

'An Injury to One an INJURY to All.'



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Release Demanded By Trades' Union Conference.

Big Meeting in
Melbourne.

THEIR LIBERTY

Good solid progress was the order of business last week. Results were much brighter than usual, and our activities were enlarged in scope. Yarra Bank meetings were successful. Mrs. Westbrook made her final public speech in Melbourne on the 23rd and left for Sydney on the following Wednesday. In the evening a general discussion took place at the hall on the One Big Union, when ideas were exchanged on that important and vitally essential subject to the working class. Street meetings were held at South Melbourne, last Friday night, when Fellow Workers A. Wilson and N. Jeffery, with F. W. C. Dunn in the chair held forth to an interested and large audience. All "D.A.s." were sold and a successful meeting terminated with the crowd anxious for more of the good stuff. By far, however, the most significant event of the last few weeks was the Political Labor Council and Trades Hall Council meeting on the Yarra Bank, last Sunday, 4th February. It was the most representative gathering held yet to protest against the recent incarceration of the twelve I.W.W. men and the other victims of vindictiveness in Australia and New Zealand. The speakers, among whom were some of the foremost public men in Victoria and Australia, were all in a militant mood, severely condemning the unfair tactics used by the "powers that be," in trying the I.W.W. men in Sydney.

The Chairman Mr. Fraser, President of the Trades Hall Council, was in the chair, and announced as first speaker, Mr. Ted Hallway, President of the Political Labor Council, who contended that the case of the men was hopelessly prejudiced before they had been given a chance to prove their innocence.

The same sentiments were uttered by Mr. Matthews, M.H.R., of Port Melbourne. He claimed that Billy Hughes had endeavored and succeeded to influence public opinion before the trial by vilifying the twelve men who never had any chance to answer the statements of the Prime Minister. He concluded by moving the following resolution:

"That this mass meeting of organised workers, expresses its strong conviction that the twelve members of the I.W.W. recently found guilty of conspiracy, were prejudiced in their defence by the statements on the conscription campaign by prominent public men, which influenced the public opinion against the prisoners, and emphatically protests against their continued imprisonment, and urges the Attorney-General of New South Wales to grant them their liberty pending the case being re-tried."

The motion was seconded by Fellow Worker Alf Wilson, who spoke for the I.W.W. In dealing with the case, he likened it to the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone trial in America, asserting that just as those three fighters for their class were victims of a gigantic capitalist conspiracy so were the 12 men in Long Bay Gaol.

Mr. Bilson, M.L.A., deputy leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, who followed Fellow Worker Wilson, stated that "if any of the I.W.W. men had advocated the 'go slow' policy they were only preaching what they had learnt off the employing class. He heartily supported the resolution, and hoped that the men would be given a trial compatible with human decency.

The next man to take the platform was Mr. Fred Russell Secretary of the Imperial

A Conference of Trade Unions was held at 403 Sussex street, Sydney, on February 10th, 1917, to discuss ways and means to bring about the release of the 12 I.W.W. men now in Long Bay prison.

The following organisations were represented, viz., Rockchoppers and Sewer Miners' Union, Gas Employees' Union, A.S.E., Lithgow Branch, Workers' Defence and Release Committee, Cullen Bullen Miners' Lodge, Small Arms Factory Employees, Federated Clothing Trades Union, United Slaters' Society, United Operative Bricklayers' Society, Federated Builders' Labourers' Union, Coal Lumpers' Union, A.S.E., Sydney Branch No. 2; Federated Miscellaneous Workers' Union, Sign Painters' Union, Caterers' and Waitresses' Union, Australian Coal and Shale Workers' Union, A.S.E. Branch, Federated Coopers' Union, A.M.A.- Broken Hill, and the Industrial Workers of the World. It was resolved by delegates assembled that all Unions should be acquainted with the decision of conference, and should also be appealed to, in the name of the Congress, for assistance.

The decisions arrived at were as follows:—

1st.—That literature, giving summary of evidence against each of the men be prepared, and that all trades union representatives be asked to assist in the distribution of same. Also that all unions be asked to convene a Special Mass Meeting to hear a statement of case on behalf of the twelve I.W.W. men imprisoned in Sydney, and also other Labor agitators in gaol throughout Australia and New Zealand.

3rd.—That the Defence and Release Committee be instructed in the name of the Conference, to ask for funds for appeal, and a new trial.

4th.—That this Conference call upon all Unions to be represented at the next Conference, which will be held on March 3rd (Saturday) at 2 p.m. at 403 Sussex-street, Sydney.

Fellow Workers, these are the decisions of the Conference, and you are asked to consider them and assist. Will you do so? The men in gaol are innocent, and the victims of class bias and prejudice. Their imprisonment is the aftermath of the Conscription Campaign, and nothing else.

A start has been made. The unionists of Australia are now getting into line. The truth is beginning to dawn, and the people are beginning to see through the huge conspiracy which has been perpetrated against the working class.

Members of the working class, investigate this case. Find out the real facts. Enquire for yourselves. If you are impartial you will come to the conclusion that these men have been unjustly dealt with.

For the sake of organised labor; for the sake of our hard won traditions; for the sake of fair play, honour, and justice, stand together and demand their release.

Workers' Union, who made a powerful plea for the I.W.W. men, claiming that the men were never given a chance, because of the vile tactics employed by the sworn enemies of Labor. Supplementing a previous speaker's remarks about the parallel case of the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone trial, he predicted that time would show and prove conclusively that just as Harry Orchard, the chief witness against the American rebels had, on the second trial being granted to the men, being proven to be the guilty one, so would Scully, the chemist, be likewise found out to be guilty, if indeed anybody was guilty in the case at all, when a proper trial was given to our twelve fellow-workers. At the conclusion of his address he was heartily applauded by the big crowd present.

George Prendergast, M.L.A., and an ex-leader of the Labor Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, spoke next, and eloquently urged everybody to leave no stone unturned until the men were given a fair trial. He strongly condemned the action of the Government in adopting such unfair methods in trying the men. Joining in the common cry, he asked for justice and nothing else.

Frank Anstey, M.H.R., was the last speaker and gave a detailed review of the case, and clearly explained the hollowness of the evidence against the men, the humorous aspect of the trial being thoroughly exploited by him. The ridicule and satire that he heaped upon what the press called "clear and conclusive evidence" sent the audience into uproarious fits of laughter. The general opinion at the end of his speech was that the edifice built

up against the boys in jail was completely shattered by his clear-cut analysis of the evidence for the Crown.

The meeting concluded by three roaring cheers being given for the jailed rebels.

On the Monday morning the "Argus" went into hysterics over what it called "the alliance of prominent public men with a gang of criminals and conspirators," devoting a sub-leader to a condemnation of the action of Mr. Bilson and others in taking part in the mass meeting. It only goes to show, however, how vindictive are the declared enemies of Labor, when they see their case with its props of falsehoods and calumny completely refuted by men who have at least some conception of fair play and justice. Altogether, the past week has been a week of progress for the agitation for the release and fair trial of the twelve victims of political and capitalist conspiracy.

NORMAN JEFFREY.

A CONSCIENTIOUS JUROR.

In a wayback court a juror was about to be sworn in, when the Judge bethought himself to say:—

"I trust, sir, that you fully understand the duties and responsibilities of a juror?"

Whereupon the man drew himself up and answered:—

"Your Honor. I am a plain man, and believe in being fair to all. I don't go by what the lawyers say, and I don't go by what the judge says, but I look carefully at the defendant in the dock, and I say to myself: 'That fellow must have done something or he wouldn't be here! So I bring 'em all in guilty!'"

Oh, who can idly stand
While human hearts demand
Their liberty.

Humanity our only plea;
Justice our only cry.
We'll strive until we die
For their liberty.

Their liberty to stand
With all men hand in hand
As man to man.

'Tis but their right we claim,
Down with these laws of shame.
Let this be our only aim—
Their Liberty.
Our brothers must be free
From jails and tyranny
Ere peace abounds.

Help us their cause defend;
Oh, who a hand will lend,
And unto these extend
Their Liberty.

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.

"You say you are a pacifist?"

"Yes," replied the indignant person, "and let me tell you, sir—"

"Hold on a minute!"

"Well?"

"If you are a pacifist, don't shake your fist at me."

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ETHICS AND THE I.W.W.

During the few years the I.W.W. has been alive, many charges have been hurled at its head. The latest to hand is of an entirely different nature from all others. It is levelled at us in a sympathetic tone and tendered in the way of advice.

The author of the new charge is a reverend gentleman of a Sydney suburb. In a long and interesting epistle addressed to the editor he offers many suggestions.

After trouncing the authorities for their persecution of the I.W.W., our friend says: "The I.W.W. will never achieve any great reforms in the world while it neglects the ethical side of its agitation."

Although the I.W.W. is a material organisation, fighting a grim, fierce, material struggle in an attempt to get some of the material goods of this life, it at the same time has ethics as great, and ideals as beautiful, as any other organisation in existence.

But dreams of love and rapture, peace and plenty, beauty and song do not fill an empty stomach nor clothe a shivering child.

The ideal state of which our Christian socialist friend speaks is all very nice, and we can go all the way with him in his dreams, but it is too utopian and too "far, far away" for the exploited millions to worry about to-day.

What we want is SOMETHING NOW. To-morrow we might be crushed and mangled in some industrial hell.

The I.W.W. in fighting to get more of what its labour produces has brought down the wrath of the master class upon its head.

Because the I.W.W. dared to challenge the right of the master class to all the good things of life, it is now being maligned and persecuted.

Anyone who understands the principles of the I.W.W., cannot accuse it of not paying attention to the future. Anyone who has studied our literature knows full well that we are not devoid of ethics.

We look forward to the day when the workers will get THE FULL PRODUCT OF THEIR TOIL, and all will work together in harmony for the common good of all.

We believe that by organising on the lines laid down by the I.W.W., we are helping to bring nearer the day when slums, squalor, misery, poverty, and crime will be things of the past, and the whole human family will enjoy the glorious benefits of a world set free where there will be neither master nor slave.

We have visions of the future when the world will be one huge co-operative Commonwealth—an Industrial Republic—DEMOCRACY APPLIED TO INDUSTRY. When that day arrives there will be no room for lords and rulers. Kings, potentates, monarchs, statesmen, and dictators of all grades will be looked upon as relics of a cruel and barbarous past.

Yes, my dear friend, the I.W.W. has ideals. High, noble and inspiring ideals. Ethics that can transcend the stars. Ideals

which help to bring out all that is noblest and best in mankind. We believe the poet when he says: "Man needs must love the highest when he sees it."

The I.W.W. endeavours to place, the highest and best before mankind. We wish to pull down the slums and build a city of beauty and joy. We wish to banish hunger, want and crime, and inaugurate a system of peace and plenty for all.

But the bone of contention arises when the I.W.W. refuses to loose itself in the misty realms of a far-off future, and commences to systematically lay down the plans of a practical every-day working programme.

We refuse to lay back and dream sweet dreams of the days that are to be when the hands of the master class are at our throats, and intensified industrial slavery drains our blood and breaks our bones. We refuse to forget the present while thinking of the future.

We are living to-day: it is TO-DAY we need help. It is to-day that men and women are dying of hunger, and little children groan in the mills.

It is to-day that gaunt famine stalks abroad, and shame, disease, and crime pollute the land.

It is TODAY WE MUST ACT. To-day we must wage a persistent fight against this corrupt system. "Procrastinate, and you challenge fate."

The I.W.W. is organising the working class into One Big Union for the purpose of forcing better conditions from the rapacious industrial kings RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

In laying the foundation of a scientific industrial organisation and fighting the every day battle of the working class, we are making it easier and lighter for the future generation.

The more we fight now and the better conditions we get, the easier it will be for those who come after us.

Our preamble says: "By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old."

"Come, let's put by all fooling,
And cast off ease and rest,
For the Cause alone is worthy
'Til the good days bring the best."
—N.R.

A Challenge.

A challenge has been issued by the Everett Prisoners' Publicity Department to the press of America.

It calls upon any press representative to visit Everett and investigate the whole of the happenings at Everett on October 30th, when members of the I.W.W. were beaten up, and on "Bloody Sunday," November 5th, when the massacre by the gun-men took place.

*The gist of the challenge is as follows:

"Send one of your best special writers to Everett and Seattle. Let your representative investigate fully the details of the Everett massacre. Let him listen to both sides in the controversy. Let him record faithfully the facts of the kidnapping and assaults of October 30th. Let him be free to question all and sundry regarding the shooting affray of November 5th, 1916.

Let your investigator be as impartial as possible, and neither a labor agitator nor an upholder of Commercial Clubs and Manufacturers' Associations. Tell him to get the whole truth and nothing but the truth. And then print faithfully what he reports to you.

If any magazine in America will do this, then my dwindling faith in the integrity of American journalism will revive.

If you do not do this, then you stand condemned in the eyes of the public as the palsied tools of the class that gives you your advertising.

This is my challenge, gentlemen of the press. Will any of you accept it?

We have not the slightest hesitation in saying that the challenge put out by our fellow workers in America will not be accepted.

The press of America, like the press of Australia, is always very loath to investigate anything that will prove the working to be in the right.

The capitalist press of all lands has a free license to slander, abuse, and lie about the working class. But it is never seen devoting any time investigating the atrocities which are perpetrated upon the working class almost every day.

The challenge which the I.W.W. of Australia issued some months ago has never been accepted, and we have not the slightest doubt that it never will. The truth is a thing the capitalist press knows very little about.

A.W.U. CONFERENCE.

EX-PRESIDENT BAILEY ON POLITICS.

The A.W.U. Conference is now in session. The retiring president, Mr. J. Bailey, in delivering his address, touched upon several matters, including the iniquitous I.W.W., who are as unspeakable from a glorified craft union standpoint as from a purely capitalistic standpoint. He also said that members of the A.W.U. should take a more prominent part in the selection of the Parliamentary candidates, and thus obtain industrial control of the political machine. The A.W.U. was not a pastoral and shepherds' organisation, but an industrial one. The principle of one big union was rapidly supplanting the old system of craft unionism. The miners and other organisations were considering amalgamation, and there was little doubt but what these organisations would come in.

Mr. Bailey, in referring to the recent shearers' and shed-workers' strike blamed the matter on the I.W.W. The long and short of the matter is that the strike would have occurred even if the I.W.W. had never been founded in Australia. Does Mr. Bailey say that the men were wrong in fighting for 30s per hundred? They were not violating the agreement, which distinctly stated that the minimum rates should be 25s. And if the I.W.W. aided them to obtain wages, which would compensate the shearers for the greatly increased cost of living, who of the working class shall blame them? The officials of the A.W.U. could not help them, because they were afraid of their registration at the capitalist arbitration court being cancelled. And we say, quite dispassionately, and without malice, that if the A.W.U. continues hindering its membership from taking advantage to force better conditions and more wages, that "disruption" will become widespread and general. And there seems to be a very discernible flaw in the "one big unionism" that signs an agreement for 28s, when the men have already established 30s per hundred. And more than I.W.W. men will see its shortcomings quite easily.

Of course, it is natural that Mr. Bailey should be in favor of plenty of politics for the A.W.U. But the facts are that industrial candidates do not shrink from a proletarian standpoint in Parliament, any more than do middle class layers, who use the Labor Party for their own ends. Take the illuminating instance of Mr. Spence or Senator Robt. Guthrie, of the Seamen's Union, or Mr. J. J. Morris, of the Hotel Employees; or, greatest of all, Mr. W. M. Hughes, of the Waterside Workers. They are more reactionary and repressive than Cook, Irvine and the whole school of self-confessed Torydom. If one thing more than another has stagnated industrial organisation in this country, it has been the twenty years of labor politics. But Mr. Bailey wants the A.W.U. to continue the business, and a long-winded business it is, of trying to find a sincere politician. Politics emancipates politicians, and promotes spinelessness in trade union circles. The motto will be, "Leave it to Jack Bailey" next year. Last year it was, "Leave it to Dad Spence." And if you don't "leave it to George, Jack, Pat, or Higgins," you are a disrupter, an I.W.W., or both. The object of politics is compromise. And there is nothing from an A.W.U. or a working class standpoint, in economic servitude to compromise over. And we say that Mr. Bailey, M.L.A., cannot serve two masters, the workers' union and the State. And we know which he will swear to serve before he takes his seat in the "Ouse."

And, further, in dealing with the question of craft and industrial unionism, we must advise Mr. Bailey to read something as a primer. Amalgamation, or "rope-em-in" does not constitute industrial unionism. It is merely the logical outcome of craft organisation. The basis of industrial unionism implies sound education in economics and working-class history. Industrial unionism does not mean

unions roped together, working under sectional agreements which expire at different periods and which prevents solidarity and general action, which are essential to the Newer Unionism. Amalgamation is just craft unionism glorified. "One Big Unions" are mooted everywhere, and every day, but they come to nothing. Just because they fail to understand that the workers must be educated in economics and the social struggle. "One Big Union" of the Amalgamation type is like trying to put a roof on before the walls are built. The basis of craft unionism is being undermined by two important factors—industrial education and the machine process. You can't build a mansion on the top of slum tenements, and you cannot make an industrial union by merely amalgamating obsolete and outgrown craft unions.

The very constitutional nature and registrations of the A.W.U., and its clumsy machinery, and large conservative membership makes it impossible for it to accomplish a radical change in the structure of society. It cannot propagate virile and unconstitutional ideas without clashing with the courts and the powers that be. And the disappointments that have been the portion of the militant "borers from within" in other parts of the world, in the New Zealand Federation of Labor, the A. F. of L. in the U.S.A., the C.G.T. in France, and in the large constitutional bodies in continental Europe, have determined that propaganda is more effective from the outside. Hence the I.W.W.

The A.W.U. and Mr. Bailey must remember this—that all action that will give the workers more of the good things of life, or encroach upon the Domain of Capital, must be unconstitutional. That was why the shearers were unconstitutional from the standpoint of capital, and their own organisation, when they successfully tried to compensate themselves for the increased cost of living. And unconstitutional acts within the A.W.U. will increase, not fundamentally, because of the presence of the I.W.W., but because of the rapid and revolutionary change in the economic world, and in the production of wealth.

Ideas are begotten and changed by the changes in production. Ideas are being revolutionised in a rapidly changing world. People who were mentally stagnant or dormant yesterday are starting to think to-day. Ideas, like conditions, are in the melting pot. Like ideas, like organisations. If the A.W.U. on account of its natural conservatism, fails to cope with conditions, or cannot march in line with awakening working class thought, it will go the way of all that is old and unscientific. And not all the cries of "disruption" or "I.W.W." will alter or change this truth.

The size of the organisation will not save it. An army that fights the common army of capital cannot prevail if it fights in sections. And it cannot do otherwise at present.

Politics, amalgamation, and arbitration are proved time and again to be useless and worse. And men who advocate them are either deliberately misleading their membership or woefully ignorant as to the countless experiments, many of which have occurred in Australia within the last two decades.

One Big Union will come when the workers know. But how can it come when neither the workers nor the leaders know. It is the mission and the only mission of the I.W.W. to let them know. And when they know, there will be no need for an industrial or political messiah to lead them. Their class interests and their anti-capitalist education will accomplish the mastery of industry, the abolition of masterdom, and the inauguration of Society Without Class.

TOM BARKER.

Fact v. Fancy.—A good story is being told of a reply given by a student to a question set in an examination paper:

"If twenty men reap a field in eight hours," ran the question, "how long will it take fifteen men to reap the same field?"

The student thought long and carefully before setting down the answer, and when he handed in his paper, this is what the examiner read:—

"The field having already been reaped by the twenty men, could not be reaped by the fifteen."—"Tilt-Bits."

"Thank God, we have a system of labor where there can be strikes."—Abe Lincoln.

No agitator or writer can lead the workers out of bondage. The most he can do is to help to arouse them to free themselves.

New Minister: "They tell me, deacon, that you do not believe men are sufficiently punished here on earth for their misdeeds?"

Deacon Jones: "Well, parson, that was my belief before I heard you preach."

If you want better laws, you don't want to waste any time expecting your enemies to write them.

Others' Views.

THEN THE A.W.U.; NOW THE I.W.W.

"HOWLING JOURNALISTIC PIMPS."

Any old member of the A.W.U. knows that the charges now launched against members of the I.W.W. were in the past faked against pioneers of the A.W.U. There are farmers in Western Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland who were dragged from court to court so that under squatter management they might be convicted and gaoled on evidence much of which was faked.

Under the circumstances detailed, early members of the A.W.U. got terms in gaol—some, of course, managed to escape by the "skin-of-their-teeth." Against those men the charges were for firing, conspiring, damaging property, and attempting to take life. Laws as ancient almost as those of Hammurabi were invoked to secure convictions. The brutalities of capitalistic tools against the early A.W.U. men were extolled and even rewarded.

McLean, a unionist, was brutally shot by a squatter's pimp, and from the effect of the wound eventually died. The murderer was never brought to justice, but as a reward for valour received from squatter admirers a gold cross and a sum of money. McLean, although wounded and suffering, was sent to gaol. He afterwards was released, and got back to his mother's place, near Koroit, in time to die.

He lies in the cemetery at Illowa, and above his grave the members of the A.W.U. have erected a noble monument. McLean was butchered, to gratify the bosses of his day and to justify the howling journalistic pimps who made a virtue of wage exploitation and robbery.

Just as McLean and members of the A.W.U. in the past were martyred by the persistent machinations of Bossdom and the official pimps of bossdom, so, today, Donald Grant and his mates have been savagely martyred before the law to appease the hatred of a certain class of profiteers and politicians, whose profits and perks only come surely to them so long as the workers grind unrelentingly at the mills of industry, in ignorance of the fact that the surplus value of their toil is being taken to make fortunes for others.

A most scandalous feature of the arrest and trial of Donald Grant and his mates was the fact that these men, without public protest, were prejudiced and condemned by the pimp papers of Capitalism and a handful of cowardly politicians, kicked out of their own party, and too politically unsavory to be taken into any other.

While the people are being fooled by a bogus flare about the villainies of I.W.W.-ism, the nation is being robbed before its face by the most unscrupulous band of filibusters that ever raided the food of consumers of any country in the history of the world. And this robbery and filibustering calls forth no journalistic outcry or Ministerial condemnation, "Let thievery flourish" is the paying motto of our time.

There are associations of persons plundering the people of the nation for private profit, and yet Billy Hughes is not now moved to wrath against them as in the days of yore. Those persons are not members of the I.W.W., and, therefore, although they are financially throttling the workers and producers of the nation in a time of crisis, it is not thought necessary to prosecute them under the War Precautions Act, nor yet to provide fresh legislation to punish them with terms in gaol and to restrain their predatory operations at the expense of the public.

The atmosphere in which trusts and combines extend themselves most in comprehensive rascality and develop the greatest velocity and volume of robbery is now divine in the opinion of politicians who, not many years ago, foamed at the lips in furious denunciation of such concerns, their works, and all associated with them.—J. K. McDougall, "Labor Call."

UNIVERSITY ASKS FOR I.W.W. SPEAKER.

Fellow-worker J. A. MacDonald, editor of the "Industrial Worker," has been announced to give a series of lectures at the Washington University.

The professors and students are anxious to hear all about the organisation which preaches the social ideals for which men and women die willingly, with a song on their lips and the dream of labor triumphant in their hearts.

AN APPEAL TO THE ELECTORS OF THE MANKIWANG DISTRICT.

ASPIRING M.L.A.

(By S. T. Ruth.)

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

Our State has produced in its time hundreds of politicians, some successful, some otherwise. All those politicians can be placed in two categories, fools and knaves. There is possibly a much larger proportion of the former than the latter. Anyone who possesses intelligence worthy of the name recognises that politics is a grimy game played by grimy gentry for their grimy aggrandisement. And I candidly, ladies and gentlemen, am out without further ado, for my own aggrandisement.

Now I stated that politicians have hitherto belonged to two schools. First, the knaves, who know that they can do nothing for the people, and yet claim before and after elections, before middle-headed and ignorant electors that they can do things for human betterment. They are knaves, hypocrites and liars. The second school of the genus politician is the fool. He claims that he can do things, and goes to Parliament to try. And the fool that he is, he does naught for anyone, simply because he can not. He becomes a general nuisance, a maggot brain, and a sleep producer for Hansard reporters, who possess constitutions of iron.

I, S. T. Ruth, now asking for your votes, am the sole member of a new political school. I am going to tell the truth. And my statements are unchallengeable. I recognise that politics emancipates politicians. And I earnestly wish to be emancipated. In short, I desire £600 a year and the pickings.

Having an hereditary hatred for hard work, and the uncertainty of even getting a hard job on occasion, and possessing a wholesome antipathy for cheap and nasty food, shoddy and scanty clothes, and a bug-ridden shack, I look to politics as a way out, of my social and economic troubles.

I am not as extravagant with my promises as my opponents, but I will pledge to accomplish as much as they do. They will do nothing for you, neither will I. I will attend Parliament House—on pay day, and as few times as I can without losing the billet.

I may, if I feel inclined, tell you that you are a great democracy and a noble people. But Truth and S. T. Ruth being my watchword, I should probably tell you that you are a gang of meek-eyed working bullocks and bullockesses. In fact, by telling you the truth and calling you all

the names that — and, I'll stand for, you will return me at the head of the poll.

And at the end of my first-month, I will draw £50 for the arduous business of saying "Hear, hear" twice and "Question" once. And you, Mr. Bonehead, workless and hungry you may be, but you will still have the pleasure of returning a truthful and candid man to Parliament. And your wife will comfort an empty stomach and soothe the baby with the thoughts of MY job, MY nice villa, MY well-laid wife, and MY blissful and regular job, representing myself.

I will promise my hardworking and boneheaded constituents that they will not see me until a fortnight before the next election. I won't call pre-session meetings to skate about what I said upon the floor of the House. I will know when to change my coat and when to fall off the fence. And upon your votes, ladies and gentlemen of Wankiwank, I will become a great statesman, get well paid, well fed, be well groomed. I will dabble in afforestation, baby clinics, cheap fish and other bunk that I don't understand, and that you in your sublime boneheadedness don't understand. It will kill time between the pays.

Vote for me. Work for me. Put me in. It's a good job. Well paid. Nothing to do. No headaches. You will relieve the unemployed market of one. That one will be me. Put me in. Easy chairs are nice. The liquors and the smokes are magnificent. Life is joy—for me.

If you put me in I will promise—

1. To kill the I.W.W. and the slow-downers.
2. Stagnate while the world's awirling.
3. Develop a bow window, result of heavy thinking.
4. Howl against conscription and then shout for recruits.
5. Put my sacred, holy, beautiful job before everything else.
6. Guarantee two eclipses of the sun in my first year of office.
7. Declare a close season for blow-flies.
8. Get an act passed making the job a perpetual one. Put myself in for life.
9. Hand it on to my eldest.

Citizens, proletarians, kamarrads, vote for me. Put me in, and I'll stay in. It is better to emancipate one than none. S. T. Ruth for Wankiwank.

THE FAIR RENTS' COURT. Showing Promise.

The readiness with which sections of the general public follow the trail of the most obvious "red herring" drawn by capitalism over the track of its villainy, would be amusing if it were not so pitiful. The way in which the Rentpayers' Association is jubilating over their successful attacks on the landlords per medium of the Fair Rents Court, makes one think that the "advancing proletariat" must have taken a wrong turning. The thought that any worker could be so simple as to believe that he can beat the capitalist in capitalistic courts with weapons provided by capitalism is somewhat depressing. What lop-sided, cross-eyed views some of our fellows must take of their economic position and the ruling impulse of those who fleece them. Do they think that it is a benevolent impulse that prompts the wolf to eat the lamb? It would appear so, when we hear them boasting of benefits conferred by laws made by their masters. It must have been a sarcastic impulse that made the ancient oracle say that "God helps them that help themselves!" or else God wanted to get out of ever having to do anything for us. It is undoubtedly the policy of our masters to provide blind alleys for the workers to waste time and energy in traversing, and until the majority learn to tell the difference between the crooked paths, capitalism would have us follow, and the straight road to economic freedom, we cannot hope for any improvement in our conditions.

—J. Z. JONES.

"DIRECT ACTION."

English. Weekly. 4/ per year, 2/ per half year, 1d copy. 403 Sussex St., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Cobar "Riot."

The press of Sydney had much to say about the disturbance which took place at Cobar a fortnight ago. It went so far as to say that "the democrats of Cobar, full up of the I.W.W. methods, chased them out of the town. Cobar is now free from the poison of I.W.W.-ism."

Mr H. C. Prince, A.W.U. representative, writes as follows:—

"The uproar about the I.W.W. as printed in the daily press is a long way out as far as the facts are concerned. There were no shearers concerned in it, and only two (2) members of the F.M.E.A. The trouble was organised by the bosses, backed-up by some members of the A.S.E. Only four (4) I.W.W. men were hit. Instead of hunting the I.W.W. out of the town they got seventy-five (75) new members the next day.

The Mayor stopped street speaking, and the F.M.E.A. came to the assistance, and lent a piece of vacant land to hold an I.W.W. meeting on.

A splendid meeting was held last night, and no disturbance occurred.

The secretary of the F.M.E.A., Mr. Jenkins, has written to the Sydney papers stating the true facts.

I can tell you that those who took part in the trouble are now sorry looking things, and would give £100 each to have had nothing to do with it. Yours in unity,

H. C. PRINCE."

Mr. J. Jenkins, secretary of the Cobar branch of the F.M.E.A., has written to several daily papers denying the statements they published.

Amongst other things Mr. Jenkins says: "No trouble exists now, or has ever existed, between the F.M.E.A. and the I.W.W.; the latter being to a man members of our federation. The unseemly and to us regrettable occurrence on the night of the 3rd inst., when several members of the I.W.W. were assaulted, cannot be laid at the door of the F.M.E.A. of Cobar, there having existed, and still exists between the personnel of the two bodies mutual comradic and goodwill."

From the foregoing letters one can easily see that the press is keeping up its reputation as a purveyor of lies and abuse, filth and infamy.

Everything possible is done to try and prejudice the minds and poison the hearts of the toilers against the I.W.W., but the enemies of labor are at last being found out and their cowardly attacks are beginning to fall flat.

THE ANSWER OF WOMEN TO MEN WHO MAKE WAR

You men! Oh, you kings and traders!

The women you have bereft

Will answer your age-long challenge.

Come, look on the land you've left.

Come, look on the stricken cities year.

Soldiers like beasts gone wild

Have ravaged. Our children hunger: our

daughters have been defiled.

Our babes are starved in their cradles.

The harvest stands ripe in the field;

The lowing cattle are heavy with milk

which they ache to field.

The wheels in the roads cease turning;

all silent each shop and mill,

The Parliament halls are empty; the whirl

of the press is still.

The fields we have saved from famine,

the stores which our labor fills,

The homes, the re-built cities, the factories,

mines and mills,

The schools where the world is learning,

the halls where the laws are made,

Will be ours; we will claim and hold them.

We have builded and bought and paid,

We will marry our splendid daughters to the

weakened and wrecks of men.

Who are left from war, and in patience we

will people the world again;

And the race we shall rear and nurture, our

children so dearly bought.

We will give them peace and labor, for they

shall be woman-taught.

We wait amid desolation, we are dumb in the

world of despair;

But our hearts hold the hope of ages; life

eternal, our age-long care.

We dream of a new creation; we see it

through blinding tears;

We will build a new world, we women, in

the peace of the coming years.

A. J. W.

MARY BOYLE O'REILLY.

Doings at Cordeaux Dam.

Spasms.

The workers in the slaughtering and freezing industry in the Brisbane district took a holiday on Friday last. There are three separate unions on the works, the F.M.E.U., or Butchers, the A.S.E., and the Enginedrivers and Firemen. At a conference concerning conditions, wages, etc., the bosses demanded separate agreements with each union, and refused to allow the three unions to act as one. As soon as the workers on the job heard this they stopped every job, lock, stock and barrel. The fires of the works and the refrigerating plants were peremptorily stopped. Carcasses were left in various stages of dressing and cutting. Men, boys and women; enginedrivers, engineers, packers, butchers, gut-runners, one and all left the works. Meantime the bosses have thousands of pounds worth of meat in the freezers, and the freezers haven't frozen. The workers are sure awakening when they refuse to allow their craft divisions, or trades unions, divide their forces. The principle of the One Big Union is feared by the employers, who are powerless when faced with solidarity, and class consciousness in the meat industry. The meat workers must win.

Thus the "Queensland Worker" nent the balance sheet of the strike committee of shearers and shed workers, N.S.W.—"The I.W.W., it now appears, subscribed £77/13/1. Whether the I.W.W. subscribed it as a body, or whether it was collected from members or non members, it is not explained. In any case, in view of the hardship which accompanied the strike, to any observer it would appear that the £75 might more justly have gone to the sufferers—particularly the wives and children—rather than to the I.W.W., more especially in view of the fact that members of the I.W.W. are openly out to break trade unionism in Australia. Any man or any body of men with such avowed motives should not be given encouragement by decent unionists." For the information of the "Queensland Worker," we would like to say that the £75 sent to the I.W.W. was sent for the purpose of defending the twelve men who were on trial at the time for treason. And if—as the "Worker" says—women and children were needy, we think that the A.W.U., instead of admitting a strike six months after it was won, and blowing up the accused I.W.W., should have dug into that worn-out war chest, and given THEIR trade union principles a good airing. If "trade unionism" means to ignore your own members when involved in a fight against the master, and to ignore the hunger of the wives and kiddies of the A.W.U. membership, then the sooner the I.W.W. or anything else kicks the mangy thing off the earth the better. As for the brazen lie about the £4 donated to the strike fund by the I.W.W., Broken Hill, I may say, and quite truly, too, that the B.H. I.W.W. forwarded at various times over £27 to the shearers before the committee was set up. Trade unionism! I drown it, it's starting to smelt.

Thus the "Q. Worker"—"The king of orator agitators, Wendell Phillips, who gave his long, strong life to the working class, said: 'A humble slave, I despise; a rebellious slave I respect.' If the 'Worker' endorses those sentiments, then it must endorse the fight won by the shearers and shed-hands in N.S.W. and Queensland last year. And it should approve the I.W.W. But alas, precept is one thing, practice another.

Delegate Blakeley, A.W.U., at the Conference re the topic of the hour: "I believe the I.W.W. to be an organisation more capable of helping the capitalist class than any bogus unions they had ever had in their midst." And yet Brother Blakeley and quite a number of his associates are quite ready, nay, anxious to take the new members' oath at the bar of both State and Federal Parliaments. And the oath, fellow workers, is equivalent to swearing by Almighty God that you will do your best to emulate "Pa" Spence, Wm. Holman, Wm. the Frantic, etc., etc. And those gentry are not FOR capitalism, not at all. They are emancipating the workers by political action, and if Mr. Blakeley doesn't hurry the millennium will be here before he gets elected.

Delegate Gearing at the A.W.U. Conference said that the I.W.W. had been more responsible for the defeat of conscription than anyone else. The general secretary and Delegate Lash pooh-poohed the idea. Apart from the truly magni-

ficent work of H. E. Boote and the "Worker," let us quote a little history. At the opening of the P.L.L. Conference in April last year, a resolution was moved and carried unanimously, congratulating Mr. Wm. M. Hughes upon the way he was representing Australia in England. A large number of A.W.U. delegates were present, and to a man voted for the Mighty atom! This resolution was wired to William, who was also voted as a delegate to the Inter-State Conference by practically a block vote. And if these little pieces of kindly notice didn't encourage William in his conscription scheme, I don't know what did. And you know, readers, William had just been to Buckingham Palace, and his first address in England on his visit was before a Chamber of Commerce. And, of course, this was representing the Labor movement and the political side of the A.W.U. So Mr. Boote had to UNDO all the follies perpetrated in the name of Labour at the last P.L.L. Conference, in a few short weeks, after the pernicious dictatorship of Mr. Lamond had disappeared.

As for propaganda, not alone against conscription, but also against war, the I.W.W. held 120 Sunday afternoon Domain meetings, 240 hall lectures, and over 300 outdoor street meetings in the vicinity of Sydney between August, 1914, and October 28, 1916. We sold over 1000 copies of Kirkpatrick's "War, What For," and over £2000 worth of revolutionary literature, as well as sales of "Direct Action." We opposed war when Mr. Lamond was booming it in the "Worker." We were fighting conscription when the P.L.L. was patting Hughes on the back. And as a testimony to our work, when the soldiers raided the Domain meetings on August 12th, 1916, they were able to break up the P.L.L. anti-conscription meeting in ten minutes, but couldn't smash the I.W.W. meeting in fifty minutes, because WE were organised. And we are out for propaganda all the time. And constant dripping will wear away a stone. And as long as it is done we don't care who claims who did it.

Jack Brookfield has won Sturt. He has the biggest job of any man in Australia. He has to demonstrate that Parliament is a useful institution for the workers. He will find a contrast between the Trades Hall in Broken Hill and the House of Stagnation and Reaction in Macquarie Street. He could make a good start by singing or quoting to the "honorable" gentlemen the words of that famous ditty, "Polly, we can't use you, dear." The I.W.W. choir will help with the chorus.

The plute press is indignant at F.W. Lundie, of the A.W.U., stirring up Senator Lynch, the pooh-bah of the Ministry for Works and Larrkinism. The pooh-bah, who is hysterical, windy, but quite harmless, sacked a fellow named Elliott in W.A. Lundie, without any frills or embroidery, wired the pooh-bah to immediately reinstate him. Hence the caterwauls of the sausage wraps. Well, I guess Lundie is the head serange of the biggest union in the Commonwealth, and by the virtue of the strength behind him, he ought to call Lynch, Lynch. The I.W.W., if 100,000 strong, would promptly air his name from Lynch to Walker. "Respect!" "Courtesy!" And to a bottle-on political graduate, and an exponent of "push philosophy." "Respect!" "Courtesy!" Pass the nose-bag, Horace.

NORTH COAST TROUBLE.

(To the Editor, "Direct Action").
Sir,—In view of the slanderous misrepresentations placed on the dispute existing at No. 1 Tunnel, Red Hill, 8th Section, North Coast Railway—
We, the defence committee, desire to refute the venomous slanders, and place the true facts before the public and fellow-unionists in Australia.

The facts are as follows:—
Horse-Driver O'Neill, who was absent from his work one day, was dismissed, and a particular friend of Foreman Fuller employed in his place. This friend was specially brought from the South Coast during the Christmas holidays. Notwithstanding the dismissed man has only been absent from his work for 3 days in 12 months, due notice of which was given to the foreman, a fellow-workman, McNulty, speaking in regard to the dismissal of O'Neill, was also dismissed. On Fellow-Worker Murdoch making inquiries re the dismissals he was informed that "if he did not like it he knew what to do." On Sunday a meeting was convened, and

the case thoroughly investigated, it being unanimously decided to appoint a deputation to wait on Engineer Firth on the Monday morning re the matter. Engineer Firth being absent, the deputation decided to continue work until his return.

On Monday, on assembling for work on afternoon shift at the tunnel mouth, Foreman Fuller, addressing the men in an arrogant manner, said: "There's a lot of trouble here, and I am going to settle it here and now."

The men were further informed that any man or men who protested against any action of the foreman could be ready for dismissal.

The men then decided to hold a meeting and discuss the matter, and it was decided to appoint a deputation to see Engineer Firth re the reinstatement of dismissed men and removal of Foreman Fuller.

Engineer Firth agreed to reinstate McNulty and Murdoch, but refused to reinstate O'Neill and remove Fuller. Previous to this trouble there has been pin-pricks and irritation of employees by the arrogance of the foreman in not paying award rates in regard to wet pay for tipmen. Tipman O'Loughlin being paid short, requested the shortage to be made up and was informed that if he was not satisfied, to go and get his time, which he did. In regard to Organiser Collins' attitude, it may be stated that no enemy of labor could have made such slanderous statements and act so treacherously to his employers, the men whom he sold and robbed in so far as a fair work value for his official salary which he receives for work done. In addressing a meeting at Nelson's Paddock on Sunday morning he stated there was no strike or dispute at No. 1 Tunnel!

He further stated that the dispute was the outcome of I.W.W. agitators, which he admits that there is only a small percentage out of 120 men engaged in the dispute at No. 1. On visiting Coramba, Nana Glen, and Glenoraigh he informed members that the dispute was a conspiracy against the A.W.U. by members of the I.W.W.

Two members of the A.W.U., O'Loughlin and Grant, who had left Red Hill to seek work at Coramba, where they got work, but were not permitted to start, being victimised by order of the head office.

These two men were given one hour to leave Coramba, by the gangers, Appleby, Rooney and Hickey. The reason given was that they were members of the I.W.W.

Organiser Collins, whilst in Coramba, with the aid of a timekeeper, collected money from the business people of the town to hire motor cars to convey members to a meeting he was convening at Red Hill.

Several of the men arrived at the meeting in a disgraceful condition, being under the influence of liquor, with bottles of same in their pockets, and armed with fire arms. Some of the men from Coramba were farmers, hotel barmen, bridge contractors, motordrivers, and timekeeper, who voted at the meeting.

The meeting decided to send the men back to work by a majority of 16, the division being: To work 142, no work 126, majority to drive men back, 16.

The timekeeper referred to, discharged his revolver indiscriminately before leaving the camp.

Organiser Collins, in organising men at Coramba to work No. 1 Tunnel, has committed the greatest insult and outrage against any society, which stands for right, honor, equity and justice.

On being accused of collecting money to hire cars to pack the meeting, he did not refute the statement. On No. 1 Tunnel resuming work on Thursday, No. 2 and No. 3 and No. 4 ceased work, as protest against Organiser Collins' action in driving men to work under Fuller.

Seeing that Fuller has been convicted of dismissing and victimising four men whom Engineer Firth has seen fit to reinstate in their places, we think it a fair legitimate claim to ask for the removal of Foreman Fuller, and that is what we are now fighting for.

Signed on behalf of the Defence Committee,

ROBERT WRIGHT, Chairman.
WILLIAM R. WADEY, Secretary.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J.J.—Unsuitable.
N.J.—Very good, but would never pass Censor.
B.D.—Received. Thanks. Appear next week.
J.P.—Received. Thanks. Appear next week.
O.R.—Unsuitable. Best see the "Harbinger of Light" or the "Theosophical Magazine."

THE NUMBER OF THIS PAPER IS

110.

At Cordeaux Dam the other evening the peacefulness which is supposed to reign at that particular time of the day, was rudely disturbed by the big voice of a little person who proclaimed in a manner which brooked no questions that a meeting of the inhabitants was about to be held.

That his soul was stirred within him was evident to all, and consequently a good muster was obtained, all anxious to hear related the latest tidings of the class war.

(For the benefit of the interested I might mention that the war in that district is purely that of an aggressive clique of bosses upon a spiritless, invertebrate working class.)

Time being precious (no one had worked for some days, nor seemed likely to for a week), the formality of electing a chairman was omitted.

A Master Jack Robinson, the local secretary of the Tame Cat Organisation, stepped to the centre of the ring, and in an impressive voice which quickly hushed the murmurs of the excited crowd, some individuals of which still struggled valiantly with the last mouthful of bread and cocky's joy, which is the staple article of diet, began some such wise as this:—"Fellow-Workers, I have called you together to tell you that a practice has arisen in this camp which has to be put a stop to. Along the road from here to Douglas Park are to be seen several notices painted on trees, which grievously hurt the feeling of our boss. They have apparently been painted there by followers of the I.W.W. which organisation, not only hurting the bosses' feelings, but also tending to hurt his pocket, cannot, in the nature of things, have any sympathy with the Labor movement in this Commonwealth. Some time ago I was advised by the Secretary of the A.W.U., and since then by other officials, that the machinations of the I.W.W. were seriously handicapping the various Labor organisations in their struggle with the Government to obtain work for the unemployed. The struggle is a life and death one (life for the officials and death to us), and any action which can be construed into an attempt to injure the employer's interest is detrimental to us.

To-day a person was witnessed by three detectives cutting the letters, "I.W.W." and the words, "Go Slow," in a tree within the sacred precincts of the camp. I will call upon that man, if he be a man, to immediately stand out and so avert a succession of calamities, and save some old men who are here awaiting a job from being hurled into the cold world, 'nursed by their poverty, driven from home."

"These notices have already had the effect of causing the engineer to give instructions for all unemployed men to leave the camp under pain of ex-communication, and, if persisted in, may cause the shutting down of the job altogether."

A very humble person in the shape of this scribe proclaimed himself to be the guilty party, and this letter goes to prove that he still lives. He upset all calculations by affirming that he had received instructions to leave the camp before he had practised wood carving.

Mr. Robinson then called for resolutions on the subject of Mr. J. F., well known on railway works as "the goose," moved that the offender, together with all other I.W.W. men be removed from the camp.

A chorus of "WHO'S GOING TO DO IT?" effectively closed the mouth of any potential seceder, and the motion lapsed.

As no one else had any suggestion to offer, the meeting terminated in disorder, above which could be heard the irreverent laughter of a jack-ass, who perched on a neighboring tree, had listened attentively to the discourse.

Now this Mr. Robinson had on several occasions previously given fair cause for belief from his remarks that he was a sympathiser with the objects of Industrial Unionism, but whilst on those occasions he was numbered amongst the unemployed, on the date in question he had actually obtained the promise of a job.

Perhaps this explains all.
FREDERICK L. BOLSTER.

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— TO —

"DIRECT ACTION."

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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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