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Defence Agitation.

SYDNEY.

The meetings over last week-end in Sydney were many and very successful. Meetings were held on Friday evening at Bathurst street, Darlinghurst, and Bondi Junction. Saturday night saw crowds at Bathurst street and Darlinghurst. Good sales of the paper eventuated, eighteen shillingsworth being sold at Bathurst street on Friday night.

The Doina meeting was very successful in spite of the recruiting meeting, anti-conscription meeting and other gatherings. Fellow Workers Farrell, Sparham, Stewart, Rance and J. R. Wilson addressed the large gathering with great success. Many scores of dozens of the paper were disposed of, while the collection amounted to nearly five pounds.

Prior to the meeting in the hall in Sussex street, two meetings were held in Park and Bathurst streets, which attracted large audiences. At twenty to eight, the choir led the way from Park st., with the crowd behind them gathered up the Bathurst street audience, and landed a great army at the hall, which was immediately packed to the doors.

Fellow Worker Melrose, of the A.M.A., was the speaker, and dealt ably with current questions. The hearing was sympathetic, and applause frequent. Many questions followed upon the address, which were answered to the evident satisfaction of the large audience. The collection amounted to over £2 16s.

Local committees are now acting as distributing agents for recent issues of the paper, and leaflets dealing with the I.W.W. and the conspiracy charges. These are sure of definite results.

COBAR.

I arrived at Cobar on Wednesday afternoon, and was met at the station by most of the boys. Within twenty-four hours we had secured the Stadium for Sunday afternoon and evening. We had a thousand and dodgers printed announcing that at 3.30 p.m. I was to speak on the "Conspiracy Charges," and at 8.30 p.m. on "War and the Workers." The old town was white with the information by midnight Thursday.

We held a meeting on a vacant allotment on Saturday night, which turned out very good. At both of the big meetings on Sunday we had the Stadium half full. Literature and papers sold very well, and I got a very good hearing, especially on the conspiracy charges.

We held three meetings of the local, and after the meeting in the Stadium we launched out in fine style. Many names were attached to the application form for a local. It was decided to take up a collection to realise twenty pounds for the purpose of procuring furniture and a well stocked library. It was also resolved to live up to the activities of the Release and Defence Committee, and send lists out to mines that are fifty miles out from Cobar.

I am now at Narrandine, and on my way to Lithgow, where I hope to fill in the week-end, as I have wired to the local secretary to make arrangements to hold an indoor and a couple of outdoor meetings. After the 5th May I may take a trip to the Newcastle fields and see what can be done. Good luck.

W. JACKSON.

Frivolous, thy mighty efforts—vain appearing.
To grasping Avarice, that never relents,
To Party Power, that shamelessly is stealing
Banditlike, whatever spoil it scents,
To base Intrigue, his cloven foot revealing,
That struts in Honesty's habiliments.

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.



ADELAIDE.

The release agitation has been getting a move on in the Holy City lately, despite the fact that the political dope-peddling fraternity have got most of the slaves by the effort whisks just now. In the minds of some bone-heads, it is vastly more important to shove a new set of political tricksters into the plush seats than to get virile champions of their own class released from the masters' dungeons.

Up to date, the following organisations have appointed delegates to co-operate with the W. D. & R. League in its agitation:—Australian Peace Alliance; Anti-Conscription League; South Australian Socialist Movement; Australian Meat Industry Employees' Union; Electrical Workers' Union.

We are now running three meetings per week—on Friday and Sunday evenings in Victoria Square; and on Sunday afternoons in the Botanic Park—all of which are well attended, and steadily growing larger. Both Fellow Worker McLaughlin (of Broken Hill), and Fellow Worker Jackson (of Queensland), addressed large and sympathetic audiences, when passing through here recently, and in each case a fair collection was taken up for the defence fund.

On Sunday, April 1, Jack Brookfield, M.L.A. of Broken Hill, spoke under our auspices in the Botanic Park. He has gained considerable notoriety of late, owing to a speech made at the Barrier, in which he referred to the Red Flag and the Union Jack, and stated that he would fight like Hell for the release of the I.W.W. prisoners. The local rags made a great splutter about it, incidentally boosting the meeting for us, free gratis. The U.L.P. was too "respectable" to allow Brookfield to speak under their auspices, and a par was inserted in the papers to that effect. The meeting was one of the largest held in the Park for some time between 4000 and 5000 people being present. The Chairman, Dr. H. Clark Nikola, in introducing the chief speaker, briefly outlined the objects of the League. Brookfield followed, and got a great reception. He dealt at length with his Broken Hill "flag speech," saying he would not withdraw one word, even if it meant his expulsion by the P.L.L. Referred to war-time profiteers, political "rats and reptiles," and the question of peace, and concluded by making a strong

appeal for justice for our imprisoned fellow-workers. He was followed by Fellow-Workers Wall and Bryan, who dealt in detail with the evidence in the Sydney trial, and gave the crowd some facts they had never dreamt of before—many went home, thinking hard. An appeal for the defence fund resulted in an amount of £3 1s 8d being collected.

The same evening in Victoria Square, Brookfield again spoke to a large crowd on the case for the men, the collection amounting to £1 5s 6d.

Any other speakers who may blow along this way will be heartily welcomed.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,

B. F. WALL, Secretary

BRISBANE.

On Sunday last, Fellow Worker Gordon Brown lectured under the auspices of the Industrial Workers of the World at the Trades Hall, Brisbane, on the "Irish Rebellion." The hall was crowded to the doors, and the lecture was certainly worthy of the audience. Fellow Worker Brown showed the economic causes and the systematic tyranny that had precipitated the fight in Ireland last year. He enlarged upon the part played by Sheehy Keefe, and the shooting of Sheehy Keefe. At the close of the meeting, the lecturer dealt with a number of questions. Fellow Worker Fields acted as chairman.

Outdoor meetings in Brisbane are being well attended, and this local's action in getting paper sellers at the Trades Hall every evening could be emulated with advantage by other locals in the big centres in Australia. The Sunday night meetings are a great success, and there is growing demand among the workers for such effective form of industrial propaganda. The Art Union is going well, and quite a large sum is expected to eventuate from the sales of same. The secretary hopes that ticket sellers will hustle up with the butts, and send along their names if they haven't made a start. It all counts.

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Defence Agitation.

MELBOURNE.

"With the gritty old of yore" the battalion of the revolution in the Victorian capital is keeping things moving at a pretty good pace. Propaganda meetings were held with the same characteristic success that portends a happy augury for all Local No. 8 activities.

The Yarra Bank was again the scene of a verbal assault on the stronghold of Bossdom, and as we are still in the stage "when we care more for a pamphlet than a loaf," to use the phrase of an American agitator, these verbal assaults will have to continue until, with the lapse of time, the struggle for the loaf assumes concrete proportions. Then Plute and Co. will have to look to their laurels. The absence of our Fellow Worker Alf. Wilson galvanised into life two or three young speakers, adding to the list of elation voiced harbingers of economic and social light. Long and trenchantly did they voice the demand for the restitution of proletarian liberties and the control of society by those whose labor makes it possible, the workers. Lectures in the hall were well attended, Fellow Worker Laidler lectured on the first Sunday on "Poverty," the subject being handled in the same first class style as is usual with this speaker. On the following, Lord's (!) Day, instead of a lecture, a discussion on "High Prices" was held, which resulted in many good points being made. Friday nights' propaganda meetings were spoilt by the rain again, with fatal persistency the waters seem to make Friday night the time for giving "mother earth" a soaking. One ruminating "son of a gun," however, reckons that Billy Hughes is in league with Jehovah to kill the I.W.W. with a plague of wet weather; as with everything, time alone will prove or disprove this contention. Last Wednesday evening proved that there is one politician, at least, who is not afraid to tell the truth about the alleged guilt of our boys in gaol. That individual is Ted Cotter, Labor member for Richmond in the State House. Speaking at a street meeting held for election purposes he made this public: "It is a strange thing that two of the buildings alleged to have been burnt down by the I.W.W. men have never had any insurance money paid over to the owners by the insurance companies, nor have the owners concerned made any application for same." If it is true, then, it only goes to prove that the contention always made that the I.W.W. men are victims of a "colossal conspiracy" is correct, and with that fixed idea in our minds, Melbourne boys are going to do their utmost to see that an unflagging agitation is kept up until the rebels behind the bars once again inhale the sunlit atmosphere of liberty.

NORMAN JEFFERY.

(Editor "Direct Action").

Sydney.
Dear Comrade.—The following resolution was carried at the Interstate Conference of the Australian Peace Alliance:—

"That this Conference urges in connection with the I.W.W. cases of Sydney that there should be appointed by Parliament a Royal Commission of Enquiry, on the grounds that the original trials were almost entirely blurred by political partisanship and illegitimate comment; and this Conference asks that the I.W.W. prisoners be treated as political prisoners, and that those who are reported seriously ill be given special care by the State."

Yours for an early peace,

F. J. RILEY, Secretary.

Direct Action



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The I.W.W. and The Class War.

As time rolls by, the vanguard of Industrial Unionism is being better understood and its principles more generally accepted.

The Industrial Workers of the World, which has been fighting in the front ranks of Labor's army, has gone through many heavy battles and suffered many casualties, but the organisation is still intact, our principles unshaken, and our fighters active and undaunted as ever.

Despite all the forces arrayed against us, and the vicious attacks made upon our army, the I.W.W. still continues to make great progress and gather new converts to its cause. This is just as it should be. If it were otherwise, then, evolution would be a lie, and all the histories in the world would be so many fables. All the records of history point to the fact that the I.W.W. is destined to progress and develop in spite of persecution.

All down through the ages, ALL REFORM ORGANISATIONS have had to suffer the attacks from those in power. But through continual agitation and persistent fighting, they ultimately WON OUT.

A modern organisation, that conforms to modern conditions, and fights along modern lines, cannot be suppressed, and will not pass out until something more modern supersedes it.

The whole world is in a state of flux. There is nothing in, on, or above the earth which is constant. Everything is subject to change. Just as mankind, systems, principalities, and geography are continually transforming themselves, so with organisations.

Just as trade unions developed out of the guilds, amalgamations of labor out of trade unions, federations out of amalgamations and so on, so has the I.W.W. developed out of the present existing labor organisations.

The I.W.W. is the product of trustified capitalism, the same as the Chamber of Commerce is the natural born child of the present system.

The I.W.W. was called into being and organised for the purpose of fighting the modern battles of the modern working class, the same as the Employers' Federation was organised to fight the battles of the master class. Both organisations have been made possible by the present system of capitalism. It is just as impossible, under present conditions, to kill the I.W.W. as it would be to kill the Employers' Federation. Both are NECESSARY ADJUNCTS to the capitalist system, although they operate from different angles.

Owing to the growing power of the industrial oligarchy, the rise of the mammoth trust and gigantic corporations, and the intensified exploitation of Labor, the I.W.W. was called into being.

In order to beat off the attacks, and defend itself against the onslaughts of the industrial kings, the working class was forced to adopt some scientific and up-to-date method of organisation.

We saw the old form of unionism being beaten to its knees in an unequal fight against the combined forces of capitalism; we saw labor federations and international federations being completely routed in their struggle against the industrial plutocracy. These sights were too painful, too expensive, and too bitter to forget; so some active and thoughtful workers set about organising a more scientific and modern organisation, viz., the Industrial Workers of the World.

It is very apparent to all who care to look and learn, that a great class struggle is going on in society to-day. On the one hand we see the industrial plutocracy powerfully organised, scientifically equipped, ready at all times to beat back the rising working class; on the other hand, we see the toilers organising and demanding more of the good things which their labor produces.

The class struggle is so real, that no sane man attempts to deny its existence. It is upon this class struggle that the I.W.W. is based.

By the collective labour of the working class, all the wealth of the world is produced; by the collective might of the master class two-thirds of the wealth is stolen. One class does all the work and starving, the other class does all the living and eating. Hence, there can be no harmony between the two classes.

It is the purpose of the I.W.W. to organise the toilers into One Big Union, and earnestly work for the day when this bitter battle between the classes will be ended and all will be working together for the common good of all.

The I.W.W. holds that there should be ONE UNION for all who work in the industrial arena. Only by this means can the encroachments of the master class upon the domain of the workers be stopped. The necessity for One Big Union is rendered imperative by the economic conditions of our time.

Under present conditions, to organise into trade unions, is not only foolish, but suicidal. We must throw down all craft barriers and organise AS A CLASS, realising that the interests of all workers are identical, and "an injury to one is an injury to all."

In organising according to industry, and linking up into One Big Union, the working class, is not only bringing about Industrial Solidarity, which is impregnable, but also preparing itself to be able to run industry when capitalism is overthrown.

When the workers are sufficiently organised to democratise the workshop, there will then be no need of Parliament as it exists to-day, for the workers will be their own law-makers. Under this new economic regime, the central directing authority will be a parliament of industry composed of delegates from the different industries, and the laws, or regulations, will be discussed upon the floor of the union hall, where all can have a say as to what shall be done.

The I.W.W. is the highest form of unionism yet presented to the working class. Its arguments are invincible, its tactics unchallengeable; and its form of organisation impregnable.

Help to build up this mighty force and bring nearer the day when the whistle will blow for the boss to go to work.

N.R.

The Scab.

At a conspiracy trial held in England recently, the prosecuting counsel gave the following definition of a scab—

A scab is to his trade what a traitor is to his country, and though both may be useful in troublesome times they are detected by all when peace returns, so when help is needed the scab is the last to contribute assistance and the first to grab the benefit he never labored to secure.

He cares only for himself; he sees not beyond the extent of a day, and for a monetary approbation he would betray his friends, family, and country. In short he is a traitor on a small scale who first sells the journeyman, and is afterwards sold in turn by the employer until at last he is despised by both and deserted by all. The modern strikebreaker sells his birthright, his country, his wife, his children, and his fellow workmen for unfulfilled promises from a trust or combine.

Esau was a traitor to himself. Judas Iscariot was a traitor to his God. Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country, to his family and to his class. A real man is never a strike-breaker. Be a man.

DEMOCRACY.

Every politician peddles "Democracy." He speaks of it as though it were something of special quality belonging exclusively to his own political caste. He associates it for the benefit of the crowd with the grand and precious—the liberty the freedom which the mass are supposed to value so highly.

While the Labor politicians occupied the Treasury benches this was supposed to be a democratic country; now it isn't, though why it isn't now politicians don't explain.

We understand a democracy to be "rule by the people," and if that be true there never was and never can be a democracy under capitalism.

If democracy means that the politicians who represent a certain party and also represent the majority of the voters are occupying the most lucrative jobs in Parliament, then so soon as a country grants the right to vote to all, that country becomes a democratic country. But this doesn't mean that "the people are ruling," it only means that they THINK they are doing so—which probably amounts to the same thing, for if they are not intelligent enough to see a difference now, they would not be intellectual enough to do better, granted they had the power.

We have said that politicians do not rule, and that is so; the politician is merely a buffer between the real rulers—the industrial czars—and the people. These industrial czars are the real rulers of modern nations; it is they who decide national and international policies; they who dispense the justice so often attributed to the judge and jury; the industrial barons are the unowned monarchs of modernity. The days of political or parliamentary control passed away with the rise to power of the industrial oligarchy; in the days when the people may have ruled by votes they had not the votes to rule with—the then masters of the people saw to that. As a matter of fact, the parliamentary machine could be dispensed with to-day, and no one—neither master nor slave—be any the worse for it; but plute knowing the psychology of the people does not attempt to deprive them of their liberty factory; it keeps them amused and gets them nowhere, and what better could the most exacting magnate desire?

A. MACK.

INSIDE—WHY?

By BETSY H. MATTHIAS.

The Twelve are "inside" prisons in N.S.W. They have a number attached to their name. Tho' several months in prison they have not got that "bang dog" look, as many of their enemies imagine.

You, who judge them, and convicted them as criminals, are too ignorant, too prejudiced, to understand.

We DO know.

We DO understand.

Because we are sound in intellect, for we've never distorted our brains, or sunken so depraved as to pile up money bags from the profits of labor, out of the poor and the weak of mankind.

We DO understand.

We DO know.

The Twelve "inside" have the prison pallor may be, and the cropped hair—but they've not got the hard-looking, lantern-jawed, sloped-browed ugliness of the men outside who judge and keep them inside. You, outside, who have the unjust might and the power to put the twelve behind the bars of a desolate prison, cannot take from them the right to know that they've a conscience that is clearer than yours, and an AIM MUCH NOBLER THAN YOURS.

The Twelve are men of great reason—perhaps "too great" reason; they have hearts that feel; and they possess a deep desire to right the wrongs thrust on the human race. You, who put the Twelve inside the bars, live on the Human Race; but they The Twelve, lived for Humanity.

Yes, 'tis true, that four of the Twelve collapsed physically a week ago, and possibly under such desolate prison conditions, such sensitive, highly-strung, refined intellectuals as these men are may never recuperate proper physical strength, but, like Chidley, be crushed to death, slowly and scientifically by the hands of Might, the hands of restless, miserable, desperate money and power grabbers. Reader, can't you imagine the monotony of being "inside"?

You, who knew these Twelve high-spirited,

It cannot be too often emphasised that no material or lasting benefit can accrue to the workers while the wage system lasts. There is only one force that can abolish that system, and that is the force of the working class thoroughly alive to their own position in society, and organised for the express purpose of ushering in the new order.

Any party, any organisation, which does not ever and always prepare to end the profit making scheme is but a "make-believe."

A few politicians, even if sincerely anxious, cannot do it. Many a man has gone into Parliament with the genuine desire to do things for the people, has soon learnt the futility of the struggle, and then either resigned in disgust or hopelessly peddled the same old dope for the sake of the "job."

Allowing every worker with a vote to cast it for a Labor or a Socialist politician the social Commonwealth could not then be established. Before this can be achieved the workers must be organised, not into crafts which used to exist, but upon the lines of machine production as it does exist. If the politicians who hold good jobs because they floated the Labor banner are sincere in their professed Labor sympathies, and the P.L.L. is a genuine working class organisation they will flood this country with organisers for the class union—not men who make unionists by appealing to the ignorance of sentiment, but men who understand the economics of the position, and who will teach the class character of the foundations of society. Education must be the forerunner of any effective economic cohesion among the workers. Let the P.L.L. and the Labor politicians undertake this education, and a few years of opposition bench occupation will be productive of more good than a century in the Ministerial seats.

If they do this they will prove to the workers that they are anxious to set them free, failing it we can only conclude that "Democracy" means nothing to them but a useful vote trapping platitude. Remember, there can be no democracy—no freedom for the working class—apart from industrial control, and this can be achieved only by the workers themselves.

A. MACK.

humanity-loving men, who tried so hard to awaken the mass to stern reality of what life should be—can't you just imagine the mental revolt the Twelve have against the rotten power of a government that authorises social degradations and bloody warfare, and casts men behind the bars, because they speak out that the Social World has all gone wrong?

During the Stone Age man used a club to crush the weaker. Man to-day is more refined and civilised (?), but under his polish of culture is still the desire to pain those who are defenceless, and so he vents his blind revenge against those whom he thinks offends him by casting them into prison.

TOO MUCH LAW TO-DAY AND TOO LITTLE JUSTICE.

The money grabbers of the world control the law, and use it with vengeance to crush men's souls, so that they cannot make the world a better place to live in for all mortals.

IF LAWYERS WERE SOCIAL STUDENTS RATHER THAN DELVERS IN LAW BOOKS, THE "TWELVE" TO-DAY WOULD NOT BE "INSIDE."

When I say "twelve" men are "inside," I picture their solitary cells, with its hellish shadows and chilliness. Twelve brave men are cast into the anti-social penal institution by modern society judges, because they (the twelve) rebel against the rottenness of modern society.

Now what part in the rebellion do you play, reader? Because you are safe outside are you going to forget the braves "inside" "Inside" for Fifteen Years!!!

Look backward, one stands perplexed.

Whether to chuckle or to shiver.

One day a holocaust, the next.

A simple picnic up the river:

LORING ALDEN.

Poverty is the child of ignorance. When all the workers have learned to know the value of organisation, they will banish the force of darkness and the spectre of poverty.

Lecture at Lithgow

On Tuesday evening last, Fellow Worker Tom Barker dealt with the "Russian Revolution." The Trades Hall was well filled, which was a tribute to the organisers of the meeting. The proceeds over and above expenses amounted to nearly £18, which was passed over to the Defence and Release Committee for the maintenance of the wives and children of the stalwarts now in gaol on the conspiracy charges.

F.W. Jack Lynn made an efficient chairman, and in a few words introduced the speaker, who received a cordial and sympathetic hearing throughout. The speaker reviewed the recent rapid developments in Russia, and traced the economic forces, and drew conclusions as to the ultimate triumph of the workers in that country. Attention was paid to the Nihilist, Social Democratic and Socialist Revolutionary organisations, and tribute paid to the sterling and fearless fighters who have used their influence and many times sacrificed their lives and liberty for progress and proletarian advancement. The speaker touched upon the lives of Marie Spiridonova, Catherine Breschokoffsky and Sophia Peroskaya, the latter of whom was executed for the assassination of Alexander II., and the two former who have been exiled for long years in Siberia. The fortress prisons of St. Peter and St. Paul, and Schusselburg were also described and their enormities enlarged upon.

Loud and continued applause greeted the speaker as he touched upon the brutal murder by the Grand Duke Vladimir of the three thousand working people at the Winter Palace, and the resultant industrial and military insurrections that occurred in Kiev, Kharkov, Moscow and Sevastopol, the most outstanding feature of which was the seizing of the ironclad Prince Potemkin by its revolutionary crew, who threw their officers overboard pulled down the double eagle, and ran the red flag to the masthead.

The Lena massacre, the secret police, the persecution of the Jews, the general strike on the Trans-Siberian railway, the general strikes at Rostoff-on-the-Don, the shooting of workers at the Naphta oil wells in the Caucasus, and the subsequent firing of the wells were reviewed by the speaker, who wound up by showing that capitalism had Russia in its grip, and that industrialism, strengthened by the solidarity of the rapidly disappearing village commune, was sweeping the country of the Czar from Liban to Vladivostok.

The speaker terminated his address at 9.15, and questions then took his attention for upwards of one hour. Most of the questions were dealing with the I.W.W., the Labour Party, and the coloured question. The meeting terminated by the chairman asking all in the hall to go out as agitators for the release of the men now rotting in gaol for their activity for their class. This was received with a good round of applause, and cheers for the men in gaol.

It is the intention of the Lithgow Defence and Release Committee to arrange monthly lectures in the Trades Hall by competent speakers, the proceeds of such meetings to go to the fund for the dependents of the men in gaol. This is a very commendable action, and will meet with a well-merited success.

TAR-BOY.

The "Evening News" of April 10th says that James Bell, aged 81, pleaded guilty to begging for alms in Flinders Street, Sydney, on Easter Monday. Mr. McKenney, magistrate, sentenced the trembling old octogenarian to

FOURTEEN DAYS' HARD LABOR. Three British cheers for British justice has asserted itself. How Mr. McKenney must pat himself on the back saving society from the dangerous eighty year old criminals who ask for alms to buy food and shelter at the age of four score and one. And we sincerely hope that the physician will get a taste of his own medicine. McKenney is a person who ought, on the present showing, to be removed from the bench.

We have no falsehoods to defend—
We want the facts;
Our force, our thought, we do not spend
In vain attacks.
And we will never meanly try
To save some fair and pleasing lie.
The simple truth is all we ask,
Not the ideal.
We've set ourselves the noble task,
To find the real.
If all there is, is naught but dross,
We want to know and bear our loss.
COL. R. G. INGERSOLL.

CURRENT COMMENT.

By "Murdanti."

For three years now the workers have had their attention drawn off from a right system of industrial organisation; but events go to prove that the last bout of the greatest war in history is being fought. The end of the present year should see the home coming of the proletarian soldiers. They will shrink from the thoughts of all the horrors of a modern battlefield. The vultures will scavenge the plains of Europe, and those who escaped manuring the fields, will find them selves face to face with the old conditions at home. Socialists of all countries will once again send fraternal greetings from country to country, and the world will continue to roll on its course. But something that no war can destroy will revive with unabated vigor—the class war. There has been no sign of the conscienceless plutocrat offering even one per cent. of improvement on the degrading conditions that a capitalist state of society has ever imposed on the downtrodden workers.

The flapping of flags, the beating of drums, the speeches of spurious politicians, the sermons of hypocritical clergymen that have drowned all other voices will then take rest, and no doubt the voices of the advocates of a new social order will be listened to more attentively for a change, hence the attempt to suppress the I.W.W. in embryo.

Socialists, with their attachment to politics—which makes them narrow and national—have missed their chance. Direct action has, and will, win, for the backward peasantry of Russia what a hundred years of parliamentary methods could never accomplish. There is but one organisation that knows how to grapple with the problems of the future, it is the I.W.W. Politicians to-day repudiate this organisation, because to ally themselves with a body that has incurred the odium of the master class might lose them votes

—and huge salaries. Our men may languish in the fetid hells of capitalism for all they care. Their snug jobs are the Alpha and the Omega of their getting into Parliament, on the back and ignorance of labour.

Plute and Co. is trying hard to encourage the growth of the Returned Soldiers' Association, but the soldier will find so many promises so ruthlessly broken that his fight will be with the powers that are, and in that he will be compelled to look to the only scientific working class organisation in the country to help him. Let us look with great confidence to the future. Ours will be an army that will never know defeat. We shall go on gathering in the degraded workers of all countries until we have an army ready to demand that the capitalist class hand over to us all their gilded palaces and purpled ease. It may seem an impossible task to many that are weak, but to the strong and the resolute who can look into the future and realise an ideal, this task is a simple one. Our methods—all the working class in One Big Union, organised as a class, and not as a craft, or 150 crafts. Organised thus we shall be the—

"Poor, blind Samson in the land,
Shorn of his strength and bound in
bands of steel;
Who may in some grim revel raise his
hands,
And shake the pillars of this Common-
weal."

Workers, hasten to our banner; they could not tear it down. They tried, but still it floats. It will wave, and we shall go on, and on, and on, until the last slave has been freed, until bloody national wars are abolished, until 1,400,000,000 specimens of humanity are united as one, till poverty has been for ever eradicated, and people, no matter what their nation, creed, or colour, shall dwell together in peace and righteousness—the world set free.

Police Brutalities Condemned in Bayonne Strike.

By Dante Barton.

(Committee on Industrial Relations.) NEW YORK.—"Wherever there is a big Rockefeller interest, there you find brutal slave driving methods in the treatment of underpaid workers," declared Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the committee on industrial relations, in New York, at the height of the Bayonne strike.

"The most dangerous as well as brutal feature of the Rockefeller concern is gain over the police and other public authorities. With the Mayor of Bayonne confessing that he is a hired attorney for the Rockefeller interests, and with the police department using its full force, and hundreds of special deputies to beat and kill the revolting strikers, the American public has its latest demonstration of what Rockefellerism means.

CANNOT BREAK UNION.

"Let me call attention here to the fact that just a few days ago on the very site of the Ludlow massacre 500 and more unafraid coal miners for the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (a Rockefeller corporation) joined in a union affiliated with the United Mine Workers of America. That splendid fact proves that Rockefeller cannot break down the spirit of his workers, however much he may be able to beat them back into sullen submission, as he has done, and is doing now in Bayonne.

"The breaking of the strike of unorganised and helpless Polish men and women was brought about by such complete brutality, that every newspaper in New York was constrained to publish articles in protest. Many of these newspapers, in fact, most willingly condemned the meth-

WORKERS, ATTENTION!

The Brisbane Defence and Release Committee has organised an Art Union in order to get funds for the maintenance of the wives and children of the men in gaol. The prizes are first-class, the first being a £75 piano. We estimate that there is three or four hundred quid in this, to look after the boys' dependents. The Art Union has the sanction of the Queensland Government. We want agents to sell tickets. There are 25 in a book, and sell like hot cakes at a shilling. Let's hear from you NOW, if you are a live wire. Books sent by return to reds.

GEO. JOHNSON,

Hon. secretary.

Workers' Art Union, 1-Costin St., Valley, Brisbane, Q.

Organisation.

The underlying principles governing unionism tend to kindle the fires of sympathy, of mutual helpfulness and co-operation.

Organisation develops the finer attributes inherent in the human frame, and tends to mitigate the influence of the baser instincts.

Organisation is a potent factor in the distribution of wealth; it tends to reduce the exorbitant profits appropriated by capital, and adds to the share rightfully claimed by labour.

Organisation fosters and encourages the interests and aspirations of a growing majority against the grasping selfishness of a dwindling minority.

Organisation offers a haven of refuge for the oppressed of all nations upon terms of equality, of equal rights and duties to men and women.

Organisation imparts strength, develops independence and manhood; it cements the bonds of common interests in a wider field of mutual endeavour and in the promotion of the common welfare.

Organisation stands as a barrier against the selfish interests and encroachments of entrenched wealth, and its destructive tendencies to reduce the masses of the people to a state of semi-pauperism during periods of industrial depression.

Organisation analyses and rejects the sham reforms and false pretences of so-called philanthropists; it exposes the fallacies of the doctrines of political economists in their efforts to justify the poverty and degradation of the masses.

Organisation imparts the banner of lofty ideals, of new hopes and aspirations, bearing a new message deicated to the promotion of the general welfare of the toilers of the land.—"Cigarmakers' Journal."

The Unemployed.

The numerous retrenchment schemes of the Government and the closing down of public works is having a disastrous effect upon the working class. Thousands of men have been thrown out of work, and distress is very acute.

The unemployed army continues to swell, and poverty and hunger is rampant amongst the ranks of the workers. The situation is becoming very serious, and something must be done immediately.

The latest works to close down has been the North Coast Railway, and over four thousand more men have been thrown amongst the out of works.

The casual worker, who happens to be married, is never more than a couple of days ahead of it, and after he has been idle a week, very serious circumstances arise. When a man hears his children cry for bread, there is no saying what he might do.

The question of unemployment is becoming so serious that it demands attention from all working men and women.

"Direct Action" has on several occasions dealt with this subject, and pointed out the only sure and certain remedy.

The only way to alleviate the terrible distress existing amongst the out of works, is to put into operation a shorter work day. It is the only way out of the difficulty. It will not only help to absorb the unemployed and help to hold back the spectre of hunger and want, but it will also make things much better for all at work.

If the unionists of Australia believe in the principles of working class unity, they will at once set about working and fighting for a shorter work-day.

Fling out our Red Banner; the tyrants perish.
But where their bones whiten the seed
striker's root:

Their blood hath run red the great harvest to
cherish:

Now gather ye, reapers and garner the
fruit.

Victory! Victory! Tyrants are quaking!

The Titan of Toil from the bloody thrall
starts,

The Slaves are awaking, the dawn-light is
breaking.

The footfall of Freedom beats quick at our
hearts.

GERALD MASSEY.

THEY WERE NOT ORGANISED.

If the fleas had been unanimous they could have pulled me out of bed.—Charles Lamb.

A strike always succeeds in proportion as it demonstrates the unprofitableness of war.

LAW AND ORDER.

Fellow Worker J. R. Wilson had to appear at the Central Police Court, Sydney, last week to answer the charge of having used abusive language in the course of a speech at the Sydney Domain. He was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months, and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. An appeal has been lodged.

He that forbids me to speak according to my own sense, experience and practice, may as well enjoin an architect not to speak of building according to his own knowledge, but according to that of his neighbor; according to the knowledge of another and not to his own.—Montaigne.

Workers, Listen! The Crisis and The Responsibility. On With The March.

By Berton Braley.

Right through the past age of darkness and superstition up to the present age of the slowly dawning light of a real civilisation, the path of progress from ignorance to knowledge, from savagery towards civilisation, has been strewn with the mutilated bodies of those more advanced thinkers, who, being ahead of their time in knowledge, were tortured and martyred, for bearing the torch of freedom and advancement, which must inevitably shed its light on a future, radiant with happiness and contentment for all.

In the age of chattel slavery, men were martyred for daring to advocate freedom from the chains of slavery for the slave. In the days of the Feudal System, persecution and destruction were also handed out lavishly by the feudal barons to any individual who dared to expose the existing order. To-day, we find, due to the ignorance and lack of decent organisation among the working class, a system more complete, more cruel, and intensely bloodier, than any of its predecessors. The profits extorted from the present subjugated class, namely, the wage slaves, are that stupendous that the dominant class of a few centuries ago, would stand aghast, bewildered and completely overcome with envy at their immensity. But the gorgeous luxury, the wasteful expenditure, gained at the expense of the blood and tears of a more degraded and exploited class, than history has even seen, is so disgusting and revolting to the mind of any intelligent man that we find to-day numerous organisations about, formed for the overthrow of this awful system called capitalism and the ushering in of a new and better one. Foremost of all these is the Industrial Workers of the World. This body of intelligent working men and women have founded a movement purely working class, and essentially up-to-date in methods, which is out for the overthrow of capitalism and the ownership and control of industries, for the workers themselves. This, combined with the getting better conditions for the workers now, is purely the aim of this One Big Union. Not so terrible to the mind of an exploited slave, but so dangerous to the predatory, callous dealers in human flesh and blood, that is, the capitalist class of to-day, dangerous because it threatens to make them useful members of society that we find the savage attacks of the past upon those responsible for what little the workers have gained, are being renewed with unequalled ferocity. Behind the bars of the Bastilles of Capitalism in this nineteenth century of so-called civilisation, in this boasted land of glorious freedom, are twelve of the greatest fighters for humanity and progress that the world has ever seen. These men are suffering mental and physical anguish, simply because they have dared to speak and fight for the betterment of their working class brethren. That is their only crime. The time of martyrdom must pass, the working class of this country have surely progressed far enough to see that these advanced thinkers must be released. A great, dirty stain will disgrace the pages of the working class movement of Australia if these men are not released.

You working men who have escaped the yoke of conscription, mainly through the unselfish work and fearless outspokenness of these men, it is for you to see that this stain, this obligation, which rests heavily on you is removed quickly. Once more among you, filled with enhanced determination, these twelve fearless fighters, will work with greater energy than ever. And the Dawn of Industrial Democracy will indeed be assured, and the black night of capitalism, with all its bestiality, will soon be dispelled.

W.A.

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There is no doubt that the world is reaching that point known to the student of economics as the revolutionary period when everything goes into the melting pot. In other words, the world is rushing on into new industrial conditions and social relations.

Just as the old individualism of the capitalist system has been eliminated by the trust and combine, we find those who recognised the trend of industrial evolution unable to grasp the concept of the new social relationship demanded by the new industrial system. The men who preside over our great industries, our governments, our courts, and universities, have been the active agents of building up new industrial and social conditions, can't see what it is that they have built.

It is not by accident that a revolution is brewing in every institution of the present system, it is the result of dawning up the flow of evolution by institutions brought into being by political, industrial, and social conditions, basically different from the conditions obtaining to-day.

The trust and combine with the up-to-date inventions has killed the old industrial system. Class lines are distinctly drawn, the craftsman is fast disappearing, the small capitalist is getting blotted out. Two classes are facing one another, those who own and control the material and machines, and those who own nothing but their power to labor. It is the historic mission of the labouring class to fight the present owners for the control of the machine. The present owners, recognising this, are changing about, manipulating the stupid politicians, levying tribute in new ways, and carrying on social wars to ward off and keep the workers from trying conclusions.

In spite of all their (the capitalists) scheming the thing is getting beyond their control. The war in Europe has got out of their control. Russia, Germany, England and the rest of the world is beginning to feel the strain. Like children who have started a railway track down an incline they are hiding their eyes in terror at the thought of the smash when it reaches the bottom. In their failure to grasp the trend of economic evolution, they are playing around a barrel of gunpowder with a lighted candle. But when the crash comes, who will be to blame? The workers won't have much excuse.

In the tangles, confusions, and blunders the workers have remained apathetic. Some have struggled, but have got nowhere. They have struggled on the fighting grounds, and with tactics laid down by the capitalist. They turn for relief from one bunch of politicians to another, and in spite of apparent gains, they never find themselves getting anywhere.

After years and years of tremendous activity, the workers got a grasp in the Federal Gas House, and found it was all a dream, and the politicians they had voted for were still executive members of a capitalist law factory. Their forefathers had fought for free speech, free press, the right to strike, etc., and they sit quietly by and see those things gradually emasculated by so-called Labor politicians. Men sent to long terms of imprisonment for trying to warn them that there was a flood coming, and because the Boss said it serves them right and looked at the slaves with a fishy stare, they slunk off, back to their hovels with a "Yes, Sir."

The workers MUST wake up. They are the only class that can save the situation. They must begin to organise their might industrially, thereby laying the foundation for the next step in evolution—the Industrial Commonwealth, when the profit system will be abolished, which will mean the end of wars, social, industrial and military.

This is a time of immense and rapid development. Shall the workers decide how the world is to be run in the future? Or shall the workers sit helplessly by while a commercial and financial organisation, more powerful than the men who think they control it, with back of it all the world into a slaughter house, the glut of power and profit after turn-leaves us with a wreck of a system similar to that of the Roman Empire.

It is up to the workers to take notice of the I.W.W. and build up an industrial organisation on the lines of class solidarity. Build a new system of society within the shell of the old. Organise to take over and control as well as operate industry, so that by doing so we shall remove

If you're game to fight with no end in sight,
And never a band to play,
If you're fit to toil with no hope of spoil
And the tolling itself for pay—
If you'll bear the irk of the thankless work
Of the making the dream come true,
If you'll march along, through a hooting throng,

That bellows its oath at you;
If you'll learn to meet new defeat,
With the gritty old grin of yore,
And lift your lance in a new advance,
With hardly a chance to score
Then you're just the breed that we sorely need,
You're one of our kith and kin—
So get the swing of the song we sing,
And join in the march—fall in.

We promise no loot to the young recruit,
No glory, no praise, or fame;
No gold you gain in this long campaign
But plenty of jeers and blame.
The quarters are mean, and the rations lean,
The service is harsh and grim;
The war is on, from dusk to dawn,
From dawn to the twilight dim;
But there's ever the cheer of a comrade near
And the touch of his sturdy arm,
And his help in call, if you faint and fall—
Where the harrowing foeman swarm,
If you scorn reward for the light that's hard,
If you'd rather be right than win—
Just get the swing of the song we sing
And join in the march—fall in.

If comradeship of heart, not lip,
Is more to your taste than cash—
If ancient frauds and tinsel gods
Are idols you long to smash.
If your patience breaks at the honored fakes
That the pursey priest has decked,
If you're not content till the veil is rent
And the temple of lies is wrecked,
Then your place is made in our stern brigade
That never can halt or pause
Till the war is done, and the fight is won.
The fight for the human cause.
So take your place, get our step and pace
In spite of the old world's din—
And get the swing of the song we sing
And join in the march—fall in.

"Whoever has seen those furrowed basins, which once contained glaciers, will hardly deem it possible that a time will come when the same spot will be a valley of woods and meadows and streams. It is the same in the history of mankind; the wildest forces break the way, destructively at first, but their activity was nevertheless necessary in order that later on a milder civilization might build up its house. These terrible energies—that which is called Evil—are the cyclopean architects and road-makers of humanity."
—Nietzsche.

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Behold in bonds your Mother Earth;
The rich man's prostitute and slave,
Your Mother Earth that gave you birth,
You only own her for a grave.
And will you die like slaves, and see
Your Mother left a fettered thrall?
Say, live like men, and set her free,
As Heritage for All.

BAND.

Members of the I.W.W. Band or any player desirous of helping in the band are requested to attend at the Hall, Sussex Street, on Saturday evening at 8 p.m. to arrange for a programme at the May Day Concert on the following Monday.
The Band possesses a full set of instruments, and, therefore, roll up, players, and give the Band a helping hand.

the obstacles and friction that beset man. Give him a chance to broaden his mind so that he will see to it that such an unmanageable bloodthirsty system of society never more gets breathing room on this earth.

JAMES POPE.

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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 organize 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 organization 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 organized not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

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