave!

I am before the embryo in the womb; I smile beside the infant's cot; I leer at the marriage altar; I watch with greedy eyes the snapping thread of life slipping from my grip! I rot youth of its joyousness; middle life of its just reward; age of its ease!

I am the great War Lord; at my coming Virtue and Benevolence turn in a seething cauldron of horror to Hatred and Vice!

The fatherless and the widow shrink from my embrace; orphaned eyes look with pale dread into mine; to me Youth and Innocence cry in vain for mercy!

I come between the poor and their necessities of life; I haunt the filthy slum; I urge the harlot to her ghastly trade; the thief snatches at my bidding.

I dress my favored ones in purple and fine linen; I crown them with luxury when they do my commands!

I grind down the lives of men in factory, mine and workshop; I speed up the tolling millions beyond the limits of endurance; I lash with the Whip of Starvation the shrinking flesh of Youth!

I am above Law, Morality and Religion; snap my fingers at their ghostly entreaties!

When I am satiated with my spoils I drop Charity into the eager thrusting hand of the obsequious poor!

I rob, I slay, I spare not; I am ruthless as Hell and cold as the Grave!

I sit with kings in high places; princes and statesmen hasten to do my bidding!

What is this I see? I am afraid!

Millions of men organised industrially march to my destruction; phalanx upon phalanx they encompass me about; they smite and spare not!

My race is run! I am undone! I am stricken through and through! I will betake me to my hell and die alone!

What are those shining forms that pass me on my way? Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!

—my mortal enemies!

Brotherhood and Justice march hand in hand; I sink past them like a whipped cur!

Night falls about me: from the mouth of Hell I see with flaming eyes the rosy dawn of the New Day!

A. E. BROWN.

Literature List.

Capital: Karl Marx, 3 vol., 8/- per vol.

Ancient Society: Morgan, Bound, 6/-.

Value, Price and Profit: Marx, Bound 2/-; Paper, 6d.

Evolution of Property: Lafargue. Bound 2/-.

The Militant Proletariat: Lewis. Bound, 2/-.

The New Unionism: Tridon. Paper, 1/8.

Sabotage: Pouget. Bound, 2/-; paper, 1/-.

Sabotage: W. C. Smith, Paper, 3d.

Sabotage: E. G. Flynn, paper, 3d.

I.W.W. History, Structure, and Methods: St. John. Paper, 3d.

Revolution and the I.W.W.: Pease. Paper, 3d.

Eleven Blind Leaders: B. H. Williams. Paper, 3d.

Political Socialism, or Capturing the Government: Nilson. Paper, 3d.

War—What For (Cartoon): Price 3d.

Revolutionary Unionism: E. J. B. Allen. Paper, 2d.

Why the A.W.U. Cannot Become an Industrial Union: Alex. George. Paper 3d.

Industrial Efficiency and Its Antidote: T. Glynn. Paper, 2d.

I.W.W. Songs: Paper, 3d.

Summary of Marx's Capital: Hazel, 2d.

The Diesel Motor: Frankenthal. Paper, 1d.

Industrial Unionism: St. John, 1d.

STICKERS.

The Press Committee have plenty of I.W.W. stickers on hand. They are in large type, smart, and to the point. Each sticker has an imprint on it, in accordance with the boss's law. We will send along 1,000 to any address in Australia for 2/9, 5,000 for 12/, and 10,000 for £12/6. Please send cash with order. Orders will be sent to New Zealand, provided 3d extra is enclosed per thousand for additional postage. Address: Manager, Box 98, Haymarket, N.S.W.

Printed and Published by J. B. King, at 403 Sussex Street, Sydney, on behalf of the Industrial Workers of the World.