

# 'An Injury to One an INJURY to All.'



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## Release Agitation.

### SYDNEY.

Increasing interest is being shown in and around Sydney in connection with I.W.W. case. There is a great absence of silly questions, and all seem anxious to hear as much as they can about the I.W.W. and its teachings. As a result of this agitation, great things are expected.

Domain meetings are still keeping up their reputation, and street meetings are the same old thing. There is no doubt that this agitation now sweeping throughout Australia will mean a big life to Industrial Unionism.

### SOUTH COAST.

Good work is now being done along the South Coast in connection with the Defence. Petition forms are filling up, and many donations are coming along. Collections taken up last Friday day, were as follows:—

Coolah, £5 7s-0d; Scarborough, £4 5s; Tunnell, £1 14s. Other collections were made, but the amounts have not yet been reported. The miners along the South Coast are standing firm in their determination to see justice done to the men in goal.

### COFF'S HARBOR.

F. W. Rudolph visited Coff's Harbor last week and met with fairly good success.

Three meetings were held, and great interest was shown in the I.W.W. case. Practical support was shown at Coff's Heights, when a collection of £25 12s-6d was made. "Direct Action" sales were good, and everything went off well.

### BOURKE.

At a meeting of the A.W.U. January 16th, 1917, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That this meeting pledge itself to do all in its power by financial, moral, or any other way to assist in the fight for release of the I.W.W. agitators now lying in jail."

### VICTORIA.

Dear Comrade,—I am requested to inform you that the Winchelsea branch of the Political Labor Council has unanimously passed a resolution protesting against the sentences inflicted by Judge Pring on members of the I.W.W. on the grounds that the evidence was both biased and insufficient, and the branch demands an immediate re-trial in the name of democracy and freedom.

### L. BODDINGTON, Sec. P.L.C.

Everything possible must be done to secure the release of the I.W.W. prisoners. The more we look into the trials of these men, the more we are convinced of a gross miscarriage of justice. That the trials were unjust and unfair we believe can be proved right up to the hilt. We are glad to congratulate certain organisations on having formed in Melbourne a Workers' Release League. The Socialist Party has been in touch with the secretary of the Release League, and is busily getting signatures to a petition demanding the reprieve of the men.

"Socialist."  
In "Labor Call."

Dear Comrade,—The following resolution was carried at the last meeting of the Militant Propagandists of the Official Labor Movement:—

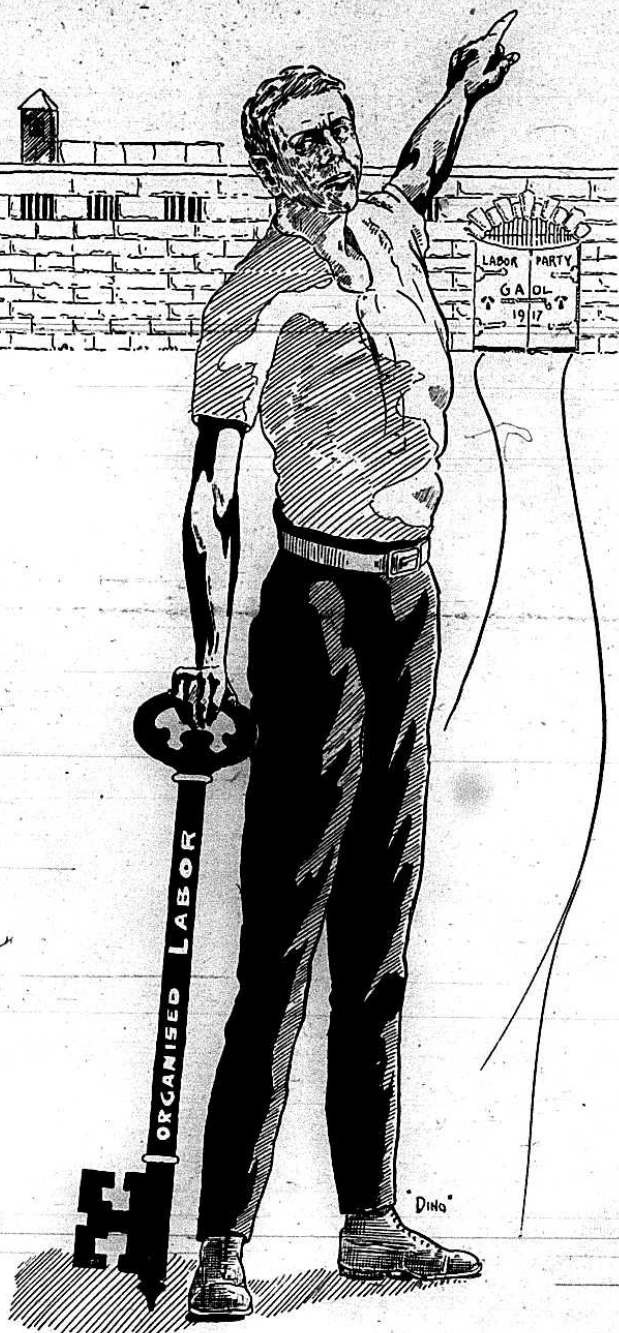
"That it be a suggestion to all Federal Campaign Committees, Political and Labor Councils and Central Executives through Australia that when receiving nominations for seats in the Federal Parliaments such respective nominees be asked if they favor the release by Act of Parliament or per medium of the War Precautions Act, of THE RECENTLY IMPRISONED I.W.W. MEN IN SYDNEY AND ALL OTHER WORKING CLASS LEADERS. The replies to be made known immediately to the respective Campaign Committees and Political Labor Councils."

With best wishes,

Yours fraternally,

MAY FRANCIS,

Secretary.



## Defence Agitation.

### WOMEN'S PEACE ARMY. FAIR TRIALS AND IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

The Women's Peace Army resumed its public meetings at the Guild Hall on Thursday evening, Miss Vida Goldstein presiding. Miss Margaret Thorp, Secretary of the Queensland Women's Peace Army, described the work being done by the organisation in Queensland.

The Chairman referred to the injustice done to members of the I.W.W., through the cases being dealt with by press and politicians while they were sub-judice.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

"That the Women's Peace Army protests against the unfair trial of, and iniquitous sentences passed on, the Sydney members of the I.W.W., because the principles and traditions of our boasted British justice were flagrantly violated for political purposes by men occupying the highest public positions, and the accused could not get a fair trial. They were condemned and sentenced while their cases were sub-judice, and the Women's Peace Army agrees with the proposal of other organisations that, in the interests of justice and social and industrial progress, a Commission should be appointed to inquire into the arrest, trial and conviction of the prisoners, whose sentences should be immediately suspended. Apart from the question of the gross interference with the course of justice, if the treatment meted out to the prisoners is allowed to go unchallenged then all that will be necessary in future to crush social and political reformers, will be their vilification by these in authority who desire to maintain the existing social system."

### QUEENSLAND.

"That this meeting of workers held under the auspices of the Brisbane branch of the Builders' Laborers, expresses its entire disapproval of the heinous and savage sentences passed by a biased judge and jury upon twelve members of the working class in Sydney. We consider that the evidence savored more of American police method than those of Australia. We fail to see where one out of the twelve should have been convicted upon the highly suspicious and obviously manufactured evidence of police officers, criminals and degenerates. We, therefore, unreservedly demand their release, and pledge ourselves to support those men who are the victims of an obvious conspiracy."

"Further, we condemn the one-sided action of Attorney-General Hall in (1) protecting the daily press in their gross committal of contempt of court while the trial of the I.W.W. men was pending, and (2) prosecuting H. E. Doote, editor of the "Australian Worker," and M. J. Bailey, of the A.W.U., for commenting on the case ATFER. It had been disposed of. It is the opinion of this meeting that the administration of justice under Attorney-General Hall is disgraceful, and in flagrant defiance of the Constitution."

Carried unanimously.

### SOUTH JOHNSTONE, QUEENSLAND.

The following was passed at a meeting of A.W.U. members held at South Johnstone on Sunday, December 31, 1916:—

"That this meeting of members of the A.W.U. protests against the severe sentences passed on those sentenced for sedition, etc., and urges that they be liberated at once."

Already acknowledged . . . . .	2 8 d
Collection at meeting in Market Square . . . . .	5 2 1
T. H. Sowell . . . . .	3 2 4
G. Johnson . . . . .	0 10 0
Collection at meeting in Domain, 71/17 . . . . .	0 2 6
W. Pearpark, Grandchester . . . . .	4 11 0
	0 5 0
Total . . . . .	£14 12 11

Industrial solidarity is the greatest weapon the working class possess. Work for it and fight for it.

Fellow Workers!

This Key Can Unlock  
The Gates.

ARE YOU READY?



## Direct Action

## "Herald" Economics.

## Apostate Justice.



WEEKLY  
OFFICIAL ORGAN  
of the  
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF  
THE WORLD.

(Australian Administration)  
Office: 403 Sussex Street, Sydney,  
Australia.

Subscriptions: 4/ per year; New Zealand,  
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HEADQUARTERS, I.W.W. (Australia):  
403 SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.

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

## THE I. W. W.

The Industrial Workers of the World has gained much fame and notoriety during the last six months. On the platform and in the press, the I.W.W. seemed to be the dominant question.

Many of our sympathisers have been busy justifying our position and our enemies have been busy denouncing us.

A multiplicity of arguments have been hurled against us, and numerous arguments have been advanced in our favor.

While this fierce controversy is waging as to the why and wherefore of the I.W.W., we will once again give a brief summary of our position. By the following arguments we stand, and by them we are prepared to fall.

The I.W.W. can fearlessly and defiantly say that, on no occasion in "Direct Action," nowhere in our literature, or at any time off the platform, has anything of a criminal nature ever been taught or advocated. We claim to have risen above the criminal class.

The I.W.W. is purely and simply an industrial organisation which is striving to bring about One Big Union of the working class in order to wring better conditions from the boss.

We believe that the working class cannot fight successfully, whilst they are separated into sections. We say that the toilers should unite into ONE BIG INDUSTRIAL ARMY and present a solid phalanx to the exploiting class. We are robbed as a class, hence we should unite as a class. All lines of demarcation should be abolished in this stern struggle for freedom.

The I.W.W. believes that the working class is wise enough to look after its own affairs, and that there can never be an honest expression of working class ideas while non-workers are members of the union.

The I.W.W. say that ONLY ACTUAL WAGE WORKERS shall be admitted to its ranks. In fact, we go so far as to say that, NO man who can hire or fire another man is eligible for membership.

So long as any one can prove himself or herself to be an actual wage worker, and no industrial scar is upon his or her record, no objection can be raised as to sex, creed, or colour.

We believe that there is one main argument for the working class to settle, viz., how to get more of what their labor produces. This important question cannot be settled by wrangling over the numerous side issues of religion, nationality, colour, or sex. Once again, let us UNITE AS A CLASS.

The I.W.W. believes in signing no agreements with the master class. Agreements are all in favor of the boss and against the real interests of the working class. With all the many sections of the working class tied up with different agreements and all expiring at different times, it is impossible to fight scientifically. It is impossible to get with solidarity. While the working class is bound and shackled with lawful agreements, it will find itself paralysed and unable to strike a blow at the opportune moment. The I.W.W. believes in having its limbs free and able to strike a blow whenever necessary. Therefore, we say, "Away with agreements."

"No one desires to see labouring men working excessive hours or at unremunerative wages, and awards which grant reasonable hours of leisure and safeguard against sweating are absolutely necessary to modern civilisation."—"S.M. Herald," 23/1/17.

The distinct contradiction in the above statement should be plain to all. If "no one wishes to see men work excessive hours," why, in the name of common sense, are "awards absolutely necessary to modern civilisation?"

The mere fact of "awards being necessary" proves conclusively that some one is anxious to see working men overworked and underpaid.

Again, "let every workman honestly work to the reasonable limits of his powers during the hours set apart for work" and ability for the workman will increase with the increase of national wealth.

One is in great difficulty to find where the "Herald" gets its economists.

Notwithstanding the fact that history goes to prove that the "Herald's" argument to be absolutely false, it still muddles along in the belief it has got the "real goods."

The factory report of 1861 for the month of April, on page 33, says that the "condition of business for the time being was depressed." It is very evident that the cotton industry had produced too much in 1860. The effect of this overproduction meant poverty and misery for the working class which lasted for the next three years.

The factory report of December, 1863, page 127, states that "it took between two and three years for the world market to absorb the overproduction of 1860."

The above plainly shows how foolish the "Herald's" arguments are re extending the workers' energy to the limit.

The article now under consideration in which it constantly preaches the gospel of "saving" and "abstinence" is so outrageous that it is really wonderful how an editor of a daily paper could pass such foolish and contradictory statements.

It should be common knowledge to all, that the harder and faster one works the sooner he will be on the tramp.

If the "Herald" is going to try and teach the working class economics, it will want to get a different economist than Captain Waley.

## MATADE.

The I.W.W. believes in having no entangling alliances with any party, sect, or faction. Therefore, we are connected in no way whatsoever with any other organisation be it political, religious, industrial, or social.

The I.W.W. is not anti-political, but simply non-parliamentary. Our members are not pledged to do one thing or the other on election day. They simply please themselves. They can vote if they wish, or they can "strike at the ballot box with an axe." It matters not to the organisation.

The I.W.W. believes that INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION IS OF FIRST AND PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE to the working class.

While the existing industrial organisation is so imperfect, we believe in bending the whole of our might and fight in that direction. Given solidarity on the industrial field the working class can get all they want without the aid of Parliament.

Our ultimate aim is to abolish this present system of capitalism and establish an INDUSTRIAL REPUBLIC.

By organising industrially we are forming the basis of the future society within the frame work of capitalism. By grouping ourselves in the different industrial departments and uniting together in One BIG UNION, we are preparing ourselves to carry on production when capitalism is overthrown.

—N.R.

## LIBERTY OR DEATH.

Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.—Patrick Henry.

Applications are called for  
EDITOR OF "DIRECT ACTION."

All applicants must have been a member of the I.W.W. for at least six months, and must have application in at this office before March 15th, 1917.

All further particulars from  
F. BROWN, Manager "D.A."

The most astounding event of recent date is the hauling before the courts of Henry Boote, editor of "The Worker," of New South Wales. For renegade audacity, for apostate shamelessness, for blinky eyed justice, it has no parallel in the history of the people of this continent.

David Hall, Attorney-General of the State of New South Wales, is dragging Henry Boote before the court to show cause why he should not be sent to prison for contempt of court.

If Boote be guilty, so is William Morris Hughes, but against him David Hall took no action.

If Boote be guilty, so are dozens of public men in this country; but against them David Hall took no action.

If Boote be guilty, so are the editors of the capitalist press of this country; but against them David Hall took no action. PRE-JUDGED.

Citizens of Australia were on trial for alleged offences. In violation of all precedents, a violation of the primary and fundamental principles of justice, William Morris Hughes, his satellites and his newspapers denounced these citizens as criminals before their cases were investigated by the courts and while the investigation was in progress.

For weeks there was a daily contempt of court, but David Hall took no action. He permitted unbridled license for favored individuals and newspapers to do those things that for centuries in British communities have been regarded by decent citizens as a shame and by the law as a crime, to be condemned and punished.

There shall be no comment re the guilt of men committed for trial. That is the law. David Hall permitted it to be daily flouted.

Men are entitled to a fair trial. For that purpose the public mind must not be inflamed by speakers or press with assumption of guilt until evidence has been adduced in the courts, the verdict recorded and the sentence imposed. That is the fundamental principle of justice. David Hall permitted that principle to be daily flouted. He permitted the public mind to be inflamed by shamefully illegal methods. He took no action to bring the flouters to justice. ASTOUNDING SEVERITY.

Not only not brought to justice—they were aided and abetted. William Morris Hughes was furnished with copies of documents alleged to prove criminal association. These documents he used for political partisan purposes. Those documents were used before they were flourished in the police courts, and thus became public property, and this prostitution of the prosecutor's office went without denunciation or punishment. And these documents, used for political purposes, flourished in the police courts to inflame the public mind, to inflame the Bench, to secure the conviction of the men for trial, were not used on the trial as evidence against the men, although they had been so used in the lower court from which committal was wrong, and on the public platform, where decency and justice were debased by their production.

The result was inevitable. The men were condemned before they were heard. The verdict was remarkable in its swiftness, and the sentences astounding in their severity.

AFTER THE TRIAL, AFTER the jury had considered the evidence and rendered its verdict, AFTER the judge had entered up his judgment, Henry Boote commented on the trial, the severity of the sentences, and, in the case of Donald Grant, stated that this man had got 15 years for the use of 15 words.

Thereupon David Hall, who for weeks had been blind and deaf to all the pre-trial com-

mentaries, who could see no crime in the pre-trial commedation by Hughes, his associates on the platform and his upholders in the press, immediately rushes into action to put, if possible Henry Boote inside the penitentiary.

Henry Boote did AFTER the trial that which William Hughes and Co. did before the trial. WHY?

Henry Boote could not prejudice the case. He could not influence the jury. He did not express an opinion before the court had dealt with the case. Hughes and Co. did so. They did it daily. David Hall was blind and deaf. Against these violators of the law and the principle of justice David Hall took no action. Apparently they felt that, while the administration of justice was in his hands, they could flout the law and the principle of justice with impunity.

The pretence upon which David Hall proposes to cast Henry Boote into gaol is that the said Henry Boote is not merely commenting upon a trial that is over, but is endeavoring to prejudice a trial to come. Donald Grant and others are appealing against the sentences imposed upon them. The comments of Henry Boote are said to affect this new trial.

In other words, David Hall alleges that Henry Boote, in his comments, is affecting the course of justice in the new trial.

That is exactly what William Hughes and Co. and the daily press did in the trial that is over.

WHY, THEN, DOES DAVID HALL DRAW HENRY BOOTE BEFORE THE COURT AND NOT WILLIAM HUGHES?

IT IS BECAUSE HENRY BOOTE, EDITOR of "The Worker" does not take up the same line of argument as William Hughes and his fellow-renegades.

If Henry Boote said Donald Grant and his fellow-prisoners were criminals, were proved criminals, that their appeal should not be heard, should be dismissed with contempt, or that any judge who found them innocent was unfit to hold his place, he could say it with impunity.

But Henry Boote has not said a word about this new trial.

Yet, because he comments on the old, he is alleged to be seeking to influence the new. And if David Hall can put him behind prison bars he will do it.

And he seeks to get him there before the new trial comes on, while politicians and the editors who said Grant and his compatriots were guilty before a jury had been impanelled to hear the evidence, and while they were hearing it, these men walk abroad free men.

## THIS IS JUSTICE.

Hanging Hawkins, Bloody Jeffries and the rest of the tribe of monsters who have desolated the earth are saints compared with these renegades and apostates of the Labor movement.

They are the most loathsome crawlingness to the interests they were elected to displace. They are the most cruel, callous, bitter, implacable and unscrupulous to the men who made them.

If Henry Boote goes to gaol it will be unpleasant for him, but it will be a demonstration to the Labor movement of what some of the things upon which it has breathed the breath of political life are capable of doing.

And the fact that they do it, and live and walk abroad in safety is a proof that the gospel and practice of thugocracy, however justified by treachery, had no place in any section of the working-class movement of this country.

FRANK ANSTEY.

("Labor Call.")

## EDUCATE! ORGANIZE, EDUCATE!

The above historic words were uttered about 80 years ago by that fighter for liberty, E. Jones, of the Chartist movement. To-day those words ought to be engraved upon the minds of all leaders and workers in the industrial movement. To-day the necessity for the active operation of those words is more pronounced than ever. We are fighting the greatest fight in history. We are on the verge of the greatest change in history. In the past our class had little at stake, they simply changed their form of slavery. The change of the future is of great significance to the proletariat, because it means complete freedom from every form of slavery. It means the complete overthrow of capitalism, and with that accomplished it means that man for the first time in history will get the full products of his labor. This change can only be accomplished by means of an organised and educated democracy—a democracy

educated on sound class-conscious lines; educated to realise that the sectional craft unions of to-day must be merged into one solid body, with one aim and object, namely, the full control of all the things essential to life. The class war does not exist. It is a reality, and our class has the power within its grasp to render powerless the master class. An educated class conscious democracy would not allow 12 of its members to be gaoled on fictitious evidence. Would not prostitute its intelligence by allowing a warped and twisted mind to control the scales of justice? It would not slander that intelligence by allowing crooks and cranks to control its affairs. But would insist on having a social system freed from the immoral taints of capitalism. Would insist on a system where the duty of the individual was the welfare of the community, and the community that of the individual. To accomplish this we must Educate! Organize! Educate! J. H. RATCLIFFE



# Economics.

(MARY MARCY).

IV.

## HOW PROFITS ARE MADE.

Many of us have been accustomed to think that profits are made from graft, from special privileges or from monopoly. We have talked so much of the "thieving" among capitalists that we have altogether overlooked the great, main method of profit taking.

As Marx says, if you cannot explain profits on the supposition that commodities exchange at their values, you cannot explain them at all.

And so we shall assume (as in truth they generally do) that commodities on the average, exchange at their value.

Suppose that it takes two hours of necessary labor to produce the necessities of life for a workman—or, in other words, two hours of labor a day to produce labor-power. Suppose two (as is very likely the case), that 2 dols in gold represent two hours of labor.

Now the value of labor-power (which the workman sells)—is determined, (as the value of all commodities are determined), by the social labor contained in it. It is represented by the necessities of life, produced by two hours of necessary labor a day.

If the workman sells his labor-power at its value, he will receive in return a commodity containing two hours of necessary social labor. In the case we mention above, he would receive 2 dols. a day.

In other words, a day's labor power represents two hours of labor, embodied in the food, clothing and shelter that produce it, just as the two dollars in gold (or an equivalent) represent two hours of necessary labor. The labor-power is equal in value to the value of the 2 dols. in gold. The workman has sold his labor-power at its value.

The workman receives enough (2 dols.) in wages to eat, drink, to rest and clothe himself—enough to produce more labor-power. He receives the values of his labor-power.

But wage laborers sell their laboring-power to the bosses by the day or by the week, at so many hours a day. The capitalist buys the commodity (labor-power), paying for it at its value. If the wage-worker is a miner, in two hours he will dig coal equal in value to his wage of 2 dols. a day. The coal he digs will contain two hours of labor just as the two dollars in gold contain two hours of labor and as the necessities for which he exchanges his two dollars, contain two hours of labor.

In other words, in two hours (of necessary labor) the miner would have produced value in coal equal to the value of his wages (or his laboring-power). But he sells his labor-power by the day or week, and the boss prolongs the hours of work as far as possible.

In two hours, however, the miner has produced enough value to pay his own wages, but the boss, having bought the laboring power by the day, may be able to make the wage-worker work ten hours daily. The miner needs only to work two hours to produce a value of 2 dollars to reproduce his labor-power. As Marx would say:—

He must daily reproduce a value of 2 dols. (which he will do in two hours), to daily reproduce his labor-power.

But when he sells his laboring-power to the boss the boss acquires the right to use his labor-power (The entire day—as many hours as the workers' physical endurance will permit.

If he forces the miner to work ten hours daily, the workingman will be laboring eight hours beyond the time necessary to pay his own wages (or value of his labor-power). These eight hours of surplus labor are embodied in a surplus value or a surplus product.

In two hours the miner produces in coal value sufficient to pay for his labor-power, but in the eight succeeding hours of labor, he will produce coal valuing 8 dollars, all of which the capitalist retains for himself.

Since the miner sold his laboring-power to the capitalist, the coal, or value the miner produces, belongs to the capitalist.

Thus the capitalist spends 2 dollars in wages (or two hours of labor) and acquires coal, or other commodities, equal to 10.00 dols (or ten hours of labor). Thus come profits.

Year after year the capitalist buy labor-power, paying for it at its value (in the case of the miner at 2 dollars a day). The capitalists own the products of the workers—equaling ten hours of labor. They exchange a commodity (gold, or money), containing two hours of labor for labor-power (containing two hours of necessary labor—represented by the necessities of life). But when the miner goes home at night the capitalists find themselves owners of the coal he has dug, which contains ten hours of labor.

Coal (representing ten hours of labor) will exchange for gold (or money) containing ten hours of labor; in this case for 10 dollars.

The miner has produced 10 dollars worth of coal. He received 2 dollars.

The eight hours of value, or 8 dollars worth of coal which the capitalists appropriate, is surplus value, for which they give no equivalent.

"It is this sort of exchange between capital and labor upon which capitalist production, or the wage system, is founded, and which must constantly result in reproducing the workingman as workingman and the capitalist as a capitalist.

"The rate of surplus value, all other circumstances remaining the same, will depend on the proportion between that part of the working day necessary to reproduce the value of the laboring-power and the surplus time or surplus labor performed for the capitalist. It will, therefore, depend on the ratio in which the working day is prolonged over and above that extent, by working which the working man would only produce the value of his laboring-power or replace his wages." (Page 81, Value, Price and Profit, by Karl Marx).

The capitalist owns the product of his wage-worker. When he sells this product he disposes of commodities, a part of which have cost him absolutely nothing, although they have cost his workman labor.

It is easy to see how the miner received the value of his laboring power; 2 dollars of gold contain two hours of labor; 2 dollars exchange for—or will buy—the necessities of life (produced by two hours of labor) which will enable the miner to produce more labor-power for the next day's work.

In this case the miner's product, the coal he digs in one day, contains five times the quantity of labor needed to produce the necessities of life, which produce, in him, more strength or more labor-power.

For the things he gets for his labor-power contain only two hours of labor, while the things he produces, and which are claimed by the capitalist, contain ten hours of labor.

The miner sell his labor-power and, naturally, the capitalist desires to use it as profitably (for himself) as possible. If the wage-worker demanded commodities in exchange for his products, containing an equal quantity of labor, he would no longer be a wage-earner, for capitalists would no longer employ him. There would be nothing—no surplus value—left for the capitalists.

But men and women who have nothing to sell but their labor-power have no choice in the matter. They are compelled to sell their strength or labor-power in order to get wages to live. Capitalists, on the other hand, employ them for the sole purpose of taking profits. Capitalists are forced to give the working class enough to live and work on, but they try by every means at their command to prolong the working day into ten, or even twelve hours, in order that more surplus products, or surplus value, may remain for themselves.

But intelligent workmen and women are not content with selling their laboring-power at its value. They are coming more and more to demand the values of their products. We are growing weary of being mere commodities, compelled to sell ourselves, for wages at the regular "market price." We are weary of receiving a product of two hours of labor for products containing ten hours of our labor. We are tired of living on meagre wages while we give up millions for the capitalist class.

This is the chief demand of socialism; that workmen and women cease selling themselves, or their strength, as commodities. We propose to own the commodities we produce ourselves, and to exchange commodities containing a certain quantity of necessary social labor for other commodities representing an equal quantity of necessary social labor.

You and I work for the boss because he owns the factory or mine or railroad or the mill. Ownership of the means of production and distributions (the factories, land, mines, mills—the machinery that produces things) make master of capitalists and wage-workers of you and me.

We proposed the ownership, in common, of the mines, mills, factories and land, of all the productive industries, by the workers of the world.

When you and I and our comrades own the factories in which we work, we will no longer need to turn over to anybody the commodities we have produced. We shall be joint owners of the things for labor in the exchange of commodities. It proposed to make men and women of us instead of commodities to be bought and sold upon the cheapest market as men buy shoes or cows.

A teacher was recounting the story of Red Riding Hood. After describing the woods and wild animals she then added, "Suddenly Red Riding Hood heard a great noise. She turned about, and what do you think she saw standing there and showing its teeth?" "Billy Hughes," roared one of the boys.

Prisoner (from the dock): Justice! Justice! I want justice!

Judge (sternly): My man, do you know where you are?

# Current Comments

Mr. Percival Brookfield, chairman of the Anti-conscription Movement of Broken Hill, is the selected Labor candidate for Sturt.

In his policy speech delivered at Broken Hill, Mr. Brookfield openly declared his belief in the principles of the I.W.W. It is about the first time on record where a politician has had the courage to speak honestly about the much maligned I.W.W.

Go to it, Percival, we admire your pluck and honesty, and wish you success in your campaign against the lies, bigotry, and intolerance of your enemies.

A seat in Parliament is a comfortable job, and you can do with a spell on full day, more so than any of your opponents. But, Percival, your principles!

There has been good men with a far greater record for industrial agitation than Mr. Brookfield, but they slipped. The dazzling lights of Parliament were too strong for them, and they went under.

But time will tell. When Mr. Brookfield finds out the difference between a nice soft plush seat in Parliament and a "woolly" lath in a hot smoky mine when he finds out the difference between the stopes in Macquarie street and the stopes in Broken Hill when he meets the "great" statesmen of New South Wales, and mixes with the elite, will he prove himself made of different stuff to other men, or will he go the way of all his predecessors? Time will tell.

Mr. Durack, leader of the Labor Party, lately visited Broken Hill, and was asked some awkward questions. Durack even went so far in showing his ignorance by saying he "knew nothing about the I.W.W. case," when the whole country was talking about it.

If the leader of the Labor Party "knows nothing" about such a prominent and nation wide question, what must be his knowledge upon smaller questions?

During Durack's stay in Broken Hill, a meeting was called to support Mr. Brookfield in his campaign. Mr. W. Ennis, editor of "Barrier Daily Truth," speaking at the meeting, said: "The I.W.W.'s are not going to serve the sentences, and if Mr. Durack and those with him did not attempt to release them, the workers would have to begin by tossing the politicians out and make room for someone who would put up a fight."

This is not the first time that the editor of "B.D.T." has spoken out in plain language. In fact, Mr. Ennis, has earned a reputation of being a good fighter for industrial organisation.

Mr. Ennis has not had altogether an easy path to travel. Very often has he clashed with members of his own party, but all live wires are pleased to see, so far, he has triumphed over the parliamentary freaks.

Miss Adela Pankhurst, organiser for the Women's Peace Army, and late member of the Women's Political Association, has resigned from the political party.

Miss Pankhurst was a constant reader of "D.A." We wonder if the industrial propaganda advocated by that journal had anything to do with her turning down the political party.

Miss Pankhurst has an analytical mind, and is a keen reasoner, and it is only natural that she should at last come to see that parliamentary action is a slow, long-winded, disappointing, and wasted struggle.

There is no doubt that many of Miss Pankhurst's friends will be sorry at her having resigned from the political party, and may, perchance, put it down to "I.W.W. influence." Will another charge be laid at the door of the I.W.W.?

Detective Brophy, of Melbourne, cleared up a "mystery" last week in connection with a fire which broke out at Woods and Manson, tailors. It was found that a mixture of pollard and phosphorus was laid about the floor in order to kill rats. According to the detective's theory, the rodents had carried the stuff under a heap of tweed cuttings. When the mixture was covered by the tweed, spontaneous combustion set in, and the cloth caught fire, which set fire to the building.

As no I.W.W. man could be fixed for that act of incendiarism, some tale had to be told, hence Detective Brophy's "plot."

It must be remembered that this fire was first advertised as "another I.W.W. outrage."

More about fires. In a leading article

in the Melbourne "Age," the following information comes to light. "In Croajingolong fires broke out day after day for nearly three weeks, and were believed to have been lit by grazing licenses and settlers. Incendiarism of the same kind has been known even in forests permanently reserved and in actual working. In order to improve the grass for a few head of cattle, a grazing license, when he is under no adequate supervision, may destroy many thousands of pounds worth of timber that has been more than a generation coming to maturity."

No action has yet been taken against these incendiaries of the master class, and we doubt very much if the Unlawful Associations Bill will touch them at all.

It has not yet been proved that the I.W.W. men have destroyed one penny worth of property. As the judge said: "It is only 'circumstantial evidence.'" But here we have men caught in the very act of burning thousands of pounds worth of valuable timber upon Government forest reserves, and the law does not touch them. I wonder why! We are living in peculiar times, are we not?

One of the charges laid against the I.W.W. is, "that they did cause disaffection among His Majesty's subjects." Can one be surprised at such a thing happening when advertisements like the following appear every day:—

WANTED, sober, clean, industrious old Man, gardener and useful, milk occasionally, good home, with kind people, wages 7/6 per week, references. Apply to Kindly, Herald.—"S.M. Herald," 23/1/1917.

One could almost bet his sock that the advertiser is a good patriot and loves his country.

It is rumoured that the authorities are now trying to blame the I.W.W. for causing the floods in Queensland, because one of the drowned victims had an I.W.W. pamphlet in his possession. It is said that the I.W.W.'s, having failed to burn down the city, they are now attempting to deluge the country.

The coalies along the South Coast have had some valuable lessons in Arbitration during the last few months. The latest stunt of the Arbitration Court was when it sat at Scarborough to decide about abolition of the afternoon shift. After a lot of time and money had been spent by the coal-miners' union, not one single working place was abolished. It is time the miners understood what to do in times of industrial trouble. It would be unlawful for us to say too much about industrial action, but the name of this paper might suggest a lot.

Two well-known aldermen of a Sydney suburb were heavily fined last week for illegal actions in connection with the municipality. The Unlawful Associations Bill has not yet gathered them within its toils, and they have not yet had their organisation declared criminal. Yes, it's a funny world.

Several returned soldiers, both in Sydney and Melbourne, have been guilty of some of the most awful, atrocious and outrageous crimes, but the Returned Soldiers' Association has not yet been declared illegal. Why? Some of our statesmen act very funny indeed. Why do they single out one organisation and let all others go free? Surely the world wants reorganising. There is something wrong somewhere.

N.R.

## I.W.W. STRIKE.

Forty-three singers, French, Italian, Russian and English, the male chorus of the Chicago Grand Opera Company, overwhelmed, they said, by the high cost of living, went on strike just before their entrance during the second act of "Götterdämmerung." They won.

## CONTRAST.

Judge Bevan (Broken Hill).—The I.W.W. is aiming at the millennium, but they are going the wrong way about it.

Judge Pring (Sydney).—The I.W.W. is a hot-bed of crime.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

TO —

## "DIRECT ACTION."

The subscription to "Direct Action" to any address in the Commonwealth, including postage, is as follows:

4/- Yearly. 2/- Half-Yearly.

Apply, The Manager, Box 98 Haymarket P.O., Sydney. Fill up pars.



## Lithgow.

A series of meetings in support of the movement for the release of the members of the I.W.W. now imprisoned at Long Bay, Broken Hill, W.A., and N.Z., was held in Lithgow during the week-end. The gatherings were held in Main-street, opposite the Grand Central Hotel.

Mr. W. Swift, chairman, at Friday night's meeting, said there were 24 members of the Industrial Workers of the World at present in gaol. Industrialism would replace craft union. The I.W.W. wanted to link up the workers of the world.

F.W. Harry Melrose said he was present as a delegate from the Broken Hill branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association; he was not speaking as a member of the I.W.W. The vengeance of Mr. Hughes over the recent referendum had to be vented on some one, and certain working class people were pounced upon for various offences. At Broken Hill 12 men were arrested—some for sedition, some for abusive language, and some for saying something which might cause disaffection among loyal subjects. The speaker quoted divergent views which Judge Bevan and Mr. Justice Pring had on the very same morning expressed regarding the I.W.W., and contrasted sentences inflicted by Mr. Justice Pring with those of Mr. Justice Burnsides, in W.A. In respect to the cases in Sydney, the speaker was debarred from commenting on the evidence brought forward and the attitude of Mr. Justice Pring, and the jury because in some instances a new trial had been granted. Montague Miller, sentenced in W.A., was 85 years of age, and was connected with Peter Lalor at the Eureka Stockade. The speaker explained that it was thought that the sentences at Broken Hill were "over the odds," but were infinitesimal compared with those in Sydney. Accordingly, it was decided that two delegates be sent to get in contact with the workers throughout Australia to bring about some concerted action for the release of the imprisoned men. Although the Unlawful Association Act was specifically aimed at the I.W.W., the Governor-General could, with the advice of the Executive Council, declare any organisation a criminal organisation. What was the working class going to do about it? The workers' Defence and Release Committee had, during the last fortnight, received between £700 and £800 in connection with the appeal cases. Men in gaol were arrested simply because they were working class agitators.

Mr. Melrose, in reply to a question, said he refused to answer inquiries about the I.W.W. They could be addressed to J. R. Wilson the next night. Mr. Justice Pring's notes had been got at a cost of £32, and would be printed as soon as possible.

On Saturday night Mr. Melrose mentioned that the Small Arms Factory Union had decided that day to help in the demand for the release of the imprisoned men.

F. W. Wilson of the I.W.W., put the case for one big union in place of craft unions and referred to each of the 12 I.W.W. members imprisoned in Sydney.

Whistler Mr. Reynell, who is a member of the Painters' Union, was speaking his name was taken by the stationmaster for trespassing on Government property. A sympathiser balanced the speaker on his shoulders and the address was continued.

On Sunday night the speeches were made from boxes on land adjacent to a shop on the opposite side of the roadway.

F.W. Melrose stated that 60 or 70 workers at the Murrumbidgee railway deviation works had that afternoon subscribed £1 to the defence and release funds and decided to make fortnightly subscriptions.

F.W. Wilson said that "free speech" fights had been won in Sydney, Newcastle and Port Pirie, and they were "not afraid of winning some more." Hundreds of speakers could be brought from all parts of the Commonwealth. The case of the 12 men imprisoned in Sydney had in the first instance cost £1000. Mr. Dooley and seven other members of the Labor Opposition said they did not care to come out at this time, but if the present proceedings failed they would take the platform.

Mr. Reynell submitted a motion of protest against the treatment of the men, and a demand for their release. Mr. J. Sullivan seconded. Carried.

The chairman, Mr. W. Shawcross, said that the Hermitage lodge was forwarding a similar resolution to the other lodges in the district.

F.W. Wilson thanked the people of Lithgow and district for their generosity in the collections.

The meeting closed with cheers for the imprisoned men.

## Mount Morgan Miners, Hallo!

(By W. Jackson.)

Having quite recently spent a few weeks at Mount Morgan I am in a position to give something like the exact facts as far as available material allows as to the conditions under which our fellow workers toil at the great Mount Morgan mine. Firstly, I wish to point out clearly that at this particular institution of capitalism the workers barely receive 1-3rd of the product of what their labor produces. Just about 2000 men are employed by the company, and they work 24 hours each day in three shifts of 8 hours each. 7.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., 3.30 to 11.30 p.m., and from 11.30 p.m. to 7.30 a.m. To any of our readers who have lived in a mining centre, they may very easily depict the 8-hourly procession of the slaves, clad in short arm singlets, 3/6 Stetsons, dungarees, bowties, watertight hobnail boots, with the proverbial straw bag crib, tea can, or the black billy. I was anxious to study the frame of mind of the local slaves, and the reason for their apathetic attitude towards anything that pertained to unionism, and I discovered this was due to certain material conditions that have existed for a number of years.

Up to about the year 1912 the slaves at the Mount were of the opinion that in Captain Richards, the manager of the mine, they had one who had a tendency to take a paternal interest in their welfare, and hence they did not feel disposed to further the interests of unionism as far as Mount Morgan was concerned. But Captain Richards was not doomed to stay for eternity, and one day he departed, and a man by the name of Magnus came along to manage the mine in "the interests" of the owners, and this individual happened to be fairly well versed up in the art of how to more scientifically rob working people. He looked round and saw hundreds of half worn out human draught horses who had so faithfully served the company for 10 to 15 years. Without any hesitation he dispensed with their services, and put in their place young, virile, more willing, and dexterous slaves who could be relied upon to do more work. Scientific management was applied on the job, and thousands of pounds worth of labor saving appliances were installed.

The toilers became targets of this tool of the capitalist class. Enraged like a maddened bull before an expert torador, he sacked men continually, and eventually the local labor market became glutted to such an extent that the workers decided to form a union. Since the advent of this union it has passed through various phases, and at the present time most of the men who work in the mine and thereabouts are under the banner of the A.W.U. There are scarcely any of them who understand their economic position, hence they are unionists, "nominally."

It is essential in the true interests of the working class that each of us should understand our economic position, viz., How wealth is produced, and how it is distributed. How much the working class receives, and how much the bosses get. How many hours you work you receive payment for, and how many hours you work for which you receive no equivalent. I have here figures that may be relied upon, and hope that the workers of Mount Morgan will think out their position and act accordingly.

Men employed at Mount Morgan 2000.  
2000 men at 14/ per day receive

## Workers, Awake!

It's grand to see a rebel, someone with the spirit of revolt, someone who, dissatisfied with prevailing conditions, has the manhood to voice his opinions in spite of all the attempts of the ruling class to stifle his utterances.

Yes, and while we see many men who will brave the full extent of capitalistic hatred one wonders whether the sacrifice of such men are in vain, and if they stand alone in their efforts to bring about the emancipation of the working class. It is inconceivable to think that such is the case, and the history of the world from a working class standpoint gives a direct negative, for if it were so the butchering or gaoing of the militant spirits of industrial organisation would soon bring about chaos and regulate the labor movement to the darkness of oblivion. But what do we find, in spite of persecution, working class organisation grows apace.

in one day	£1400
In one week	9800
In one month	42,000
In six months	252,000
In one year	504,000
Copper produced per day	£2700
In one week	18,700
In one month	81,000
In six months	486,000
In 12 months	972,000
Gold produced per day	£1928
In one week	13,500
In one month	57,840
In six months	347,040
In 12 months	694,080
Total copper 12 months	£972,000
Total gold, 12 months	£694,080

Total . . . . . £1,666,080  
Total wages, 12 months . . . . . £504,000

Total . . . . . £1,162,080  
Surplus value of product—One million one hundred and sixty-two thousand and eight pounds for permission to toil!

I have already stated at the beginning of this article the workers only receive barely one-third of the product of their labor. These figures positively prove this statement, and if you paraphrase this to hours, it means each man who works 8 hours daily, receives payment for one-third of 8 hours, which is 2 hours 40 minutes. The rest of the time he toils in to a heap of coke with a scoop, viz., 5 hours 20 minutes he works gratuitously, and the wealth he produces during this period is SURPLUS VALUE. The basis of capitalism and your dear, kind, benevolent, philanthropic, patriotic, Christian bosses receive this swag for their "Thrift," "Enterprise," and "Extraordinary ability."

I have in my compilation of wages allowed for each man 14/ per day, 8 hours per day, and 7 days per week. This is a very fair average. Each man produces (value in copper and gold), 42/ per day, and is obliged to hand over 28/ for permission to toil. This is £9/16/ per week, £42 per month, £250 for six months, and £500 for 12 months. Think of it! Paying these well fed loafing parasites who fatten and batten on the ignorance and apathy of our fellow workers, and yet in the face of such facts, we get the effrontery of the average working man stating: "What will we do without the capitalist class?" The answer to this question is simple. Each man would be working 2 hours and 40 minutes instead of 8 hours, and if he worked 8 hours he would receive an equivalent to the wealth he produced. Darcy, Casey, Archer, and one or two other men, own the mine, and the one million one hundred and sixty-two thousand pounds they receive each year is the reward of "industry and ability." Yet they do not work, and with the help of God and the irritating stupidity and ignorance of the working-class, they certainly never intend to.

It behoves each and every worker who works for the Mount Morgan Company to read the literature of the I.W.W. Attend our propaganda meetings, and find out for yourself who and what the I.W.W. is. Do not be misled by slanders cast upon the I.W.W. by the capitalists, their representatives in pulp and press, or the high salaried political labor fakirs, who are materially interested in keeping the workers divided into separate, isolated warring groups.

Unite in the One Big Union of the working class and help to bring about the day when the workers will get the full product of their toil.

In spite of the condemnation by plutocratic class working class ideas permeate the mines, mills, and factories. Everywhere there is growing a better conception of what life should be.

By reasoning thus one has to look no further to find the cause for the savage sentences imposed upon our fellow workers in various parts of Australia. The fiendish hatred of the ruling class to anything savouring of working class solidarity is vented upon the men who dare voice the grievances of their class. In their outbursts of fury the bosses show their brutal vindictiveness in a vain hope to stem the oncoming tide, hoping by their devilish displays to stun the rapidly awakening workers. How miserably they fail. It is some organisation that makes such

## Shearing News.

The article, "Frenzied Finance," in the "Worker," January 18th, discussing the balance sheet of Shearing Disputes Committee (abstract from August 20th to September 25th, 1916) is only another proof of the vindictiveness and unfairness, and has made the rebels at present in Sydney local and all through the shearing districts more determined and angry against the A.W.U. officials. We, rebels, but for better conditions, take that criticism of the "Worker" as a huge joke, and another proof of how much against us are the officials of A.W.U. How sore they must be when they resort to such paltry spite! Also on the same page as "Frenzied Finance" is a letter from Tom Smith, who admitted that he was very sorry he got up at that meeting in the Trades Hall and spoke on behalf of the A.W.U. officials. He was told at that meeting that he was a suspected messenger from the A.W.U. officials and to tell them that the men of the "Shearing Disputes" would not sink their dignity by placing a deputation before the A.W.U. Convention, for it was not forgotten that these A.W.U. officials were the servants of the shearers, though unfortunately, by a strange coincidence they've become their "boss and master" and thus the last strike rebellion—and that they (the Disputes Committee) would not send a deputation to their lords and masters of the A.W.U., because decent rebels never crawl to their "bosses," knowing right down through history that they get no chance, and so they prefer to stand out and fight for themselves, again realising they were betrayed by their servants, the A.W.U. officials in 1916. At the last meeting in Trades Hall another scout named Gough came on the same mission as Tom Smith, but was also given an icy, dignified reception.

H. C. Prince, Cobarr, A. Cunningham, Inverell; and Samuel Conroy, Bourke, have sent communications to-day, advising that men in those districts are standing solidly, and are out to win.

Note.—Will shearer rebels who are taking active parts throughout the northern and western shearing centres please send along, per post, communications and advice as to their doings to Sydney local at once. We have had good information this week's mail, but I want more, very much more. Address to—

Assistant Secretary,  
BETSY H. MATTHIAS,  
Box 2142, G.P.O.,  
Sydney, N.S.W.

## BOURKE.

At a mass meeting of A.W.U. members held at the Bushman's Home Thursday night, January 16th, 1917, the following rates were endorsed for the forthcoming season:—Shearing 30/ per 100; shed hands £3 per week with keep; wool pressers 7d. per cwt. with a minimum of 4d per week. Cooks 7/ per man. Crutching, 26 per week, or £1 per day wet or dry, and all found; or £1/5/ per day and keep self. Forty-four hours per week. The maximum to be crutched by day work is 220. Wiggling and ringing 3/ per 100. No agreements to be signed prior to roll call.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of A.W.U. members condemns the action of the officials of the A.W.U. for accepting the terms of the compulsory conference, and that no A.W.U. organisers be sent out this season."

Committee: A. Holland, W. Anderson, E. Gill, H. Ryan, E. Moses, W. Whitebread, J. Ford, P. Ryan, A. Jenkins, T. Richards, S. Mooney, A. McKelick.  
SAMUEL CONRY, Chairman.

men as these. The organisation is only the outcome of rotten economic conditions, and those that realise it, join that they may more effectively register and enforce their protests. And so the movement goes on. We may be deprived for a while of our fellow workers, but the workshops of our are ours for the propagation of our ideas. Out of them will come the voice that will demand that such unedifying orgies shall cease. Out of them will come the agitator of the future, defiant and unconquerable, firm upon the pedestal of industrial solidarity.

PETE.

An English milkman had just finished his morning round, and was returning home when he was stopped by a recruiting sergeant. "Would you like to serve the king?" said the sergeant. "That I would," said the milkman. "How much milk does he want?"

Published by Tom Barker, of 28 Francis Street, Sydney, for the Workers' Defence and Release Committee, at 403 Sussex Street, Sydney, and printed by H. Cook and Co., 200 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

O.K.—Unsuitable.  
J. Curtin.—Fifteen years on every separate charge.  
A.B.C.—Unsuitable.