

'An Injury to One an INJURY to All.'



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Release Agitation.

MELBOURNE.

The world still revolves on its axis, despite the fact that local eight has been a trifle quiet in its propaganda activities. But meteorologists affirm that the sensitive scientific instruments that register the speed of the earth as it rushes with "cosmic fury" through space show a slight increase in speed. Melbourne activities are now going with all the old force and influence.

Yarra bank crowds, though rather on the small side when compared with the anti-conscription campaign, are getting bigger every Sunday, and bid fair to assume formidable proportions ere a few weeks had passed. Last Sunday a decided acquisition to the I.W.W. was Mrs. Westbrook, of West Australia. She held the audience interested for quite a while with her story of the I.W.W. trials in the West. Other fellow-workers to speak were Alf. Wilson and Charlie Dunn. In the hall in the evening the speaker was again Mrs. Westbrook, a fair number being present to bear her deal exhaustively with the West Australian trial. On Wednesday, in company with Fellow Worker Jeffrey, our female fellow-worker spoke at North Fitzroy at a meeting convened by that sterling little rebel woman, Mrs. Baines, of English suffragette fame. Despite counter attractions, the meetings were fairly successful, and the case for the boys in Sydney gaol was well received by the female section of the crowd. Friday night meetings in the suburbs are all held under the auspices of the Workers' Defence Committee, and all available I.W.W. propagandists take part. These street meetings are doing a great deal to arouse sympathy and sentiment for the incarcerated men, there being nearly always good crowds to greet the various speakers.

Contrary to general expectations, the Trades Council decided against affiliating with the Workers' Defence League, resolving to carry on an agitation of their own for the release the boys in Long Bay Gaol. It is gratifying to note that they have moved in the matter, as they must now see clearly that the Trades Union Movement will also come in for its share of persecution if action of some sort is not taken at once.

It is also mooted that the Political Labour Council is going to move on the same direction, although nothing definite is known.

The excitement generated by the conscription issue was only transient and the slaves got back into the same groove again immediately after it was over. Only now are they beginning to see that the I.W.W. case affects them greatly, and as deeply as ever. "William the Lawd" has been very silent of late over the I.W.W.; possibly it may be that his favorite stunt of fulminating untruth and misrepresentations against the Industrial Workers of the World has been played out, and no longer having the efficiency it once had. Be that as it may, the seven and a half stone lump of bounce, wind and colossal vanity is now silent, as far as the "Wobblies" are concerned.

NORMAN JEFFERY.

LITHGOW.

Last week, two speakers on behalf of the Defence and Release Committee, F.W.s. J. R. Wilson, and C. Sinclair, proceeded to Lithgow to conduct a series of meetings. Upon arrival they were met by some of the local fellow-workers, who had the meetings well advertised.

There being no free speech on the streets of Lithgow for I.W.W. speakers, and the local municipal council having a rumpus over the matter, the Mayor not being an authority upon the bye-laws, and the authorities not being over-anxious to interpret the law in our favor, considerable difficulty was experienced in getting a stand from where to hold the meetings. The main corner and most suitable spot for meetings provides an ideal stand



Greater Love Hath No Man than he Who Lays Down His Life for His Friends.

for the purpose. The Railway Department has control of the only vacant corner. The Trades Hall rents a portion for advertising purposes in connection with a picture show, which that institution controls. On Sunday night, near the end of the meeting F.W. Wilson had his name taken for trespassing on Government property, despite the fact that permission was granted from the Trades Hall to the I.W.W. to conduct their meetings there. All classes of jingoes and I.W.W. critics are never interfered with when they choose to hold their meetings from that spot. Result regarding the booking is awaited with anxiety.

On Friday night a large crowd assembled, and a successful meeting was held. A shower near closing time finished the meeting. It rained heavily on Saturday night. On Sunday night an exceptional meeting was held. Several questions were answered, and plenty of information supplied. The collections were good, and the sales of literature up to the mark.

F. W. Swift was chairman at all meetings. Prospects are very bright. The workers are clamouring for information regarding the I.W.W. cases, and the movement in general. The bosses are prepared to fight us, every inch of the way, true to their traditions.

The "Lithgow Mercury," which has a very wide circulation, has been devoting a good deal of its columns to the I.W.W. The local fellow-workers have answered most of the criticism, and the various speakers have cleared the remainder up to date.

It is hoped that in the near future that a local will be formed, and Lithgow will very shortly be a strong industrial fort for the One Big Union.

F. W. S.

"DAMNING EVIDENCE."

The Melbourne "Argus," of 13th December, begins its sub-leader with the following sentence: "Further damning evidence of the sinister intentions of the I.W.W. is contained in the disclosure of the damage done to the cruiser Brisbane, at Sydney."

The "damning evidence" is given in the next column, under the heading, "I.W.W. Influence." It is worth reading as a typical example of "evidence" as the term is understood by the capitalist press:—

"Replying to a question in the House of Representatives yesterday, the Minister for the Navy stated that he received a report from the general manager of Cockatoo Island dockyards that some person or persons had deliberately cut the whole of the electric wires that led from the bridge of the cruiser Brisbane. The general manager had further reported that the action of some of the men at the dockyards had caused him a great deal of concern. The men had never been discovered, but he had instructed the manager of the dockyards that if he knew of any I.W.W. men working on the cruiser Brisbane he was to dismiss them immediately."

"Damning evidence," indeed, but who 's damned by it? The I.W.W. of the "The Argus?"

—Fellowship."

I—AND MY PEN.

I do not like to write as I do—
I prefer to voice the joy of life—
The splendor of man, the call of beauty;
I'd rather dream sweet dreams,
And have fun in pure-hearted adventure;
I'd like to write of the raptures of Spring,
But whenever I ope' my lips to sing,
I hear the plaintive wail—
"TWELVE REBEL MEN IN JAIL."

—BETSY H. MATTHIAS.

Defence Agitation.

QUEENSLAND.

WEEKLY REPORT.

On Wednesday last I addressed the A.M.E. I.U. Conference. A recommendation from the Brisbane branch urged the Executive to vote £50. However, they ultimately voted £10, which has not yet come to hand. On the same evening I addressed the Russian Association. They collected £1 at the meeting, and promised to open a list in "Rabochaya Zinsh," their paper, for the defence. On Friday I spoke at an I.W.W. meeting in the Square. On Saturday I left for Gympie, for the week-end. I spoke there outdoor on Saturday evening. Large crowd, but rather backward. Didn't get enough collection to cover expenses, but a future visit will have much better results.

Last night I went to speak to Railway Union, but they had packed the meeting against me. A resolution was to be put, voting £5, but I haven't heard the results. I spoke at the Letter-Carriers' afterwards, and they were very sympathetic. Expect money from them. Lists are going out on the railway and the Gympie Post Office workers. Money is coming in, and we expect to be able to send £20 as soon as Butchers' £10 arrives.

"Speeches" and dodgers have not arrived. Did you send any by Jack Burke? Sabotaged in mail, I suppose. Could have sold 200 at Gympie easily.

Speaking at Redbank on Wednesday, we are not quite sure of Premier's sanction to Art Union. Can't run it for defence. Must be for women and children. Same thing. He seems a little afraid.

We will be assured of a few hundred if Ryan comes through. No meetings at Brisbane. Wet week-end. Not much good me going north as expenses are heavy and income small. Was thinking of trying Glenreagh or Coffs Harbor.

Good luck. Glad to hear of success at Lithgow. All makes good.

Yours fraternally,

TOM BARKER.

BARRIER.

Broken Hill is still boiling with discontent. At De Bavays last week a slave met with an accident. The storekeeper, whose duty it was to procure medical aid, refused to ring up the doctor, and the men took "direct action," and walked out and remained until the storekeeper was fired. The bracceman and platman at the North Broken Hill Mine also had a dispute with the boss over the bonus system, and again we had the pleasure of seeing a fine display of solidarity. All hands walked out, and the mine stood idle for two days. The men said they would have no more bonus system, and demanded straight-out wages at the ruling rates, with an extra man on the brace and plat. The masters, seeing that the miners had decided to practice what they preached, "an injury to one was the concern of all," granted all demands. The men resumed work on Friday afternoon. Local Nos. 1 and 3 decided yesterday to circulate all other unions on The Barrier, whose members are working night shift, with a view to abolishing the night shift. The Rev. S. D. Yarrington, in the course of his lecture here yesterday on The Red Plague, condemned the clergy and politicians for not doing their duty in the interest of humanity.

Propaganda is still going ahead in good form. The twelve men in gaol are getting all the publicity possible from the politician in particular. The release committee has organised a monster procession next Sunday, with the A.M.E. Band in attendance, which will march through the main streets and finish up in the central reserve, where a demonstration will be held. Many of the old batteries of local unions, Nos. 1 and 3, are arriving back to the Hill to take part in the grand fight of the working class against the onslaughts of the human vultures of society.

TRIFF.

Direct Action



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CLASS UNIONISM.

In ever increasing numbers, the working class is beginning to realise that it must UNITE AS A CLASS if it is ever going to get more of the GOOD THINGS WHICH ITS LABOR PRODUCES.

The working class has now reached that stage when it can NO LONGER struggle on and win with the old form of organisation.

In the various industries of the world, the toilers meet and work, without any regards to sex, creed, nationality, or colour.

Thousands of workers are grouped under one roof, and ALL ARE ROBBED AND EXPLOITED BY EXACTLY THE SAME METHOD, no matter who they are, or what they be.

In times of industrial depression or national calamity, ALL SECTIONS of workers suffer alike.

During periods of unemployment, it is not one particular trade that suffers, or starves, but all grades of workers are found applying for relief.

In hunger marches, in doss houses, and at soup kitchens are to be found the office worker, the shop assistant, the engineer, alongside the navy, labourer, agricultural worker, etc. ALL FEEL HUNGER THE SAME, ALL SHIVER THROUGH THE SAME CAUSE, ALL GROAN THROUGH THE SAME EFFECT.

When new machinery and labor saving devices are introduced into one shop, it is not the workers in that shop alone that suffer, but the effect is felt in a score of different industries. Trades that have never heard of the new machine soon begin to feel the effect.

A strike in one industry can affect the WHOLE OF THE WORKING CLASS and dislocate the whole of industry. A lock-out in one shop may mean starvation and misery to thousands of men and women, hundreds of miles away from the trouble. It has been known of an industrial disturbance taking place in one country to affect the workers in other countries also.

During the strike of the iron and steel workers in Japan, the workers in America were seriously affected. A large strike in America can very seriously affect the toilers in Australia, England, and other countries. A strike in Australia would also affect the workers of other countries of the world.

It is a SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH that the working class must of absolute necessity UNITE AS A CLASS in order to protect themselves from the power of the international capitalists.

Owing to the development of the capitalist system, the whole of the industries of the world are so linked up as to be INSEPARABLE from each other.

One industry, no matter how large or small, cannot exist by itself alone. No group of industries can carry on production while other industries stand off.

Even the smallest article produced passes through thousands of hands and touches hundreds of different trades in its march from the raw material to the finished product.

No body of workers, no matter how

small or how large, can continue producing independently of all other groups.

Under the present system of SOCIAL PRODUCTION, all trades co-operate together in producing and supplying the world with all it needs.

The day is now gone when anyone can say: "Alone I did it." The day is now many years flown when one trade can isolate itself from others.

The bakers and cooks would be UNABLE to feed the world if tailors, carpenters, bricklayers, miners, transport workers, agricultural labourers, etc., etc., did not help them to carry on.

The builder would be USELESS to society if he did not get the assistance of the miner, farmer, labourer, tailor, etc., etc. It is exactly the same with every other branch of work. They are all INEXTRICABLY linked together.

One body of workers is DIRECTLY AND PERMANENTLY dependent upon all other bodies in order to get their living.

It should be apparent to all that the interests of all workers in the world are PERFECTLY IDENTICAL with each other IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT TRADE OR OCCUPATION they may follow.

The question of sex, creed, colour, or nationality SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO DISPUTE in this stern, grim, fierce struggle with the master class.

In order to ward off the depredations of the master class and prevent the oppressive measures of international capitalism, the working class is FORCED THROUGH ACTUAL NECESSITY to organise as a class into One Big Union.

By the working class grouping themselves together into One Big Union, irrespective of sex, creed, colour or nationality, they are laying the foundations of the New Society, when the workers will revel in the glory of their own production. ORGANISE, and help to speed the day when the world will be bathed in the sunshine of peace, happiness and plenty.

ORGANISE, and help along the day when parasites, criminals, and beggars will be no more.

N.R.

Overwork.

American people are overworked, and are approaching a breakdown, declares Miss Josephine Goldmark, of the National Consumers' League, who repeats the insistent claim of organised labor that shorter working days are necessary to preserve health and ideals.

"Overwork is the greatest single menace to public health in America," she said. "People are dying younger in America than ever before. Workers are wearing out more quickly. The diseases which are carrying them off are plainly the diseases of overwork. The death rate from apoplexy and nervous diseases has increased 19 per cent. in 10 years, according to the census records of 5,000,000 working people; from heart disease the increase has been 29 per cent.; from diseases of the kidneys and urinary system, 43 per cent., and from diseases of the liver and digestive organs 34 per cent. It does not take a physician to know that these diseases are typically the diseases of fatigue.

"Fatigue is poison. It is the poisoning of the system by worn-out cells which would normally be carried out of it. If activity is not balanced by rest, life itself is threatened."

Speech by Mr. Frank Anstey, M.H.R., at Brunswick Town Hall, Melbourne. Dealing with the I.W.W. trial, Mr. Anstey said that no portion of the defence was allowed to be published. The whole of this evidence should be given to the public, and they were endeavouring to get it. (Applause.) He had read all the depositions against the accused men, and was satisfied that the whole thing indicated a gigantic police conspiracy. Instead of being an instrument against the Labour movement, the cowardly operation in dealing with these men was going to condemn the ministry and all connected with it. (Applause.) The prosecution was not thought of till there was a political end to serve.

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."

LAW AND JUSTICE.

Law and justice are wonderful things. So many things laudatory have been said about justice that people are usually led to believe that it is something tangible, something easily identified and always worth striving to obtain.

The law of the land is the embodiment of the idea of justice prevalent on the particular spot, and among the particular class of people who enact the laws. The law determines that certain actions are not permissible, and that other actions must be performed by the people whom it is desired to place under the operation of the law. If they do not comply with the law the legal machinery is set in motion, and the hapless non-conformists are clapped into the jaws of stern "justice."

But as a matter of fact, practically anything within the compass of human understanding has been lawful and unlawful in turn. To burn, murder, rob, and steal is lawful and unlawful at the same time, according to who commits the murder, theft, etc. As a rule anything vile is lawful wherever it is done on a sufficiently large scale and with the full blessing of capitalist church and state. At one time it was unlawful to harbour or protect men of certain religious beliefs. Now it is unlawful to persecute men of the same religious belief. The inhabitants of certain territories, such as Alsace, Lorraine or Egypt, etc., have found themselves running the risk of jails and gallows, first because they possessed a certain national fanaticism, afterwards because they didn't. So that it is lawful or not does not depend on whether it is wicked or not but simply on whether it suits the purpose of those in whose interests the law is framed.

Again, in the name of justice, we have seen men driven from their homes, innocent women and children starved to death or being sent to the bottom of the sea. To expend the wealth of the world in destroying the happiness of millions is just. To deprive millions of workers of the opportunity to earn a living is just. To drive hungry paupers to transgress the laws of property, and afterwards to beat them insensate with batons, or to shoot them down in cold blood, or to immure them in poisonous dungeons to die a lingering death, is just. Many good acts of charity have also been performed in the name of justice. In short, any old thing is justice.

Emerson has said: "Good men must not obey the laws too well." There is a deep significance in that. Emerson was a philosopher, who had peeped deeply in

to the profound secrets of the human heart and the forces which shape the actions of men and society. He would not lightly utter misleading words or give expression to frivolous sentiments. When he said that good men must not obey the laws too well, he meant that at times it becomes the sacred duty of the individual to break the laws imposed by the self-seeking forces of authority. He knew that governments are more prone to impose laws that are detrimental to the human race than to help in the progress of humanity.

Governments can commit crimes with impunity from which the individual would shrink with horror because a government has neither got a body to be kicked, or a soul to be damned. An individual, on the other hand, knows that humanity will judge his actions. If he makes slips it is not because he is willfully wicked, but because he is liable to make mistakes. The only exception to this rule is the man who is prepared to commit violence in order to obtain the goods others have created.

Whenever one class is oppressed and unhappy it is because the class which possesses the wealth of the world is depriving them of the wealth they create or tyrannise over them. Naturally, to try to throw off the yoke of capitalism and its heinousness is a justifiable and laudatory object in the minds of the working class, but an undesirable and therefore unlawful object in the minds of the capitalists. As a rule, to try to rid the working class of the yoke of the capitalists is unlawful, because as a rule laws are class laws, enacted to keep the capitalist tyrants rich and powerful and the oppressed workers poor and under the heel of the capitalist authority.

Therefore, it becomes the mission of the working class to fight, not for "law and justice" but for the uplift and well being of humanity. It becomes the duty of the working class not to imitate the brutality, the murder, and the exploitation of the capitalists and their governments, but to counteract the crimes of capitalism and to protect the working class against its enemies, whether it be legal or not. Only when the working class unites to see that everything is for the well being of the world's workers can we hope to open the gates of the jails and to liberate the heroes and martyrs who are languishing in the dungeons of capitalism because they dared to fight for humanity.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON.

LET IT BE SETTLED RIGHT

However the battle is ended,
Though proudly the victor comes,
With fluttering flags and prancing nags,
And echoing rolling drums,
Still truth proclaims this motto
In letters of living light—
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

Though the heel of the strong oppressor,
May grind the weak in the dust,
And the voices of fame, with one acclaim,
May call him great and just,
Let those who applaud take warning,
And keep the motto in sight—
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

Let those who have failed to take courage,
Though the enemy seems to have won,
Tho' his ranks are strong if he be in the wrong
The battle is not yet done,
For sure as the morning follows
The darkest hour of night,
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

O man, bowed down with labor!
O woman, young, yet old,
O heart oppressed in the toiler's breast,
And crushed by the power of gold!
Keep on with your weary battle
Against triumphant might,
For sure as the morning follows
The darkest hour of night,
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.
Go over to France and stay in the trenches for twenty months; get wounded; get buried in the ground by a shell; stand all day and sleep all night in mud to your knees; be frozen; eat your meals with flies from the rotting bodies of your dead friends settling on your food; breathe poison gas—after that come back and we can talk together about war.

—Eloï Bordin.

FAT'S FATHERLY ADVICE.

LABOR AND CAPITAL SHOULD WORK
HAND IN HAND.
If you, unemployed and starving, bear it like a man;
And stop for ever growling at our profit-grabbing plan,
Though we may hurt a little with our get-rich-quick device,
We will smooth your puny troubles in a fog of good advice.

Don't get nasty when your hungry, be reasonable and kind;
Though you create our luxuries you really should not mind;
If you used to unemployment and no stranger to despair,
When in the depth of poverty be like me and banish care.

Never raise a horrid clamour when you voice a stern demand;
For I, your dearest brother, will lend a helping hand;
I will aid you with sweet promises and tender platitudes,
And isn't that sufficient? Must you always cry for food?
That you should be dissatisfied fills me with surprise,
And to have the damned impertinence to go and organise,
And upon my kind benevolence seriously reflect;
It's absurd, I live in splendor, why charge me with neglect.

Let us pull together, let the strong protect the weak,
And of irritating differences and bicker never speak.
You may rot in vile conditions, and starve on meagre pay,
Still, I'll love you like a brother, if you only will obey.

PETE.

Others' Views.

THE I.W.W. CASES.

The writer is not a member of the I.W.W., he is not personally acquainted with anyone concerned in the late Sydney trial, and he has never been in a criminal dock—so it may be claimed that what he has to say, is the candid opinion of a law-loving and impartial citizen of the Commonwealth.

In these days, when to merely mention the I.W.W. is to be accused of sympathy with criminality, it is necessary that THE VOICE OF TRUTH AND HUMANITY SHOULD BE HEARD ABOVE THE TUMULT OF IGNORANCE AND MALEVOLENCE. We live in a society where every man and woman is entitled to justice and a fair trial. And freedom of speech and action, within the law, is our most sacred heritage.

Much of the evidence on which the I.W.W. members were convicted was based upon statements of opinion alleged to have been made at public meetings in the Sydney Domain and elsewhere. Now, if those speeches were offences against the law, why were they allowed to go on for years without police interference? And if they were not offences against the law, why were they admitted as evidence to prove complicity in crime?

According to the latest New South Wales judicial interpretation of freedom of speech, every person who advocates a drastic change in the distribution of wealth (or speculates on how to bring it about), is a criminal, because he desires to deprive some people of their lawfully acquired wealth in order that others may get a fairer share of it. There was no imperfectly reported speeches of any of the evidence in the recent trial that any of the accused had actually incited anyone to acts of lawlessness.

As a matter of plain fact there was NO POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF A SINGLE UNLAWFUL ACT ON THE PART OF ANY OF THE ACCUSED, and all of them (except one, who had a recent questionable conviction against him), had impeccable characters, free from the slightest taint of crime. The police knew none of them in any connection other than as reputable members of the world-wide society known as "The Industrial Workers of the World." The leaders were well-known industrial propagandists (always opposed to the official Labor Party) who worked openly and spoke freely in the presence of the police for years.

We are now asked to suddenly believe that these citizens, whose reputations were without blemish, are a gang of dangerous criminals who are being lightly dealt with in being sent to a living death for fifteen years. And THE ONLY EVIDENCE ON WHICH THEY WERE CONVICTED WAS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUPPLIED BY ALLEGED ACCOMPLICES, AVOWED INFORMERS, AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE, who had been specially employed.

And the Government's determination to secure that drastic conviction was further shown by the briefing of one of the most eminent and able men at the Australian Bar, who handled the case with bitterness and malevolence all the way through, from the Police Court to the place presided over by Justice Fring. Clearly, the Crown did not think the evidence in itself, was sufficient to convict, and employed the most persuasive counsel to put the most plausible case possible to the jury.

But it is not conceivable that the matter shall be allowed to rest where the judge left it.

—"Ross's Magazine."

Tactics.

A prominent feature in the struggle for existence is the combination of the weak in order to resist the degradations of the strong. The efficiency of a union depends at least, as much upon the aggressiveness, as the intelligence of the units. In the confused huddles of frightened sheep we see unity of action at its least value; the parallel in humanity being the mad rush of a panic-stricken mob, a case where unity of impulse leads to destruction. Wild dogs afford an example of united action, showing a high efficiency, chiefly because aggressiveness is tilted with intelligence. In the insect world the well-known examples afforded by bees and wasps, in their prompt resentment of intrusion, illustrate the fact that united action must combine offensive tactics with defensive efforts to secure results worth mentioning. All observation tends to show the absurdity of passive resistance, or even the stop at a time policy.

Upon reflection it is shown the necessity of an active and continuous offensive not only to secure further gains, but even to hold what we have; which is at present but little, chiefly owing to our lack of aggressiveness.

J. Z. JONES.

CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not class-consciousness, I am as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." (With apologies to Saint Paul.)

Consciousness means to know, to understand, and as Herbert Spencer pointed out, it also means to predict, to foretell.

The preamble of the I.W.W. is a class-conscious piece of literature that is now famous and will in time become historic. When the historians come to write the account of the twentieth century social revolution, and to leave out the I.W.W. Preamble, would be like to write an account of the peasants' revolt and leave out such names as John Ball and Wat Tyler, or to write of the French revolution and not mention such names as Danton and Marat.

"It is the historic mission of the working class to overthrow capitalism." That's it. Intelligent industrial unionists no longer look upon the class struggle as a long drawn out and never ending conflict between the masters and slaves, the master class and the working class, in which the workers are to get all the hard knocks in the way of long hours, poor wages, and all the other industrial horrors which go to make up the life of a wage earner, and the capitalists to live in riotous plenty and vicious luxury; but we look upon the class struggle as a means of giving the workers the necessary experience, and consequently the knowledge to be able to take over the industries of the world, and to run them in the interests of the workers of the world.

Prior to the understanding of the great law of evolution, there would be no class-consciousness working class movement. In the past, the workers just revolted in blind fury against their task masters; in the future they will revolt, with a determination and set purpose in view, to seize the industries.

It is the mission of the I.W.W. to foster this spirit of class-consciousness amongst the workers of Australia. Industrial unionists will use any or every means to this end. They will use the magic of spoken word and the power of the potent pen, to give at all times a scientific and philosophical interpretation of the class struggle.

The labor movement is the spirit of the age. The labor movement can never be understood apart from the class struggle. Any section of the labor movement that adheres strictly to the class struggle, will always be the most vital and dynamic force in the working class. The I.W.W. is that already in Australia, and because of its class consciousness, its class knowledge, and as Bacon pointed out, "Knowledge is power," the I.W.W. is able to influence the workers out of all proportion to its members. Our masters know this also, and they are afraid. Class consciousness develops self-reliance, and self-reliance is one of the highest indications of character. The I.W.W., with its industrial union propaganda will always endeavor to develop the self-reliance of the workers, hence we are quite right in scorning the old methods of arbitration and political action; we belong to the new order, direct action and industrial democracy. All through the universe, new forms never make terms with the old; the new grow up "inside the shell of the old."

We industrial workers are the makers and shakers of the earth. This world can be made to be filled with gladness and song, and industries organized so that the fine arts will flourish; nobody can do this, nobody will do this, but a class-conscious working class.

This is the historic mission of my class!

Your class!

Our class!

The working class!

MICK SAWTEL.

THE STATE.

THE NEW IDOL.

Somewhere there are still peoples and herds, but not with us, my brethren: here there are states.

A state? What is that? Well! open now your ears unto me, for now will I say unto you my word concerning the death of peoples.

A state, is called the coldest of all cold monsters. Coldly lieth it also; and this lie creepeth from its mouth: "I, the state, am the people."

It is a lie! Creators were they who created peoples, and hung a faith and a love over them: thus they served life.

Destroyers, are they who lay snares for many, and call it the state: they hang a sword and a hundred cravings over them.

Where there is still a people, there the state is not understood, but hated as the evil eye, and as sin against laws and customs.

This sign I give unto you: every people speaketh its language of good and evil: this its neighbor understandeth not. Its language hath it devised for itself in laws and customs.

But the state lieth in all languages of good and evil; and whatever it saith it lieth; and whatever it hath it hath stolen.

False is everything in it; with stolen teeth it biteth, the biting one. False are even its bowels.

Confusion of language of good and evil; this sign I give unto you as the sign of the state. Verily, the will to death, indicateth this sign! Verily, it beckoneth unto the preachers of death!

Many, too many, are born: for the superfluous ones was the state devised!

See just how it enticeth them to it, the many-too-many! How its swalloweth and cheweth and re-cheweth them!

"On earth there is nothing greater than I: it is I who am the regulating finger of God"—thus roareth the monster. And not only the long-eared and short-sighted fall up on their knees!

Ah! even in your ears, ye great souls, it whispereth its gloomy lies! Ah! it findeth out the rich hearts which willingly lavish themselves!

Yea, it findeth you out too, ye conquerors of the old God! Weary ye become of the conflict, and now your weariness serveth the new idol!

Heroes and honorable ones, it would fain set up around it, the new idol! Gladly it basketh in the sunshine of good conscience—the cold monster!

Everything will it give you, if ye worship it, the new idol: thus it purchaseth the lustre

of your virtue, and the glance of your proud eyes.

It seeketh to allure by means of you, the many-too-many! Yea, a hellish artifice hath here been devised, a death-horse jingling with the trappings of divine honors!

'Yea, a dying for many hath here been devised, which glorifieth itself as life: verily, a hearty service unto all preachers of death!

The state, I call it, where all are poison-drinkers, the good and the bad: the state where the slow suicide of all—is called "life." Just see these superfluous ones! They steal the works of the inventors and the treasures of the wise. Culture, they call their theft—and everything becometh sickness and trouble unto them!

Just see these superfluous ones! Sick are they always: they vomit their bile and call it a newspaper. They devour one another, and cannot even digest themselves.

Just see these superfluous ones! Wealth they acquire and become poorer thereby. Power they seek for, and above all, the lever of power, much money—these impotent ones!

See them clamber, these nimble apes! They clamber over one another, and thus scuffle into the mud and the abyss.

Towards the throne they all strive: it is their madness—as if happiness sat on the throne! Oft-times sitteth filth on the throne—and oft-times also the throne on filth.

Madmen they all seem to be, and clamboring apes, and too eager. Badly smelleth their idol to me, the cold monster: badly they all smell to me, these idolators.

My brethren, will ye suffocate in the fumes of their maws and appetites! Better break the windows and jump into the open air!

Do go out of the way of the bad odor! Withdraw from the idolatry of the superfluous!

Do go out of the way of the bad odor! Withdraw from the steam of these human sacrifices!

Open still remaineth the earth for great souls. Empty are still many sites for lone ones and twin ones, around which floateth the odor of tranquil seas.

Open still remaineth a free life for great souls. Verily, he who possesseth little, is so much the less possessed: blessed be moderate poverty!

There, where the state ceaseth—there only commeth the man who is not superfluous: three commeth the song of the necessary ones, the single and irreplaceable melody.

There, here the state ceaseth—pray look thither, my brethren! Do ye not see it, the rainbow and the bridges of the Superhuman?—Thus spake Zarathustra. NETZSCHE.

Officials Going Slow at Cordeaux Dam.

A few lines in "Direct Action" would not be out of place (space permitting) to warn fellow-workers in search of a boss to keep right away from Cordeaux Dam.

Let me say straight away that there is no market here for labor power, and the excess of supply over demand has lowered the conditions existing on the job to a degree which is simply revolting as regards sanitary arrangements; humiliating through the tyranny of bosses, and inconvenient to the greatest extent as regards food and water provision.

Common decency prevent me from being able to describe accurately the contrivance which has been erected to meet the requirements of sanitary accommodation, suffice it to say that the odour which assails the nostrils even while the victim is as yet far away from the sacred spot, is absolutely sickening.

Water can be obtained by walking the better part of a quarter of a mile, the tank which is supposed to supply the camp, holding barely sufficient for the requirements of about a dozen men.

The storekeeper has a monopoly of his profession, and plays the monopolist's game for all it is worth. "Nuff sed."

The only boarding house available for those who are lucky (or unlucky) enough to obtain work is situated about a mile and a half from the camping ground.

Finally, if any new members of the I.W.W. wish to receive an object lesson in going slow they only need to pay a visit to Cordeaux Dam, and see for themselves the methods adopted by an autocratic engineer and a servile horde of understrappers of providing for the workers ordinary common decent living conditions.

The "Telegraph" and "Herald" have recently had reports of certain notices posted up along the road from here to Douglas Park. Had I not been creditably informed that the Resident Engineer was not a member of the I.W.W. I should certainly have said that he was the culprit.

I might add for the information of those who, in spite of this warning, persist in coming here, that until they have actually obtained work they are not permitted to camp anywhere on catchment area.

Yours,

F. L. BOLSTER.

British Workers Moving.

We are informed that a conference called "a rank and file conference," which had been promoted by the Metal Engineering and Shipbuilding Amalgamation Committee took place last week at Leeds, when the following resolution was put and carried:

"That realising, as at present organised, the trade union movement is entirely inadequate, this conference, of the rank and file, demands that the executives of all unions (catering for engineering and shipbuilding workers), immediately get together, and form a practical scheme of amalgamation, that shall fuse all sectional unions into one industrial union, having as its object the organisation of all workers in the industry regardless of craft or sex, and, as its ultimate aim, the control of industry for the complete abolition of the wages system."

An amendment, to delete the words, "regardless of craft or sex," was defeated by a large majority.

The conference expressed the opinion that action should be taken on the initiative of the amalgamated society of engineers within three months.

The conference was the outcome of one held in London last August, at which a resolution was passed, calling upon the executive committees of all unions of engineering workers to fuse all sectional organisations into one industrial union, comprising every worker in the industry, regardless of craft, grade or sex, the aim being to obtain complete control of the industry.

—"Engineering Magazine."

SYDNEY LOCAL.

Meetings, &c.

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

Meetings in Hall:

Sunday, 8 p.m.—Propaganda.

Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Economic Class.

Thursday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting.

Saturday Evening.—Speakers' Class.

Economics.

ECONOMICS.

(MARY MARCY).

VI.

HIGH PRICES AND MONOPOLY PRICES.

We have been considering Low Prices and their effect upon the working-class. We discovered that owing to the competition among wage-workers for jobs, wages are reduced (when prices fall) to just about the cost of living. In discussing Low Prices we have learned what would happen as a result.

We are still speaking as commodities which exchange at their values.

If the value of the necessities of life is doubled, the value of your labor-power will also be doubled. Suppose the value of food, clothing and shelter be twice what it was formerly and wages remain stationary.

Reformers will tell you that the grocer, the butcher, clothier and landlord are exploiting you.

They say that your employer exploits you, but that when you go to spend your wages, these other men also cheat or rob you.

But if wages do not rise to the same level as the necessities of life, this merely means that your boss is no longer paying you the value of your labor-power. The value of food, clothing and shelter determine the value of your labor-power.

Do not be confused into thinking because rents are "high," or because food is expensive that you are exploited when you pay for these things. As necessities of life increase in value, your labor power increases in value. And only when wages equal the cost of living are you receiving the value of your labor-power.

Shortage of workmen may cause labor-power to exchange above its value temporarily; shortage or an over supply of any commodity may cause it to exchange above or below its value for a short time. But monopoly alone can cause a commodity to exchange above its value for any length of time. To repeat:

Reformer says: The wage worker receives his wages. That he is exploited by his employer. But when he goes to buy shoes, food, meat or clothes, he finds the owner of these commodities selling them at higher price than he can pay. Then the reformers conclude that these merchants are exploiting the workers also. These people do not understand that the value of the necessities of life determine wages.

Not all individual workmen or women receive the value of their labor-power. Some men and women receive a little more than the value of their labor-power. We know a young girl in this city who works in a department store for 5 dollars a week. She cannot buy food, clothing and shelter for 5 dollars. Her brother receives 18 dollars a week. He can live on less than that sum. He helps his sister pay her expenses. Thus both receive the value of their labor-power.

Men cannot work long upon less wages than the value of their labor-power. They must have help from without. Fortunate members of families help those who do not earn enough to live on. Thousands of families receive intermittent aid from charity organizations, so that the working class, in general, receives just about the value of its labor-power. In other words, the army of workers receive enough to produce more workers for to-morrow and twenty years from now. It is the unemployed fighting for jobs who force wages down almost to the bare cost of living.

We see how an increase in the value of necessities of life means a consequent increase in the value of labor-power. We must not, therefore, be false to the grocer, the butcher, or landlord when our employers fail to pay us the value of our labor-power. We will be forced to demand higher wages in order to live.

But High Prices do not necessarily mean that food, clothing, etc., have increased in value. It may mean that gold—or the medium of exchange—has decreased in value.

The tendency of almost all commodities is to decrease in value, as modern production lessens the necessary labor contained in them. Gold may decrease in value faster than the value of meat, shoes, bread and clothing has decreased.

Value of labor power is shrinking, but wages are shrinking faster in value. Since gold (or wages) is out-decreasing the necessities of life, in value, it exchanges for fewer of them. One dollar buys less meat to-day than it bought five years ago.

Reformers are crying for Low Prices, but revolutionists are demanding Higher Wages (the value of their labor-power) in all the gold standard countries to-day. They are also working for the abolition of wage-slavery to-morrow. Everywhere we see wages slowly rising to meet the increased cost of living.

We have bewailed the High Prices, while prices are only nominally higher than they were five years ago. Gold (or wages) has decreased in value considerably, and as commodities tend to exchange at their values, gold buys fewer commodities.

We may still be receiving the same number of dollars each week, but the value of these dollars has decreased. Actually our wages have been reduced. Unless they enable us to buy the necessities of life we are not receiving the value of our labor-power from our employers.

1. An increase in the prices of the necessities of life may come from an increase in the value of commodities. We shall have to receive an equal rise in wages if we are to get the value of our labor-power.

2. Wages (or gold) may decrease in value until they no longer will purchase value of labor power. Unless we receive more wages accordingly, we will be receiving less than the value of our labor-power.

Shearing News.

The following sheds in N.S.W. are shearing at 30s:—

Mookoo, Brooklyn, Balarang, Strathbogie, Bid Midkin, Willowlie, Curragundi.

Also, A. Cunningham, Chairman of Shearers' Disputes, writes "that several small sheds in this district have started 'since the compulsory conference and are all paying the 30s rate, so we do not anticipate any trouble this year, in this quarter, but are keeping the men in line, in case of trouble cropping up."

A wire from Blackall, Queensland, signed Herb. Smith, reads: "All shearing trouble settled; 30s and 44 hours."

Thomas J. Lousdale, Gen. Sec. of the I.T.W. Union of Charlville, writes a long letter enclosing a printed circular of resolutions for the shearers cooks in Queensland, and says:—"I've got great hopes that thro' the cooks' demands I will yet be able to get the men (who have gone in for 25s) to go for the higher rates." He also says: "I regret to say that some Queensland men have for the present taken on the conference rates, and are, therefore, in my opinion, scabbing on the men in the South, etc."

Whatever N.S.W. wants, they will have to get off their own but, and they can do it easily with the assistance of the "Blow Fly." Mr. Lousdale also admits that he will come to N.S.W. in the back blocks, and lend a hand for a week or two, and will possibly be in Moree in February.

Fred Richmond (Moree) writes: "It is up to the Sydney 'mob' to be up and doing, and use more action than pass resolutions."

Now, you sleepy rebels, take his advice and harness for action, and we will win—divided we will lose.

H. C. Prince (Cobar) writes:—"Jack Andrews advises me that there was a meeting of shearers in Barraba, and that they are going to stick up for 30s rates."

Will all sheds working for 30s rates, or have started (since compulsory conference) please write to the address below, advising same. I want a list of all 30s sheds at once.

Also, will all Chairmen of Shearers' Disputes Committees or Secretaries who are not in communications with me, write at once and send me news.

BETSY H. MATTHIAS,

Asst. Secretary, Shearers' Dispute Committee.

Box 2142, G.P.O., Sydney.

COOKS.

Dear Sir or Madam,—We are writing you to-day for the purpose of placing before you several resolutions that were passed at a meeting of cooks here, and which we believe if put into operation would materially benefit men following the occupation of cooking. In the past cooks have had no means of getting uniform rates of pay or conditions and to obviate this we believe cooks should have an Executive Committee of Management comprised of cooks from each district. Delegates could be appointed in the proportion of two to each district to meet in a central place at least once a year to conserve the interests of cooks. If you are favorable to the resolutions attached, and the idea of a Central Executive, will you be good enough to write to the Secretary at Charlville, and give your views in support of the scheme or otherwise. The cooks will require to "wake up" if they are to share in any of the benefits that are accruing to the workers.

1. Rates: 7s 6d per week per man for sheds, 8s per week for plants. Minimum rates, 4s 1d per week.

2. All cooks refuse to work where other than the four (4) two hour runs are worked by shearers.

3. Where ruling rates and conditions for cooks are not granted at any shed all cooks refuse to work at any such shed or cook for such team of men.

4. All meat required by shearers or other mess shall not be slaughtered by cooks or assistants.

5. That wood be supplied in suitable form.

6. Where water is not laid on a vessel for same shall be placed where cook desires, and kept filled by station.

7. That the chairman of shearers and shed hands be authorised to inspect cooks' cheque

Spasms.

(By Tom Barker).

Several munition workers in an English works were recently sentenced to two months' imprisonment for smoking on the works. It is reported that King George, on a visit to the factory was so careful that he took his spurs off. It is unlikely and improbable that he also took his coat off.

Several suffragettes are alleged to have attempted to poison Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Asquith Henderson. We can only say that if the stomachs of these gentlemen are as tough as their necks, it would be a waste of energy to attempt poisoning them.

The Lockhart wheat-stacks have broken into fire for the third time. We anticipate the Justice (beg pardon—the Law) Department rounding up another dozen I.W.W. men. In other countries there are certain chemical laws that cause spontaneous combustion under certain conditions. But not in New South Wales. They are not allowed to. What is the I.W.W. for, anyway?

We present Mr. W. A. Holman, Premier, with the Distinguished Order of the Nosebag for questioning Archbishop Mannix's indisputable statement about the war being merely a trade war. The right honorable and distinguished gentleman ought to read the balance sheets of various industrial concerns, but possibly his time is taken up pretty well in framing more legislation on the lines of the Crimes Amendment Act. A little less salary and a little more seditious powder would certainly almost place our politicians on the same level as thinking beings.

The Miles Branch of the Queensland Railway Union has sent a motion for the agenda paper for the annual conference, which asks the Government to institute savings banks at each station, so that the remains of their lordly salaries may not burn a hole in the pockets of their copper-riveted rags. There will be a big rise coming when Arbitration Court Judge reads this par. "Why," he will say, "a rise in wages? Why, they can't spend all they've got now!" The Miles branch of the Q.R.U. are on the Distinguished Order of the Nosebag.

Their Infallibilities, the Honorable Ministers for Defence and the Navy have been interesting themselves in the past over things that didn't concern them. Possibly, in future they may find time to interest themselves in squaring up some of the saggy finances that have been lately investigated in the courts. And they might as well persuade the Man of Mystery to get to the bottom of the Sexton Blake yarn about the Government agent who was set about by I.W.W. men. Charles Garvice will be on the shelf when the Frantic Galoot takes to action (which is stranger than truth).

Sinclair, M.H.R., for Ipswich, was once referred to by Higgs, M.H.R., as "the bovine representative for a bovine constituency." In the debate on the Illegal Associations Bill, Sinclair said, in effect, the following: "I was in South Melbourne some six or seven weeks ago and heard Tom Barker speaking. He said that he had been given four separate sentences of a year since the beginning of 1916, but said that the Government couldn't keep him in gaol, because there were too many mysterious fires going on."

Sinclair, M.H.R., is an unmitigated politician. Nuff sed.

and stores account to prevent two prices being accepted by a cook or cooks.

8. That men be allowed one hour for tea after ceasing work.

9. That luncheon at night and Sunday afternoon be abolished.

10. In the event of these resolutions being accepted by all cooks, or should they be amended, they shall come into operation in original or amended form as the case may be at a date to be mutually agreed upon.

11. That in the event of cooks not getting the rates at a shed, and any shearer or other worker taking on the cooking no cook shall cook for such man.

12. That in the event of pens being held for shearers the cooks shall be paid for the full complement of men from date of Roll Call.

Sub-Committee,

JAMES CLARKE,

C. OAKLEY,

J. CARPENTER.

JAMES CLARKE, Hon. Sec.

THE NUMBER OF THIS PAPER IS

109.

The Secretary reports that the perpetrators of the following calamities, tragedies, and otherwise, have nothing to do with the I.W.W.:—

- (1) The Waverley Council scandals.
- (2) The Rockdale murder.
- (3) The disappearance of army funds.
- (4) The two Clermont floods.
- (5) The sinking of the Laurence.
- (6) The Kaiser's birthday.
- (7) The fire at Ayrshire House.
- (8) D. R. Hall's peaceful holiday in the mountains.
- (9) The origin of most noble (?) English families.

Just received in Brisbane for Defence Fund: Russian Association, £1; Boot Trades' Union £2; Progressive Carpenters, £5; Sugar Workers, South Johnstone Mill, £1; Butchers' Union, £10; all of which goes to show that Fat's lies are getting nailed down in the Sunny North. Two concerts, one organised by the Defence Committee, and one by the Russian Association, are going to eventuate. Proceeds over expenses to Defence Fund. Prospects are beginning to look rosy for that £500 that we want from Queensland.

Maoriland is still juggling the red clan. Wage-plug Jones struck a year. He is well known in Sydney. Reg. Williams, of Christchurch, has been in gaol oftener than what I have, and got an addition to his record of a year. He is an old fighter of boy conscription, and for free speech. Tim Armstrong, who recently has been wharf-jumping in Lyttelton, and previously was Secretary of the West Coast Workers' Union, got twelve months for a speech that was essentially commonsense, but what the absent gasbags, Chaffin Ward and Baton Massey would term "seditious." These two glorified gasometers and ignoramus will get a reception of a highly sympathetic order when they get back to Godstown.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organise as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping to defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword: "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organised not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

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Nation with nation, land with land
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;
In every heart and every throb
The pulse of one fraternity.

— J. A. Symonds.

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