

Hark! the 'Herald' Angels Sing: 'Slowing Down' Is Not the Thing!



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ONE PENNY

The Shearers Strike

The shearers and shed hands are still out fighting both the squatter and their own union officials. The reports coming in from the various centres say the men have not lost heart, but will fight on against all odds.

H. Williams, the delegate from Moree, took £10 back with him, and reports "men standing solid," but short of funds yet. J. B. King took the sum of £15 with him to the lads who are standing out for the advanced rates in the Wallgett and Coonamble districts. The sum of £5 was wired to the Chairman at Narrabri, leaving the sum of £2 7s. from the £32 7s. so generously subscribed in the Domain last Sunday week.

Two pounds was handed to me in the Domain yesterday by various sympathisers, which has been duly handed in, and during the week will be forwarded on to the striking shearers.

Fellow-workers, more funds are badly needed if these men are to win out; so send your odd bobs along. The local Shearers' Committee meets every Wednesday and Saturday nights in the I.W.W. Hall, in a room kindly lent for that purpose. All A.W.U. men are invited to attend.

A demonstration is to be arranged for next Sunday, if possible, in the Domain, with the object of appealing to the public for further assistance.

T. O'CONNOR, Hon. Sec.

SMITHERS, S.M.

On Monday, Fellow-workers Reeves and Beby appeared in the Central Police Court on charges of riotous behaviour and assault, arising out of the Domain disturbance on Sunday afternoon, when the I.W.W. meeting was broken up by the police.

Both fellow-workers asked for a week's remand in order to get witnesses in the case. When the request was made the presiding magistrate (Smithers) remarked, "Probably they want to go to the barracks and enlist." "I don't think so," replied the prosecuting sergeant. "No, they don't look like it," was the reply of this dispenser of "justice."

The case was remanded until the following Wednesday, but at time of writing (Wednesday morning) the result is unknown.

If the remarks made from the bench are to be taken as an indication, though, these fellow-workers are already "found guilty" before a word of evidence has been taken.

These remarks were entirely unwarranted, and in any other country but labor governed Australia, their author would probably be called upon for an explanation.

With the highest police official being granted "unlimited powers" to break up meetings, and magistrates who show their readiness to convict before a word of evidence is offered, one wonders whether degeneracy is not as much an attribute of our present society as it is of the countenances of some of the beaks who are allowed to sit in our "halls of justice"—and that is saying a lot.

MINERS' SPECIAL EDITION.

A Special Edition of "Direct Action" dealing with conditions in the mining industry will be issued on September 16th next. Writers from the various mining centres throughout Australia will deal with the subject in all its aspects, and the need for One Big Union in this department of industry will be dwelt upon. Rebels in the mining industry who desire to have something to say on this matter should immediately apply their talents in the decreed-to Editor, Box 98, Haymarket, Sydney, marked "Miners' Special Edition." We look to members in those mining districts where there are no I.W.W. locals to take bundles of this issue either for distribution or sale. Write at once and let us know what your order will be.

Our Critics

A SHORTER WORK-DAY. IS IT ADVANTAGEOUS?

A scribe named Wyatt Jones, in a recent issue of the "International Socialist," is very evidently annoyed over a recent article in "Direct Action" on the subject of a shorter working day. In that article emphasis was laid on the advantages of shorter hours of labor for the working class, both from the social and economic standpoint, and a little friendly criticism was levelled at the type of alleged socialist who declares that the struggle for shorter hours of labor is wasted effort.

The comrade of the Jones family is apparently one of this category, notwithstanding his demands, for he seems to take it as a personal matter, and views the "D.A." article as an attack on the effusions from his pen, which pass for economics in our Socialist contemporary. However, the cap may have fitted in this case, friend Wyatt may be relieved of any uneasiness on that score. Our article was not directed towards his modest pen, but at the class of socialist generally, who, we do repeat, assert that shorter hours of labor are of no advantage to the workers.

If Mr. Wyatt Jones cares to look up files of the "International Socialist" he will find those assertions there, just as they can be found from time to time in other alleged scientific socialist journals. Apparently convinced of the logic of our argument that shorter hours of labor are in every way beneficial, he hastily shifts his ground, and asserts that his intention is to controvert what he asserts is the I.W.W. teaching, that "if the hours of labor are shortened the master class will receive less surplus value, and so solve the unemployed." Willy Wyatt places this assertion between quotation marks, thereby making it appear as if it were taken from the article which he criticises.

The absurdity of accusing "Direct Action" of asserting that the master class will solve the unemployed problem!

This may be a little grammatical slip on his part, however. In any case, no where has this doctrine been taught by the I.W.W., neither in their press, platform, nor, as Jones asserts, "on a blackboard at their class." To say that a certain course of action will mitigate a certain evil can be construed as an assertion that it will be a complete solution of that evil only by an ignoramus or a wilful perverter of words.

Under the capitalist mode of production, with a given speed of the intensity of exploitation, a shorter work day must necessarily be advantageous to the workers, as well as making room in industry for a portion of the unemployed. If it be asserted that the same amount of surplus value will be produced owing to improved machinery, etc., the reply is that industries can not change their methods of production in a day, in a week, or in a year, and, consequently, during the transition period at least, less surplus value per head is being produced.

Shorter hours of labor, therefore, affect the unemployed problem to the workers' advantage, but do not solve it. It could only do the latter when the hours of labor were so short that the capitalist system of production for profit became impossible.

If Jones, as he states, "has always stood for shorter hours, as being beneficial to the working class in many ways," he should hasten to convert some of his comrades to his way of thinking. On his own showing, the I.W.W. needs no tuition on that score.

Illawarra Miners.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION MEETING AT WOONOONA.

A meeting was held at Woonoona on Saturday afternoon last, under the auspices of the local, Anti-Conscription League. A paddock had been previously engaged at Bulli, but the owner squibbed when a rumour was abroad that the soldiers were being organised at Kiama for the purpose of breaking up the meeting.

The meeting was ably chaired by H. Knight, secretary of the Coledale Miners' Lodge. The other speakers were Messrs. L. Jones and E. E. Judd (Anti-Conscription League), Mr. Patterson (Helensburgh), Mr. Matchell (R.W. and G.L. Association), T. Glynn and T. Barker (Industrial Workers of the World), and T. D. Mutch (P.L.L. Executive).

All the speakers received a very fine hearing, despite the interjections of a few well-circumstanced feather-bed patriots who did not shine at the gentle art of "chipping in." One of these was the boss of the local coke works. He arrived and left in an antiquated motor car of the type Year One. This person is of military age, well built, and intensely patriotic. But he is patriotic enough to send the other fellow to the front, and for his part is going to throw in a two-bob piece occasionally.

Another interjector is a local sky pilot, or fire-escape, who combines the "brotherly love" of the Nazarene with the duties of the local recruiting sergeant. This gentleman is another husky-looking patriot, who could turn his patriotism to a much more practical use.

The speeches delivered were on the militant side, and drastic action was suggested to meet the encroachments of the conscriptionists. One or two returned soldiers kept up a series of inane interjections, but the crowd bore them good-humouredly.

It is the intention of the Industrial Workers of the World to organise meetings there in the near future, and propagate the principles of the One Big Union.

At the close of the meeting strong resolutions were put to the meeting, and carried by a six to one majority. The feather-bed patriot parson hopped on the box, and moved a resolution of his own. That was promptly walloped out by the audience. The parson was hauled off the stump by the owner of the paddock, who had an objection to his property being disfigured by a stay-at-home patriot.

ANOTHER RAID.

On Friday, the 11th August, a raid was made by the police on the Trades Hall, Adelaide, and the A.W.U. Building, A.P.A. Rooms, and a news agency—were also visited. The object was to secure any copies of the Manifesto recently issued by the Aus. Trade Union Congress in Melbourne which might be about. Snowden's Open Letter to Hughes and other leaflets, as well as the current copy of the "Labor Call" and the "Barriery Truth" of August 7. A few of the first-named pamphlets were found at the Trades Hall, and for a short time it was a mystery as to who was the informer who had betrayed their whereabouts. Now, it is alleged, that T. B. Morry, Secretary of the Trades' Hall, must hear the responsibility for this act.

NEW STICKERS.

Numerous enquiries have been received of late for Sticker. 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.

The Domain.

Some months ago in a letter to the press concerning the breaking up of meetings in the Domain, the present writer stated that if the police were entirely withdrawn disturbances would cease. The proceedings last Sunday in the Domain fully justified that statement. Those responsible for these interferences with the right of free speech or free assemblage are never more obnoxious and rowdy than when a larger force of police are present, and whenever the former fail in breaking up a meeting the latter step in, and give them a hand in doing so.

Last Sunday, however, the police went even further. After they had stopped the P.L.L. meeting, which demonstrated against conscription, they stopped the I.W.W. platform, and two constables deliberately smashed it into matchwood.

A large force of "gentlemen" had, previous to this, endeavoured to rush the platform at least a dozen times, but were repulsed on each occasion. Again and again they rallied their forces, and rushed towards the speaker at various points, only to come up against a solid phalanx of I.W.W. men and their supporters, who had surrounded the platform. Despite the tense excitement which prevailed, not a blow was struck on either side, the "battle" taking the form of a trial of strength in pushing between both sides, a trial in which the "gentlemen" ultimately became so exhausted that they gave up the task in despair. This, of course, did not suit the ends of the zealous officer, who had charge of the police. On seeing the "gentlemen's" efforts to be futile, he gave an order to some 100 policemen to stop the meeting. They rushed in a body, pushed the speaker off the platform, and, after it had been broken up, they arrested two I.W.W. men (Fellow-workers Reeves and Beby), and charged them with riotous behaviour and assault on the police to justify their action.

Who is at the bottom of this dastardly attempt to suppress the right of public meeting? Certainly not the soldiers, not the rank and file of the policeman, not even Inspector-General Mitchell, insolently arrogant as he has proved himself to be. Inspector Nolan stated when remonstrated with by Fellow Worker Grant, stated that he was "CLOTHED WITH ILLIMITABLE POWERS." What did he mean? Labour Minister Black is in charge of the Police Department of New South Wales. Has Black delegated "illimitable powers" to a police official, and are public meetings only to be held when the opinions expressed meet with the approval of Inspectors of Police? If this be the case, then the I.W.W. will be obliged to resort to more drastic measures in the future in order to show Mr. Black and the capitalist class of this country, whose dirty tool he is, that free speech is not a gift to be graciously bestowed or ruthlessly taken away to suit the whims of a police officer.

We intend to have free speech in the Domain at all costs. We do not want the protection of Black's police, even if that "protection" was of a different order to that hitherto exhibited. We intend to protect our speakers from violence, no matter what kind of uniform is worn by those who are paid to try and muzzle them, and we shall stop at nothing in doing so. Let Mr. Black take warning, and let the Labor politicians who put him in his present job remember that when they are out vote-hunting in the streets of Sydney in a few months, the uniformed hooligans of the Domain, and the treachery of the Labor Government generally, will not be forgotten by the I.W.W. T.G.

DIRECT ACTION

Books I have Read.



WEEKLY
OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF
THE WORLD.
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Washington Street, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

ELOQUENT FIGURES.

The figures for 1915 in the manufacturing industries of Victoria fully bear out the contention of those who maintain that every increase in productivity means an increase in the unemployed, and justify the slow-down propaganda to any worker of normal intelligence.

Hard facts are more educative than any amount of theorising, so we recommend these figures to the attention of all workers who take an interest in the welfare of their class, and, incidentally, to the attention of alleged Labor writers in our alleged Labor newspapers.

In 1913 there were 118,744 workers employed in the manufacturing establishments of Victoria, and the value of their output was £47,936,647; in 1914, 118,399 were employed, value of output £49,439,985, which means that with 345 workers less than in 1913, the value of the manufactured products were increased approximately by a million and a half pounds. The figures for 1915, however, are still more eloquent. In that year the number of workers employed had fallen to 113,834, but the yearly value of the output had increased to £51,466,093. In other words, though over 5000 fewer workers were employed than in 1913, the exploiters reaped about three and a half million pounds extra out of the labor of those employed.

Very evidently the workers of Victoria, notwithstanding the howls of their exploiters to the contrary, have not yet grasped the significance of the I.W.W. gospel of slowing down. It would rather appear as if the bosses in that year put forth special endeavours in the speeding-up line, endeavours which were cloaked by the hypocritical shrieks of their mental prostitutes on the press, and the sanctimonious wails of politicians and parsons, anent the "immoral" I.W.W.

Another significant lesson to be gathered from these figures is that the falling-off in the number of employed workers chiefly affected males, more than 80 per cent. of those "laid off" belonging to that sex. This is quite comprehensible when it is mentioned that the average weekly wage for males in 1915 was £2.9s 6d. (and let it be remembered that the salaries of highly paid managers, superintendents, etc., are included in the figures from which averages are made), while the average weekly wage for females was 19s 4d.

What is just of as much importance for the workers to learn, however, is that their present system of organisation is year by year more effectually showing its impotency in maintaining their standard of living. The prices of the necessities of life are at least 50 per cent. higher to-day than in 1913. Trade unionism, sectional organisation, has not alone miserably failed to counteract the effects on the working-class of increased efficiency in production by speeding-up schemes and other methods, but it has allowed the standard of living of those employed to deteriorate fearfully in the same period. Even this state of affairs appears not to satisfy the official representatives of unionism, for, as mentioned in "Direct Action" recently, they are

now contemplating sending delegates with employers' representatives to the United States for the purpose of investigating more effective methods of exploitation.

Trade union officialdom has in and out of season joined in the chorus of capitalist abuse and condemnation of those who advocate restricting the output as one method of counteracting the tendency of the exploiting class to increase their profits at the expense of thousands of unemployed.

Slowing-down has never been advocated by the I.W.W. as a road towards final emancipation, but as a weapon for resisting further exploitation on the job. When we find the spokesmen of what is mistakenly called "organised Labor" raising their hands in holy horror at this comparatively mild idea, the workers may guess what to expect at their hands when any aggressive forward movement is suggested towards securing control of industry and the full product of their labor.

Even if we did not have the figures of the capitalists themselves to prove it, the experience of the workers for the past few years, in their strikes and struggles with the employers, calls loudly for a more up-to-date system of organisation. The form of organisation and the tactics and methods advocated by the I.W.W. can alone be successful in the every-day struggle with the employing class. Trade unionism is obsolete; its officials are necessarily reactionary. From the rank and file of the workers themselves must come the ideas and the necessary power to establish an economic system where figures of production will be tabulated to mark the prosperity of the producers as a whole and not the robbery of the many by the few.

THE HIGH PRICE OF PAPER.

By J. Z. J.

The existence of world-wide schemes for the complete enslaving of the workers is so probable, and the evidence of the activity of capitalism and its agents so plain, that to dispute the fact that we are at present menaced by the most appalling danger, is scarcely possible.

Among the several phases of the campaign being waged against us, the opposing attempts to control and direct public opinion take foremost place. The institution of a public press, no matter how carefully controlled, involved a certain amount of liberty to express opinions and ideas not favorable to capitalist interests, and the question of presenting such expression has no doubt been given careful thought. In business circles there is frequently brought into play a method known as "freezing out," and present evidence goes to show that this method of excluding competitors by increasing the cost of running is being brought into play against the revolutionary press.

The poverty of the workers prevents them from expending large sums on press and paper, and a further increase of poverty, coupled with the increased cost of printing material, must seriously handicap us in our efforts to utilise the press as a means of propaganda. In the absence of any reasonable explanation of the enormously increased, and still increasing, cost of paper, it is logical to believe that "freezing out" tactics are being used against us.

Believing this to be so, it follows that the most energetic use must be made of the press while it remains to us, for should capitalism's schemes be carried out in their entirety, we will find ourselves reduced to the level of the workers of the middle ages, when almost inconceivable ignorance was the rule, and greed and cruelty were supreme.

It is far from desirable that descendants of the present workers should have to repeat the long and toilsome climb from the darkness of what is historically known as the "long night," to the comparative enlightenment of the present time.

Hard as it is to conceive the elimination of the press and its publication from our lives, the possibility of it has been pointed out by different writers, one of whom describes a public gramophone, installed in different parts of the city to below the latest news in the ears of the passing crowd. Whether such fancies ever become realities or not the existence of schemes against our freedom of expression, whether by speech or press is too obvious to be treated lightly.

Don't barrack for peace. Demand an industrial system that will guarantee it.

Watch out for the Miners' Special Edition of "Direct Action" on September 16.

III.
INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY AND ITS
ANTIDOTE.

Industrial efficiency is a vital question at the present time.

T. Glynn, the author of the book mentioned above, tells us that, at the Bethlehem (U.S.A.) Steel Works, scientific management (otherwise known as "speeding up") raised the output of iron per man from 16 to 59 tons; and the aggregate wages bill was cut down by about 80,000 dollars per annum.

The result of this bright and brainy spurt on the part of the workers was that about 50 per cent. of them were sent to swell the "capitalist reserve army," the unemployed.

In regard to the boss's demand for "speeding up," the author asks a very pertinent question: "If it is a fact," he says, "that wages are determined by the productivity of labour, why is it that in the last half-century, when the productivity of labour (by new discoveries and inventions) has been increased one hundredfold, the great mass of workers are still getting but the bare means of subsistence, and living in constant dread of the bread line?"

The Australian worker is receiving to-day a smaller proportion of his product than ten years ago.

Increases in productivity caused by increased efficiency, longer hours of labour and new inventions have no internal relation whatever to the laws governing wages.

The author brings forward many cogent arguments, and advances many striking reasons, why industrial efficiency is not a question about which workers need lose sleep.

"Every minute worked over and above the time actually required to reproduce wages, every time a worker hastens across the floor of the factory when he might walk more leisurely, every time a machine is oiled when it ought to run hot, every device of the capitalist class for improving efficiency, but hastens the coming of the time when workers will find themselves on the street corner, the upitied wretches of a system that rewards them for their industry by starving them.

What is the answer to the demand for industrial efficiency?

"The answer to the Industrial Efficiency cry," says the author, "lies in an immediate agitation for a shorter workday, combined with the intelligent adoption of 'Ca Canny' and other methods of Sabotage on the job. This is vitally necessary for all workers, irrespective of their beliefs as to methods of organisation, political, religious, or racial prejudices. The Surplus Value of the capitalist class must be curtailed, for its very increase strengthens the bonds of slavery. 'Scientific Management' on the part of the capitalist class must be met by 'Scientific Sabotage' on the part of the workers."

It is urgently necessary that workers shall be fully alive to their interests at this critical period in working class history.

"Industrial Efficiency and Its Antidote" (I.W.W. price 2d.) is a book calculated to help the working class to make up its mind on this question.

"Preparedness" is in the air at the present time. Workers! be you prepared (by study, investigation, and action on the job) to counteract and render nugatory the insidious attacks now being made by the master class upon your interests in the name of "Industrial Efficiency."

A. E. BROWN.

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.

"The worker cannot afford to have too many feelings for the community till the community develops feelings for him; till then, it is even good that the consumer should sometimes suffer for the injustice he allows to go on. The consumer is not the innocent third party he is often represented as being; he is the exploiters' accomplice before the fact."—G. D. H. Cole.

If all Private Jim McSpadden says be true, the Returned Soldiers Association is going to be a fine asset to the exploiters of Australia in the future. Private Jim, in an interview with a representative of the Cairns (Q.) "Post," expresses some strong remarks about those terrible people who go on strike for better conditions in war-time. "One day when I was in the trenches," he tells the representative, "one of our sergeants was reading a paper from home, and he told us there was another strike on. He asked us what we would do if we would only get at the strikers, and the chorus in reply was, 'drive our bayonets through them.' 'When the war is over,' he adds, 'strikers need expect no consideration from the returned soldiers.' We have a shrewd suspicion, though, that 'Private Jim McSpadden' only exists in the imagination of the editor of the 'Post,' and the 'humane' wish as to how strikers should be treated by soldiers fathered the thought in his degenerate cranium. Nevertheless the R.S.A., up to the present has shown itself to be a tool of the sharks and vultures who thrive on war.

"FREE ELECTORS" SABOTAGED.

"The best way to sabotage the boss is at the ballot box," remarks the Maori-land "Worker," recently. Elsewhere in the same issue we are told that the politicians in New Zealand have secured themselves in their jobs by prolonging the life of the present Parliament till six months after the war. The franchise is sure some weapon in these days.

"NO INFLUENCE." WHY WORRY?

Replying to a question about the I.W.W. in Parliament last week, Premier Holman got the following off his chest:—

"Certain inquiries which I caused to be set on foot some time ago have not yet been completed, but I hope to be able to give the honourable member some further information shortly. The organisation is not an influential one, and its doctrines are repudiated by the good sense of all but an inconsiderable section of the community."

What more consoling information could any "honourable member" want? Ever since Holman announced in New Zealand a few months ago, the death of this "inconsiderable section" its ghost would appear to have haunted him somewhat. If he was inclined to be superstitious at all, he would leave it alone.

Long hours and short wages are the cause of most of the workers' troubles.

An excuse to introduce cheap labor is at the bottom of the Conscription campaign.

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.

Broken Hill Notes.

Thing in general have been brisk in Broken Hill consequent upon the strong agitation against Conscription which is being carried on in Labor circles here.

The committee of the recently-formed A.C.A. had decided to hold a meeting in Argents-street on Friday night, August 4th. Consequent upon a difference of opinion between the A.C.A. and the I.W.W., the latter were not well represented when the anti-Conscription meeting took place. According to "Barrier Daily Truth" only nine members of the A.C.A. were present at the beginning of the meeting. However, the Chairman, Mr. Brookfield, opened the meeting, but it was apparent that there was an element in the crowd determined to break up the meeting. A rush was made upon the platform, which was overturned, and in the melee which ensued F. W. Sinclair, of the A.C.A., was arrested. Subsequently a rush was made towards the I.W.W. hall at the other end of the street, and here the police arrested F. W. Brookfield. Although there were only six persons inside the I.W.W. hall, the crowd contented themselves with throwing stones at the windows, and soon afterwards dispersed.

Next morning another incident took place which should show the worker how great a thing is British liberty. The cases of Brookfield and Sinclair were heard, the charge in each case being one of riotous behaviour. F. W. Brookfield, who, upon the evidence of Inspector Miller, Chief of Police, was innocent of any attempt to provoke riot or disorder was bound over by Stipendiary Magistrate Shaw to keep the peace for 12 months for the crime of defending himself from a mob of hooligans. F. W. Sinclair asked for the hearing of his case to be remanded until the following Saturday, which was granted.

The usual Saturday evening propaganda meeting of the I.W.W. was held at the usual place and time, the speakers being F. W. Mark Anthony and Peter Larkin. The E. Pire Leaguers must have realized that it is one thing to break up a meeting conducted by like men and quite another thing to adopt the same tactics where several hundred men are organised to hold a meeting, or know the reason why; they were conspicuous only by their absence or their silence. The meeting was conducted without hitch, and the speakers expounded the doctrine of the I.W.W. to a crowd numbering several thousands. The meeting closed with the singing of "The Red Flag," "Should I ever be a Soldier" (three cheers for the I.W.W., for the A.C.A., and what sounded very much like groans for those responsible for the hooliganism of the previous night). Next day, Sunday, a public meeting was held in Argents-street at 3.30 p.m., which was attended by every available member of the I.W.W., A.M.A., A.C.A., and other working class bodies in Broken Hill. F. W. Larkin, who was in the chair, stated that the meeting had been called to discuss the Conscription issue, and that the platform was open to anyone who wished to speak upon the subject, either for or against. He then called upon several leading Conscriptionists to address the meeting, but although some of them were in the vicinity they apparently were not anxious to do so. (This being the case F. W. Larkin threw the meeting open to the other side, and the meeting was subsequently addressed by Messrs. Brookfield, Considine, Sinclair, and O'Reilly.)

At the close of the meeting a collection was taken up on behalf of the striking shearers in the Moree and Bourke districts.

In the evening the usual propaganda meeting was held, at the close of which F. W. Larkin addressed a crowded house in the I.W.W. Hall on "The Life of an Agitator."

Collections taken up for Moree and Bourke during the week-end realised over £13.

FRANK F. WARD.

MELBOURNE.

Sure and steady improvement all round is the keynote of last week's activities of Melbourne local. Our propaganda meeting on the Bank was a huge success, not only from the standpoint of numbers, but also from an educative and financial point of view. Fellow-workers Alf Wilson, Jock Wilson, and Percy Laidler were the main speakers, with Fellow-Worker Jeffery in the chair. An appeal was made by the chairman for subs. for "D.A." and as a result nine quarterly subs. were handed in to the Fellow Worker going round the crowd. We hope to be able to repeat same performance every Sunday.

Our Friday night outdoor meeting met with just fair success. F.W. Farral and Jeffery were the speakers. "D.A." subs. were only moderate. This meeting could be made much better if fellow workers turned up in bigger numbers so as to form a nucleus for a crowd, etc.

The long and persistent efforts made by Local to get suitable central headquarters have at last been crowned with success, as a fairly large hall at 197 Russell-street (corner of Little Bourke-street) has been secured to carry on the future activities of this Local. This week members are hurrying themselves cleaning and shifting from our old place, and getting things spick and span for Sunday night, when the first lecture will be delivered. Percy Laidler filling the bill. A syllabus of lectures is being arranged, and we are practically assured that the first seven lectures will be by members of the I.W.W. This puts us in a position of being almost independent of outside help, so far as lecturers are concerned.

It is anticipated that things will hum in Melbourne now that a large room is available for use by Local 8. As with all concerns, preliminary expenses are pretty high, but with the concentrated effort and enthusiasm of members, all debts, etc., can easily be met.

Just at present the rebels are looking out for Tom Barker's visit to Melbourne. A great welcome is assured him, and Local 8 is going to put the best foot forward to make his short sojourn in Melbourne a happy and successful one in every respect.

Conscription is again the benediction of the "Age" and "Argus," and other pestiferous muckrakers that infest Melbourne. At present "Little Billy" is making a "hell" of a noise about nothing in particular, but as usual we are assured that he is a "great" statesman, and is serving the "hempire" well. From reliable sources it is learned that nobody went mad with joy over the "Bengal Tiger's" return, except it be the newspaper boys. Their perceptible dizziness, however, is explained by the odiferous effluvia arising from the newspapers which had distributed accounts of "Billy's" career. At any rate the I.W.W. will deal with "William" all in good time, so he will have to look to his enguels as our motto is—"Australia for the I.W.W."

NORMAN JEFFERY.

UNION EFFICIENCY URGENTLY NEEDED.

(A. MACK.)

The day has at last arrived when the working class of this country must choose between fighting its way forward to Freedom and slipping back into a state worse than Serfdom.

The economic development of the Capitalist system during the last few years has been so rapid and so efficient that both the masters and the workers are now facing the greatest crisis of modern history.

It yet remains to be seen whether the working class will emerge from the coming combat with the material for the co-operative Commonwealth in its possession, or whether the rulers will once again be supreme, and fashion a new world in their own image, and once again nail the workers to the cross of degradation.

The future happiness of our class depends on swift, scientific ACTION; industrial organisation embracing the opportunity now offering can lift us towards an era of liberty unknown to us throughout all the centuries of civilisation; while stupidity and indecision will condemn us to centuries more of misery, perhaps worse than that we have suffered so long. It is widely recognised that the economic foundations of the race are an index to the obtaining social order, and that until these foundations are changed no alteration in human society is possible. These changes have occurred in the past, and then the social superstructure has transformed. Glancing through the last few thousand years we note that with the enslavement of man by man the bright and glorious cycle of civilisation began with its workers' chattel slaves; technical advance brought about the introduction of the system of Feudalism, and this in turn gave way to our present "wages" system or Capitalism; but it will be noticed that the workers during all the civilised centuries have been slaves under one form or another, and the evinced pride and pleasure of the masters at the mention of the word "civilization" is probably due to the fact that it marks the period of human parasitism.

We see, however, that twice before, a crisis somewhat similar to the one now confronting us has occurred, and in each case the ruling class won out, and remained the ruling class under a new order of their own design; still that could not have been otherwise, for the means of production were too crude to permit of their successful co-operative control. Such is not now the case, for the Capitalist growth has through the medium of the machine so organised the workers that almost every particle of wealth is now collectively produced. The overthrow of Capital-

ism and the building of the next social structure has long been claimed the historic mission of the working class, and now that all wealth production is a collective process, it will be seen that the building of the next social state, which demands only the collective ownership, control, and use of the means of production, should not be a very revolutionary step. All that is required to "ring in a thousand years of peace" is efficiency in our organisation, backed by a determination to get what we want: let us build up the industrial unions and the day and the world are ours. From a recognition of this appalling danger arises the present uneasiness of the master class; and from it also arises the unceasing efforts of capital's spokesmen and flunkies to smash our efforts by martial order and thence plunge us headlong and helpless into the vortex of industrial serfdom they are preparing behind the scenes.

Where is the slave, so lowly,
Condemned to chains unholy,
Who, could he burst
His bonds at first,
Would pine beneath them slowly?

The Shearers Strike

SHEARERS DISGUSTED AT THEIR OFFICIALS. To Direct Action.

Fellow Worker,—For the benefit of our fellow workers who are on strike in other centres, I will ask you to publish those few lines, as it is only through Direct Action that it can be done. We are attacked by the daily Press and also by our so-called official organ, "The Worker," a rag in which the critics' page is owned solely for the officials: other members need not apply. But we need not expect anything from a set of officials whose only care is to give themselves a big salary and first class fares while travelling, and then join hands with the master to keep the rank and file down to a wage level that is impossible to live on. However, the rebel spirit of the toilers is rising and the union bosses are just waking up to the fact that their services will not be required much longer. They are hanging on like a drowning man to a straw, and their only hope is in trying to blacken the name of some of the men concerned in the strike whose only offence is trying to gain better conditions for themselves and fellow-toilers. With all the opposition, I think we are going to win a part of what is ours by right in all those centres. In those parts the men are preparing for a solid stand. There are a few sheds shearing here, in most cases with only three or four shearers, and those men have all promised to sign up for no more. Right from Cobarr to Moree is one mass of fighters, and while the workers stand solid we have nothing to fear from the pastoralists or our beloved A.W.U. The response from I.W.W. to the Midkin men has been admired by all the toilers and won't be forgotten in a hurry. The fact of our own union fighting us, and your generous gift to the Midkin men, has engendered a spirit in the minds of most toilers out this way that will be hard for the A.W.U. officials to put out.

E. GILL.

Bushman's Home, Bourke.

Bushmen's Home, Moree.

8/8/16.

The Sec. I.W.W.

Fellow Worker,—I have been instructed by the committee of the shearers and shepherds to write conveying our deepest thanks for your goodness to our delegate, Mr. Williams, and also what you have done for us in our present trying position.

I might tell you that things never looked better for us, and we hope very shortly to come out "with flying colours." We are looking forward to the next visit of Mr. King, and I can assure you he will get a very hearty reception.

Again thanking your people,—Yours fraternally,

J. HARTLEY, Chairman,

P. F. SCOTT, Hon. Sec.

TWO VIEWS OF WORK.

"To look upon work as a task to be disposed of as quickly as possible is a shortcut to failure." This is not a quotation from an I.W.W. paper, but from an article in "The Australian Manufacturer" of July 8. It was meant for the boss. The same writer says, "the employee who lies down on the job is really biting off his own nose." That was meant for you, working stiff.

The I.W.W. 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."

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 Hollis St., Baltimore, U.S.A.

"HET LIGHT."

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

"IL PROLETARIAT."

(The Proletariat.)

Italian. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. Gen. Del. Hannover 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.

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 243 William Street. Monday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting. SPEAKERS' CLASS: WEDNESDAY, 8 P.M. 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."

One Big Union in the Mining Industry. Issue of September 16 will tell you all about it.

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.
Brisbane, Local No. 7.—Secretary-Treasurer, G. E. Bright, Redfern-street, Woolloom-Gabba, Brisbane, Q.
Perth, Local No. 10.—Secretary-Treasurer, A. Westbrook, Victoria Park, East Cairns (Russian), Local No. 12.—Secretary-Treasurer, W. Yudaeff, Box 201, Cairns, N. Q.

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.

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.

Postal Workers

WAKE UP AT LAST.

(By "Pole Climber").

Notwithstanding the gibes thrown at the tollers employed in the Public Service of the Commonwealth, re their lack of moral courage, etc., the Linemen's Union has just had the audacity to demand that their salaries shall be increased and that the department shall grant them reforms peculiar to their job. When I say the union, I do not intend it to mean that the higher paid "Johnnies" within its ranks favoured the proposal, but they did not dare to openly oppose it, although they endeavoured to side track members on the ground of constitutional objections.

Now a few remarks upon the demands made on Webster of the Iron Jaw will serve to show that a more militant and direct policy should be advocated amongst the low paid pole climbers, and indeed in very branch of Mr. Webster's service. The postal workers, like all others, have been gulled by that greatest of all sops thrown to the worker—Arbitration. The writer was an arbitrator, firmly believing that this self-same dope was the long looked for panacea for all our troubles. Disillusionment has quickly been my lot, and when I take another dose of this kind I will be sure that the toller will not be valued on what it costs to keep him just able to earn more profits for master. No matter what designation your employer may fasten to himself, he is master all the same, whether he be a private person or a Labor Government.

I am digressing, but many poor beggars think that a Government job is the greatest job one can have. Let me disillusion them. Now when you get this job you have to pay 7/6 to go through the exam, besides doing the hardest day's work of your life. With a cunningness which the outside employer must envy, the examination sets one man against his brother to delve in the ground, swing the axe and adze, clamber up poles, and bullock for eight solid hours. He that bullocks hardest, of course, gains the most marks for the examination is competitive. The pass marks are half of the total marks that are laid down, and even though a man be entirely new to the work, if the examiner thinks he is a good enough bullocker he just lets him through. All this for a princely salary of £138 per annum, or 8/10 per diem of 8 1/2 hours.

This munificent sum is paid for one year when the toller obtains an increment of 2/6 a year, if he has pleased his superior officers and has not been caught under the many regulations manufactured by the well paid heads to protect themselves. Scientific sabotage, in fact.

Out of his princely income the regulations enforce that he shall insure himself for an amount not less than £150, to draw at sixty. The writer has made inquiries amongst his fellows, and from their answers he has struck an average an it amounts to £9 5s yearly, thereby reducing the salary to £129 per annum.

Now, roll up, you down and out, for a Government job. These conditions apply to the whole general division. So come along and grab these jobs; you'll be able to live two-thirds of the year on the salary.

We are demanding £162 per annum; no work with non-unionists; reforms regarding insurance and the reinstatement of a fellow-worker victimised by the department. Also we demand our fares when working away from our usual place of work.

This is a start and we are causing some trouble to the powers that be, as they are shifting themselves some, and are moving the Arbitration Court. The resolution embodying these demands was carried unanimously by the largest meeting ever held in the union's history. Though we are not sufficiently organised its good to find the fighting spirit predominant.

Kindred unions within the Postal service have assured us of their intention to give us their material and moral support.

Now a word, re organisation. The one big union idea was never a greater want than it is to-day. Within the Postal service there are no less than 13 different organisations, each intent on its own particular fleecible. There is no central organising and fighting executive. No co-ordination among these unions even politically, there are manifest differences and what is more lamentable, although somewhat amusing, there is a great difference socially in the minds of those who are in the clerical and professional divisions. Each and every branch of this service, which embraces 20,000 workers has something in common, and there should be no divisions in any matter. Sectional committees could be formed to advise a central executive on any matter peculiar to any section. For instance, take the telegraph and telephone services, comprising telegraph operators, telephone operators, mechanics, and linemen. In the main. Here we have four different branches of the service, though each and every one is absolutely dependent on the others in the successful working of these services. Naturally

one would think that these branches and parts of the whole were unionistically bound together for aggressive and defensive purposes, but such is not the case, and there is at present no cohesion at all.

In fact, we hardly know one another. And where any matter affecting the whole is at stake each and everyone of these sectional organisations works on its own, and naturally the powers that be have in a sense no sustained pressure put upon them. It has been known for a different answer to be made to different unions on practically the same matter submitted.

Now, you postal slaves, get the One Big Union idea into your heads, and for your own sake work and inculcate this idea amongst those with whom you work. Do it on the job, and do it every day. Insinuate your ideas upon those whom you deem to be most susceptible to them. The brains are there; they are waiting to be exploited. Dissatisfaction is rampant; sow your seeds now. Pick out the young ones, and once you get them interested do not fear for the result. Most postal workers think they are a dead lucky crew. Get that out of their heads. Organise and put the idea of One Big Union amongst the most downtrodden ones. Go gently for a start, and be sure you have your facts marshalled. Show these poor discontented postal slaves how the great and beneficent Labor Government scientifically sabotages them every day with bundy clocks, sections 40 and 46, and the numerous regulations and circulars. Show him the power for aggressive purposes he would have if the postal service combined and forced from their masters some of the reforms we have been agitating for sectionally for years.

Linemen, mechanics, telephone, and telegraph operators, now is your chance. Even Billy Webster can see the need of it; for the sake of the under-dog get a move on. You have had the name of crawlers, spongers, and lickspittles long enough. Show to the public you have the guts. Combine and you shall have complete control of the job. Remember, union is strength, and a chain is of no use with missing links. Join up, and remember the words of Karl Marx, "Workers, unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain."

WAGE WORKERS AND TAXATION.

Taxation, the high cost of living, and who pays for the cost of the war, are topics that interest the politician in Parliament, the fellow who wants to get there, the business men, farmers, and those who go to make up the exploiting class of the capitalist system. In addition to the above, labor men who represent labor bewail the fact (as they claim) the present administration is not putting taxation on the right shoulders.

We are not interested in the quarrel between the "feudal-minded," land-owning and the modern commercial exploiters as to which section shall pay the lion's share for the war of their own creation; that is their business. When we hear Labor men making statements that wages are taxed, we should have the explanation where and how.

It is essential that the representatives of labor should state definitely if the workers are exploited on the job by the employer who buys their labor power, or at the shop where he buys the necessities of life; on those points taxation must stand or fall as a working-class remedy.

The fundamental principles laid down in working-class economics is: First, that labor power applied to the natural resources is the creator of all values; secondly, that the "socially necessary" labor time embodied in a commodity determines its value; third, that commodities, generally speaking, exchange at their value in a world market. The law of supply and demand so operates that commodities may exchange above or below their value. This can only be temporary, for if commodities are sold below their value capital is withdrawn from that industry and less of these commodities are produced; if commodities are sold above their value, more capital is invested and a greater number of those commodities is produced, consequently in either case the market again becomes normal and these commodities are again sold at their value. Fourth, labor power is a commodity, and as such is exchanged on the labor market at its value; labor power is subject to the law of supply and demand like other commodities. If there is a scarcity of labor, wages rise, the worker can demand more than the subsistence level; in other words, his standard of living is raised. When the labor market is over-supplied, there is a tendency for wages to fall, and the worker's standard of living is lowered. This, too, is only temporary; for if the price of labor is high in a district, labor will naturally flow in that direction; on the other hand, if the price of labor power is low, labor will withdraw until the labor market is again normal. Trade Unionism is a factor in preventing labor from selling below its value, and was the principal cause for trade unions being established.

Now, if commodities exchange at their

value, i.e., the "socially necessary" labor time embodied in them, labor power is also a commodity, and its value is determined by the "socially necessary" labor time in keeping labor efficient to produce more wealth and reproducing its kind. Will not labor power exchange in direct relation with other commodities? If the commodities necessary for the upkeep of labor rise in value, will not the value of labor power also rise correspondingly? This is proved by the fact that in countries where commodities are cheap, labor is also cheap; if commodities values are high, the value of labor power is also high.

If labor power is exchanged at its value, where, how, and to what extent are the workers exploited? The workers are exploited where they produce—on the waterfront, field, shop, factory, or mine. When we sell our labor power, or when labor power is applied to the raw material, commodities are produced, and the rate of exploitation is the difference between the amount paid in wages and the money value of those commodities when put on the market. According to Bulletin of Labor Statistics, U.S.A. (1911), only 17 1/2 per cent. of the entire product of labor was paid in wages; 82 1/2 per cent. being surplus value (or unpaid labor time), appropriated by the owners of the commodities, labor produced. It is at this point in capitalist production the workers must find the remedy; labor must have more of that surplus value. This can be done by organising industrially so that labor can get increased wages, shorter hours, and better conditions generally.

Where, then, does "taxation of wages" come in, and by what method is it imposed? What is the money derived from (taxation principally used for? Is not the greater part of it used to build and for the upkeep of navies, armies, police, law, and courts, judges, jails, and all that repressive force which protects the wealth stolen from the working-class? Taxation at best can only be a temporary relief; it is not a working-class problem and can well be left to amateur economists, and small shopkeepers. To use an "Americanism," SCISSORBILLS and COCKROACHES. You cannot emancipate the working-class by abolishing the customhouse.

This may be all good theory, say the labor representatives, but what about monopolies? Do they not inflate prices? Well, cannot we stop them by legislation, direct action, or any other method under the present system? Every student of industrial history knows that monopolies, trusts, etc., are the logical outcome of the competitive capitalist system, and are necessary for efficient organisation of capitalist production; they have a function to perform.

Taxation will not hurt monopolies—he that owns has economic control.

The working-class must combat the monopolies, and by superior organisation only can they do it. Let Labor organise the greatest of all monopolies—THE INDUSTRIALLY-ORGANISED GIANT LABOR TRUST. The brain and muscle of labor has created all wealth, the workers must organise as a class to socially own, and democratically control, the industries and the wealth they have produced.

Let our motto be: THE WORLD'S WEALTH FOR THE WORLD'S WORKERS. —"The Watersider" (N.Z.).

E. Sills writes from Canberra:—

I see by "Direct Action" where Theodore, Acting-Premier of Queensland, is kicking the man that made him. I happen to know this Theodore, and remember the time a few years ago when he was doing his bit in the Vulcan Mine, Queensland. He wriggled from miner to organiser of the A.W.U., a much nicer job than working in the bowels of the earth gouging out tin for John Moffat and Coy. From organiser he was selected to contest Parliamentary honors with another one-time Labor man, by the name of Mick Woods. He was elected for this district, and now here he is trying to fit the shackles on his one-time comrades and creators, but, Theodore, "every dog has his day," and yours is to come.

Things at Canberra are very shaky at present; slaves seeking a master would do well to shy clear of this place. The sewerage works have been shut down, throwing a considerable number of men out of employment. Numerous other jobs here are also economically being sacked men.

I see Tom Barker is to enjoy his freedom again. It just shows and proves what power the workers possess if they would only use it at the right time.

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

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

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.
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.
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.

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, 3 p.m.—Economic Class.
Thursday, 3 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Saturday Evening, Speakers' Class.
Also Public Meeting every Sunday afternoon in the Domain.

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84.

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TO SHEARERS, SHED-HANDS, WOOL-PRESSERS, AND COOKS OF N.S.W.

This is to certify that meetings have been held in the following centres, at which it has been decided to hold out for increased rates:—
Walgett, Moree, Narrabri, Mungindi, Bourke, Cobar, Brewarrina, Warialda, Gunnedah, and Coonamble. The rates demanded are:—
Shearers, 30/- per 100.
Shed hands, £3 per week, with keep.
Woolpressers, 7d. per cwt., or £4 per week, with keep.

The shearing has been practically held up in these districts. The shearers are determined not to budge until the increases have been conceded.

J. HARTLY, Chairman.
P. F. SCOTT, Secretary.
Bushman's Home, Moree,
July 31st.

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.

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