

'An Injury to One an INJURY to All.'



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Exploitation.

In all countries where the capitalist system of production prevails, we find society divided into two classes, the capitalist class and the working class.

The capitalists constitute the owners of all the machines, mines, factories, and workshops for the production of the necessities and luxuries of human life. Through their ownership and control of industry they become masters of the rest of society.

On the other hand there is the great army of workers, the owners of only one commodity, that commodity which is contained in, and is inseparable from, their physical bodies, their labour power. Not having the tools and machines necessary to transform raw materials into finished products, their only access to the means of life lies in the sale of their labor power to some employer who possesses the required means of production. The workers are thus reduced to a position of slavery just as real and just as terrible, although more intensified, as were the chattel slaves of old.

Labour power is a commodity, being bought and sold in market just as is any other commodity. But it differs from other commodities in this respect, that it is a creator of value. When applied to the raw materials and the machines it produces more commodities, the value of the commodities it produces being always greater than the value of the labour power itself.

It must be borne in mind that the commodity must and does, on an average exchange at its value, the value of a commodity being determined by the amount of socially necessary labour time required for its production. Labour power, however, is contained only in the body of its owner, the worker, consequently its value is the amount of food, clothing, and shelter necessary to keep him fit so that he may be able to continue producing. Also, he must be able to propagate his species, so that when he is worn out there will be another worker ready to take his place in the industrial arena.

That part of the work day during which the labourer, working under normal conditions, and with the average degree of skill and intensity, can produce the equivalent of what he receives as wages, in other words the value of his labour power, is called necessary labour time. It is necessary from the point of view of the workers because without it he can not live, and necessary from the viewpoint of capitalist because upon the continued existence of the working class his existence as a capitalist depends. If the necessary labour time is reduced to such an extent that it becomes impossible for the worker to buy back with his wages the necessities of life, his efficiency deteriorates and the employer very soon finds that he cannot make as much profit out of him as he formerly did.

The worker when selling his labour power to an employer agrees to work for a certain number of hours per day, the length of the work day being determined by the relative strength of their organisations. It must, however, be sufficiently long to include not only the necessary labour time, but a surplus over and above this, which is appropriated by the capitalist as his share. The time during which this surplus value is produced is known as surplus labour time, labour for which the worker receives no return, and which is, therefore, as far as he is concerned, absolutely unnecessary.

Exploitation is the appropriation by the capitalist class of all the wealth produced by labour over and above that which is returned to the worker as wages.

Our Boys.

FELLOW-WORKERS, ONCE AGAIN WE WISH TO BRING BEFORE YOU THE ALL ABSORBING SUBJECT OF OUR BOYS IN JAIL, AND WE HOPE YOU WILL REALISE THE TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE IT IS TO THE WORKING CLASS. THAT TWELVE ELOQUENT ADVOCATES OF OUR CAUSE SHOULD BE GAGGED IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT THAT THEY SHOULD ALSO BE SENT TO A LIFE'S IMPRISONMENT IS TOO AWFUL TO CONTEMPLATE.

BUT TIME IS THE FATHER OF CHANGE. WITH THE LAPSE OF TIME, MANY GREAT AND WONDROUS CHANGES TAKE PLACE. IN A FEW WEEKS GREAT REVOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED; IN A FEW DAYS GREAT TRANSFORMATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. NO ONE CAN ACCURATELY FORECAST THE FUTURE; NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE MORROW MAY BRING. THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN ONE SERIES OF SHOCKS, SURPRISES, AND STRANGE HAPPENINGS. IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO. BECAUSE WE HAVE GREAT HOPES OF THE FUTURE, IT IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD LAY BACK IN SLOTHFUL INDIFFERENCE ABOUT THE BOYS IN JAIL. SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE HIGH TREASON TO THE WORKING CLASS.

FELLOW-WORKERS, WITH THE LAPSE OF TIME, LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT WE FORGOT THE MEN WHO WERE PREPARED TO LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR THE WORKING CLASS. LET US NEVER FORGET THE MEN WHO FOUGHT AGAINST SUCH TREMENDOUS ODDS IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT BREATHE A LITTLE MORE FREELY. THOSE TWELVE TIRELESS, UNFLINCHING ADVOCATES OF FREEDOM'S CAUSE ARE NOW LANGUISHING IN THE BASTILES OF THE ENEMY.

CAN WE ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE IN THIS BOASTED LAND OF DEMOCRACY? THINK ABOUT THESE CASES. STUDY THE EVIDENCE ON WHICH THE MEN WERE CONVICTED. SPEAK ABOUT IT, AND LET THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT THIS GREAT INJUSTICE.

FELLOW WORKERS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

THE DESTINATIONS OF THE MEN AT PRESENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

MAITLAND: BESANT AND MOORE.

PARRAMATTA: FAGAN, GRANT, AND GYNN.

BATHURST: LARKIN, KING, AND REEVES.

GOULBURN: HAMILTON, BEATTY, TEEN, McPHERSON.

FELLOW-WORKERS, THESE MEN FOUGHT FOR YOU. ARE YOU WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THEM?

It can be seen, then, that what is beneficial to the capitalist is detrimental to the worker, and vice versa, or in the words of the Preamble of the I.W.W.: "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common."

Capitalism as it develops has a tendency to constantly reduce the necessary labour time. This is made possible by the introduction of more modern and up-to-date machinery, by increasing the efficiency of the worker, and the utilisation of female and child labour in the industries. As every reduction of the necessary labour time means a corresponding increase in the surplus labour time, the hours of labour remaining the same, it is plain that as time goes on, that part of the product of labour which is appropriated by the master keeps on increasing, while the workers' share is decreasing in like ratio.

The result of this clash of economic interests is a never-ceasing struggle between the two classes. The capitalist spurred on by his insane desire for surplus values. The worker, goaded by hunger and want, ever fighting for more of the product of his toil.

In this struggle abstract ideas of right and wrong have no part. It is all a question of power, cold, un sentimental power. In the past victory has been on the side of the master class, because of their superior organisation, and also because of the division and disorganisation existing in the ranks of the workers. This condition of affairs can only be altered by an organisation sufficiently strong and powerful to resist all the efforts of the employing class to increase the surplus labour time, and instead to keep on reducing the hours of labour until we have wiped out all the surplus value of which we are at present robbed. When that time comes capitalism will have ceased to exist.

HISWHISKERSGREW.

A Frame Up.

That there could exist a man so vile as to plot to send another to prison for a dirty little reward, is too repulsive a thought for some minds to accept. We in the labor struggle often meet with that difficulty—people can't believe that such baseness is common. It is pretty bad, and yet, not only is it done every day in every city in the world, as a matter of the petty routine of the police courts, but we state that it is a common, universal custom to HANG men for a money reward. This happens year in, year out, in the silent, secret caverns that underlie society. Unseen, not understood by even those who participate in it (for what rat knows that he lives but in a hole?), the life of the under-city seethes. Nearly the whole of the drama is concealed from view by the conventions of court and newspaper and by the stupid tendency to believe nothing that comes from another source. So the mock men stalk and mock women drift through unreal life, shallow-pated through long restriction of vision—and beneath all the superficialities lies the brutal actuality, putrid for lack of sunlight.

An old man was sent to prison the other day for placing odor-bombs in non-union restaurants. Now it is discovered that an odor-bomb was placed in the old man's pocket by the very detective who "found" it on him later. R. Porter Ashe, respectable attorney for the Chamber of Commerce, is indignant. That a detective should thus "frame up" an innocent old man for the 500 dollars reward offered by the Chamber of Commerce, is outrageous, and the poor victim shall be freed at once.

Now, R. Porter Ashe, we want to tell you something and we want you to listen to it carefully. That old man is not being freed because he is innocent. Is he? If it had been a union waiter that was framed up, would he get off? Think about this carefully.

Now we will tell you the real reason why the old man is let off. It is because he is a remittance man from England. That is, he belongs to the shabby petty aristocracy and is not a working man. That is the reason; don't pretend that it isn't. Besides, it saves the Chamber of Commerce the 500 dollars reward, which there is no use to spend if you can't "get" a labor man.

Detective Patterson can't put one over on the Chamber of Commerce. If he had just caught a member of the Cooks and Waiters' Union, it wouldn't have been a frame-up, and he would have gotten his reward, and no questions asked. AND YOU KNOW IT, Mr. R. Porter Ashe.

Do you remember the time the frame-up was thwarted in Stockton, when a labor man got his gun first and held up the employers' thug that came to kill him, and the confession of Emerson that dynamite was to be "found" in the possession of union leaders?

Let us suppose for a moment that you are sincere about it, Mr. Ashe. You have caught your detective Patterson. Now look up your detective Swanson; scrutinise him a bit.

Some "frame-ups" are for six months, and some are for Death on the gallows.

Man becomes a wild ferocious savage, a cannibal, or a highly civilised and benevolent being, according to the circumstances in which he may be placed from his birth.—Robert Owen.

A humble slave, I despise; a rebellious slave I respect.

—Wendell Phillips.

QUEENSLAND NOTES.

Last week recorded another splendid sharp and decisive win. A shed hand at Woodbine Shed was unjustly sacked and told to quit. But in spite of the Arbitration Agreement, and the fact that all hands had over £10 in wages coming to them, the shed hands stood solid, and stopped work, as a protest against the dismissal of their mate.

All hands took a trip to Hughenden, where a meeting of the pastoral workers was held. The meeting unanimously decided that all men be reinstated, and that their wages continue during the lost time, and all expenses (including fares to Hughenden) be paid by the Shearing Co. All the workers were unanimous in their moral and financial support towards the men out, and the shed concerned was declared "black."

After a few days' rest, the Federal Sheep Shearing Company gave in and granted all the men's demands.

The men are now all back at work, and the splendid display will not be forgotten.

D. HICKEY.

Hughenden, N. Q.

They never fail who die
In a great cause; the block may soak their
gore;
Their heads may sodden in the sun; their
limbs
Be strung to city gates and castle walls—
But still their spirit walks abroad.

Though years
Eclipse, and others share as dark a doom,
They but augment the deep and sweeping
thoughts
Which overpower all others, and conduct
The world at last to freedom.

LORD BYRON.

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A SHORTER
WORK DAY.

It should be apparent to all, that be-fore very long, something must be done to deal with the terrible evil of unemployment. Ominous looking clouds are already appearing on the horizon, and portentous signs are warning the working class to beware.

Although many thousands of men have been taken away from the industries and transported to Europe, nevertheless, a large unemployed army still roams through the land in search of a master.

The effects of unemployment plays havoc with the manhood of the nation, and very seriously deteriorates the motherhood of the race.

If we would have a robust and virile people, we must do away with the causes of poverty and starvation, and see that there is work for all.

With the ending of the European war and the coming home of thousands of soldiers, the terrors of unemployment will become more acute and intensified.

Poverty, misery, and starvation are no uncommon sights in Australia to-day, but one shudders when he thinks of several thousands more men being thrown upon the labor market to compete for jobs.

This question demands serious attention, and some solution must be found.

The only sane and practical remedy that can scientifically cope with the unemployed problem is the putting into force of a SHORTER WORK DAY. The coming into being of a shorter-work-day would not only help to absorb the men out of a job, but also make things much better for the whole of the working class.

Every decrease in the hours of toil which the working class has gained, has always been accompanied with an INCREASE IN WAGES. So the argument of "less work will mean less wages," is unscientific and cannot be supported.

FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS the working class of Australia have been celebrating an eight hour day. For many long years now, in the land of the Southern Cross, the toilers have been rejoicing over something their fathers accomplished much MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO. It is just about time that the working class took a tumble, and started to do something for themselves and demand a further reduction of the working hours. IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY: IT IS IMPERATIVE: IN FACT, THE LIVES OF THE WORKING CLASS DEPEND UPON IT.

The many investigations and reports which have been made of late from neutral and even capitalistic sources, have almost all suggested that a shorter work day would be beneficial.

The "British Medical Journal," about 12 months ago, contained a brilliant article by a leading doctor in England in which he said: "The long hours in the factories of England has helped to bring about the physical, moral, and intellectual degeneration of the race. The only way to build up a strong, healthy, virile race of people and make a prosperous nation is by a reduction of the hours of labor."

'After an investigation which extended over many weeks, a committee of expert engineers reported through the columns of "Page's Engineering Weekly," which is a journal of the master class, that "the work would be improved, and the health of the worker better served by shorter shifts. Many girls at work in the munition factories worked well, but the best of them had a limit, and they were fast reaching that limit. It has taken the Government 18 months to find out that excessive labor diminishes the output and impair the health of the workers. The point has been pressed home, that instead of lengthening the hours they must be shortened."

The above is not a statement by a labor demagogue, but the report of experts who have made a systematic investigation into the condition of the workers in the engineering shops in England.

Charles P. Steinmetz, chief engineer of the General Electric Company, U.S.A., has stated: "It is true that working class efficiency increases with a shortening of the hours. . . . With an average of one hour's work through the day we could produce as much as we did in ten hours one hundred years ago. . . . Without taking into account the improvements and inventions which are continually being made, we could live, with the standard of living we have to-day, by working only four hours a day and only 200 days during the year. . . . This is no idle dream, it is borne out by facts and statistics. With the organisation of industry and the elimination of waste, the dreams of the philosophers and poets would be a reality."

In the face of the foregoing arguments, coming from experts upon the subject, how can any slave argue against a reduction of the working hours.

Just before the war, Mr. Knibbs, the Commonwealth statistician, published the statement that the wages of the working class in Australia in the aggregate were made in 24 hours. If Mr. Knibbs' statement be true (and we have no reason to doubt it) it means that 5½ hours are worked every day by the workers producing surplus value for the boss, for which they get nothing in return. With this fact staring us in the face, it is very evident that a SIX HOUR DAY could be inaugurated without any serious disturbance or dislocation of industry.

All members of the working class who are interested in their welfare, should see the LOGIC OF A SHORTER WORK DAY. It will not only help to give the out-of-work a job, but it will make life much brighter and better for all who toil.

It behoves all who work for wages, not to wait until the HUGE DELUGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT is upon them, but to start right now, working and agitating for a shorter work day. It is the only hope of redress; it is the only way out of the approaching disaster.

N.R.

Anti-Strike
Legislation.

The Compulsory Arbitration Bill in America, which is an attempt to make striking illegal, has been met with a general all-round condemnation from the ranks of organised labor.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has been attacking the measure with much heat and vehemence. "Back of all this," he said, "is an attempt to take away the rights of men to quit their employment when they like." "No law, in this or any other country, ever prevented strikes," said Gompers. "The Canadian law, far from preventing strikes, has only served to make them more acute." Gompers decried the makers of the law to put it into practice. He said: "You may enact laws making strikes unlawful and prescribe penalties, but that is not going to prevent strikes. If you enact such a law, you can count on me as one of the violators of it."

It has been said that not in sixty years has there been such an attempt by Congress to pass laws which were so inimical to organised labor and so disastrous to the working class, as those proposed in the Adamson Law.

Mr. H. B. Perham, representative of the organised telegraphers, said: "There can be no compulsion without jail or fines, and we object to these."

THE DIFFERENCE.

The class struggle is fought between the worker and the capitalist—not between the politician and the capitalist. Therefore, the politician, not being directly concerned in the fight, loses all interest in it. He loses all interest in it, because he has no interest in it.

The politician's interest is to get his £10 per week; his further interest, to keep it when he gets it, and, in scheming and intriguing to get it and retain it, he has no time to think of anything else. With the politician it is pay and place—not principle. The I.W.W. vindicator and propagandist prefers principle to pay; prisons, persecutions and prosecutions to a parasitical position on the backs of the working class.

The politician depends upon public opinion for his position (public opinion is moulded by the capitalistic press; therefore a capitalistic opinion prevails), consequently he flows with the tide of existing, though, irrespective of what course it takes; it pays him to drift, not to resist.

Instead of trying to mould public opinion, he permits himself to be moulded by it. That explains why there are so many mental paradoxes in the curiosity shop in Macquarie street.

The I.W.W. is out to mould public opinion along humanitarian lines, to develop all that is high and noble and elevating in society, to bring about universal love and brotherhood instead of universal hatred and murder.

The class struggle takes place in fields, factories, workshops, mines and in every other sphere of economic production and distribution, and not in Parliament House. Therefore, in the fight between slave and master, the politician is not a participant. He cunningly works on the side of human bug, seeing that the power behind the throne is the capitalist, the politician will not oppose him. Why? Recognising that his parliamentary seat may be lost at any time, and after living in idleness and tasting the good things of life for a few years, the politician does not regard the prospect of donning dungarees and fast-

ening on to a long-handled shovel, as being very pleasing. Anything but that. Being in this frame of mind, and also realising that the one who controls the good job is the capitalist, he sets out to court his favour, and not his disfavour.

If a politician loses his seat in Parliament, and goes to the capitalist for a job; if he has opposed the capitalist in Parliament, Fat will say to him, "In Parliament you opposed me; you turned me down. Now I turn you down!"

The politician has no inclination to come into open conflict with the capitalist. It will not pay him. The capitalist controls the good job; the politician is after it,—therefore, he sticks to the capitalist.

The I.W.W. are not after seats in Parliament. It is out to overthrow capitalism. There is no compromise. There is nothing in common between the robbed and the robber; as Parliaments are only instruments in the hands of the ruling class, we do not seek to perpetuate it by putting members there. By organising industrially, the workers will erect their own parliament; therefore, there is no need to have a parliament of parasites as well as a parliament of the working class.

The I.W.W. is non-parliamentary, because it recognises that parliaments and politicians will not, and can not, emancipate the working class, and that above them in all its resplendent glory, shines industrial unionism and working-class solidarity. The greatest power on earth is the organised economic power of the working class. If the working class wants to be emancipated, it will have to rely on its own organisation. The I.W.W. has erected finger posts which point to the Land of Promise, and will take the workers from the economic wilderness of capitalism.

The I.W.W. represents and stands for the Industrial Workers of the World. The politicians stand for the Industrial Exploiters of the World. The I.W.W. points the way to working-class emancipation. The politician merely seeks his own.

J. J. HILL.

WORKERS,
AWAKEN.

He who does not feel irresistibly impelled to serve the Human Race, whether he fails or not, is bound fast by his own personality and cannot progress until he has learned that the Race is Himself and not that body he now occupies.

—William Q. Judge.

Looking back to past history, it seems that striking out on new paths must always involve sacrifices of some man or some few men. This you'll note from the Crucifixion of the Revolutionary Nazarene, who is best known as the Christ—right up to the Twelve men this 1917, just sentenced in Sydney, who were convicted on SENSATIONAL, PECULIAR and DOUBTFUL EVIDENCES.

The natural laws of progress are violated and they stagnate, instead of progressing. And this is because the people in the masses lack the necessary courage and aspiration to pass a CERTAIN CRITICAL POINT TO ACT PRACTICALLY and DETERMINEDLY.

The larger mass of people have become so attached to the sensations they have acquired with false education and the ideas are so familiar that they cannot—it seems—give them up; some sink so low as to seem to be quite overcome with this disease—called "habit"—and develop into what some of the—vulgar (?) rebels call "Boneheads." And 'tis truly expressed, and though I like to adhere to the "niceties" of language, I'm compelled for want of a better term to use that expressive word—"Boneheads."

They say history repeats itself.

Well, it's up to history to quit repeating! And make a spurt on a newer and more scientific issue than the past dead ages have given us. The mass of mankind has so persistently refused to soar out towards the illimitable sources of knowledge to sound the depths of their own natures and their requirements—has kept its thoughts and desires so chained in a narrow circle that a great illusion has been created.

This year 1917, is a positive disgrace to so-called civilization! Mankind is in bloody duel against mankind! Look at bloody Europe. Look at your herds of wage slaves!

There are great moments hanging in the balance, for Humanity all over the world

is restless. To-day there is Revolution in the great massed Russia—and in all other nations are small inner disturbances, coiling, and will burst, if the Masterhand does not force its iron claw too soon.

Oh, if the larger mass would only rise in one big Unit!

Oh, if mankind would only realise its duty to mankind!

Capitalism has made the world hollow and sinful, unbearable to the thinking man and woman of the masses, and NOW IS THE MOMENT that he has the chance TO STEP OUT INTO REAL LIFE; but the few who step out are held back at this crisis by the BONEHEAD, who succumbs to his fear and instead of awakening and grasping fraternal workers' hands, and taking the step in advance, he rushes back to his old familiar sensations—doped—weakened and hypnotised—AN HABITUAL.

Then they who control—they who hold the reins of the Earth's Government, WITH THE BONEHEAD'S DUMB PERMISSION, PUT THE LASH ON THE FEW, WHO HAVE STRIVEN TO GO FORWARD AND THEY CRUCIFY, HANG, SHOOT, OR JAIL THEM.

NOW IS THE TIME that mankind should rise in a force to overthrow these older forces! NOW IS THE TIME that man should straighten up his back-bone and ventilate with purity his clogged brain.

Russia to-day is in a state of revolution, and already is seeing gleams of light dispelling her mists.

Russia's lead may possibly produce a state of unrest throughout the other nations. ARE YOU, AUSTRALIANS, READY FOR THE ADVANCE?

The important object this year, 1917, is that MANKIND SHALL NOT FALL BACK into the old grooves—THAT HISTORY SHALL NOT REPEAT ITSELF—but that a newer, unknown History be handed down to mankind.

HUMANITY MUST NOT LAPSE BACK TO ITS OLD DEGRADATIONS!

MAN MUST CEASE TO DUEL WITH MAN—That other MAN MUST rise out of his slime AND CEASE LIVING PARASITICALLY on his fellow creatures.

BETSY H. MATTHIS

Builder: "I've just caught that man Brown hanging about, smoking during working hours, so I gave him his four days' wages and told him to clear out."

Foreman: "Good heavens, gov'nor, that fellow was only looking for a job."

It cannot be too often repeated that "war is the failure of human wisdom," and that one certain way to avoid it is for men to try and make themselves wiser.—Norman Angell.

Australian Czarism.

Editor "Direct Action."

Dear Sir,—Now that the political juggling of N.S.W. is over and the maligning law makers, the yellow press, squealing pulpsters, and noisy demagogues have done the very damndest to devour the I.W.W. and labor agitators, I, as a citizen of Sydney, take the opportunity through your columns, to bring under the notice of the public, some of the vile and fiendish methods used by the 'Olmans-Hoosites in this land of law and injustice.

In the afternoon prior to the raid and attack upon my premises, two of the intermediate charge trumplers tackled and arrested one of my lodgers, and I believe while they were filling his pockets with incendiaries they came across his latch key, which they confiscated. The next morning at 2 o'clock a mob of secret service agents sneaked into my house, and forced their way into every bed room—where women and children were asleep, at the point of the revolver, and roared out that they demanded the immediate surrender of all firearms.

The lodgers, whose wives and children were distracted and squealing, thought that the Prussian Guards were attacking the house, and believing their doom was nearing, begged the invading guard to spare the women and children.

But without hesitation all were handcuffed and marched along to the police station. In about three hours time the house was thoroughly devastated, every book was captured, including dictionaries, bibles, Russian song books, etc., photos, pictures, workmen's tools, portmanteaus, and other valuable articles, were confiscated. Some of the women lost most of their jewellery during the search, but of course we would not think of blaming the police agents.

Failing to find anything useful to support their vile and insidious scheme, another raid was made about a fortnight later, with what purpose I have not yet discovered. On this occasion, it transpired that I, as occupant of the premises, was grabbed and taken by the police agents up to the secret service department, where all sorts of silly and threatening questions were put to me.

However, after five hours of tormenting and cross questioning they thought they could let me go.

I hammered it into their maggot-eaten and stupid brains that by implicating me in such obviously not guilty charges, they would seriously injure the cause of the Allies and prejudice one of their best fighting Allies, of which I am a subject, and our secret service being very patriotic, the police were so impressed as to let patriotism that they let me go.

From the foregoing readers can judge for themselves whether the punishment meted out to the Czar of Russia and his secret service is justifiable. Let all Australians beware, for the happenings of late in Australia have shown us what the Australian Czars and their secret service are capable of doing.

Czarism reigns in Australia, and we must be alive and awake if we would hold it in check.

A. FRANKS,

214 Crown Street, Sydney.

DEATH OR LIBERTY.

Why should we idly waste our prime,
Repeating our oppressions
Come, rouse to arms, 'tis now the time
To punish past transgressions.
Tis said that kings can do no wrongs,
Their murderous deeds deny it;
And, since from us their power is sprung,
We have a right to try it.
Now each true patriot's soul shall be,
"Welcome death or liberties!"

Proud Priests and Bishops we'll translate,
And canonise as martyrs;
The gullotine on Peers shall wait,
And Knights shall hang in garters;
Those despots long have trod us down,
And Judges are their engines:
Such a wretched millions of a crown,
Demand the people's vengeance.
To-day 'tis theirs—to-morrow we
Shall don the cap of liberty!

The golden age we'll then revive—
Each man will be a brother;
In harmony we, all shall live
And share the earth together;
In virtue trained; enlightened youth
We'll love each fellow creature,
And future years shall prove the truth
That man is good by nature;
Then let us toast, with three times three,
The reign of peace and liberty.

—ROBERT BURNS.

The Industrial Republic.

Others' Views.

(Editor "Direct Action").

Dear Sir,—At one time I was prepared to "curse you to hell," but since then a change has taken place. Claiming to be fair-minded, I have for the last few months been a constant reader of your paper, "Direct Action," and have attended several of your out-door meetings. I must admit that I have failed to find anything like your traducers have stated.

As a trade unionist, who is on the look-out for better conditions, I have, after mature thought, come to the conclusion that the I.W.W. is on the right road, and its principles should meet with the endorsement of all unionists who are anxious to get better conditions and try and make things brighter and happier for their wives and children.

The cry of conspirators, German gold and criminals, which the capitalist press and their politicians have been bawling about, is only set going for political reasons. Those ideas are now totally dispelled from my mind. All the abuse that has been thrown at the I.W.W. is only wind, and counts for nothing, because it is devoid of argument.

I have looked for logic in the arguments of your opponents, but I have looked in vain.

You have stated often in "Direct Action" that the I.W.W. has something far more important to do than waste time fighting side issues, and troubling about things that are of no importance to the Labor Movement. That is the sort of stuff we want. How the trade union movement has been side-tracked from the real issue on to matters of no importance.

It is good to see an organisation with a clear-cut issue, and that will stick to the straight track and not be led away by any catch cry.

It is grand to see men who think more of serving the working-class than all the gold of the boss. For there is position and pay waiting for your leaders, if only they cared to desert the workers.

During the last few months I have learnt more about the I.W.W., through reading "Direct Action" than I would have learnt in a life time from the capitalist press and the politician. Your leading articles are good, and I cannot think of another labor paper that puts out such straight-out industrial matter in such a clear and simple style. Keep your paper going; it is a valuable asset to the education of the working class on right lines, and a valuable assistance in the fight for more of the good things of life.

I can thoroughly understand now why some workers abuse the I.W.W. It is because they do not understand. If only they were to understand the principles of the I.W.W., I am sure they would not talk like the enemies of Labor—Cook and Hughes.

I feel ashamed of myself when I think of the days when I indulged in the same cry as Hughes and his press against the I.W.W. But I have since "seen the light," and am now prepared to make amends for my mistake. At all times the I.W.W. can count on me to do all I can to further their principles of ONE BIG UNION, and assist in the fight against persecution and wrong. May the day not be long when the ideals of the I.W.W. are realised, and the workers get the full product of their toil.

Yours for Solidarity.

P. A. BENNETT.

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To punish a man because we infer from the nature of some doctrine which he holds, or from the conduct of other persons who hold the same doctrines with him, that he will commit a crime, is persecution, and is, in every case, foolish and wicked.
—Macaulay in "Constitutional History of England."

Lady: "What is all this?" (pointing to a host of motor cars).

Police-man: "It is a meeting of the commission on economy."

Men who have nice notions of religion have no business to be soldiers.—Wellington.

"DIRECT ACTION."

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take heed that the vainglorious temples they have raised to their modern idols shall be smitten in the dust by the strong force of the impatient oppressed slave. In that case more may crack than the chains the politicians and the capitalists have forged.

But let us hope that before the hour of inevitable reconstruction of society comes, the workers may have their organisations built up and their ideas formulated, so that they may escape the horrors of industrial dislocation through disunion. It is up to the working class to realise that they will only have themselves to rely upon, and that they must be prepared to take over all productive industries and run them themselves. They must have their plans ready. They must know what classes are necessary and useful and they must be able to throw the useless, bloodsucking parasites off their backs and force them to give up the whips of the slave-drivers and come down to take their places among the useful industrial workers.

The workers must not only be organised into one big industrial union, and be able to carry on production, but they must see to it that all they produce is returned to those who produce. To continue to pay tribute to the rapacious profiteer, the rack-renting landlord, the interest-exacting shekel-gatherers, and the political parasite and tax-extortions, and at the same time to exist in decency is impossible. Therefore the workers must decide to supply no man with anything produced within the coming industrial republic, who is a parasite, living on the vitals of Labor.

What has been killing the workers like flies in the past has been too much talk and too little action. In the future it must be different. The workers of Russia have shown an example, applauded alike by the proletariat and the Prime Minister of Australia. All workers must learn to act when the hour comes. Then we shall be able to free ourselves of the pestiferous, plotting politician, to cease to pay rent to the land ogre, until we make armies and navies impossible. In the industrial republic there will be no place for the emperor, the king, the army, the navy, the commercial aristocracy, or the millions of politicians and parasites who at present keep the working class in slavery. To-day the workers produce to abundance, but starve because of the legalised robbery that goes on. In the industrial republic there will only be a place for the worker who is prepared to do some useful work, and he will for once know what it is to live a decent life, not as a wage slave to work at the behest of the parasite, but to enjoy the new era of peace and prosperity in the Industrial Republic.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON.

Nothing in Common.

In order to point out clearly the basic principles of the I.W.W. and counteract some of the prejudices levied against the organisation by our enemies, it is necessary at times to analyse and explain each part of our Preamble separately.

The first sentence in the Preamble says—"The working class and the employing class have nothing in common." This clause has often caused much discussion even among men claiming to be radicals.

A slight analysis of society as it is at present constituted, plainly reveals the working class and the employing class struggling to get all they can from each other.

The working class, as sellers of a commodity—their labour power—appear upon the open market demanding as high a price as possible for their goods, and on the other hand we see the capitalist class who want the greatest amount of labor possible for the lowest price.

This being so a struggle goes on—each working against the other, which very plainly shows that the interest of both classes are not identical, but totally opposed.

The whole capitalist system rests upon the exploitation, or unpaid wages of the working class. That is to say, that the working class goes into the fields, mills, factories, mines and workshops every day, and produces a surplus over and above that which they consume, thus enabling the capitalist to exist.

The existence of the capitalist class de-

pends upon the surplus which the workers produce over and above their wages. This being so, the capitalists speed the workers up on every possible occasion, and drain every ounce of energy from the toilers. Although this speeding up is detrimental to the health and physical well-being of the workers, it at the same time is beneficial to the capitalists, and means more profits.

Because the I.W.W. is continually pointing out to the workers the real facts about the capitalist system, the daily press is continually pouring out oceans of abuse upon our organisation and the upholders of this unjust and unfair system have had twelve of our staunchest men put behind jail walls.

This should prove very plainly to all that "the working class and the employing class have nothing in common."

MATADE.

The difficulty of the present day and with us, we are bullied by institutions. A man gets up in the pulpit or sits on the bench, and we allow ourselves to be bullied by the judge or the clergyman, when, if he stood side by side with us on the brick pavement as an individual, his ideas would not have disturbed our clear thoughts an hour.

Stand on the pedestal of your own individual independence. Summon those institutions before you, and judge them.

WENDELL PHILLIPS.

AN-ASSET.

She: My husband, unfortunately, is always misunderstood.

The Senator: Unfortunately? Why, madam, it will be the making of him if he goes to Parliament.

The Prosecution of the "Answer."

(To the Editor of "Direct Action," Sydney). I am a Russian. In my own country I studied and worked for Social Reform, being a follower of Tolstoy and other men who suffered for the Emancipation (now to some extent realised) of the subjects of the Czar.

Arriving in Sydney I met the late W. J. Chidley. I felt convinced that Chidley was a sincere reformer, and I am satisfied that he is the discoverer of a great truth—a truth involving the well-being of the whole human race.

I assisted in the defence of Chidley. Since Chidley passed away, a band of men, including myself, have been carrying on the work, lecturing, selling the "Answer," etc., and encouraging people to start practising his teaching.

The persecution to which Chidley was subjected is now being applied to his followers. An edition of the "Answer" was the subject of litigation three years ago. The book was declared by the magistrate to be obscene. Chidley appealed. The Chief Justice opposed the magistrate's decision, but the other two Judges, Sly and Pring, upheld it. Chidley simply described the sexual act in a decent manner, using terms only necessary in the circumstances. Notwithstanding this fact, and also the fact that one of the ablest lawyers in the whole Empire could see nothing obscene, the edition was destroyed. Then Chidley published a fresh edition, expunging the wording objected to. The authorities later commenced a new mode of attack. Chidley was declared by the court insane, and the "Answer" has gone unmentioned for two years. We have established a home in one of the water suburbs of Sydney, where we are living more naturally. Recently all the "Answers" there were seized by no less than three big members of the police. For selling this book, I was prosecuted and sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment.

I should like to briefly draw attention to the persecution—old and new. In a progressive country a man coming forth with any theory for the improvement of man or the social system should receive at least justice. Instead of receiving justice, Chidley was treated in a manner fitting the most barbaric ages. The scientific and medical evidence were all in his favour. Yet he was done to death.

Now, touching my experiences. I was served with a summons on Monday the 12th instant. On the following Wednesday I was dragged before the Bench. As I had not sufficient time to secure a solicitor, and so arrange my defence, I asked for a remand. I was refused a remand. In fact, I was not allowed to open my mouth. I was fined £5 or ordered to go to work with hard labor for one month. After remaining in gaol two weeks I paid off a portion of the fine, and so obtained my release.

Apart altogether from my case there are many grounds for enquiry into the whole police and gaol methods. No discrimination is shown between good and bad, weak and strong. All are treated the same—brutally. Take away a man's liberty and you take away that next to life itself. Why torture a man?

On entering the gaol the prisoner's clothes are removed, together with all his belongings. When he enters the cell he is alone. He is just as helpless as a new born lamb so far as doing harm is concerned. Yet he is locked up in a strong stone cell against which the charge of an army corps of infuriated elephants would have no effect.

Early in the morning he is brought out to receive his breakfast. This is eaten in the cell. Later on he goes to work; back to cells for dinner; work again till tea. After tea (4 o'clock) he is locked up for the night. There is one window 3 x 1 securely barred. The cells are too dark in the day time to read. At night the electric light is put on for a couple of hours, but the light is so far away that his eyes would be ruined in reading.

In the cells there are but ugly walls to gaze on and one's troubles to brood over. There is no sight or sound of women, children, flowers or birds. Outside there are stone walls, asphalt yards, gruff voices of the warders. One hears of tales of men sentenced to short terms now doing long sentences for some act incited by the brutality of the warders.

In my case it was especially hard. I am a vegetarian, but I had to take the prison fare—meat, hominy, white bread, etc., etc. I usually wear 10 oz. of clothing on my body. My gaol suit was about 20 lbs. in weight. Most of the warders seem to be ignorant Catholic Irishmen.

The only literature in my cell was a Bible thrown in by one of the latter, with the remark, "Here, you are a Protestant." Then the week-end.

Excepting the brief periods for obtaining food, exercise and church, the prisoner spends the week-end in the cell—something like 36 out of 33 hours.

Rouse Ye Toilers.

"The seed ye sow another reaps,
The wealth ye find another keeps,
The robes ye weave another wears,
The arms ye forge another bears."
—Shelley.

Rouse ye workers from that sleep, which for centuries has dulled your brain, and made you worse than slaves. Rouse and shake your fetters free. You cause is just and noble. Yours is the battle of the right. "You have nothing to lose but your chains, and you have a world to gain." History teaches you the way: bloody revolutions, riots and wild outbursts of unorganised mobs were never beneficial to your class, have never changed you. **ECONOMIC POSITION OF SLAVERY.** You are slaves in the truest sense of the term. Your fetters are forged in the name of law. Your powers of reason are clogged by crude, superstitions, fostered and nourished by your masters. If some of your class have seen the light, attempt to burst the fetters which bind them. Parliament, that noble institution which you vote and pay for, forges tighter chains to bind you. The "Crimes Amendment Bill," the "Unlawful Association Bill" are legal fetters drafted specially to bind the **MOST UP-TO-DATE, SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATION EVER EVOLVED IN THE INTERESTS OF YOUR CLASS, namely the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD.**

This organisation survived the slander and abuse with which your masters thought to destroy it. Its membership increased in spite of it. They, your masters, then caused that ponderous engine, called the law, to be put into motion against you with the result that your fellow workers, the salt of your class, are **JAILED ON THE SLIGHTEST PRETEXT.** They are charged and convicted on evidence which should shade the ecclesiastical courts of the 15th century. Workers, we ask you to study these cases; we want you to recognise that **THEIR FIGHT IS YOUR FIGHT, THAT YOUR LIBERTY DEPENDS UPON THEIRS.** The organised forces of capital are in arms against you, and it depends upon your action whether they will be successful or not. The dream of a glorious Democracy, of a land of freedom, yet when your fellow-slaves are jailed, because they fought for these things, instead of rousing and organising your forces to end this monstrous persecution—ye sit and sympathise. We don't want your sympathy. **WE WANT YOUR MORAL SUPPORT.**

How can you expect justice from men who are diametrically opposed to your class? Who are entirely out of sympathy with your aims and aspirations? How can you expect to win any appeal, when the Appellate Court is constituted and controlled by legal parasites whose very existence **DEPENDS UPON YOUR SUBJECTION?** The law of the survival of the fittest operates in this class war, just as it operates in international wars. Your bosses are the fittest to-day, because they recognise the value of organisation. They recognise also that it is to their interests to **KEEP YOU DISORGANISED,** sectarian strife, political strife amongst you is fostered. Your petty craft union troubles, with the resultant bitterness between one craft and other, are applauded by your masters.

Workers, we want you to realise these facts, —realise that you are in duty bound to support your fellow-slaves in this great class war. Organise your forces under the **I.W.W.** banner. The **One Big Union** is your salvation, because this great war will be decided — on the industrial battlefield, and upon the result will depend the lot of the worker.

"Rise like lions after slumber,
In unvanquished number!
Shake your chains to earth like dew,
Which in sleep had fall'n on you;
YE ARE MANY—THEY ARE FEW!"

"Sow seed, but let no tyrant reap;
Find wealth, let no impostor keep.
Weave robes, let no idler wear,
Forge arms in your defence to bear."
—Shelley.
J. H. R.

Build up heroic lives, and all,
Be like a sheathen sabre,
Ready to flash out at God's call,
O chivalry of Labor!

Triumph and Toil are twins, though they
Be singly born in sorrow;
And 'tis the Martyrdom to-day,
Brings victory to-morrow.

Out of evil cometh good. Possibly the outcome of Chidley's persecution will be a reform in our laws and laws, all of which can be summed up in one word, "insane." I left my native country to secure the "freedom" of the Union Jack. Now I am preparing to leave the tyranny of the Commonwealth to go back to Russia—now free.

Yours truly,
SERGEY WASILEVICH.

One Big Union.

One Union grand,
Where all shall lend a helping hand,
One glorious whole,
That shall embrace
Every creed and every race;
No bar of sex or colour line;
In every land,
In every clime,
We shall united stand.

One Union grand,
Where workers all united stand,
In purpose true;
A world's the prize,
Haste ye, then, and organise
Onward with your flag unfurled,
In the battle's van,
Gain a world,
And usher in the brotherhood of man.

One Union grand,
The working class of every land,
Fearless and bold;
Whom no superstitions blind,
No feeble issues cloud the mind;
Then let a tyrant's power fall,
On any one,
'Tis an injury to all,
And justice will be done.

One union grand;
One aim, one united band,
Of the working class,
All for the common good.
A grand united brotherhood;
Strong in a new won might,
Of thy own making,
On with the fight,
The world is yours, but for the taking.
PETE.

Thomas Carlyle once remarked that a "little while ago we were not, a little while and we are not." Between two eternities we have been allotted a brief existence—let us strive to make it beautiful, clean, human, and just.

"In contemplating the enormous expenditure on armaments, ruinous wars, the diplomatic audacity of knavery by which modern Governments seek to extend their territorial power, we put the plain, practical question: 'What is it for?' The first and most obvious answer is, 'The investor'."—J. A. Hobson: "Imperialism—A Study."

GOOD NEWS.

"Direct Action" readers are in for a treat. There will be a special six-page edition of the first edition in May. A "May Day" number of a first class order, full of the pure proletarian philosophy by real proletarian writers. Owing to the cost we will have to charge a penny a copy for all bundles, but it will be worth it. We will have some blistering cartoons, too. Send in your orders right now. We want at least doubled orders from Mt. Morgan, Brisbane, Melbourne, Broken Hill, Adelaide, Lithgow, and Cobar. Let's hear from you to-day. And the cash wants to be busy on its way.

TOM BARKER, Manager.
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SUNDAY, 3 p.m.—PROPAGANDA MEETING IN DOMAIN.

SUNDAY, 7 p.m.—PROPAGANDA MEETINGS BATHURST STREET AND OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY.

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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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T.T.—The Editor doesn't have much to do, but his time is too valuable to waste on barracking for any set of politicians.

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