

# Gaol is Not an Argument.



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## The Unappreciated.

The public meeting "convened for the purpose of taking steps to recognise the efforts of the Sydney Police Force in connection with the recent I.W.W. cases" proved a fiasco.

Where was the cheering multitude that answered to the call,  
To castigate the "criminals"—to flay them one and all—  
To vindicate society and bolster up the law,  
Against the frightful reprobates who fight with fang and claw?

Where were the outraged citizens who stood and stared aghast  
At all the sins of those whom now the bolts and bars hold fast?  
Where were the filled-with-gratitudes, eager to pay the due  
Of Sherlock Holmes and him who wears the unromantic blue?

Aye, where indeed? Oh, ask the streets that filled, and did not care!  
Oh, ask with proper kindness each empty, hopeless chair!  
Oh, ask the vast indifference that overwhelmed the room  
With sadness more terrible than Gabriel's dirge of doom!

And ask, since you're inquisitive, and want the answer plain,  
To Sunday's crowds that gather in the Christ-conceived Domain.  
Oh, Sherlock Holmes, and boob in blue, to whom the toffs salaam,  
Can it be true for both of you nobody cares a damn?

LINCOLN GREY.

## ..MODERN ARGUMENT.

There was a time, a few hundred years back, when the authorities employed the stake, the rack and the thumbscrew to alter the opinions of men who thought on lines not strictly orthodox.

We are more efficient, more civilised to-day, we don't adopt such a barbaric weapon as the rack to prove the superiority of our arguments. WE do it this way:

"I, Thomas Henri Jones, Carpenter, of — Martin St., Randwick (in the State of New South Wales), do hereby solemnly declare that I am no longer a member of the I.W.W. organisation, and have no connection whatever with it. Further, I have no sympathy with its doctrines, and strongly disapprove of them, particularly those regarding 'Sabotage' and 'Slowing Down.'"

"Signed, \_\_\_\_\_  
"Sworn before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 1916, at Sydney \_\_\_\_\_"

The Railway Commissioner of this State employed the above scientific method of cleaning the I.W.W. men, who had committed the awful offence of becoming members of the organisation, out of the Railway Service.

The modern motto is "Recant or Starve." The motto of the Dark Ages was "Recant or Roast." Perhaps this scheme will alter the idea of the men, and perhaps it won't, but so long as the Commissioners are satisfied, everybody else will be.

WAGE STIFF.

The "Sun" says there are hundreds of skilled men out of work, and consequently the Christmas outlook is very black!

Things are coming to a bad pass when hundreds of the "aristocracy of Labor" are out of work. Some one must have been going too fast on the old jobs! But then there are hundreds of men who would rather starve, or have no Christmas dinner than "go slow."



## That "Him" of "Eight."

**Fellow-Workers,  
Twelve railroaded Working Class  
Agitators are waiting for their Class  
to Speak!**

**Money is Needed for their Defence. WE  
are Organising and Agitating for their Release  
and for Funds.**

**What are YOU Doing?**

### PROTEST.

The Sydney Wharf Laborers' Union, on Wednesday night, carried a resolution demanding the immediate release of the I.W.W. men gaoled in N.S.W. and W. Australia. Copies were forwarded to the Minister for Justice and the Press. Needless to say, the latter refused to give the resolution publicity.

The daily papers recite details of a case where a man set fire to his business premises in the hopes the I.W.W. would get the blame—and he'd get the insurance. No scare headlines this time, though. Perhaps they felt a sting of shame—if they know such a thing—and wondered, as we do, how many of the previous fires were caused for the same purpose.

## Spasms.

(By TOM BARKER).

The Sydney Wharf Laborers' Union at their business meeting on Wednesday, the 6th, passed a resolution demanding the release of the I.W.W. men in Long Bay Gaol. On Sunday evening, the 9th, Tom Barker briefly addressed the executive board of the Coal Lumpers' Union on the case for the gaoled men, and was most sympathetically received. The Seamen and Firemen's Union passed at their business meeting a resolution demanding justice for these men.

At a meeting of the Municipal Employees' Union a Royal Commission was demanded to review the attacks upon the I.W.W.

In another part of this paper readers will find a strong resolution from the Redfern Branch of the Carpenters' Society.

The East Woollahra and Forest Lodge P.L.L. branches have passed resolutions in the same strain. All organisations discussing the matter should notify the Defence Committee as well as the daily press, as the latter is vindictively attempting to malign and destroy the I.W.W. men's chances of a new trial and ultimate release.

Fellow-workers, funds are badly needed. We have to flood this country with leaflets and literature to counteract the hellish and outrageous lies and misrepresentations of the day-lie press. The Defence Committee is starting with 100,000 leaflet copies of H. E. Boote's magnificent article in the current "Australian Worker." We are going to follow this and thousands of manifestoes reviewing the evidence (?) against the convicted men. As soon as we procure the speeches from the dock, we are going to publish them in pamphlet form, with the photographs of the men. All these things, as well as the appeal, will cost money, and stacks of it. So let's hear from you.

The "Sunday Chimes" is very upset about Secretary Bathurst, of the Returned Soldiers' Association, declaring that his organisation would not scab on the miners on strike. Evidently the "Chimes" thinks that because the ruling class have provided the returned soldiers with magnificent rooms, that the bosses have the right to use them as scabs. The treatment of returned soldiers has been sufficient to let them see that they will get more from the union of their class, than all the gilded promises of stay-at-home, 41 per cent, patriots.

Don't forget to shout this from the house-tops: "That not one of the convicted I.W.W. had a previous criminal conviction. True, some of them have been in gaol for speaking plainly, and for participating in strikes. That the character and nature of the men makes it impossible for them to do such things as they have been convicted of."

One Big Union for the working class, is the only way to Power, to the inauguration of a new system based upon government from the shop, from the job. Job democracy is the only democracy worth consideration. Solidarity is the weapon that transfers the control of industry from the gilded room of the directors to the union hall.

### THE GAOL ARGUMENT.

Funds are very necessary in this FIGHT FOR THE LIVES OF our class brothers.

**FELLOW-WORKERS, IT IS UP TO YOU! GET BUSY AND KEEP BUSY IN YOUR UNION HALLS AND LEAGUES.** Keep the workers alive to the danger that threatens. Arrange monster protests, agitate and organise unceasingly and forward unlimited funds for the Defence to

J. R. WILSON.

Box 98, Haymarket P.O., Sydney.

# Direct Action

# Criminals, All. From the Barrier. Constitutional Politics.



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

Office: 403 Sussex Street, Sydney, Australia.

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

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

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

## The I. W. W. on Trial.

The I.W.W. has been on trial in the courts of capitalism; found guilty of being an organisation which in the future will prove a serious menace to the control of the world by a few of the people, and almost sentenced to death!

Of course it wasn't made known to the public that the organisation was on trial; the people were given to understand that some of its prominent members had committed various overt acts, and were being tried for these offences. The masters of society keep a keen eye on every move made by the workers, and they scented big danger, to profits and power, behind the doctrine of Industrial Unionism untiringly advocated by the Industrial Workers of the World.

To prepare the way for smashing this propaganda, the owners of the profit producing machinery turned the guns of their press against us, and for some months we were subjected to a continual bombardment of slander for the purpose of prejudicing the public mind against us. Under cover of the hate they thus engendered the treason, and later the conspiracy charges were worked up, and as the outcome of the vicious assaults twelve of our members are now wasting behind the goal walls. Even to the unthinking, to those who had been affected by the campaign of prejudice, the finding of the Court and the sentences imposed have appeared as outrages. Those who had followed the progress of the case through its many stages were astounded and shocked; many of the officials themselves were astonished and some even expressed disgust; the evidence against the men was so paltry and unreliable that the majority expected to see an easy acquittal.

The fact is that the public outlook was inflamed and misled by the false statements of the papers, and by the influence of certain political lights in high places that the I.W.W. was really condemned before the jury were sworn in.

Judge Pring frequently warned the Court that it was not the I.W.W. but the twelve men sitting in the dock who were on trial.

Though judging from the searching analysis to which the preamble of the organisation was subjected one could not help thinking the trial was of the organisation and not so much of the men!

### THE STRIKE.

Say what ye will ye owls of night;  
The strike upholds the cause of right;  
The strike compels the king to pause;  
The statesman, to remould the laws.

Say what ye will the strike is good,  
It clears things long misunderstood;  
It jolts the social mind awake,  
And forces men to stand and take.

Say what ye will, yet, without ruth,  
The strike drives home the bitter truth;  
It tears away the mask of things,  
It mass, and class, the issue brings.

Say what ye will all else above;  
The strike is war for bread and love,  
For raiment, shelter, freedom all,  
The human race can justice call.

That criminal organisation—the Industrial Workers of the World—it would seem, has its imitators.

In reading the capitalistic purveyors of NEWS it would appear that these I.W.W. vandals are not alone in their attempt to burn down and otherwise destroy this beautiful city of Sydney of ours. According to the printed matter, published by the best authorities, there are others at the game, and the I.W.W. should hide its diminished head.

Certain daily papers told this awful story—

"Two young men, caught red-handed, trying to burn down a near relative's place of business—told his Worship that they knew that the business didn't pay, and that they knew enough to know that the authorities would put it down to the I.W.W."

It came like a bolt from the blue to those hard-working sleuths, who had been toiling day and night, catching those I.W.W. barbarians, setting fire to things who were to have been rewarded, but weren't; who had proved to the entire satisfaction of an essentially fair-minded, broad-minded interpreter of working-class justice that the Industrial Workers had done it all.

Those reading this little article should have quite a little sympathy for those misguided officers of the law, even though they believed everything they swore to, evidence that His Honor Judge Pring could not refute.

It is remoured that there are more prosecutions pending against the I.W.W. Huns, and it is further reported that just so soon as the police get rid of this I.W.W. bugbear they are going to hunt down everyone who has been suspected of causing conflagrations for the purpose of realising certain insurance monies. Times are hard, and there's no getting away from it.

It is not the purpose of this article, nor the purport, to uphold the principles taught by the Industrial Workers of the World. They have been guilty of some of the foulest crimes in history. Let us cite one or two.

It is a well-known fact the members of the Industrial Workers of the World brought about the San Francisco earthquake. Reliable witnesses have told how they burrowed—like the rats they are—under that beautiful city by the Golden Gate, and blew it up, and then set fire to what was left.

On another occasion—and there are hundreds of detective witnesses to this—they were caught in the act of manufacturing an iceberg, off the banks of Newfoundland. They had a refrigerating plant—bought with German gold—and these vandals—these disloyalists—these Goths, Huns, anti-conscriptionists, barbarians, and what not, towed that iceberg out to sea and placed it right in the track of the Titanic. The effect of that awful disaster is known to all.

Has not Fellow-worker William Morris, an advocate for many years for the One Big Union, said that these I.W.W. persons are worse than Bengal tigers?

There are thousands of crimes of which the I.W.W. is accused, were the space available. They have even been accused of telling THE TRUTH.

—S.W.

## Melbourne News

On Friday evening we held our usual propaganda meeting at Collingwood where our speakers entertained a very appreciative audience.

On Sunday morning we started to again hold meetings at Port Melbourne Pier; we had a good meeting at the start, but the rain as usual put a damper on it. On Sunday afternoon our usual Yarra Bank meeting was a marked success—very different from what the "Argus" would have you believe. Our speakers held a very large crowd all the afternoon. The case of the boys in jail was put and the crowd expressed its disapproval of the savage sentences; they also showed their sympathy by giving us one of the largest collections we ever received on the Yarra Bank.

In the local hall on Sunday evening, F.W.'s Walker and Jeffries lectured to a crowded house. F. W. Jeffries put the case of the boys in gaol, and F. W. Walker lectured on the NEW PATRIOTISM.

The lecture was well received, and thoroughly appreciated; the collection exceeded our expectation; so you can bet Melbourne local is on the way to stay.

J. POPE.

### WANTED

A file of Volume I. of "Direct Action" is wanted at this office. Forward price of same.

The news of the savage sentences passed on our twelve fellow-workers in Sydney was received with great consternation by the workers in Broken Hill. But a few hours previous to the wire coming through, Judge Devan had prescribed the rest cure for several of the Barrier's best working class fighters with sentences ranging from one to six months. There were eleven unionists before the Court in appeal cases, arising out of the recent anti-conscription campaign, and seven out of the eleven were sent along. It was very noticeable that the men to receive the harshest treatment were wobblers, but class-bias was the actuating force behind all the convictions, as no less a personage than the Judge himself practically admitted.

On Saturday evening rousing addresses were delivered at the P.O. corner by several fellow workers, who referred to the vindictive treatment meted out to members of the organisation who had thrown their whole energy and capacity into the work of educating and organising the working class. The meeting was enthusiastic, but as one F.W. said, after an outburst of applause, "Ah, you applaud, but what are you going to do about it?" Everywhere indignant protests are to be heard.

On Sunday night a monster mass meeting was held in the Trades Hall to protest against the incarceration of the men in prison in Broken Hill, Sydney, and West Australia, at which there was a very large and enthusiastic attendance.

Last week's issue of "D.A." has not yet arrived in Broken Hill, and much speculation has been indulged in regarding its non-delivery. Needless to say, the paper is very much missed.

The speakers' class, propaganda meetings and other activities of the local are being well looked after by the fellow-workers.

BERT DAVIES

### THE GLORIOUS ADVENT OF THE GOLDEN AGE.

"WHEN WE THAT ARE DEAD AWAKE"—  
IBSEN.

Parliamentary institutions, legislative enactments, and a ravenous, jackal, and rascally "Labor" Party (fathered by a gullible, bulldozed and bamboozled proletariat), having failed to usher in the millennium, make the wheat, wool, and grass grow, the rivers run, change the climate, and to fill the capacious cupboards of a disinherited and discontented people, suggest that they be relegated to obscurity and oblivion, and a new class of wonder workers, rain makers and masterpieces of jurisprudence be substituted in their stead.

I propose to this end to appoint a committee, say, of forty eminent, brainy, learned and esteemed ladies and gentlemen, to be dubbed "The Democratic Deliverers, or the Helpers of Humanity." I think the following well-known citizens would just about fill the bill—and their pockets: Mons and de People, "Booky" Oxenham, Miss Grace O. Godd, R. L. ("Snowy") Baker, Mr. Please-All Parties, John Dryer, Esq., Colonel Blood-Bird, Larry Foley, Mr. B. A. Gabbler, The Only Jones, Lord Deliver Us, George Black, Rev. Smoozem-Kanter, R.D. Meagher (Marr?), R. U. A. Gasman, Paul Ferris, Adam Shopman, Bill Webster, M.P., and "German Charlie."

To the foregoing might be added as emergencies or makeweights, all right-thinking persons, free and independent electors, distinguished visitors, decent married women, thorough scoundrels, perfect gentlemen, true Christians, respectably dressed men, honest working men, honorable members, prominent citizens, moderate drinkers, real white men, and humble and obedient servants.

If the above galaxy of talent, integrity, culture and worth did not change our social system, they would, most of them, soon have the change of a five pound note to jingle on the tombstone of some defunct "honest lawyer!" Industrial Workers of the World (a grand and noble ring about that) would not, of course, be among such an illustrious and immaculate company; but their loss would be the others' gain—in shekels and kudos!

W. J. SHARPLES.

### A NEW SONG BOOK.

Is under consideration by the Press Committee. It will contain 60 songs, and sell at 6d. wholesale, 4s 6d per dozen, and £16 a thousand. Orders should be placed now.

### SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

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

Name .....

Address .....

FILL IT IN NOW!

In the proposal to prolong Parliament we have one set of politicians trying to excuse a constitutional act, and another set condemning it, and trying to find constitutional means to prevent the said constitutional act.

In a room all lamp and musty,  
In a shelf all frayed and dusty,  
Lay our sacred constitution—  
The scroll of liberty;  
And the scene was awe-inspiring,  
As the learned heads, perspiring,  
Cursed with constitutional violence  
A constitutional decree.

All the learned labah sages  
Scanned the constitution's pages  
For a wise solution  
To the muddle and the muss;  
And with wisdom most profound,  
Started to expound  
On the horrid situation,  
They had gathered to discuss.

One with deep deliberation  
Delivered an oration—  
"We must seize the perks of office,"  
(Cheers and loud applause).  
At once we must petition  
To prevent this imposition,  
For I'm longing for the salary  
That the other fellow draws.

They searched for a precedent  
In a period antecedent;  
The reign of insane George  
Or some other dopey lord;  
And after great confusion  
They arrived at the conclusion  
If it's truly constitutional  
We will put our trust in Gawd.

They condemned the horrid faction  
That spoke of direct action;  
In their constitutional stomachs  
No disloyal thoughts could dwell:  
When someone in the crowd  
In a voice profane and loud  
Said the constitution's d—d,  
Send the flaming thing to hell.

PETE.

### THE HUMAN SLAVE.

The sparrow flits from bough to bough,  
The cur that roves the streets is free;  
The only slave is mighty Man,  
In a world of liberty.

The babbling brook, the sunshine,  
The trees, the grass, the glistening sea,  
All things enjoy, but as for Man  
They might as well not be.

The beast that prowls the jungle,  
The fish that swim the sea,  
Enjoy their little span of life,  
Because they're free, they're free.

They're free, ah, God, the meaner things,  
Do they creep or crawl or climb;  
'Twas left for man to forego the chains  
With his tow'ring mind sublime.

Oh, the clinging chain and the prison wall  
Are the work of human minds;  
'Tis the will of God that Earth is free,  
'Tis the will of Man that binds

The fool has fancied himself the lord  
Of all inhabiting Earth,  
While his grinding toil for the prime of day,  
Despoils his life of mirth.

The birds are singing, the fishes dash,  
The household cat's at play;  
But Man is sweating between four walls,  
Deprived of the joys of Day.

How long, O Slaves, will ye suffer this?  
How long will ye still slaves be?  
When the master minds of the martyred past  
Deliver ye Freedom's key.

O! The locksmith's work was truly done,  
And your chains are riveted well;  
But the might of a thinking working class  
Could shatter the bonds of Hell.

With a soul of the things of Freedom,  
Usurped by the lordly few,  
You can open the doors of your natal gaol,  
And fashion the world anew.

W. H. LEVY.

The outstanding feature of the Barrier appeal cases was the special attention paid to the I.W.W. Convictions against members of the organisation were upheld; those against the others were in most cases quashed. Looks as though a "spring offensive" has been waged against the I.W.W. throughout the continent, and probably the general in command will have his tactics exposed before the winter sets in.



# Defence Agitation. One Big Union Slow Down! Our Growing Press

(The Editor "Direct Action").

FOR POSTAL WORKERS.

Dear Sir—The enclosed resolutions were carried at the regular weekly business meeting of the Militant Propagandists of the Labor Party, held in the Trades Hall, Melbourne, Saturday, December 2nd, and I am instructed to forward same to you.

MAY FRANCIS, Secretary.

Resolved, 1—"That the militant propagandists of the Labor Party use their utmost and every effort to get in touch with the Trades Unions meeting in the Trades Hall and elsewhere in Melbourne, the P.L.C. branches, the P.L.C. Executive and the Trades Hall Council to place before them the critical condition now confronting organised Labor in Australia as instanced by the severe and unjust sentences inflicted upon the members of the working class in the I.W.W. cases in Sydney, and to urge upon all the afore-mentioned bodies and others, the immediate necessity of combined action in the interests of working class solidarity and progress for the immediate release of all the men so severely and unjustly sentenced on the following grounds:—

- 1—"A biased Judge.
- 2—"Insufficient corroboration of mere circumstantial evidence of self-confessed so-called accomplices, who themselves though guilty, if the crimes had been committed at all, are permitted immunity from punishment due to them in return for their 'confession'.
- 3—"Biased and wrongful directions to the jury by the judge in his summing up."

Resolved, 2—"That the militant propagandists of the Labor Party urge the entire Labor Movement of Australia through the P.L.C.'s, Trades Hall Council, and the various Trades Unions to take definite steps immediately to ascertain in full from the Prime Minister and the Government of Australia what we are to understand to be the full meaning and significance of certain utterances of the Prime Minister, as reported in Melbourne 'Age', Dec. 2nd, 'Sabotage, Blasphemous References to the Diet,' and his (Prime Minister's) intention to ask the House to pass legislation specially dealing with the matter, and further to ascertain from the Prime Minister and his supporters, in this special legislation intimated, just specifically what he or they would have us to understand Sabotage and Blasphemy to be, and that their definition be early announced in detail to all the people of Australia before any such legislation is passed, to the end that we may clearly know the full measure of what we are to avoid if we are to remain true and law-abiding citizens."

The Editor "Direct Action."

Dear Sir—The following resolution was unanimously carried at a meeting of the Redfern Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, held in the Trades Hall on Saturday, December 2nd, 1914:—

"That we, the members of Redfern Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners emphatically protest against the excessive sentences passed upon members of the Industrial Workers of the World, as we consider that no evidence was submitted which incriminated them in any way with the charges preferred against them, and we also consider that the judge, jury, witnesses and police were biased on account of the statements of politicians, the press and the pulpit, whilst the case was still sub judice, and we further demand the immediate release of these men."

Copies of this resolution have been forwarded to the Hon. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister, Senator Pearce, Minister for Defence, and the Hon. D. R. Hall, Attorney-General for the State of N.S.W.

Yours Fraternally,

H. J. McEWEN,  
Press Correspondent,  
Redfern Branch,  
A.S. of C. & J.

## THE MAKER OF HISTORY.

We are the makers of history, for history is made only by those who are not floating with the stream. It is only those who are unconditioned by production have an enduring force. And the events that they become force of culture become so only because they have enduring value. It is only the I.W.W. in reality that won't float with the stream, and therefore that organisation is the creator of history, and the I.W.W. is outside and unconditioned by their own structure. The great man has history, the emperor is only a part of history; time creates and time destroys the emperor, and time did create the I.W.W., and the question is, can the I.W.W. be destroyed while the structure is based on a solid rock? Are you going to float with the stream of capitalism? That depends only on the worker themselves.

—F.A.G.

Within the Postal Service there are at present approx. twelve different organisations. The service is worked by three divisions, viz., general, clerical and professional. The general embraces postmen, sorters, mail drivers, telephone mechanics, operators, cleaners and the different classes of tradesmen. The clerical includes telegraphists, clerks, etc. The professional division include engineers, draughtsmen, lawyers, accountants, doctors, etc. Everyone in the service is subject to the one set of regulations, and the sole power of administration of these regulations is vested in one man—the Public Service Commissioner. It will be readily seen that Parliament knew the value of organisation on a concrete basis, and by adopting the system they have thrown the weight from their shoulders on to one man, invested with powers which only in an Act of Parliament can alter.

The regulations govern the hours and conditions of labor, subject to awards of the court which the P.S.C. claims the right to interpret on his lonesome.

They provide that when a citizen enters the Public Service he shall give his brains as well as his brawn, and he must not use his bump of knowledge in any way outside departmental functions.

As stated hereinbefore, organisation is the keynote sounded all through the Acts governing the workers in the employ of the department and for every concession or deviation from the regulations the Commonwealth Parliament has to be moved. Needless to mention, this same Parliament does not concern itself about our "likes" or "dislikes," and has shouldered the whole of the responsibility upon one man.

One would think that where there is only one enemy to fight, and where grievances common to one are common to the whole lot, that the toilers within the service would combine and fight every matter as one body—essentially the one and only way by which it can be done.

But on looking round, what do we find? Twelve different organisations with twelve sets of executive officers, twelve different methods of fighting, and none of them with sufficient strength to have the desired weight. They are ineffectively striving for the one goal against the one enemy, and incidentally playing right into his hands.

When the facts are laid bare it will be seen how the organisations of the workers play into the hands of the boss. For instance, supposing, as is often the case, something crops up affecting the whole service, one would think that some sort of combined action would be taken. But, no; each union considers the matter from their various viewpoints and represent their opinions to the boss individually, with the result that as no one body has sufficient strength to move the "powers that be" the matter generally fizzles out when something new comes along, and is relegated to the past, amongst other important but forgotten grievances.

The organisations are divided, in their methods of fighting, in their political opinions, and, what is more absurd, there is a class distinction existing between the professional and clerical divisions on one hand, and the general division on the other. This pitiable exhibition of class ignorance on the part of the first-named class has divided the workers into the two camps, and what will have to be accomplished first will be the education of those who think that their brand of clay is immeasurably superior to the other fellows', because of a few pounds difference in their yearly salaries. Class consciousness is unknown to the general type of public servant, and the lamentable state of affairs is kept in a vigorous state by the utter lack of co-ordination amongst the class of workers who depend upon one another for their existence, but have not sufficient "nous" to see that "organised we stand, divided we fall."

Therefore, the need arises for someone to point the path, which is the one and only path the workers can follow with any assurance of success in their long and protracted fight against a system which makes a man a mere automation and destroys every self-reliant and initiative thought within the mind of the much abused public servant.

In the next issue a scheme will be propounded on the One Big Union principle, and the facts and general conditions appertaining to same will be laid down with the earnest hope that out of it some good may arise and the postal workers will find in Karl Marx's message, "Workers of the world, unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain," a veritable truth.

RELIQU.

## IMPORTANT.

Correspondents sending all important communications, or monies, should register their letters. The use of sealing wax is recommended on ordinary occasions.

"In no place was the resumption of work hailed with greater satisfaction than at Miami. The collieries there had been closed for nearly six months owing to want of trade. All the men were not absorbed, but will be in the course of a couple of weeks."

—S. M. Herald.

For quite a long while the "Slow Down" policy advocated by the I.W.W. has been before the public eye, and has come in for much discussion and at times for a little abuse. The fallacy of the idea and the ruinous effect it must have upon the working class both morally and financially has been very ably and volubly explained by Mr. Meredith Atkinson and other Labor champions; even the Employers' Federation has warned us, because they suspect it would have a bad effect upon the workers. The I.W.W. point out that slow work means more jobs, and more jobs fewer men in the unemployed market; therefore, the condition of the working class, as a class, must be better.

Someone objects that the practice of Slow Down would have a bad moral effect—on the one who practices it, of course. Seems like suggesting that the Capitalist himself, who has never gone any other way but very, very slow, must be a most immoral fellow, also that the workers a century back were so good and moral as to be nearly fit for Paradise, while the chattel slave could have had no trouble at all in entering the Kingdom of Heaven. The Miami miners should not, after the lesson of the last week or so, be opponents of the "Slow Down" doctrine. They have learnt the cause of their unemployment—the other miners had been going so fast that for six months the Miami men had been cut out of a job. It was not until the "Big Slow Down" took place, thus depleting the stores of coal, the other miners had heaped up, that the "boss" deemed it necessary to open up his collieries and give the Miami men a chance to live. If the coal miners learn the lesson they will have jobs right through the year; if not, they will probably throw themselves out of work in a few months.

One very grotesque school of economists object to slowing down, because, they claim, the capitalist will only put in more efficient machinery and eventually the same results will obtain as before. Well, suppose they do, the I.W.W. will advise the workers to slow down some more! What's wrong with the machine doing the work, anyway? We have no wish to be beasts of burden; we want to see the machine doing the dirty work and the drudgery, and we're certainly not going to quarrel over doing the hard work!

If it comes to a matter of lying back in an arm-chair for 4 hours a day, and watching the machine—and the boss—do the work, we will do that, and if there are any of our class starving for want of a job, we will still advocate "slow down." If slowing down had no other result than forcing the introduction of new machinery we ought to practices it! In the society of the future, the machine will be quite welcome to do all the hard work, we'll do the "brain" work, smoke the cigars, drink the wine and take trips to the continent; the machine will be content to stay on doing the work for nothing, but lubricants, just as do the workers to-day.

The I.W.W. message to the working class, while so many as one is out of work, is "slow down," and organise; if you can't "slow down" then stop altogether!

(A.M.).

(To the Editor of "Direct Action")

Dear Sir—Just a note to warn your readers not to be deluded, as I and a few others were, as to the great pay and scarcity of harvest hands in and through this part of Horsham. Four of us, bone-heads, blew in here and were greatly surprised to find out what the conditions were. The cockneys spread the news around about great pay and plenty of work, and, of course, there is a rush of Mr. Blocks to Henty, and the result is walking up and down the street till the boots wear, and you have blisters on your feet. They offer you six shillings a day harvesting, and this is their definition of it. Do some ploughing, put up wire netting fence, dig post holes, chop wood, milk a few cows drive into the nearest township cart out groceries and then clean the stable and fowl houses; also harness, dig out rabbit burrows, and peg out the rabbit skins, and a hundred and one other things. Of course, we slaves are rushing at them, and offering our services (I don't think). However, may no other bonebacks like ourselves be caught, and hope to hell this mad old world won't always be like this.

Yours, in revolt,

P. WAYBACK.

## CORRECTION.

The acknowledgment in last issue of "McMahon's employees, 2s," ought to have read 21 5s.

## "DIRECT ACTION."

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## "A BERMUNKAS."

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

## "ALLARM."

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

## "SOLIDARNOSC."

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

## "DARBININKU BALSAS."

(The Voice of the Workers.)  
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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.

## SYDNEY LOCAL.

Meetings, &amp;c.

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

Meetings in Hall;

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

## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers and members can now obtain a complete file of the 2nd volume of "Direct Action." The volume contains from number 21 to 55, inclusive, and dates from February 1st, 1915, to the same date in 1916.

The complete file will be forwarded to any part of Australia upon receipt of money order for 3s., which includes postage.

From an historical standpoint, as well as from an educational standpoint, the volume is essential. All the information re the Newcastle free speech fight, the posters and stickers case, the hundred and one strikes of the year are contained within the volume.

It also includes "Cresset's" satire, Nicholl's cartoons, West's "Ballad of Maitland Gaol," "General Strike," "Arbitration Court," and "The Interrupted Snooze," as well as dozens of first-class articles and criticisms upon matters industrial and political.

An early application is necessary, as the supply of files are limited. There are no files of the first volumes left.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to limited space, we are holding over some articles. Writers should send in manuscript by Friday if they wish their matter to appear the following week.



# Guilty, or Not Guilty?

# Our Critics.

# Defence Fund.

IS THE I.W.W. REVOLUTIONARY?

His Honor, Judge Pring, is probably congratulating himself on the result of the I.W.W. trials. He is so peculiarly constituted that he can view with a feeling of righteous satisfaction the cruel sentences, ranging up to fifteen years, that he has passed upon men of the working class for advocating the cause of the working class.

Thoughtful members of the public cannot share with him that thrill of self-complacency. They are not by any means satisfied that those men have been justly dealt with. They have a strong suspicion, an uncomfortable conviction, that some of at least, of them are the victims of a horrible MISCARriage OF JUSTICE. One would not hang the proverbial dog on the sort of evidence that was given against men like Grant and others.

"Circumstantial evidence," the Judge called it, but it was worse than that—it was TAINTED evidence. It came from members of the police force obviously more anxious to secure a conviction than to see the truth prevail, and from men who, on their own showing, ought to be sinking behind prison bars instead of breathing the same air as decent folk.

It is not necessary to analyse that evidence here. Most thoughtful people will have read it in the columns of the daily press, and assessed it at its real value.

It was taken seriously by no one of balanced judgment. Where it was not puerile and childish a RANK ODOR OF SUSPICION surrounded it.

The finding of cotton waste, soaked in an inflammable chemical, on the site of fires, without a scrap of genuine proof that it had been placed there by any of the accused; the testimony of a chemist, described by the Judge as an accomplice, who admitted he had sold material to produce flame in this way; of an informer against whom the police had withdrawn a serious charge in another case; of expert criminal investigators who, when confronted with an alibi, calmly proceeded to alter their dates accordingly;—this, and much more of a similar stamp, was evidence which would have carried no weight anywhere else than in a court dominated by CLASS PARTISANSHIP and the vitalising influences of social and political prejudice.

That men should be torn from their homes, from their wives and mothers and children, and deprived of their liberty for long years, on evidence which outraged the canons of probability, and in some instances was utterly farcical, is a grave judicial scandal, and manifests the existence in our midst of a class temperament which is a public danger.

## THE WORKER AND THE I.W.W.

"The Worker" is entirely out of sympathy with the doctrine of sabotage preached by the I.W.W. The I.W.W. is just as completely out of sympathy with the industrial propaganda preached by "The Worker."

The organised Labor Movement and the I.W.W. have nothing in common but a desire to serve and save the exploited millions.

In methods they are Poles apart. But during the conscription campaign it suited the dirty purposes of our local Prussians to identify the Labor Movement with the I.W.W., because they perceived in the latter's advocacy of sabotage an opportunity to brand it as a criminal organisation.

So up and down the face of the land they went—Hughes and Hall and Irvine, and the whole yelping pack of them, denouncing the I.W.W., and striving with all the arts of malice and mendacity to link it up with all the Labor Party and the Unions.

The I.W.W. had existed amongst us for years before that, and these scurvy politicians had taken no notice of it. For years I.W.W. orators talked in the Domain and at the street corners, with the police standing by listening, and no action was taken to put down what is now suddenly discovered to be a menace to society.

It was not till the great conscription conspiracy was hatched that it occurred to the conspirators, in their desperate efforts to enslave the Australian people, that it might help their nefarious purpose to represent the I.W.W. as a sort of Black Hand Gang, and connect it up with the Labor Movement.

From that movement the men who are now in jail HAD NO CHANCE.

They were branded as criminals before they stepped into the dock. Such an atmosphere of hatred and enmity was created about them as made it IMPOSSIBLE to give them a fair trial.

They were doomed from the start. W. M. Hughes—head of the Federal Department of Justice!—spoke openly of I.W.W. members as men who burned down buildings, while that very charge was still being investigated in the courts.

That that, no more abominable perversion of justice was ever known. It poisoned the wells of truth. The big daily press and the countless little jingo journals picked up the poison, and widened the infected area, till

the mind of the whole country was envenomed and the faculty of fair play paralyzed.

## A BIASED JUDGE.

Then Judge Pring came upon the scene, and the last hope of the prisoners was gone! A judge of strict impartiality, of a judgment so sound that class passion and class prejudice could not affect it, might still have saved the situation.

But Judge Pring loses all sense of judicial proportion when confronted with working class agitators. It was he who sentenced Peter Bowling. It was he who sentenced Harry Holland. In each case he did it to the accompaniment of insulting words. In each case the sentence was savagely excessive.

This bigoted capitalist judge should never be permitted to preside at trials of working-class advocates. He is temperamentally unfitted for such a position.

Members of the I.W.W., charged before him, could not hope to receive from the Bench that protection, that just presentation of the evidence to the jury, to which all men on trial for their liberty, even the vilest, are entitled.

Whether these men, or some of them, are guilty or not guilty of incendiarism we do not know. But we are perfectly certain that the charge of exciting sedition, when levelled against industrial agitators, is only a weapon for repressing the expression of working class discontent and upholding the moral code of exploitation.

And we do not hesitate to declare the belief that, on the more serious charges of firing buildings, and of conspiring to secure the release of Barker, by unlawful means, the evidence on which these men were convicted was ROTTEN through and through.

For the credit of the community such verdicts and sentences cannot be allowed to stand unchallenged.

Organised Labor, especially should not rest until the prisoners are set free, or their criminality established, on testimony less grotesque, less tainted, and less obviously twisted and distorted to the needs of an unscrupulous prosecution.

H. E. B. (in "The Worker").

# News and Notes.

Two "deputies" who were doing a little bit of scabbing at a South Coast mine recently were one day played to their homes by a kerosene tin band. For this bit of diversion several lads were later fined at the Wollongong Court. They should know better than interfere with the boss's private property in future!

"Old Gael Chaplain," writing in the "Sun" nent capital punishment, opines that the only way to prevent murders is to hang murderers. He dilates on the glories of executions, says he has seen many of them, knows all about them, and advises those who desire to be converted to his faith to read the "Life of Sergeant Ballantyne."

After reading the screed one concludes that he is either angling for the job of hangman, or would like to be present at an execution to feel the spirit of the jungle once more racing through his veins.

"I have looked carefully through this book and read the I.W.W. history; its methods and structure. . . . The preamble says that the working class and the employing class have nothing in common. I disagree with that. I think they should have a common desire to bring about a different state of things. There is no doubt that in this country there is a large body of people and more so in certain other parts of the Empire, who have no business to be in the position they occupy. That is to say there should be no people who are hungry and unemployed. . . . We all at times think of the future, so far as our children are concerned. My children may be in the gutter, but by the time they come to manhood I hope there will be no gutter for them to get into." (Judge Bevan at Broken Hill).

We wish we could be as optimistic as the Judge regarding the future, but, unfortunately, knowing something about gutters and the cause, we cannot hope to be free from them while the mass of the people stand for capitalism.

"There is one song, 'Onward, Christian Soldiers' in this I.W.W. song-book, which is outrageous. . . . I am not over religious, but I do believe in a hereafter, though what sort of a thing it is, goodness knows. A large number of people in the community do not like to hear sacred subjects profaned. This song was most shocking to many people. A man who aims at the millennium should not shock others. I MUST REALLY CONFIRM THE CONVICTION!" (Judge Bevan at Broken Hill).

One of the most amusing features of present day I.W.W. criticism by so-called "leading socialists" (who would do well to study their own philosophy and political economy) is the grave discussion by them as to whether or not the I.W.W. is a revolutionary organisation.

These "revolutionists" maintain that the I.W.W. is on a par with the Labor Party and other reform organisations through its policy of fighting for shorter hours and better conditions.

The foregoing deduction, of course, proves what keen students these critics are.

The whole of the points raised by them is whether or not shorter hours and better pay, etc., are revolutionary measures, and consequently, by our supporting them, whether we are a revolutionary organisation, the conclusion being that we are not revolutionary, as only those who want "all or nothing" are revolutionists.

We are not of those who cry "all or nothing." We recognise the class struggle, and are out to get as much as possible here and now, and as this action is in line with the present economic conditions, and as it is the development of these economic conditions that primarily bring about a revolution, we must be revolutionary.

Either one position or the other is logical. We must support the capitalist system by backing up efficiency, imperialism, war, a lengthening of hours, a reduction in wages, which is a revolution by reaction, or we must fight the new phase of capitalism by demands for more and more wages, shorter hours and better conditions, that is, by fighting along lines of the class struggle, thereby ever and ever organising and educating the working class.

This process of bringing about a revolution with our ultimate ideal of the overthrow of the capitalist system ever before us, in contradistinction to the revolution by reaction of "revolutionary socialists" who "want all or nothing," organises and educates the proletariat for the final struggle; whereas the method of not "fighting for something now" and waiting for the revolution is liable to let us sink into a slavery more damnable than history has known.

This keeping in line with economic conditions and getting "something now," such as shorter hours and little pay, as well as a complete revolution at the earliest possible moment, must, in the very nature of things, cause the capitalist to replace the dearer labor with machinery, or force up his pay roll, and thereby render the competitive struggle harder for at least the small capitalist, thus hastening the concentration of capital and the revolution.

We always accept everything that leads from bad to better, merely insisting that there be no halting along the road. We continue to go forward from better to better, aiming at the well being of all workers, conformably to the economic conditions which render the revolution and socialism finally attainable. That is the policy of the Industrial Workers of the World.

The working class, through this policy, is steadily advancing in economic power and independence in the sense that it takes possession of more and more responsible positions in the economic life of the nation. The capitalist class is forced to resign its functions, the proper functions of a ruling class, those of economic management, into the hands of the working class. The working class in thus working for themselves, becomes increasingly revolutionary, in its ideas, desires and aspirations, and it has the organised power through its organising previous struggles to carry the revolution into effect. It brings by this time fully equipped to take hold of all activities and functions of society the day after the revolution, and carry them on successfully.

## "SOMETHING NOW."

# A Protest.

The Scarborough Miners held their quarterly meeting on Thursday evening, 7th inst, when the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That we, the Scarborough Miners' Lodge, emphatically protest against the harsh sentences meted out to the twelve members of the Industrial Workers of the World by a class-biased Judge, and that we, as Industrial Workers, demand their immediate release." Yours, in the fight for freedom, BENT AXLE.

The N.S.W. Coalition Government is quite a progressive group.

They are going to deal with the I.W.W. and other agitators by laws similar to those employed against the earliest Trade Unionists. The new Bill makes it dangerous to speak the truth. What a pity all the Botany Bays are gone!

Over expenses meeting at Cobdale, 10s; J. Morris, 5s; Railway Boys, per G. R. Crook, 41 4s 6d; R. Connelly, 5s; A. Friend, 10s; T. W. Wilkie, 5s; E. R. Greenfields, 3s; A. Wynn, 3s; A. Rabotom, 5s; Tom Large, 2s 6d; E. Toohy, 2s; T. C. Totter, 3s; A. R. 1s; Tom O'C., 6s; J. Jones, 2s 6d; T. W. Jolliffe, 2s; J. Watson, 2s 6d; B. Waldon, 8s; L. S. Webb, 6d; Miss Sullivan, 2s; R. Baxter, 6d; Cold Feet, 5s; Harrington, 10s; Slave, 1s 11d; J. Morris, 5s; T. Healey, Mackay (Q.) 21 5s; E. Coombs, 5s; A. Graham, 21 4s; H. McCue, 10s; Someone, 2s; J. McDermott, 7s 6d; Mrs. Burgess, 10s; T. Smith, 10s; Brick Layers' Union, 2s; R. McKenna, 4s; H. Cliff, 2s; Mrs. Sauer, 5s; M. Carr, 2s; Mr. and Mrs. Milnehall, 4s 6d; Amalg. Loco. Engineers, 21; Stan. Dinkins, 2s; Railway Boys, J. S., 2s; H. C., 1s; J. O., 2s 6d; J. Morris, 5s; L. Netherton, 10s; Jamerson, 10s 6d; Old Man, 7s; W. McKay, 21; W. Hogan, 10s 6d; J. Gurrin, 21; Mohkon, 5s; B. H. McInerney, 5s; P. Laidler, 21s. Shearers and Shed Hand, Mandangle Station (per L. Borden, 21 15s 6d; W. Holston, 3s; J. McKerlie, 21; Coachmaker, Loc. 10s; Amalg. Loco. Engineers, 21; A. S. Graham, P. J. E. 5s; J. Pitwell, 16s 81d; Yank, 3s; Coachmaker, 10s; J. Shillinger, 7s; H. J. Smith, 2s; J. Foley 21, Y. Z., 10s; Federated Tanners, 22; A. M. Employees, 22; Snow Wilson, 5s; H. B., per Tom Barker 21; H. Woodman 21; J. Morris, 10s; T. W. S., 10s; J. B., 5s; J. C., 5s; J. M., 5s; C. R., 2s 6d; G., 2s; L., 1s; R. A., 1s; G. W., 6d; T. O'Brien, 10s; Leaman, 4s 6d; Peder Willis, 11s; T. Fagon, 5s; Sect. P.L.L., Wagga, 14s 6d; H. Rice, 21 10s; W. Obsen, 2s 6d; E. Smith, 2s; W. Smernol 21; P. Peets, 21; Murphy, 6d; J. J., 2s; J. Morris, 10s, Walma, 2s 6d.

## HOW THEY ANSWER.

Jail is no argument. No more than war, or personal physical violence, does it, or can it, decide any question of right and wrong.

The I.W.W. contends that the capitalist system is a running social sore—a contaminating putridity.

And the answer to this contention is not aduced in facts and figures, but per medium of the handcuffs, Black Maria and the warder-guarded cell.

The Bosses of the System might easily keep the handcuffs snapping, Black Maria moving, and the jails full; but not one of the circumstances logically answers the I.W.W. contention—any more than incendiarism would answer the capitalists' contention that the present social regime is equitable and desirable.

Let the apologists for Things As They Are convince the multitude that the present system is all right—that there is no poverty, no exploitation, no stolen values, no Shylocks, no landlords, no time serving politicians, no Mars-worshipping persons, no prostituted press, no capitalistically-biased judges—let them prove that none of these exist.

Or, if they can't prove the non-existence of these things, let them confess their inability.

But the handcuff answers nothing. It never did. And it never will.

LINCOLN GREY.

## RACE HATRED

One of the most remarkable features of the great anti-conscription campaign was the introduction of that ancient bogey, "race-hatred."

There is little doubt that many of our speakers used that bogey as a weapon to fight conscription, and quite likely, with a fair measure of success. But, I think, you will agree with me that race hatred keeps the workers separated, and the churches keep them ignorant. A combination of the two coils has for ages blighted the brains of the workers.

Without that blight, the people would rapidly grow intelligent, and it would be impossible for, and dangerous to, any political party, for them to try to foist such a menace as conscription upon the people of this country.

Now, as an Agnostic International Socialist, I hope that those reformers will read this and decide to discontinue to belittle and insult the Maltese race.

We have a number of these people among us, and we find that they are not scabs, but good unionists and gentlemen.

FRANK GILBERTSON.

## OMISSION.

"A Fireside Reverie," in last issue, was from the able pen of F.W. H. Melrose.

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