

Demand the Release of Barker. Do It Now!



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SYDNEY, July 8, 1936. ONE PENNY.

Wanted -- A Labor Trust.

Set Barker Free.

Broken Hill Notes.

Law and Strikers.

The present sad state of labor conditions generally may be traced to the fact that labor-commodity has not been organized into a trust.

The working of this trust (supposing that it be formed) will be that the worker (or an executive acting on his behalf) takes a general survey of the labor market, ascertains the amount of labor-commodity required at any given time, and so regulates or restricts the output of labor-commodity upon the market that never at any time does the supply exceed the demand. With HIS commodities the capitalist endeavours constantly to perform the operation mentioned above. Hitherto labor has never followed fully his example.

When the supply of labor-commodity exceeds the demand, competition between the workers ensues, wages go down, working hours increase, surplus value swells, and the capitalist class has gained an economic advantage over sellers of labor-power.

When (on the other hand) the supply of labor power falls short of the demand, competition to secure it occurs between employers, wages go up, surplus value decreases, and the working class has gained an economic advantage over the employing class.

In the early days of Australasian settlement would-be employers of labor used to go out in boats and bid against each other at the vessel's side for the labor-power of newly arriving members of the working class. They don't do that now. Labor then was scarce, and consequently valuable. It can be made equally scarce to-day by the formation of a trust in labor.

Labor-power can be made so scarce on the market that the employing class will have to pay nearly the full product of labor in order to purchase labor-commodity. It can be made so scarce on the market that at last the employing class will say to the workers: "Look here, we receive so little surplus-value from you nowadays that the game of exploitation is not worth the candle. Take your industries and run them yourselves."

The formation of this labor-trust implies intelligence and organization on the part of the working class. It implies a knowledge of the laws of capitalist production (called economics), and it also requires that workers shall stick together, so that the trust may not be at any time broken.

Suppose an employer requires 100 men to complete a job. He applies to the trust (or workers' executive). The trust says: "We find a strong demand for labor just now. We can spare you 50 only." The employer must take this offer or go without labor.

Labor, then, will be able to dictate its own terms to the boss, for it can make itself always scarce upon the market.

This "trust" in labor is called by the I.W.W. the "One Big Union."

There are two ways in which this labor trust can operate to the advantage of the working class. It may say to the worker: "You will receive a high price (or wage) for your labor-commodity, but this you must share with your fellow industrial unionist, whom we withhold from the market in order to make labor-commodity scarce." Or, on the other hand, it may say to the worker: "You must work one or two hours only per day, in order that labor-commodity may continue to be scarce on the market." Industrialists agree that the latter is the preferable course.

This is the idea of the I.W.W. in advocating, as an immediately practicable proposition, the shortening of the present working day to six hours. The fact that a six-hour day is not yet carried into effect shows that craft unionists do not feel sure of their power to enforce it, thus confessing a weakness in their form of organization.

In order to create a "trust" in labor-power, and so make labor-commodity scarce upon the market, the I.W.W. recommends the formation of unions organized according to "industry" and not "craft" or "trade." These unions are called "industrial unions," and will link up into "One Big Union" of all industries -- the "trust" which will secure to the worker the full product of his labor.

That it is the propaganda of the I.W.W., and not the individual, that was aimed at in the prosecution and gaoling of Barker, was evident from a little incident which occurred in the Domain last Sunday. The present Editor of "D.A." was asked for his name by a detective after having addressed the meeting. The name was given, though no reason was advanced for the request.

Other incidents of significance were the meetings held by soldiers close by. Remarks were made by the speakers which were deliberate and open incitements to riot and murder. Similar remarks from an I.W.W. platform would have meant years in gaol for those who made them. Yet Pearce's and Holman's sleuths stood by and listened complacently.

Make no mistake, insidious schemes are afoot to down the I.W.W. and this paper. This is said on the very best of authoritative information.

Boys of the Wooden Shoe Brigade should not let their soles rot for want of use. Barker is still in gaol. He is there, not because he prejudiced recruiting, but because HE PREJUDICED MASTERS' INTERESTS. Make master squeal, and his bloodhounds will become mild and harmless puppies.

Thus the "Navy" of recent date --

"So far no fresh development has taken place re the imprisonment of Tom Barker. Barker is still enjoying the hospitality afforded to guests of His Majesty's Government resident in gaol. Hospitality can be overdone, however, and in this case it has not only been overdone, but is forced. To be cribbed, caged, and confined for giving vent to one's own thoughts and convictions goes beyond the pale of even police hospitality, and becomes rank injustice."

"Where an injustice exists, and more especially when it is being inflicted upon a fighter for working-class rights, it behoves all workers to be up and doing. Only by taking interest and action in their own affairs can the worker put down injustice against one of their brethren. The fight will be stiff, more particularly when it is against a Labor Government, who are expected to have working-class interests at heart. The agitation for the release of Barker should be actively kept up and supported by all organisations and branches. Last week we published a letter from the Minister for Defence in reply to one of protest sent by the R.W. and G.L.A. against the imprisonment of Barker. We are sorry to say that we could extract but cold comfort from the reply of the Minister, and can only describe the reply as very unsatisfactory."

"Apart from Barker's case, there are a number of other persons who have been imprisoned under the War Precautions Act. Skurrie, Leslie (released), Klausen (still serving) have all had to serve time under the Act. R. Ross, of Melbourne, has also been prosecuted under the Act, but the case against him was dismissed. All this makes one ask, where is it going to end? We have an idea that, per medium of this Act, a gradual stifling and strangulation of free speech is going on. Should all protest and agitation prove of no avail, and a process of gaoling all opposed to the profit-mongers continues, we predict a rough time for the workers. The movement is not nearly militant enough, and can't afford men of Barker's type to rot in gaol when there is work to be done. United protest and action on our part must go on until Barker is set free."

This "trustification" of labor is needed sadly at the present time. There are signs, however, that workers are becoming dissatisfied with their craft form of organisation, and dissatisfied with political action.

More strongly and surely are they beginning to aspire towards the organising of themselves into industrial unions, and the One Big Union that we believe will bring about the establishment of the new order of society, this (for the sake of giving it a name) we call the Industrial Democracy.

A. E. BROWN.

Good, solid progress has to be reported in this centre regarding the One Big Union, as advocated by the Industrial Workers of the World. Despite the fact that the weather is as cold and cheerless as the heart of a capitalist, huge crowds attend our open air meetings. Every Saturday evening in Argent Street the message of industrial emancipation is hurled forth from the box by fellow workers Larkin, Anthony McLaughlin, Coombes, Freeman, and others, and the fearless and intrepid manner in which they tackle conscription, war profits, political bureaucrats, Windy Willes, and Slimy Hughes never fails to bring forth from the audiences loud and enthusiastic applause. Our indoor meetings are also well attended.

On Sunday, 25th inst., fellow worker Coombes delivered a lecture in the hall on "Sabotage." The lecturer has a fine sense of humour, and as he described the result of a Sab's scratch on a luckless master's pocket, roars of happy laughter rewarded the lecturer's effort.

June 11 will take a long time to fade from the minds of the members of Local No. 3. As you and your readers know, we took Direct Action against the powers that control the Central Reserve. At 2 o'clock some 300 I.W.W.s assembled outside the I.W.W. Hall, headed by fellow workers Larkin and Carter, bearing the red banner of revolution. In clear white letters was the demand, "Set Barker Free." Three abreast, shoulder to shoulder, up Argent Street, past the Police Station, the boys singing lustily the grand old International. Swinging into Sulphide Street, past the Socialist Rooms (here the comrades fell in and swelled our ranks), on past the Trades Hall, singing the splendid marching chorus, "Solidarity for Ever," and on into the disputed Reserve.

At the time of writing the authorities are at a loss as to whether they should present us with a paternal blessing or a policeman's bluster. In a recent issue of the "Barrier Miner" a malignant and splenetic attack was made on fellow worker Barker and the I.W.W. A hiring of the master class appeared in a frantic manner for some power to blast the Industrial Workers of the World off the face of the planet. Fools and fanatics, grumblers and shirkers, was the refrain that dripped from his filthy pen, and every gibe and curse that he heaved at the I.W.W. proves to the intelligent worker that the mental prostitute on the "Miner" views all things through the distorted lens of his own personal gain, and there is no mud too dirty for him to handle, providing it pleases his masters. When death has removed this thing from the earth, and long after the worms have eaten the ink-dyed flesh from his bones, Tom Barker's memory will be bright and green in the memories of the working class. The vapourings of the "Miner" scribe remind the writer of a yelping poodle snarling at the heels of a lion.

Saturday night next we intend holding a social and dance, and everything promises an enjoyable time. Splendid music, tea and cakes, coffee and scones, divine dames to dance with, two pubs handy, and all for the modest sum of one shilling.

TOM McMILLAN.

He who works hard is guilty of self-destruction. Seems as if I have heard the parsons say "that he who is guilty of taking his own life will be forced to bathe in fire and brimstone for all eternity." Be careful and avoid the bath.

In times gone by human creatures were forced to sweat in order to escape from wild animals that were in the habit of feeding upon them. In these modern times the workers are forced to sweat in order to keep starvation from exterminating them.

The man who toils always has his hands in a poor man's pockets.

Wage workers in every part of Victoria are keenly interested in the coming problem of anti-strike legislation, which, if brought into operation, will take away the right of the worker to cease work when he chooses. Indeed, a movement is on foot to punish all strikers by severe measures embodied in the War Precautions Act, for, as Justice Powers recently said in the Court of Arbitration, all strikers in war time are traitors, and should, if necessary, be put against a wall and shot by the military.

The injustice of the strike law is manifest, as one set of laws apply to the worker and another enormously modified set to the rich. If the wage slave darts to "down tools" he is to be gaolod, but the rich merchant is able to "corner" food commodities and refuse to sell until he realises his own high price. No mention of forcing him by law is made. When the worker refuses to sell his labor power, except for the price he demands, an outcry is made, and the slave is liable to gaol, or a fine far in excess of his means, while the boss gets off Scot-free. It is high time the workers awoke from the lethargy which has fallen upon them, and united to fetch the boss to his knees.

SEJAM.

I.W.W. OCTOGENARIAN.

On page two of this issue will be found an article, "The Passing of Parliament," which is worthy of more than passing notice for at least two reasons. First, because of the intrinsic merits of the article itself, and secondly, because it has been written by the oldest active worker in the labor movement in Australia -- or perhaps out of it -- a man who has studied the evolution of that movement not merely in bulky volumes, but in the hard and bitter school of experience for over three score years. Monty Miller, who reaches his 84th birthday with the date of this issue of "Direct Action," has participated during his long life in many glorious fights in the cause of the working class, notably the Eureka Stockade.

This article is the first of a series of four which will appear from his pen in the columns of "D.A." on the subject of Parliamentary action, and what a student of his long and varied experience has to say on the subject should be worthy of study.

We wish our ancient fellow-worker many active years yet in the only cause worth while, and trust his days may be lengthened to see the I.W.W. and its principles predominant in the world's labor movement.

Shophand: "What has happened to Bill?" Boss: "Why, I told him this morning that I was introducing efficiency into the shop, and that he must keep pace with every revolution made by the machine in future, and it appears as if he jumped into the driving pulley so as not to miss a single revolution. He was a faithful worker."

Sydney "Herald," commenting in a sub-leader on "War Chest Day," says: "As far as money is concerned, our resources appear to be inexhaustible." There is a tip for you workers to go in for increased wages, and don't believe Granny when she screams: "You will ruin industry."

The politician is a thing that has surrendered all claim to manhood, and is trying to force others to do likewise.

The key to working-class success is industrial organisation.

Work is Hell! Give the boss a chance to get warm.

First Capitalist: "Hard work must be very tiring!"

Second Capitalist: "Couldn't say. Never tried it."

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To Members.

It is essential that the attention of members should again be called to the question of press finance. The price of paper and material is constantly rising, while neither bundle orders nor the subscribers list are increasing. Taking the average weekly income and expenditure over a few months we find that the latter exceeds the former. This difficulty has been temporarily met by a donation from the concert committee of the Sydney Local, but only temporarily.

Bundle orders are not paid for in some cases as promptly as they should be, and the subs. are not rolling in as they might if members would only realise their duty to the press. In many cases, of course, it is pure thoughtlessness, but others again seem to imagine that if they buy a penny paper at the various propaganda meetings they have fulfilled their obligations so far as the movement is concerned. Forget that. Penny-a-week revolutionists will never build up a paper worth talking about, much less bring us within speaking distance of an industrial democracy.

There are more non-members subscribers to the paper than there are members. IF EVEN FIFTY PER CENT. OF THE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIBED, FINANCIAL TROUBLES WOULD BE UNHEARD OF, AND IF SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT. DID SO THE SIZE OF THE PAPER COULD BE DOUBLED.

Soak that fact in and you will agree that it is the duty of every member who is in a position to subscribe to do so and renew the subscription regularly—even if there be a danger of inadvertently paying a penny for it subsequently. Besides, pennies so collected frequently take a long time to reach headquarters—and sometimes never do so—because of temporary set-backs received by Locals when the Literature Fund is called upon for the rent, etc.

As an illustration of the struggle for existence which the paper is making it may be stated that paper is almost three times the price it was before the war. It costs at the present moment three times that which "Solidarity" is paying in the United States—and even "Solidarity" is having a struggle to make ends meet. We have not, of course, to meet the same expenses, but the fact is mentioned to stimulate thought—and a little hard thinking on the part of members is now absolutely essential if the paper is to live.

Let dead "uns" remain dead, but the energetic sub-getters should redouble their efforts, and the apathetic should wake up if we mean to be in earnest about that I.W.W. daily.

NEW STICKERS.

Numerous enquiries have been received of late for stickers. The Press Committee is now getting out a brand new, up-to-date article. The colour and design are original, and will compel attention everywhere. In view of the expense involved, however, for blocks, etc., the price will be 4/- a thousand. You can send your orders at once.

JENSEN'S "JOKE" ON UNIONISM.

The action of Jensen, the Assistant Minister for Defence, in placing a crew of naval reserve men on board a ship in Melbourne on the original crew going on strike is a foretaste of the kind of strike-breaking weapon conscription will place in the hands of the Government and the bosses whom it serves. The methods under conscription will be somewhat similar in principle, but the details may vary. In any similar occurrence, for instance, instead of the crew being scabbed on by naval men, they will themselves be treated as the naval reservists would have been treated in this case if they had refused to obey orders.

This is the key to the exploiters' anxiety for conscription. In reality the "destruction of German militarism," which they foam so much about, is the last thing they desire to see. Has not Brooks of the Employers' Federation told us that the rule of Germany would be preferable to that of Unionism. The class conscious instinct is so strong in these gentry that if a proletarian revolt occurred in Germany to-morrow, with any possibilities of success, prayers would be offered up for the protection of the Kaiser and the brood of junkers behind him.

The facts of history prove that. What was the attitude of the governments and ruling classes of Europe towards the Paris Commune?

No, it is not the destruction of militarism that is looked for in Germany or Britain, in France, Russia, or elsewhere, but the complete subjection of the working class and the annihilation of the working class movement.

The alleged Labor Government of Australia is assisting towards that end, and the trade union movement, which has made this Government has only itself to blame. The trade unions are now getting more "law and order" than ever they could desire in their most ardent moments. It is to be hoped the Seamen's Union, the officials of which boast of their servile, law-abiding following, relish this latest example of what political and constitutional action by working class representatives can achieve.

But perhaps these lessons were necessary. Experience is a teacher whose logic is unassailable.

Out of the ordeals of the near future, the ashes of Labor Governments and a bastard form of unionism, will rise a working class movement whose every law will be a law made by and for the workers, and which will only be respected and obeyed so long as it serves the workers' interests.

Even the militarists and their tools, subject as they are to the play of economic forces, cannot help playing into the hands of the I.W.W.

FOREWARNED IS

Cases of British Prussianism are frequently reported from Great Britain of late. Recently we were informed per cable that thirty conscientious objectors had been sentenced to death for refusal to obey orders, the sentence being afterwards commuted by Sir Douglas Haig. This would indicate that the prisoners were first sent to France and afterwards tried, apparently in order that they might become legally liable to the death penalty. As an instance that Prussianism, and all that the word is commonly supposed to stand for, is as alive in "free" England as in other places, we quote the following from the Labor Leader (England) of April 20th:—

"Another case (of persecution) is that of Mr. H. Sara, of Shepherd's Bush, who was arrested on April 5 and taken to Salisbury, and thence to the Harrow Road Barracks. Here he refused to put on uniform. About a dozen men tore off his clothes and forced khaki on him, after twisting his arms and punishing his face. He refused to obey orders. The captain rang up the War Office as he was undecided what to do. He seemed to think that Sara was genuine, but apologised that he had to obey orders. On April 6 he was conveyed to Hurdcoft Camp. On the following day he refused to form fours on parade and was taken before the colonel, who asked him if he (Sara) was God Almighty. He asked Sara this question twice, told him to choose either to take things quietly or—Hell. Sara said he would stand by his opinions. He was sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment in Parkhurst Gaol, Isle of Wight. He is told that at the gaol they can break in lions, let alone men. Also, if, when his sentence expires, which will be on May 4, he still refuses to handle a gun they may put him handcuffed, hands above his head and feet fastened to the floor, in a

cage until he gives way."

Verily, it would seem that the workers in Great Britain have awakened too late to the dangers of Prussianism. Other accounts from there of military persecution and brutality would go to show that if the Germans have really any designs to rob the people of the British Empire of their liberty, victory will find them in the position of the housebreaker who burgles an empty safe.

With the Irish affair fresh in our minds, following upon the heels of the illegal deportation of Clyde trade unionists, coupled with the gaoling, persecution, and torture of men whose only "crime" is refusing to murder their fellow-men, the workers of Australia would be well advised to prepare themselves against the kind of Prussianism which is of British parentage.

Passing of Parliament.

I have observed in the columns of your contemporary, the "International Socialist," at various times, fairly severe criticisms on the non-political attitude of the I.W.W., and in turn "Direct Action" (I am rejoiced to note) is quite willing to give and take blow for blow.

As a reader and student of both papers, and also as one who has participated in many attempts to widen the liberty of the masses, I would like, out of my experience, to contribute a few reasons on the question, and endeavour to show why the working class should ignore politics and trust to the genuine power of deliverance that lies within themselves. Your contemporary, in branding the Sinn Féin revolt as a failure for direct action, evidences a remarkable capacity for political guile—alas disingenuousness. Does the principle of direct action, as laid down and outlined in the organisation of the I.W.W., mean a recourse to violence and bloodshed whenever any issue is at stake? It may be urged, as a reply to this query, that the ultimate recourse of the capitalist State—in conflict with labor, is to quell by violence and force the demand at issue. There will therefore be no alternative, other than to resist the aggression by like means on the part of the workers who reject political action.

Surely even a superficial glance at the annals of quite recent disputes, in which the workers were in agreement with political methods of settlement, reveals the fact that the State ever relies upon force as the final answer to the malcontents who are out for better conditions. Both Broken Hill and Lithgow furnish notable cases in point.

The State was formed, and exists, to foster and protect property; that is the one true function of the State, and while the State exists it must create and uphold this fiction of property, which is the negation of freedom in industry. The abolition of capitalism and its concomitant, wage slavery, is the one objective alike with class conscious Socialists and the I.W.W., and with the attainment of this common ideal in its full materialisation, the State will cease to exist. Hence Emerson: "The State exists to educate the wise man, and with the appearance of the wise man the State expires." The red-tape, slow motion of the State in all things is lamentably deplorable; but it is evident that the Emersonian one is the reason for its existence: "to educate the wise man" is the slowest of all its processes.

The State—that is, the embodiment of political institutions—must pass into decadence in ratio with the advance of individual rights as against property interests; this is only another phrasing of the class-conscious sentiment accepted by all intelligent workers: "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common."

The political machine, the State, like its authors, the property and power monopolists, is absolutely conservative, and every measure that is put into and sent through it, however radical, comes out conserving property interests. Hence the non-utility of all attempts of Labor to advantage itself by political methods, as Arbitration Courts, Wages Boards, inspection of mines, factories, workshops, etc., etc. Only by the workers becoming truly sceptical to the political faiths of their fathers, and rejecting the superstitious belief in the power of the State, is there hope for moral, social, and industrial progress on the high road of human emancipation.

That this much desired political infidelity is at its commencement is fast becoming apparent by the signs of the times. The Broken Hill miners' preference for direct action, in lieu of arbitration decrees, demonstrates their waning faith in politics; and at the Kalgoorlie Labor Congress, just concluded, there has been a shaking of the dry bones of the State enterprise methods which loom so large in the eye of sectional unionists as the ultima thule of beneficence.

During the Congress mutual recriminations against the efficiency of State enterprise were freely bandied between the Labor magnates of

authority and the State capitalist wage slaves, the head serangs, or Ministers, stigmatising the slaves of the State concerns as loafers, and the parasite delegates of the slaves slinging back charges of incompetence at the Government managers, who draw the "wages of ability." This discontent, and the evidence it furnishes, go to support the contention that the State exists "to put men wise," and despite the aphorism that "knowledge cometh, but wisdom lingereth," many of the workers are becoming "wise" in recognising the failure of the State machine, operated by Labor Governments, to achieve the glorious results that were predicted by those who clamored for the emoluments of office.

Will your contemporary, the "I.S.," in its next reference to this question, state a few of the benefits derived from the use of political methods whereby any permanent change of a truly revolutionary nature has been effected for the good of the working class? Give even one such instance purely and solely derived from the political source, and for my part I will demonstrate that wherever any need or liberty has come to the people it has been forced from their oppressors. The real factor of every advance has been the growing moral sentiment of the mass; hence the time-worn platitudes, "You can't legislate above the moral sentiment of the community." "The only laws not ridiculous are those that men make for themselves," and such laws are not inscribed on Statute Books, but by mutual consent of men are engraved on their hearts and brains; such laws will not serve the greed and injustice of capitalism, of which every form of Government is but the executive committee and must perform act in its interests or cease to continue. This conception and perception of things constitutes true and full class-consciousness; and should the A.S.P. attain its political desire, and constitute a Government of its own nominees, and an entire Parliament of A.S.P. members behind it to control and help to manipulate the political machine, they, like all their predecessors, would find they were powerless to forge the freedom of the workers with the instrument which has made every chain that binds them. As well try with the appliances of a shot factory to turn out material of cubic form.

Every advantage gained by the people has been gained in defiance of Government, never by its aid, or as its gift. Under capitalism property writes the law. When capitalism as a means of production is forced by labor to the vanishing point, Government goes with it. With free land, free material, free labor, comes free society—minus a State—since the State is force, and where freedom is, force is unthinkable.

(To be continued.)

EUREKA.

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 centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which 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.

The rivalries of kings may be useful to create more cemeteries, but the rivalries of working people simply lead to a lower standard of life, barefooted children, and empty cupboards. Divided they are conquered.—"Labor Leader."

Child Slavery.

Confound Their

'Slow Down.'

The I.W.W. Press

Politics.

The following statements by a school teacher not very remote from Sydney have been handed to us for publication. It would appear that "poor Belgium" is not the only place where helpless children are maltreated. On the whole, people who have children would, perhaps, rather see them summarily put to death at the hands of a uniformed Hun than living lives of degradation and torture under the regime of cow cockism in "free" Australia.

TREATMENT OF STATE SCHOOL CHILDREN AS I HAVE SEEN THEM TREATED.

No. 1.—William Bradley, aged 11 years, under guardianship of Thomas Dillon, Esq., J.P., would go to sleep every day in school. On questioning him, I found that he had the cows in the yard by the time daylight came—(this in summer)—and his work was not finished at dark. His appearance never suggests that he is cared for. His clothes are often ragged and torn. The last occasion was on Wednesday, 31st May last, when his sleeve (right) was torn from armpit to elbow, and hanging by a few threads at the top of his shoulder. My wife has at different times mended his clothes for him. His guardian is in very comfortable circumstances, owning two large dairies, and could if he wished make life more tolerable to the urchins, or rather slaves; under, his control.

No. 2.—Charles Jossett, aged 10 years, is a ward of Mrs. Carlton and family. Last March he was one of the schoolboys' swimming class, and on one occasion my attention was drawn to his condition by the other children calling me to come and look at his back. Eight (four double) whip marks showed red and sore, reaching from side to side from his shoulders down. The lower part of his body was hidden by his swimming trunks. I placed my little finger along one mark and could see the mark above and below my finger, so it must have measured half an inch across.

A day or two previous to swimming day he had been detained at lunch hour at school, and so could not wash up the family dinner dishes. His guardians said they had been told by his teacher that he had NOT been kept in school, which was a deliberate lie on their part. And Jossett received his whipping for what they termed a lie.

None of his guardian's family had spoken to the teacher for about a fortnight previous to the whipping affair.

No. 3.—The other boy, so Jossett informed me, received a worse whipping for taking one quince off a tree when told not to. This boy is also a ward of the Carltons. He said Miss Carlton counted 26 (twenty-six) quinces at nightfall. In the morning there were 25; and the boy was flogged with a whip. The Carltons are very comfortably situated.

No. 4.—James Lidstone, aged 12 years, is a ward of Mr. John Allen. Is in a good home, well fed and well cared for. Is expected to ask after Mrs. Allen's health when ill, but must on no account enter the family apartments to do so. He must stand by the bedroom window outside and ask.

In common with all State children of my knowledge, he is not allowed to live in ignorance of his inferior social status. He is a State kid.

I could quote you some more instances, but surely to heaven this is enough to show that few people indeed are worthy enough to have such unlimited power and control over a stranger's child, particularly so when there are such temptations to abuse the helpless as arise on our dairy farms.

Is this not enough evidence to prove that the boarding-out system is rotten to the core? If not, I shall gladly supply more facts similar to the above, which I can prove.

One more question: Why do all people who have State children try so hard to impress upon strangers that the State's wards are all lars, and cannot by ever such a fluke tell the truth?

A CONTRAST.

The following, from cable message recently published in the press, speak for themselves on the question of whether Prussianism is merely a matter of geography:

"A Berlin message says that Dr. Liebknecht, the Socialist leader and member of the Reichstag, has been SENTENCED TO TWO AND A HALF YEARS' PENAL SERVITUDE and dismissed from the army for attempted high treason, gross insubordination, and resistance against the authorities."

"Thirty conscientious objectors WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH in Great Britain for refusal to obey orders."

Every sub. gathered in for "Direct Action" is a brick in the structure of Industrial Democracy.

Who can say how the greater unionism, the real, supreme unionism, will come? Nobody, for none of us are prophets. But this we can say with certainty—that before the working class set out to construct it, they must be born again, as it were; that is, they must undergo a complete transformation of outlook and creed. It is waste of time for those who are slaves at heart to organise; indeed, for the workers in their present frame of mind to form industrial unions would be a tragedy, for it would mean the annihilation of such militant and intelligent sections as exist to-day at the hands of the great inert, slavish mob to whom unionism means only peace-cards and politics.

The unions that are to come must be organised to fight right on the job, and be organised for no other purpose. And their policy of fighting on the job must have proceeded from their grasping of the fact that the control of the job means the control of society. As long as men believe that the control of society depends wholly, or even in part, on the presence of a Government of Labor or Socialist politicians, they will not throw themselves into the job of organising industrially with the zeal and abandon requisite to success. For if a man believes he can get one thing by voting, he sees one reason less for organising. On the other hand, the day when the majority of working men no longer believe in ballot-boxes will mark the dawn of the revolutionary period. The yearly progress of capitalism can only affect the position of the workers adversely; it can only automatically lower their standard of living and increase the proportion of their product that they are obliged to hand over. They have been trying to defend themselves against this process for over a century, have never once stopped trying, never will stop, dare not stop.

And so, at no far distant date, when a blind man on a bolting horse will be able to read the utter bankruptcy of Labor in politics, the gospel of industrial solidarity must come to its own in full. Strikes will become more and more frequent—they are doing so already—and each defeat of a sectional strike will provide finger-posts pointing the way to power. In the past, when we used to see one union defeating another, most of us concluded that unionism had had its day; and we haven't done much in it since then, except for political purposes. But in the strenuous days to come, with the political illusion faded from our minds, the same spectacle must necessarily impress us quite differently. With unionism, our only hope, we dare not crush that last hope with our own heels. Of course, there will be problems—big ones at first. For instance, in one concrete industry, including 12 separate crafts, the policy of the sympathetic strike is soon found unworkable; because there might be 12 strikes in one year, and that would mean that each craft would be on strike 12 times, and only once directly for itself. The whole twelve must necessarily come together, make one comprehensive demand, and take one common action at one time. And if the constitutions of the various sections seem to forbid such an arrangement, they must be torn up. If the "vested interests" of the section appear to be placed in danger and resist, they must be ruthlessly overridden. These things must be done; they will be done, because there will be no alternative. Self-preservation is a law that knows of no evasion. We don't want to say that the crafts in the various industries will automatically pool their interests and merge into one. It is more likely that new organisations on the lines of the I.W.W. will come into existence at the same time as the disputes between them become big questions. Then, it is just a question of whether the old sections will come into line or be forced there. But whichever happens, the industrial strike is the thing that is coming. The form of it, shadowy and incomplete, has been pottering about on the horizon for a few years, and is lately more clearly defined, and not so ready to retire before the thunder of the politician. And when it does come to the fore and fasten to capitalism with its talons, then society at large will recognise the first existence of a definite economic force not anticipated or reckoned with by too many people.

(To be continued).

ANON.

"A girl clerk, aged 16, applied to the Newcastle, England, Munition Tribunal for a leaving certificate from the firm employing her. Objection was raised on the ground of indispensability, as the firm was training women to take the place of men, and the application was refused."

Surely the above reprint from a recent British publication, should be sufficient to demonstrate that it is not to obtain soldiers; but to enslave the workers, that conscription is being introduced.

The employers are crying out for more efficiency in the industries. They are turning facts into lies and figures into magic in order to make the workers believe that industries are being run at a loss.

Perhaps the following figures, (quoted in "Maoriand Worker") will be useful to you workers, and will go a long way towards proving how the poor employers are suffering loss on their industrial investments:—

The Moor Line Shipping Co. had a total profit for last year of £335,523, which is just about equal to its paid-up capital, and therefore represents 100 per cent.

The China Mutual Steam Navigation Co. this year paid a dividend of 106 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

The same Co.'s balance carried forward is increased from £81,047 to £201,367.

This Co.'s dividend for 1914 was also 106 per cent.

The Cairn Line Shipping Co. shows a gross trading profit of £292,108 for last year, as compared with £25,988 in 1914.

The addition to its carry-forward during 1915 appears to be in the region of another 100 per cent.

The patriotic British shipowners made a profit of £20,000,000 in 1913.

Despite the loss of many ships, they made £250,000,000 in 1915.

The same patriots now charge the British people from four to five times more freights than they had to pay two years ago.

The freight on food stuffs for the English people is £5 10s. for what cost £1 6s. 3d. prior to the war.

Freight charges on grain from the Atlantic ports to Britain is now 18s. 6d., as against 9s. 9d. in 1914.

The Rederiff Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Cardiff), whose subscribed capital is £100,000, and which owns four steamers of 26,800 tons total deadweight capacity, returns its total profits for 1913 at £117,943.

The Mercantile Steamship Co., London, had a net profit of £180,000 last year, as against £89,948 in 1914.

In 1915 the Southland (N.Z.) Frozen Meat and Export Co. reaped war profits amounting to £25,382, as against £5,992 in 1914, and £3,182 in 1913.

The National Bank of Scotland in 1915 announced net profits amounting to £250,080.

The Clan Steamship Line (British) this year declared a dividend and bonus equivalent to 30 per cent., compared with 10 per cent. last year.

The "Statist" estimates that after paying half of their surplus to the Treasury, the net gains of shipowners last year were 575 per cent. higher than in 1913.

Sherman was wrong. War isn't hell—for some capitalistic plunderers. It's profitable. Patriotism pays.

The profits of the Perdrin Rubber Co. (Sydney) jumped from £13,126 in 1913 to £32,353 in 1915.

The British Board of Trade "Labor Gazette" for February shows that the average increase of foodstuffs on Feb. 1 was 47 per cent. as against the July, 1914, prices.

Beef prices increased 36 to 66 per cent., mutton 29 to 70, fish from 106, flour 58, bread 51, tea 48, sugar 103, butter 33, eggs 70, cheese 37, margarine 10, potatoes 3.

Wages increased scarcely at all. Last year the Imperial Tobacco Co. also paid a 15 per cent. dividend, placed £1,000,000 to reserve, and paid an extra 4s. bonus per share.

The Imperial Tobacco Co. (Britain) paid 15 per cent. this year and a bonus of 5s. per share (both free of tax) on ordinary shares. The same Co. placed £1,000,000 to reserve, and carried £315,000 forward.

It's a great old time the Profiters are having robbing the people in war time.

There's money in the war situation for the vampires of trade.

Henry Tate and Sons, Ltd. (London) paid 25 per cent. dividend for 1915. War profits.

In one Cumberland iron ore mine alone, the British Government has been paying a royalty of no less than 8s. to 9s. a ton on every ton of stone raised for the purpose of making steel for military use.

Sir A. Markham says one owner alone is making £150,000 a year in royalties for this stone.

The profits of Pearson Law, Ltd. (Melbourne) increased from £1325 in 1912 to £7374 in 1914, and £6248 in 1915.

The profits of R. H. Gordon and Co., Ltd. (Sydney), increased from £11,495 in 1913, to £23,469 in 1914, and £20,368 in 1915.

The above figures reveal what enormous profits the capitalists are making out of this war. But still they are not satisfied, nor will they ever be. Their efficiency schemes are being introduced for the purpose of still further increasing their dividends. The workers are to be taught how every motion and every second can be converted into profits. If they are successful in their plans the workers will not have a moment's relaxation to relieve the monotony of their toil, which is essential to the worker's health, but not essential to profits. There is such an enormous surplus of workers that the

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"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. 360 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.

"SOLIDARNOSO."

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

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

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(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.

ROCKHAMPTON (Q.).

W. Jackson writes under date June 24, 1916:—During the past week I addressed two meetings on "Industrial Unionism," the first of which I held at Marmor, 27 miles from here, where nearly 100 workers are engaged in blasting, shovelling, and trucking limestone for the Mt. Morgan quarry. The second meeting was held at Gladstone (meatworks) School of Arts on Thursday evening, and on each occasion I received a splendid hearing. The workers were eager to further interest themselves in the new phase of unionism.

On each occasion I put the case for Barker, and motions were moved, seconded and carried unanimously, several speakers violently voicing their disapproval with the tactics of the present political tool of capitalism, the Minister for Defence. I secured a few submitters for "Direct Action" to carry on the fight on the job.

At each meeting members of the Engineers and Firemen's Association promised to place before their meeting the case for Tom Barker, and they had not the slightest doubt about the result.

Protests will continue to roll in from Central Queensland until our fellow-worker, who has so nobly served the cause of his fellow-workers, is released from gaol. Let us speed the day. I am sending along several subs. for the paper.

employers are growing indifferent so far as the health and lives of their slaves are concerned.

Efficiency in the industries, if reduced to its logical basis, means speeding up; speeding up means fewer jobs and a bigger unemployed army. A big unemployed army stands for low wages and insecurity for the working-class. The question resolves itself into this: Are the workers stupid enough to submit to a capitalistic scheme that is going to make their position still more precarious than it is? If not, then it is essential that the working class should begin to build up an organisation that will be powerful enough to make its members masters of the work-shops.

J.B.K.

The Universal Service League.

By AJAX.

On June the 28th the Universal Service League opened its campaign in the Sydney Town Hall. Some months ago there was an effort made by the same gentry to stampede the people into conscription. At the time their effort met with poor support, and aroused opposition; so they decided to lie low and support the recruiting movement; the former campaign was abandoned, ostensibly to give "voluntarism" a "fair chance."

On Wednesday the Universal Murder League broke out in a fresh place, and to the tune of God Save the King, the campaign was opened, with Professor W. MacCallum in the chair. In a long speech, in which no valid reason for conscription was expounded, the chairman was reported to have said: "The country must declare itself ready for the next strenuous discipline, the most absolute obedience, and the most unstinting self-sacrifice." Unfortunately, just who the country is was not explained, and as the rich are not prepared to make sacrifices for such metaphysical ideas as "Empire," we presume the chairman means the workers, not the shirkers. One would expect that an alleged learned professor in the twentieth century might at least express some lofty thought; but apparently the gentleman has nothing better to offer his audience than "the ideal of war."

The Archbishop of Sydney followed in the same strain, advising people to trust and obey the Government. Whatever opinion one may have as to the merits of Anglicanism as a soul saver, and however disappointed we may be with the ideals of some professors, it seems rather over the odds that the official representative and minister of "The Prince of Peace" should be mixed up in a Jingo swindle and publicly advocate murder. One trembles to think what Jesus will say when our moral sponsor shall stand before the throne of grace.

Another speaker, C. G. Wade, of Newcastle coal strike fame, tried to prove that conscription was democratic. He was as illogical and unconvincing on that point as he is when trying to expound the blessings of Liberalism. Unfortunately, he gave the game away in admitting that in Germany and other enemy countries the soldier lost his individuality and was mere food for powder. This is a serious slip, when we remember that this dictum applies to all conscript countries. Indeed, in France the conscription laws are more rigorous than in Germany. Conscription is the same in all countries; it is only a question of degree, and if we have conscription here the same evils will result, universal murder leaguers to the contrary notwithstanding. We had in the Coercion Act a sample of Wade's democratic ideals; an Act that was so iniquitous that even the Tory English "Times" severely criticised it. Wade as a conscriptionist is bad enough, but Wade in power, supported by a conscript law, would be too awful to contemplate. The atrocities of the Hun would pale into insignificance before Liberal legislation; for Wade has oft before been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

Professor McIntyre also spoke for the conscriptionists, and livened up the somewhat weak arguments by asking, "Was it anti-democratic to ask a man to give equality of duty, where there was equality of privilege?" Professors as a class practise inequality of privilege; further, a superficial glance at statistics shows great inequality of wealth, which implies inequality of privilege. According to official statistics, there are only about 300 people in Australia who have an income of £5000 a year. There are, roughly, 20,000 over £500 a year. Ninety per cent. of the population own nothing, while, if Mr. Knibbs' figures are anywhere near correct, the workers are working from 8 to 11 hours a day and are only paid for two. Even the sickly Sydney "Sun," which is very partial to conscription, and goes out of its way to write leaders against the anti-conscriptionists, printed recently an illustrated article depicting Sydney slums. The unjust distribution of wealth has an important bearing on the conscription issue, a point that the members of the Universal Murder League, being mostly rich men, find convenient to ignore.

One has only to look at the membership roll of the Universal Service League to understand their attitude—prominent sweaters, renegade politicians, and other undesirables, whose self-sacrifice is conspicuous by its absence; people who are interested in "capturing enemy trade" and ushering in a gigantic scheme of terrorism to conserve their class interests after the war.

Under conscription the worker becomes a mere thing—no longer a man—to be sent like sheep to the slaughter, to scab on other workers during industrial trouble, and to bludgeon his own class during a social upheaval. He may be ordered to shoot his father, scab on his brother, or be sent to Ireland or any other colony that demands self-govern-

ment—the thing Australians believe in. He might be ordered out to bludgeon the female suffragettes of England. Any murderous scabbie, vile job the authorities demand, and at their terms. All civil rights, political laws or moral ideas, are superseded by military law; as the Professor hinted, the people are to be under "the most strenuous discipline," which means slavery under military despotism.

These conscriptionists are mostly the same crowd who yell for "law and order," people who demand heavy penalties for those who violate the rights of private property, yet they themselves are brazenly advocating a form of terrorism against the people. Perhaps the Universal Murder League is the same society that the capitalist press denounce as "blood-thirsty anarchists."

Many of the workers, deceived by political prejudice and patriotic piffle, fail to realise the loathsomeness of conscription. Already the leprosy of militarism, owing to the ignorance and apathy of the public, is becoming rampant in Australia. The real significance of conscription lies in the fact that plutocracy wants a military machine to conserve and further its exploitation of the people. The curse of conscription should be loudly proclaimed from every street corner, chalked on every pavement, scribbled on every hoarding, and written in letters of fire on the habitation of every conscriptionist. In the latter case one should be careful that the house does not catch fire, because this might warm the conscriptionists' toes, which would be extremely inconvenient, as most of these gentry suffer from cold feet.

Not only is active propaganda desirable, but also action will be necessary. The unions against whom the blow is particularly aimed should react against the murderous crew. It is a biological law that if we will not react we must suffer. After all, the conscriptionists are only a small minority, who are attempting to enslave the community. No valid reason has yet been put forward for conscription; even the Minister for Defence said: "It was doubtful if conscription would enable Australia to send more men to the front." The best that can be said of conscription is that it is an ideal worthy of sweaters. No doubt there is money in it for lying editors, sham professors, prostituted pulpsters, and other charlatans who will prostitute their intellects to persuade the public to swallow the pill. It is probable that if these advocates of murder were made to realise that "the blood of conscriptionists be upon their own heads," we should find these gentry suddenly become afflicted with cold feet on the conscription issue.

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Troubled Seas.

A FORECAST.

"Wherever there's wealth to covet
Or lands that can be possessed."

—Labouchere.

On the Seven Seas there was commotion. The battleships of the System were cleared for action. Offered and manned by the exploiters of the five continents, the fleet appeared invulnerable. From east to west they came; from west to east they steamed, in search of an enemy.

Stately in her magnificence—boldly in the van—comes that superior super-dread-nothing, "Capitalism," the great fleet's flagship. She dreads nought, fears nought, and laughs the waves, the winds, the world to scorn. Huge in her bulk, the last word in industrial exploitation, she crows a world. She cleaves the rebellious waves with a majesty all her own. The fleet admiral, sleek, fat and complacent, paces the bridge. What has he to fear? In the wake of the mammoth flagship at respectful distances, steam the steel-armoured cruisers, "Trust" and "Exploitation." From their turrets float the flags of empires and world dominion.

A tiny disc—a mere shimmer in a shimmering sea—is observed by the laughing officer of the watch. Alas, too late! 'Tis a periscope.

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The terms of surrender or rescue: "The industries of the world for the producers."

"GO TO WORK."

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In the Western Ocean, as in the Pacific, the high-powered submarines "Solidarity" and "Industrial Worker" cruised successfully. Before their gunfire and torpedoes went down in rapid succession the mammoth dreadnoughts "Standard Oil," "Pittsburg," "California," "Colorado," "West Virginia," "Utah," "Michigan," and a host of smaller craft.

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Also in the blue seas of the Mediterranean and the sun-kissed ever-lapping waves of the Adriatic, "Il Proletario" (Italian), "Solidarnosc" (Polish), "A Barmunkas" (Hungarian) performed a duty worthy of the best naval traditions. A hundred ships of the System were demolished or surrendered on the inevitable conditions:

PRODUCE!

Smashing through the wind-lashed waves of the Bay of Biscay, and thence northward, thresh those irresistible destroyers of capitalism, "El Rebelde" (Spanish), "A Luz" (Portuguese), "Het Licht" (Flemish), "The Voice of the People" and "Solidarity." To their credit is due the destruction or surrender of a vast aggregation of piratical craft. To them is due the demolition of the dreadnoughts "System," "Capitalisation," "Surplus Value," "Special Privilege," "Private Property," "Sacred Rights," "Superstition," "Ignorance," and "Wage Slavery." Also those cruisers of the System which were known under the names of "Rent," "Profit," "Interest," "Politics" and "Charity." In addition went down the light cruisers "Ameliorative" and "Palliative," and many other small vessels of like calibre.

The terms of surrender:

"The Keys of Capitalism."

"The Industries of the World for the

Workers."

"GO TO WORK."

The last of the world's wars is over. Surrender or sink had been the slogan. Armaments are no more, and munitions of peace have replaced those of war. The Seven Seas are ploughed no longer by the bludgeoning ships of an effete plutocracy, but by craft bearing the uncommercialised exchange of necessary commodities. The System's mighty fleet is bottled up, nevermore to be uncorked. The exploiters, parasites and hangers-on that manned her ships HAVE GONE TO WORK.

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

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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, 8d.

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

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

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The master-class claim that the right to work hard is inherited by every "free born" worker. Don't seem as if they are ever going to deprive us of our inheritance.

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