

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



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## Defence Agitation.

**SCARBOROUGH NOTES.**  
Who is it speaks of defeat?—  
I tell you a Cause like ours,  
Is greater than defeat can know;  
It is the power of powers!  
As surely as the earth rolls round,  
As surely as the glorious sun,  
Follows the great world moon-wave,  
Must our 'cause be won!

—Francis Adams.  
The persecution of the Industrial Workers of the World goes on apace. The Powers That Be, after the recent successful frame up against its principal members, sent out, far and wide lists of names who were members of the I.W.W., and also lists of names of men who were subscribers to its paper, "Direct Action." Needless to relate, these lists were sent out to the master class who were employing the above wicked persons, and the result is that a combing out process has just commenced. As a result of this combing out at Scarborough, or, to give it its true name, Victimisation, many men will have to seek fresh fields and masters new. And if the master class of this State think, that by sacking of victimising a number of militant members of the I.W.W., that they will put that organisation out of action, then they are indeed making a great mistake. For proof of the above statement, just look to New Zealand, where the I.W.W. were hounded from pillar to post, and eventually barred altogether. There in Gor's Own Country, the I.W.W. methods are in operation at every coal mine, excepting one, and has been in operation since the early portion of February. The above state of affairs are existing in a country where the master class thought they had settled the I.W.W. for all time. The agitation for the release of our twelve fellow-workers received a bit of a set back, when a motion calling for an aggregate meeting was lost at the last Delegate Board Meeting. The mass meeting was to be held for the purpose of placing the facts of the case of the twelve men before the miners, as we know that if the true facts are put plainly and clearly before the workers, they will at once see the need for immediate action on their part, in order to secure the release of 12 men who are lying rotting in the jails of Capitalism for what?—for being loyal to their class. For the crime of advocating shorter hours, and better conditions for the workers, and more of the good things in life generally, and because they did advocate these principles fearlessly and outspokenly, they were a menace to the master class who quickly placed them where they at present lie; where they are awaiting the opening of those gates by their class outside.  
Because the men inside realise the futility of courts of capitalism. Because the men inside realise that the working class alone can secure their release; because they know that **Organized Labor is the key to the situation**, it now behoves all members of the working class to stick together and demand the release of our imprisoned champions.  
Seeing that we have not been altogether successful in getting a mass meeting of the South Coast miners, we intend to hold a huge demonstration at a central place in order that we may place the true facts before the workers.  
Sympathy for the imprisoned men is very manifest in and around Scarborough.  
The longer the men remain in jail the greater the agitation becomes, and the more we get to I.W.W.-ism.  
Good luck to the boys inside, and success to the boys outside.

BENT AXLE.

"Why should anyone be poor when there is enough in the world to make everybody rich?"  
When a stupid man does something he is proud of, he always says it's his duty."



## FAT AT HIS DEVOTIONS.

**MELBOURNE.**  
"Why is it," asked an enquiring individual one day last week, "that Melbourne has always lagged behind Sydney in working class militancy?" If, however, that individual were to have put the question this way, "When will Melbourne be as militant as Sydney?" the answer would have been: "When she embraces the I.W.W. like her sister city has done." During the last two weeks a keen observer would have noticed that the I.W.W. was meeting with the reception that denotes growing interest on the part of the wage-slaves of the southern capital. With words of wisdom, mingled with unvarnished tale of the workers' position in capitalistic society, the speakers on the Yarra Bank for the last two weeks have wooed the crowd with growing success. On the first Sunday, Percy Brookfield, of Broken Hill fame, gave the local a quarter of an hour's talk on matters of vital import to the working class, one of his gems being: "If you have got your industrial organisation, then there is no need for your parliamentarians." Fellow-workers Wilson, Dunn and Jeffery also spoke, a good collection finishing the afternoon's meeting. Fellow Worker Laidler filled the bill in the evening on "Unemployment," which was ably dealt with, followed by an interesting discussion. Street meetings, as of yore, were very successful, at South Melbourne. Seventeen shillings were collected, and all "D.A.'s" sold.  
Other events of interest that occurred during the week were the manifestation of solidarity and Direct Action by the waitresses at Sargeant's. The girls are sticking to their guns, and demand the increased wages which they should get. Their chances are enhanced by the stoppage of work by the cooks of the establishment. At present the militant fe-

males are performing the hazardous, but vitally essential work of picketing the restaurants concerned. Let us all join in hoping that they get all that they are fighting for, and much more added. Another, but not so hopeful event of interest in the ballot of the members of the V. R. U. and other unions connected with the railways, to see if they will strike for the purpose of obtaining their own particular brand of wages board to settle their long standing grievances. Officially, they are against the weapon of the strike as a means of winning from the fraternal Government better conditions and wages, etc., and claim allegiance to the principle embodied in wages boards.  
Last Sunday another bumper propaganda meeting was held on the Yarra Bank. Fellow-workers Wilson and Jeffery did the "chin-wagging" to an interested audience. A fairly decent collection eventuated, although not as good as the previous Sunday. In the Hall, "the Paris Commune" was the matter dealt with, Fellow Worker Jeffery performing the dealing part of the business.  
Friday night's meeting, with F.W.'s Wilson, Dunn and Woolf, was a marked success. All "D.A.'s" were sold, and 17s. collected, like previous Friday night.  
The work of getting money for the wives and children of the "Twelve True Blues" is proceeding apace. The subscription forms are being used, and with other means of raising funds a decent sum is calculated to be the result. Other means also of getting an agitation going for the release of the "Boys in Jail" is being attended to; so that altogether Local 8 has experienced a favourable fortnight.

NORMAN JEFFERY.

## Defence Agitation.

**MILDURA.**  
Once more the A.W.U. can take credit unto itself for having saved the master class from the just demands of the slaves.  
This time it is in the fruit industry at Mildura. A few of the discontented ones called a meeting, with the object of trying to move in the direction of higher wages.  
No less than five of the stupid parasites who batten on the workers forming the A.W.U. attended our meeting and advised the slaves not to strike for more pay. Told them that they (the slaves), were the best paid tollers in the world, and if they only waited for the expiration of Parasite Higgins' Award of 9/4 a day, which holds good until six months after the European slaughter is over, they would get another award, and so go on in peace and prosperity.  
These officials who are getting six, and in some cases seven pounds a week, told the worker that if they went on strike the A.W.U., which has a bank balance running into thousands of pounds, would not support its members, not even to the extent of a single loaf of bread.  
"And these are thy gods, O Israel!"  
These are the men who are always, in and out of season, telling the slaves that the A.W.U. stands for working class solidarity and booming it up as the greatest fighting organisation on this globe.  
These are the men who never mount a box without abusing the I.W.W., and accusing the members of that organisation of working in the interests of the master-class.  
Well, we will leave it to the intelligence of the A.W.U. membership to say who functions in the bosses' interests—the men who try upon every occasion to raise wages, lower hours, and get better conditions all round; or the parasitical £1 a day officials who advise their members to continue at work for long hours, a paltry wage, and hellish conditions generally.  
The hour for the forming of a militant working class organisation is at hand. And the economic condition of the day, and not the I.W.W. will be responsible for the burial of the useless working class organisation.  
TOM O'CONNOR.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**  
Johannesburg, 12/2/17.  
Editor "Direct Action," Sydney.  
Dear Comrade,  
At the annual conference of the International Socialist League (South Africa) held on the 14th January, 1917, it was resolved:  
"That this conference express sympathy with the I.W.W. members who have been sentenced to imprisonment in Australia, and that we protest against same. That this resolution be sent to headquarters in Australia.  
Wishing you every success,  
I remain,  
Fraternally yours,  
D. IVAN JONES,  
Secretary.  
The appeal of the I.W.W. men for a new trial has been dismissed. It will remain to the lasting disgrace to the organised workers of New South Wales if they fail to use their political and industrial strength to its extreme limit to obtain the release of their fellow-workers.  
—'Townsville Federal.'  
Through all the long, dark night of years,  
The people's cry ascendeth,  
And earth is wet with blood and tears,  
But our meek sufferance endeth;  
The few shall not for ever sway,  
The many moil in sorrow;  
The Powers of Hells are strong to-day;  
Our Kingdom come to-morrow.  
—Gerald Massey.

## Direct Action



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## Significance of The Russian Revolution.

Russia! The very name was enough to set some people trembling with fear and alarm, and make others cover their faces in shame and anger. Russia! The home of autocracy, torture, outrage, exile; the place where the knout, the terrible mines of Siberia, and the long bloody trails through the snow that lead to life's imprisonment were common occurrences. Russia! The land where speech was stifled, agitation suppressed, and the radical press smothered. Russia! Where students and mild reformists were forced to meet in secret and surreptitiously spread their literature.

Now, like a thunderbolt from the blue, ALL THESE THINGS ARE CHANGED and the people of Holy Russia are STEERING STRAIGHT TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN ALL THINGS.

Autocracy and all its baneful influences are swept away, and in their stead have arisen political liberties such as Russia had never before known. The double eagle of the Czar and his minions has been hauled down and the RED FLAG OF THE PEOPLE has been unfurled.

This is not a "coup d'etat," as some of the capitalist press have stated, but it is a revolution proper, a complete change from autocracy to democracy.

It can be truly said that this is NOT A BOURGEOISE REVOLUTION, BUT A PROLETARIAN. It has been reported in the capitalist press that the start of the revolution was a GENERAL STRIKE brought about by the starvation of the people.

The "S.M. Herald," March 27th allows the following to slip into its columns: "General Korniloff, commander of the troops in Petrograd, says that the war is impossible if the workers' committee persists in agitating among the troops. The Social Democratic party, through their newspaper, "Golos Pravdy," published the central committee's resolution inciting the soldiers to leave the trenches and go over to the enemy, asserting that this would immediately evoke a fraternal response on the part of the Germans, and that the war among the nations would then promptly collapse, enabling the army and the people to devote themselves to the FINAL OVERTHROW OF THE RULING CLASSES."

From the foregoing it will be seen that it is the workers who are carrying on the fight, and it is the toilers of Russia who are most vitally concerned in the success of the revolution. The workers are now anxious to GO RIGHT ON WITH THE JOB, and not stop until the plutocracy is also cleaned up. Starvation they have suffered long enough, and they are now anxious, while the game is on, to WIPE OUT THE CAUSE OF STARVATION, and establish an industrial republic.

This speaks volumes for what is likely to happen in the near future.

All eyes are now upon Russia. Instead of looking upon her with horror and loathing, we now look to her with pride and joy, and lift our hats and raise our voices in praise and encouragement to the rebels who had the courage to fight against such TREMENDOUS ODDS.

It is somewhat amusing to notice the attitude of the capitalist press towards the revolution. One would think by reading their columns that it was wholly and solely an anti-German move. But is it? The press of the master class is justifying the revolution, speaking of it as a good thing, and praising the rebels for overthrowing the Czar. But one pauses to think what a different figure the capitalist rags would have cut if the revolution had failed. If such were the case, it would have surely been reported as an I.W.W. outrage, a pro-German conspiracy, a treasonable plot to help the enemy. German gold and enemy agents would have been mentioned. But the revolution so far HAS BEEN A SUCCESS, and that makes all the difference.

The words of Sir J. Harrington ring true to day as in the day they were spoken. "Treason never prospers; what's the reason? For if it prosper none dare call it treason." How well he understood the capitalist press.

The Provisional Government which has taken control in Russia has issued a manifesto in which the following reforms are set out:—

An immediate general amnesty for all political and religious offenders.

Freedom of speech.

Freedom of the press.

Freedom of labor organisations and freedom to strike.

Extension of these liberties to the troops, so far as military and technical conditions permit.

Abolition of all social, religious, and national restrictions.

Immediate preparations for summoning a Constituent Assembly which will establish the Governmental regime and constitution of the country.

The coming into being of the mentioned reforms will mean that Russia will be a LONG LONG WAY AHEAD OF AUSTRALIA in relation to human freedom.

Russia, with no political prisoners, with the exiles from the awful mines of Siberia coming home to take part in the SOCIAL REGENERATION, is a striking contrast to Australia. Russia, with freedom of speech and freedom of the press; with the right to organise and the right to strike makes Australians envy her. Russia, with the national flag trampled in the dust, and the Red Flag of Liberty merrily floating over all public buildings is an object of wonderment and pride to Australian workers.

If the reforms which are now being enacted in Russia were in operation in Australia, we would think ourselves well off; but while other countries are advancing towards freedom, the iron heel of oppression is settling more firmly upon Australia.

It would do well for Australian workers to take a lesson from Russia, and set their political prisoners free; take back the right of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, and demand the right to organise and to strike.

Barbaric Russia, has thrown away the gag and the knout, pulled down the political prisons and the scaffold, and stopped all exiles, and is now marching along the road of Progress and is standing well ahead of all other "civilised" nations. This is something new in the history of the world, and it would pay the workers of Australia to follow the lead.

All hail the Revolution. Long live the Red Flag of the people. Speed the day when tyrants and slavery will be no more.

—N.R.

"But this I know, that every law  
That men have made for man,  
Since first man took his brother's life,  
And this sad world began;  
But fouts the wheat and saves the chaff  
With a most evil fan."

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

—J. A. Symonds.

Organise industrially! Gather the work-  
ers of the world into your industrial organ-  
isation and sign the death warrant of Wage  
Slavery!

## A "Scab" Union.

By Tom Barker.

Mr. Arthur Blakeley, a district secretary of the A.W.U., and a selected candidate for a seat in the Federal Parliament, takes umbrage in the "Worker" at a par that recently appeared under my name in "Direct Action," in which I stated that the formation of three National Industrial Unions was contemplated in the near future. Mr. Blakeley, with the forensic wisdom that is his most notable attribute, dubs such a move as that of a "scab" union. There is no doubt if we get behind the tortuous reasonings of our well paid friend, that we would find that everything that did not agree exactly with his conclusions should be lumped together under the category of "scab."

As a feeler on the question of the M.S.U. and the Packer brigade, I am willing to put up a wager to test Mr. Blakeley's statements. I am prepared to pay to the Society for the Adoption of Unfortunate Politicians and Impecunious Union Officials, or any other respectable charity the sum of One Pound for each instance proven by Mr. Blakeley in which an M.S.U. or Packerite possesses a dues card in the I.W.W., if, on the other hand, Mr. Blakeley undertakes to pay the sum of One Pound to the aid of the wives and dependents of the I.W.W. men in gaol for every instance where I can PROVE that ex-members of Packer's Union have tickets in the A.W.U.

Mr. Blakeley refers to the trouble in Darwin in 1915, in which he says that the I.W.W. collected a band of Chows, blacks and nondescripts to break a strike. If Mr. Blakeley was familiar with the facts he would know that it was quite untrue. The members of the I.W.W. in Darwin work in the utmost harmony with the members of the A.W.U., and the fact that over £100 has been collected there to defend the men in gaol goes to prove that that statement is a figment of Mr. Blakeley's imagination. And I cannot miss this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Blakeley upon his remarkable sagacity in selecting two white people for his parents. It shows his infinite superiority to the foolish Chow and black.

Quoth he, "The fact that this organisation will take in black, brown or brindle, will no doubt account for a few members." Well, I do know that the A.W.U. has several black, and some brown members. I know the wharf laborers have several negroes and some Maories in their ranks. Perhaps Mr. Blakeley will write another article explaining the wide difference, from a union standpoint, between the aboriginal and the African native. And, where in the name of Mike, is Mr. Blakeley going to draw the territory line between the white and the coloured. Is the Siberian to be called a white or a yellow? Is a Syrian to be called a black or a white. Is the Maltese to be considered as a Latin or an Arab?

I can't, for the life of me, see why all the workers of all colours can't be in the one union.

Mr. Blakeley's argument is briefly this: The white worker wants the monopoly of the work. The white worker is so fond of yakkering he wants all the chains, and to that end he warns all that are not white off the premises. And that argument goes to prove the intelligence of the white worker and the propounder of his philosophy.

Says he, "The hearts of the squatters, mining magnates, and the shipping ring will beat with gladness to hear of a further possible weapon at their hands to help them in their fight against the workers." Brother Blakeley is surely thinking of that 28/ agreement.

Again he says, "It will not be long now before we see who are the enemies of industrial unionism." Quite true, brother. Read last week's article by Secretary A. E. Williams of the B.A.I.E.U., and you will find who the enemies are. It is the people who have jobs to lose by the adoption of closer organisation, and those who use the industrial movement for political purposes. If Mr. Blakeley would pay more attention to his subscriber's copy of "Direct Action," or obtain a primer on Industrial Unionism, he would

## "JUSTICE!"

PROFESSIONAL JURORS.

A storm of popular indignation against the "professional jury" is on in San Francisco. The rank injustice of the conviction of Billings, by a professional jury of retired business men, on the direct plea of their master's voice, made by Assistant District Attorney Brennan, that they bring in such a verdict as would allow the State to uncover the real criminals was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

There has been an abundance of wind turned loose on the subject of the "Jury," most of which is very tame and lady-like as befits the average citizen's regard for his own liberties. Everybody "passes the buck" first to the dear "System," then to the judges, then to the politicians, and then back to the people.

Let us have courage and lay it where it belongs, on the State, the government, the police power.

The trouble with citizens to-day is that they bow down and worship everything that spells "John Law." The right of the Writ of Habeas Corpus has never been so disregarded as it is to-day. Blood has flowed freely in Everett, Washington, to preserve the right of free speech, and this, mind you, in our day.

How weak and namby-pamby sound the modern mouthings about the "trial by jury" when compared with the thoughts expressed by the famous American Jurist Lysander Spooner in his great legal work, "Trial by Jury," in the 1840's. Listen to him and take heart!

"The trial by jury is a trial by the country—that is, by the people—as distinguished from a trial by the government."

"The object of this trial by the country, or by the people, in preference to a trial by the government, is to guard against every species of oppression by the government. In order to effect this end it is indispensable that the people, or the country, judge of and determine their own liberties against the government, instead of the government's judging of and determining its own powers over the people. How is it possible that juries can do anything to protect the liberties of the people against the government, if they are not allowed to determine what those liberties are?"

"To secure this right of the people to judge of their own liberties against the government, the jurors must be taken from the body of the people, by lot, or by some process that precludes any previous knowledge, choice, or selection of them, on the part of the government. This is done to prevent the government's packing a jury with a view to maintain its own laws and accomplish its own purposes."

The voice of Authority is ever growing louder and bolder and all over our land their new cry is an echo of the old one, "the dead to the dung heap, the living to the scaffold."

The watchword of all classes of people in this, our day of "Laws," should be: "Resist aggression and preserve all our liberties and demand more liberties."

find a tremendous difference between the A.W.U. and scientific organisation. He would find analogous differences between a windjammer and a modern Diesel engine, oil burning ocean liner; between a stone club and a machine gun; between a stage coach and a limited express; between holy water and disinfectant; between the bitter crab apple and the latest product of Luther Burbank's Californian orchard; between cockroach business and the billionaire.

There are thousands of men in the country who believe in the principles of the I.W.W. The question is can the A.W.U. be made an industrial union? Can the alteration in a slum property make a palace? Certainly not. New foundations are needed, and a new and modern philosophy that are in alignment with modern conditions. The I.W.W. offers that. Let Mr. Blakeley show the weakness in the I.W.W. form of organisation, instead of labelling everything that he feels disgruntled over as being "scab." Let him come along and disembowel the I.W.W. When June is here and Mr. Blakeley is in town, I am prepared to debate the merits or demerits of the I.W.W. with him. And I am assure him that he needs facts. For I have tons of them.



CURRENT  
COMMENTS.Does this Happen  
in Australia?

## Liberty or Death?

WHAT IS IT TO BE?

Mr. Percival Brookfield is again in trouble. Not with his constituents, not with the men and women who elected him to Parliament, no, he has been handing them out the goods they wanted, he has been talking to them the way they liked. His old mates and fellow fighters have not felt foul of him, but the newly elected Prussians in the Labor Party are wrathfully indignant.

Mr. Brookfield is alleged to have said at Broken Hill that the Red Flag was the flag he would spill his blood for, and as for the Union Jack he would not spill a drop of blood for it. Further, that he would fight like hell for the release of the I.W.W. men in Sydney.

It seems passing strange that the officials of the Labor Party, after making so much noise about the conscriptionists and expelling some from their party, should now go to the other extreme and act like Prussians, and want to expel men who have advanced a bit further than they have, and have had the courage to speak their thoughts openly and freely.

When will the workers see that Parliament is not the place to fight? Its machinery is too expensive and cumbersome, and many a good man has been lost by entering that unholy place.

Mr. M. P. Considine has been selected as the Labor candidate for the Barrier in the Federal House. While Mr. Considine was in Sydney, he was put through a cross-examination by the P.L.L. executive, and he passed with honors. Amongst other things, Mick signed the following statement: "I am not now, nor ever have been, a member of the organisation known as the Industrial Workers of the World. I do not agree with the policy or methods of the organisation." To those who know Mick, the above statement is extremely amusing. It is well known that "Consie" has believed in almost every policy and method that has been advanced. There is no doubt that Mick would be prepared to say anything if only he could get the chance to spread his elongated frame on the soft plush seats in Parliament. Mick has had a long struggle. For five years he has been scratching around at the Barrier looking for a job, and it looks now as if he has just about landed one. Mick at last took a tumble, and saw that his only chance of emancipation was through the P.L.L. He has been walking around with M.P. at the wrong end of his name for a long time now, but things are changing, and if the gods are kind to Mick, he will soon have M.P. at the tail end of his name also.

Anyhow, Sydney will be more congenial than Broken Hill, and a tenner a week with pickings is not to be sneezed at these hard times.

When the toilers take as much interest in trying to emancipate themselves as they do in emancipating others, the world will be much brighter and happier for all.

Mr. Luke Jones, after being prominent in expelling several members from the A.S.P., has at last expelled himself and gone over to the Labor Party. Luke evidently saw that the "comrades" lay out was on the decline, and there was a chance of picking up a job. He is now amongst the "official" Labor Party, where the fields to exploit are many and the opportunities great for a political speler.

The "S.M. Herald" has been very jubilant over the decision of the A.M.A. (Broken Hill) and the Mrs. Egan case. The "S.M. Herald" goes so far as to praise Mrs. Egan for her action in Broken Hill when she held a union official at bay with a loaded revolver while others stripped him and beat him with whips, and then smothered him with tar.

One wonders what condition the "Herald" writer must have been in when he speaks of union tyranny and obeying the law, and then supports Mrs. Egan in her act of lawlessness and brutality.

It is wonderfully wonderful the contortions the capitalist press is capable of performing. Even if anyone were to try and believe everything he sees in the daily sheets, he must very often find himself in a quandary as to which way to go. In these days when things are doing, it is no uncommon sight to see the editorial screeds in the same issue at total and distinct variance with each other.

The red flag in Russia is spoken of as

## HOW THEY DO THINGS IN AMERICA

The "professional jury system" is a thing of the past in San Francisco. A lawyer resorted to direct action—and the whole thing vanished in smoke. Attorney Edwin V. McKenzie had fought a couple of hard battles for a client, getting only hung juries, and was going to trial the third time, when he found himself confronted by the same jury panel by the use of which the innocent Billings was sent to a living death. This was too much. McKenzie "blew up." The lawyer became human and took that most effective of all human actions, the direct action of simply refusing to take his client to trial before the famous "Billings butchers." He might have "made a motion" or "filed a writ" or otherwise taken a polite lawyer's way of dodging things, but he didn't. The lawyer refused to respect the pretence that the court house corridor vagrants were a jury, and WAS SENTENCED TO JAIL HIMSELF—but wiped the professional jury system off the books by his direct action. For the whole city is aroused.

The public sees a mountain one atom at a time. It sees now, in San Francisco, the tiny truth that the professional jurymen is a ghoul. Perhaps later some big human being, by a like direct defiance, may make the public see that a judge, too, is a ghoul—every judge. And the breaking light may illuminate more of the scene; not only jury and judge, but jailor and lawyer may show in all their ghastly significance, till men will understand that the whole machine of State is one vast crime that but fathers the little crimes. It will be a bright day when man ceases to believe in the beast-god, Punishment and his church. The State.

But, to come back to earth.

It is a very little favor to ask the public intelligence, to request them to understand that the hired witness system is a crime unspeakable. Perhaps the minds of San Francisco public could be induced to go that little step further now that they have aroused to the professional juror.

A few years from now, people will listen in amazement to the statement that witnesses were actually allowed to appear in court and swear against a defendant's life when the witness had a money interest in shaping his testimony to convict the defendant. The mere statement of it ought to be enough to convince an intelligent reader of its wrong. But if more is needed, a glance at how the thing worked out in the Billings case, should close the argument. Not one disinterested or reputable person gave a word of testimony against Billings. Not one of the important witnesses but has been caught red-handed as a police "stoof" with a criminal record hanging from watch-stealing to murder indictment, and hired for the occasion to testify against the defendants. No reflection is meant upon the few decent persons who testified to trivial matters, such as weather conditions on the fateful day, but a reflection is meant against the district attorney who paraded a few credible

the emblem of liberty, righteousness and everything that is good; in Australia the red flag is looked upon as symbolical of anarchy, riot, ruin, and everything which is bad. The Russian revolution is praised and extolled, but the men who were prepared to fight conscription in Australia to the end were called traitors, enemy agents and treason mongers. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to organize and to strike in Russia are looked upon as democratic and progressive moves, but in Australia the same are rigorously suppressed. One set of politicians is trounced and denounced one day and the next they are praised and admired. Yes, truly the capitalist press is a wonderful contortionist. It can change its color better than the chameleon, and its scribes can beat the kaleidoscope.

It behoves the working class not to trust their enemy, the capitalist press, any longer, but do a bit of thinking and exploring for themselves.

"DIRECT ACTION."

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persons through the trial for the purpose of putting a decent admixture into his jumble of optum-fiends, sneak-thieves and red-light professionals.

The point is that it is openly, publicly a custom to hire witnesses. Nobody even denies it; offers of large sums of money are published in blazing headlines, money to be paid for the conviction of anyone for a crime.

Does anybody contend that an honest man needs to be paid for telling the truth? On the other hand, would you be willing to take a chance on having 17,000 dollars offered to anybody in this big city who would be willing to take your life by falsely swearing in court, with full protection and praise for doing it?

Detectives are going around hawking such "business offerings for perjurers."

Charles Organ, a man convicted three times of forgery, was recently added to the string of state's witnesses against Mooney, taking the place of Mrs. Kidwell, who lost her job as witness by writing an indiscreet letter telling of the price she was to get for her testimony. Organ was said to have been given 500 dollars by Tom Mooney to "blow up the Liberty Bell." (There is no use to laugh; such stuff goes in this case, for it is used on the side of Capital against Labor men.) Charles Organ says he wrote several letters denying the story, but the letters were stolen by some officer of the law. Organ finally got a communication out to an attorney for Billings and gave the following statement,

"When I was arrested in Los Angeles two detectives came to me and asked if I knew Mooney. I said 'no.' They said, 'Oh, yes, you do; he's the preparedness parade bomb man.' Then they dictated the Liberty Bell story—how Mooney had given me 500 dollars to blow up the relic, how I had got scared, dumped explosives out of a suitcase at the beach and left the suitcase in Market street, filled with bricks. The detectives told me they'd see I got off light on the cheque charge if I stuck to the bell story, and they said I'd get a piece of the 17,000 dollars rewards in the bomb case. In San Francisco I refused to identify Mooney. I'd never seen him. They brought him out alone, and detectives prompted me, but I wouldn't identify him."

So proceeds the heart-breaking farce. These witnesses have been brought to the light of day, and are discredited. But who knows what other poison is being brewed for Mooney in the dark? "Hyena" Fiebert is king of the kingdom of thugs and can produce a new one for every one unmasked. What new perjury is the Chamber of Commerce gold buying for the Mooney trial?

People of San Francisco, do you really think you ought to let witnesses be openly, publicly hired?

Is there a judge in San Francisco who will keep his court a little above the level of the red light house in which Estelle Smith was arrested in Los Angeles, by refusing to let hired witnesses hold sway?

—"BLAST."

At the A.W.U. Conference sitting in Sydney, a motion was carried asking the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the I.W.W. cases. We would like to ask who will the Royal Commission consist of? Is it possible for Holmanites or Hughesites to be fair and impartial? Perish the thought!

At Sydney last week a man was charged with obtaining employment under false pretence. He said that he was a returned soldier, although he had never been to the war. He said it was his only chance of getting a job, as everywhere he went he was asked the same question, and then insulted when he said he had not been to the war. Who is the real culprit? The man who told a lie in order that he might feed himself and his dependents, or the master class who forced him to lie by holding from him the means of life? All impartial judges will not hesitate to say, on the head of the master class lies the blame.

Why this perpetual cry for returned soldiers? Is it really out of patriotism, or is it for cheap labor. We leave the reader to judge.

N.E.

Fellow-Workers,—I have something serious to say to you. I ask you to ponder this well, and to say what you intend doing.

Twelve of the finest working-class agitators and fighters to be found in Australia, are at the present moment lying in jail under sentence which practically amount to life.

Now, I know what I am speaking of. Several times during my life I have been cast into gaol, and, being of an observant nature, I can claim to thoroughly know and understand the system. I had meant upon several occasions to write an indictment of the prison system, but abler pens than mine have done so. If my readers wish to know something of the foul, degrading, mind-killing atmosphere of a prison, I refer them to Alexander Berkman's wonderful book, "Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist."

Therein, an intellectual and strong-willed man lays bare the vile, unspeakable, and almost unbelievable life of the victims of the most accursed blot that ever overshadowed this earth.

And into this inhuman inferno, to mix with the already degraded and degenerated victims of that living tomb, these twelve men are cast. Think of it, fellow-workers, these men, who love good literature, to whom the fight for better conditions is as the very breath of life, are suddenly torn from their wives and children and cast into a narrow, white-washed cell, without a paper or book to read. Think of all it means, deprived of all in life worth living for: good reading, social intercourse with their class, the embraces of their wives, the company of their offspring, and for 10 and 15 years.

Ten and fifteen years!—that means moral, intellectual, and very likely physical murder. For no man, however strong-willed, can hope to emerge from that living grave after fifteen years the same being he went in. During those terrible years of dull, monotonous, routine, shut off from the world, any man's brain will decay; his body will suffer; his procreative powers will be killed; he will emerge—a mere dumb, hopeless brute.

And in two cases at least these sentences may mean death; the constitutions of two of our comrades may never stand this horrible term of confinement.

Now, fellow-workers,—I ask you, are you going to release these men? You, and you alone have it in your power to do so. It is as useless to appeal to the power who sent them there, as to appeal to a devil or a god. No judge or politician dare release our boys; for the simple reason that judges and politicians are only there to please the master-class who condemned the twelve.

You, the working class of Australia, can open the jail gates. Are you going to do so? If not, then I have this to say.

These twelve men were sent to a living death because they fought in the interests of you, the workers. That is their only crime. Two at least of these men, had in the past, been offered safe political billets: they turned down those offers to fight for your interests.

Now, which do you think most men would choose, a safe job at seven hundred pounds a year, or the risk of fifteen years' imprisonment?

That is not a hard question to answer is it? But the thing for you to decide is whether you are going to show these men that you appreciate their stand, and stick to them as they stuck to you, or leave them in the lurch? If the latter, then you are deliberately asking men to sell you.

Remember fellow-workers, when men make a study of working-class history and economics they have an advantage over the general mass of workers who will not read and study, and they are in a position to be of great service to their class. But, the master-class are always on the lookout to capture any worker who shows marked ability. And the master's purse is long.

So, if you the working-class are not prepared to stand behind your leaders and champions: if you are going to allow them to rot in prison; then you will only encourage others in the future to go over to the boss and sell you.

In plain language fellow-workers,—upon which side is a man to go, yours or the masters?

Upon the masters side there is wealth, ease, comfort, luxury, and SECURITY. Upon the side of the workers, there is poverty, hard work, misery, insecurity, and PRISON.

Upon your answer to that question, fellow-workers, may depend the attitude adopted by intelligent and class-conscious workmen, in the future. For if you do not open the jail gates for these twelve men, others in the future, may prefer to sell the workers to running the risk of a brutal sentence in their interests.

Think well, and let us have your answer. What is it to be?

TOM O'CONNOR.

## Others' Views.

Contributions are invited from those interested in the industrial movement, as advocated by the Industrial Workers of the World, as to what they think of the movement. All such, in common with all other voluntary contributions, must be written on one side of the paper only. If of interest, they will be published. This week we publish the criticisms of an apparent authority from Lithgow, without unnecessary comment. We give it word for word. It takes an exceedingly mournful tone, and was enclosed in an exceedingly mournful appearing envelope—deeply edged in black.—Ed.

Read avenue, Lithgow.  
J. R. Wilson, Sydney.

Sir,

With reference to your communication of the 12th, I desire to inform you that the next meeting of my union will be held on the first Thursday in April. At that meeting I will place your Precious letter before the members of my branch.

Hellish.

Personally, I may say that I have the utmost contempt for yourself and other members of your organisation.

The World's Freedom in Jeopardy.

Your shallow artifices reveals the obvious motives of your treacherable efforts to create a revolution in our midst, at a time when Australia's noblest sons are fighting to sustain the FREEDOM OF A WORLD.

Straight and Direct.

I repeat the shoals of your artifices disclose the selfish attempt of MONGREL leaders of your anarchistic combination to manufacture fat and easy beliefs for themselves. You speak of DIRECT ACTION. I define the word direct, as straight, and do you think it straight to burn and murder as your members have been proved to do?

Added Brains and Assassins.

Now, it is difficult to get sufficient food for the soldiers at the front, and workers of the world are being executed through the increased cost of necessary commodities. Notwithstanding this, your self-begotten leaders advocate burning stacks of wheat and growing crops. Why! Damn the added brain of such assassins. Who'll burn a city down that they might profit by its looting!

Brothel-Haunted Slums.

And can they really think Australia's Free-born Sons have anything in common with such men; with men who have been drafted from the brothel-haunted slums of various countries?

Fraternal Friends the Germans.

Leaders and members of the I.W.W., in my opinion, should be put behind barbed wire with their fraternal friends the Germans. Their aspirations are identical.

Brainless Fools.

The leaders of your union seek the most brainless fools for members, such poor deluded fools are easily utilised to do the dangerous part of your organisation's advocacy.

Has Sons at the Front.

I have sent three sons to fight the country's battle. Two of them have fallen, freely giving their lives in defence of the constitution you wish to destroy.

The Old Men at Home.

And do you really think that I, with all my love and reverence for their memory, will, in alliance with a band of assassins, assist in the destruction of what they died to sustain. You hint at treason. Well, get started. The FATHERS of our soldiers have courage equal to their sons, and they will fight Australia's enemies at HOME.

Frothy Advocacy.

The laws of MY country, I admit, give most protection to those who try to destroy them; that is the reason your members in the public streets spout your treacherable, frothy advocacy without hindrance.

P.L.L.—Tyranical Body.

But the time is near at hand when such actions will make your safety not worth a woman's purchase. You say you cannot get justice in the courts of law. That statement proves your biased mind, the criminals you speak of should have been tried upon a graver charge, in my opinion. Disbuse your mind of the idea that the workers of Australia will support your vile designs, even that TYRANNICAL BODY, the P.L.L., which violates the most vital principle of Democracy (freedom of speech) have turned your organisation down.

I Would Curse You to Hell.

Never think that you have my assist-

## Spasms

T.B.: The secretary of the Joint (it is a "joint," too) Committee of the S' Australian Parliament has written to Jack Brookfield, the member for Sturt, telling him that he will not be entitled to privileges accorded to visiting politicians at Parliament House unless he unreservedly withdraws the statements recently made by him about profiteers, the war and the Red Flag. The next thing we will hear of Munro-Ferguson sending a letter to Donald Grant and Tom Glynn in Parramatta Gaol informing that their future visits to "Flunkie House" have been cancelled. Personally I wouldn't be found dead in the Adelaide Gasmeter, and I don't think Brookie would, either.

"Straws" show the way the wind blows." All the politicians who stood for a new trial or a Royal Commission for the I.W.W., men not only got large audiences, but big majorities. All the old timers, who's heads had died years ago, and who slaughtered the I.W.W. ferociously on the Labor side either got small majorities or passed out. If the Labor Party had stood straight for justice for these men, they would have had greater results, and also the comforting reflection that working class principles and sympathy are predominant in the jobs they were after. But politicians were the standard-bearers in the world, and Laborites are no exception to the rule.

## A Song for the Faubourgs.

Written in Paris, 1792.

(Specially Translated for "Direct Action")

By tyrants' laws we have been bound,

By tyrants' laws we have been bound;

Man craves at the foot of man,

Vain, miserable and depraved.

Millions of slaves in poverty,

By an idle few crushed down.

The sport of the rulers' heartless gibe,

Or poverty tyrants' cruel drive.

We have asked them often to hear us,

We have pleaded, but all in vain.

They gave us the dunce and scaffold,

But we will not ask again.

Brothers, awake! at freedom's call!

Conquer your cause is right.

The sun is shining for all the world,

Come out from Slavery's night.

Or by the lethargic slumber,

Let us break the ancient chain.

And to every groaning slave,

Send forth the fierce alarm.

Arise, fear not their hirelings,

Though it leads to a martyr's grave.

Far better the scaffold a freeman,

Than life as a cringing slave.

J. P. Q.

(Vic.)

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Alternate Tuesdays—Educational Class.  
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Sunday, 8 p.m.—Trades Hall, Lecture.  
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W. TREMBATH.

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Apply, The Manager,

Box 98 Haymarket P.O., Sydney.

and; if it were possible that you could have Australia with you, and all the devil'simps to back you up, and my life was dependent on my acquiescence of your fiendish object, I would with my dying breath CURSE YOU TO HELL!

(Signed) J. CALLAGHAN.

## NOTICE.

Fellow-Workers, this is to say that a change has been made in the Secretaryship of the Defence and Release Committee, it having been found necessary to combine these duties with that of the Secretaryship of the Local. In future all monies yet to come in for the purpose of carrying on the agitation on behalf of the men in jail, and for the maintenance of wives and children, should be forwarded to Fellow-worker T. Barker, he having at the last business meeting of the local been elected local secretary.

It should be remembered that money is still required, and will be for some considerable time to come. The wives of the men have to be maintained; their children likewise, and the agitation for the release of our men, the victims of capitalist conspiracy carried on. How long they will remain in jail will be determined by the strength of the propaganda carried on in their favour, that is the general activity of every member of the I.W.W. and everyone, who although not a member, recognises that a gross legal outrage has been committed. Finance will, therefore, play a large part, and is, therefore, as much required as ever. Further loans to the amount of £400 have to be refunded. All fellow workers having subscription lists are asked to return same at an early date, also all funds collected. It is also up to all Locals to pay promptly for pamphlets received from the Defence Committee, as by doing so, assistance of a valuable character is rendered. Fellow workers and Local secretaries are asked to note the above and comply with same if possible.

J. R. WILSON.

## 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.

## 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.

## Defence Fund.

	£	s	d
Previously acknowledged	715	4	5 1/2
Collection, N. C. Fields	5	10	2
Donation, R. J. Wright	0	2	6
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" J. C.	0	2	0
" R. Strange	0	2	0
" Friend	0	2	0
" W. M. Hughes	0	2	2
" J. Hunt	0	3	0
Collected, J. Gibb	0	11	0
" E. Easlea	0	8	6
Donation	0	0	9
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" Bathurst Street	0	10	7
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" Williams, Moree	1	10	0
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Donation, Easlea	0	1	0
" N. C. F., Melbourne	5	0	0
" I.W.W., Melbourne	5	0	0
" Friend	0	2	0
Collection, Bathurst Street	0	9	6
" Joe Flowers	20	0	0
" E. Walker	1	15	0
" Domain	5	6	0
Donation, "D. and R.C." Brisbane	40	0	0
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J. R. WILSON, Sec.

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