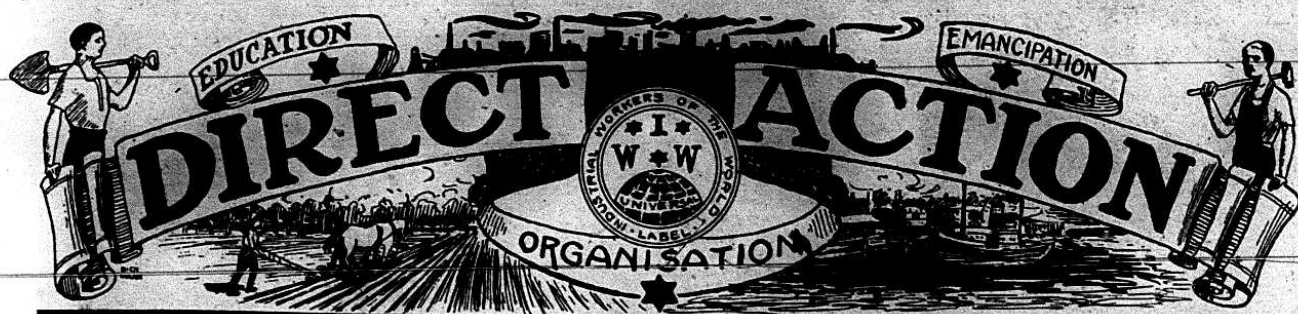


One Union. One Label. One Enemy.



VOL. 4, NO. 124

SYDNEY.

June 2nd 1917. ONE PENNY.

Workers: Attention!

Readers of "Direct Action" are no doubt aware of the fact the Defence and Release Committee decided a few weeks ago to send a delegate to Central and North Queensland to visit the sugar centres, meat works, mines and wharves to place before the workers of those centres the case for our 12 working class agitators now confined in the Human Hells of Capitalism. It was first decided to appeal for funds per medium of circulars to all subscribers to "Direct Action," also to publish in "Direct Action" an appeal to all subscribers, rebels and sympathisers in Central and North Queensland, and to allow about one month to lapse in order that funds may come in to help pay the expenses of the delegate. We are aware of the fact that the sugar mills will start crushing about the end of June, and the meat works are already in full swing, and there was no time to be lost. Altogether 32 centres will be visited, and should the delegate stay one week in each centre this will mean 7½ months before the tour is complete. The sugar season will be over in about five months' time, and in order to visit all the centres we decided to send the delegate at once. Fellow Worker Jackson, delegate representing the Defence and Release Committee, left per Canberra on Saturday, 19th May, and will arrive in Townsville the following Friday. He will organise meetings at that centre and address the meat industry employees at Ross River and Alligator Creek meat works, also hold open air meetings. From there he will go to Charters Towers and visit the mines and from there to Cloncurry, and all north-western mining towns, also Hughenden on his return to Townsville. From there he will visit all the cane centres as far north as Cairns, returning to Townsville, then to Ayr, Bowen, Proserpine, Mackay, Rockhampton and Mt. Morgan. Fellow workers, funds are needed badly in order to help defray the expenses of the visiting delegate, and it behoves each and every sympathiser, subscriber, and all rebels to help make this tour a success. Fellow Worker Jackson will lecture on the "Conspiracy Charges," "What is the I.W.W.?" "The Class War," and "The War and the Workers." This appeal, fellow workers, is for you, and we want your active support. So get out a subscription list, collect all you can, and send the proceeds direct to the Secretary's Defence and Release Committee, 403 Sussex street, Sydney.

Female Slavery.

The Wyoming Labour Journal says there are girls employed in stores and laundries in United States 54 and 60 hours a week at a wage entirely inadequate to maintain a decent standard of living, and yet, the editor says, "the proprietors of these places, with the majority of the unthinking public, wonder when some troubled-appeared soul slips from the path of virtue."

"It is only through organisation that the girls in industry can hope to better their conditions. Even proprietors are helpless when compelled to compete with others for the business."

"We have listened to the sophistry about the working girls being satisfied with long hours of employment and their present wages till we have become nauseated. If there is such satisfaction it has been induced by a fear of loss of employment and it is not directed by an honest acquiescence in the injustice endured." (Wyoming Labour Journal.)

A proletarian movement can, no matter how slight, have no part in the game of politics. The moment it takes a seat at that grimy board is the moment it dies within.—Chas. Ed. Russell.

"DIRECT ACTION" BANNED.

Not Allowed to Use the Post Office.

Industrial Unionism STAGGERS The Boss.

Workers, take the hint and Organise Industrially, and Control Your Jobs.

How We Get the Goods.

I.W.W. AT WORK IN PHILADELPHIA.

The S. S. Suffolk arrived in this port from Rio Janeiro, Brazil, on March 30. The men in the engine room were the I.W.W.'s, and, judging by the following, each of them must have had a black cat along with them.

The captain had a grouse on against the I.W.W., and when asked how many men he would need for the Suffolk, he replied that maybe he'd take some I.W.W. men, maybe not. The delegate told him that that was all right, if he thought he was strong enough to take a stand of that kind and live up to it, but that it might turn out that the I.W.W. would be stronger than he, in which case he would be compelled to take union men and be glad he could get them.

The same day a bunch of scab firemen went on board to take the I.W.W. firemen's places, but the others were all members of the I.W.W. and when they saw how things were turning out, they wired to the union hall, giving full information. Word was immediately sent to the Boston M. T. W. branch. They must have some power all right, for they wired back, telling the boys that the company had said to send the I.W.W. men on board as soon as they were called for, and to see the captain at once.

The I.W.W. delegate then went aboard the Suffolk and told the scab crew to unload and go, and join the scab union. Meanwhile the I.W.W. men held a special meeting and decided to hold out for a rise before going back on the job. With the aid of the cat, they thought ten dollars would be about the right thing to insist on.

As soon as the men reached the ship in the morning the engineer told them to get busy and clean the fires. But the answer was "NO: we won't touch anything until we sign, and we want a ten dollar rise." Immediately a cry went up. The owners and the captain said the demand was not fair at all. But the men stood firm, packed up and went back to the union hall. A few I.L.A. scab officers and firemen were willing to go on board, but they were told that they would not be permitted to do so.

In a short time the phone in the I.W.W. hall began to ring, and the union was told to send on the men, and that the ten-dollar rise was granted. The union replied that this much was all right, but as they had left the ship simply because their demands had not been granted, it was now up to the captain to send an automobile down to carry them back. All the crew rode back to the ship in a swell machine.

The — is the first ship over to leave this port paying the following scale: Sailors, 45 dollars; oilers, 65 dollars; firemen, 50 dollars; and coal passers, 55 dollars. Feeling is fine here for the O.B.U., and we are going after job control with all our efforts.

If some English-speaking fellow-workers would come down here and help us we could do still better work in lining up the slaves. At present the Spaniards are holding the fort in this port. It's better to die living than to live dying; so come on, fellow-workers! Down with all parasites!

MANUEL REY.

Bush Workers.

BROKEN HILL.

A meeting of shearers, shed-hands, pressers and cooks was held in the Socialists' Hall, Broken Hill, on Sunday, May 12th, at which the following resolutions were carried:—

- 1.—That a committee be formed for the purpose of obtaining advanced rates in this district.
- 2.—That the rates demanded be—shearing, 30s per hundred, with 1s comb and cutter allowance; shed hands, £3 per week and keep; pressers, 7d per cwt, or £4 per week and keep; cooks, 7s per man.
- 3.—That no deposit be paid, or no agreements signed until all concessions are granted on the ground.
- 4.—That it be a recommendation from this committee to all other committees, to embody in their rules a clause providing for a 44-hour week of 4 two-hour runs, or 2 four-hour runs.

This centre may require some organising and fighting for, as a rather bad element of small cockies get out here; but we are out to win, and win we will.

We want to get into touch with all other district committees, and all who intend shearing around this quarter. So we invite correspondence. Remember—united we stand, divided we fall.

TOM O'CONNOR, Hon. Secretary.

QUEENSLAND.

The good ship Canberra (for she is a good ship, too, and a very profitable equivalent for the wages paid to the deluded slaves who built her) is racing along at a pace that means less meals for the passengers and more profits for the owners. Of course, I failed to locate any of the "owners" in the stoke-hole or washing down the decks at 6 a.m. In high top India-rubber boots, and decorating the end of the yard loom with their lily fingers. While handing out the leaflets, "Guilty, or Not Guilty" to the passengers, I also paid a visit to the sailors and fireman, and handed one to each of them. It is here you'll see and realise the line of demarcation between Master and Slave. "Harmony of Interests," "A Condition of Happy Contentment," "All in the same boat." I see the slaves are there, but the dear, kind boss—well, I have not visited the saloon, for it is there you will find him, working, oh yes, working. Scheming how to more successfully rob the TOILETS. We organised a choir after tea on Saturday night, and it was unanimously decided to sing the rebel songs immediately in front of the saloon. Result:—Lights were put out, and passengers, stewards, and officers made a hasty retreat to a part of the ship where they would not be tormented with the wild and hungry yells of common working people. One or two braver than the rest adopted the antics of a church mouse, sniffing a piece of burnt cheese, and retired hurriedly in disorder. We eventually retired to the smoke room, and held forth, and a discussion followed. At 10 a.m., SUNDAY, is held an "Open Air" meeting in the hatchway to a crowd of about seventy. Fellow-Workers Farrell, Gower and Jackson were the speakers. Results: collection, £1 11s 4d. Sales of literature, 14s 6d. Expect to arrive in Townsville on Friday, 25th, and will hustle round in great style. Would be pleased if rebels in Central and North Queensland will write to W. Jackson c/o C. Carle, Flinders street, Townsville, and meetings will be arranged.

W. JACKSON.

Friends of your country, of your race,
Of Freedom, and of God!
Combine, Oppression to efface,
And break the tyrant's rod;
All traces of injustice sweep;
By moral power, away;
Then a glorious jubilee we'll keep
On Independence Day!

"I never did an honest day's work in my life, and I never intend to."—King O'Malley, "Hafnard," April, 1915.

Direct Action



WEEKLY
OFFICIAL ORGAN

of the

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF
THE WORLD.

(Australian Administration)

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Sydney, N.S.W., is responsible for all un-
signed articles which have appeared in "Direct
Action," and will be until further notice.

Another Attack.

The Bengal Tigers Getting Hungry.

"Society can forgive murder, adul-
tery, swindling, but it cannot forgive the
preaching of a new gospel."

One can commit almost every crime in
the calendar, and if he has good financial
backing and influence HE CAN GET
FREE; but once a person starts to preach
a new doctrine, he is looked upon by so-
ciety and those in authority as either a
criminal or a lunatic, and accordingly, is
run off to the MAD HOUSE OR GAOL.

Chidley was the preacher of a new gos-
pel, he spoke of a saner system of so-
ciety, and the authorities clapped him in
the mad house, where he died. The
I.W.W. is advocating a new gospel, and
the powers that be, put them in gaol.
Chidley wrote a book called the "An-
swer." It told of the unnatural way
people live, and as a result, the medical
fraternity objected, and Chidley was de-
clared insane.

The I.W.W. publish a paper called
"Direct Action." It tells of the misery
of the working class, and asks them to
organise into One Big Union. The mas-
ter class protest, and the I.W.W. is de-
clared criminal.

Taking the British Constitution as our
authority, Chidley not only had the right
to teach his principles, but had the right
to demand protection in the advocacy of
his teachings. The I.W.W., in publishing
a working class paper, and advocating
Industrial Unionism, is only acting with-
in its Constitutional Rights. This being
so, why this persecution?

It is well known to all students of his-
tory that the master class will BREAK
ANY LAW, VIOLATE ANY CONSTITU-
TION, AND TRAMPLE UNDER-
FOOT ANY SACRED PLEDGE in its
endeavour to keep the toilers in igno-
rance and hold them in subjection.

The working class is facing a bitter and
unscrupulous enemy, and while this wage
system lasts, the workers will never be
free from persecution.

Because the I.W.W. has continually ex-
posed the tactics of the parasite class,
spoke of the wrongs and the exploita-
tion endured by the workers, and advo-
cated INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM as the
remedy for the ills which afflict the toiling
millions; because the TEACHINGS
OF THE I.W.W. HAS BEEN TAKING
"EFFECT," and the workers in ever in-
creasing numbers are joining up in this
fighting and virile union, the master class
has become furious, and started a vicious
and brutal attack upon this working
class organisation.

The latest attack of the Bengal tiger
gang is the attempted suppression of
"Direct Action."

Not satisfied with gaoing our prin-
ciple speakers, seizing our printing press,
confiscating all our literature, victimising
our members on the job, pouring oceans

of abuse on the Organisation, and de-
claring the I.W.W. unlawful, these Ben-
gal tigers have now refused to allow
"Direct Action" to pass through the
post office.

Having discovered that the War Pre-
cautions Act, the Unlawful Association
Act, and the Crimes Amendment Bill have
not succeeded in stopping the propaga-
nda of the One Big Union, and prevented
the workers from thinking along indus-
trial lines, the Federal Executive Coun-
cil has now come to light with an order
that "Direct Action" shall be removed
from the register of newspapers kept un-
der the Post and Telegraph Act.

Anyone with an impartial mind will
not have to think long before he will see
that the attempt to strangle our paper
is, from a political standpoint only, and
it has only a political end to serve.

"Direct Action" is a registered paper,
printed on a registered press, and
every word which appears in its col-
umns passes the military censor. Every-
thing connected with the paper is in ac-
cordance with the law of the country.
This being so, why this attack?

The columns of "Direct Action" have
never been given over to the advocacy of
any criminal or seditious act, in fact,
such a thing is impossible under the pre-
sent laws governing newspapers.

We ask again, why this assault? and
even those in authority refuse to answer.
All men and women who are familiar
with "Direct Action" will know the
reason and have an answer.

It is well known that the master class
will not worry over much about anything
that does not affect the profit making
system. It is not criminality or sedition
that the master class fear so much, but it
is the sound, scientific organisation of the
working class. It is not the talk of vio-
lence or inflammatory speeches that cause
the boss so many sleepless nights, but it
is the STEADY GROWTH OF INDUS-
TRIAL UNIONISM.

The launching of the One Big Union,
with job control, will be a greater blow
to bossdom than all the seditious speech-
es that were ever delivered, or all the
criminal acts that were ever perpetrated.

The industrial magnates—and they are
the real power behind all governments
—will make many excuses for their at-
tempt to cut "Direct Action," but they
lie; the real cause, as all must know, is
because our paper has been the PERSIST-
ENT PROPAGANDIST OF THE ONE
BIG UNION, the silent agitator on the
job, and because it hits right at the
foundation of the capitalist system.

A little over three years ago "Direct
Action" first saw the light.

Ever since the day of its birth it has
never looked back. Its circulation has
continued to increase, and its influence
has continued to grow. It makes itself
felt where ever it goes. It is now a real
power in the land. The thousands of
copies scattered around the continent are
doing great service for the One Big Union,
and the twelve thousand special May
Day issues that have spread around Aus-
tralia are still silently agitating for the
Industrial Republic.

The Bengal Tigers have made their run
too late. The good work has already
been done, and the principles of the
I.W.W. have already got a hold.

We intend to carry on until the last
ditch. While we have breath we will
never surrender. And in the end, if the
master class succeed in strangling "Di-
rect Action" and suppressing our propa-
ganda, we can take consolation in the fact
that the One Big Union idea can never be
killed, the grand old fight for freedom
will always go on, and although they may
kill papers, gaol men, THEY CAN NEVER
KILL PRINCIPLES OR GAOL
IDEAS:

N.R.

Between employers and workers there
is never, nor ever will be made, a binding
and lasting understanding, a contract in the
true and loyal sense of the word.

Between them there are and can be only
armistices which, by suspending the hos-
tilities from time to time, introduce a momen-
tary armed truce in the incessant warfare.

Capital and labor are two worlds that vi-
olently clash together!

Good men refuse to govern. I think that
if ever there should exist a State exclusively
composed of good men, they would seek as
much not to govern as there are some now
anxious to govern.—Plato (The Republic).

Every hour we can take away from the
boss is an hour added to our lives. Every
shilling more we get in wages means more
life for ourselves and our families. Shorter
hours and more wages are things worth fight-
ing for.

THE MACHINE.

The most remarkable development of the
nineteenth century, particularly in England,
was the introduction of the machine into in-
dustry, whereby the muscles and sinews of
man were replaced by a structure of iron and
steel. So great was the misery caused by
the use of machinery, that the whole system
of production was revolutionised, the relations
between the different classes of the nations
were altered, and all the prevailing ideas of
morality, legality, and religion, etc., were
thrown into the melting pot.

Viewed through the eyes of the capitalist,
the results of this industrial revolution were
highly beneficial, but to the worker-class it
was the reverse. So great was the misery
that many attempts were made to smash,
and destroy the machines, and return to the old
hand-labour methods of manufacture. This
was the cause of the uprisings of the Luddites
and outbreaks of a similar nature that raged
throughout England during the last century.
These attempts to hold back progress were,
of course, useless. The machine had to
come, in spite of all obstacles.

The first result of the new methods was to
increase the number of unemployed—"the in-
dustrial reserve army." The reason for this
is plain. The number of workers needed by
the employing class, at any one time, is de-
termined by the demand for the things which
the labor of those workers produce. If the
demand increases more workers will be needed
to supply the demand. But the use of ma-
chinery, however, the worker becomes more
productive, by using up the same amount of
his energy, or laboring power, he can turn
out a much greater number of useful
articles, called commodities, that are required.
This means that few workers will be neces-
sary to supply the market, and the rest are
thrown on the scrap-heap, until they are
wanted once again.

More unemployment means increased com-
petition for jobs, and this, in turn, has a ten-
dency to reduce the wages of those fortunate
enough to be employed, causes them to speed-
up, and become more servile than they other-
wise would. The opposite is also the case.
A smaller number of out-of-work means more
pay, and better conditions generally, for the
rest of the working-class.

Another way in which the capitalist has be-
nefited by the use of machinery, is that it has
enabled him to increase his profits to an ex-
tent which, to the capitalist of the pre-machine
era, would seem almost incredible.

The explanation of this is to be found in
the law of the capitalist system of produc-
tion, by which the work-day is divided into
two parts. The first is the time which it
takes the worker to produce his wages, or
commodities to the value of his wages. This
is known as necessary labor time. It must be
remembered that wages must always be
enough to keep the workers healthy, and well,
and in fit condition to go toiling day after
day. Were wages to fall below this level the
workers' power to create profits would fall,
because they would be slowly starving to
death, and so would not be able to work as
well as before. The rest of the work-day,

after the necessary labor is finished, is called
surplus labor. It is the bosses' share, and is
the biggest part.

When, therefore, machines are invented
which make it possible to produce commodi-
ties quicker, with less effort, the necessary
labor time is shortened. An illustration will
make this clear. We will suppose that an
eight-hour day is in operation, of which four
hours is necessary labor and four hours sur-
plus labor. Now, machinery is introduced
which doubles the output of each worker. The
result is, that whereas before it took him four
hours to turn out the value of his wages,
now it can be done by two hours' labor. Then
the division of the working-day becomes two
hours of necessary labor and six hours' sur-
plus labor. The worker's share has fallen by
50 per cent., and the employer's has increased
in the same proportion. This explains why it
is that the capitalist is always anxious to
discover newer and more efficient machines.

Until the coming of the machine, women
and children could not be utilised in a large
number of trades. The work was either too hard
and strenuous, or the conditions were such
as to make it unprofitable to employ them.
This was changed, however, when a machine
was perfected which wiped out these objec-
tions, and made it possible to fill the factories
with cheaper wage-slaves. Women and chil-
dren are, usually, less militant and less liable
to organise and rebel than men are; in short,
they are better slaves, another cause of grati-
fication to our philanthropic masters.

"It is questionable if all the mechanical in-
ventions yet made have lighted the days' toil
of any human being." (John Stuart Mill).
All the the marvellous inventions of the past
have only served to enrich the ruling class
of the world.

It is up to the working-class to get some of
the benefits arising from the use of machinery.
We have lost through this factor many of the
privileges and liberties that we once enjoyed,
because we have been blind to the changes
that were taking place. As long as the pre-
sent system lasts we cannot take full advantage
of the discoveries of science, but we can, at
least, have some of the benefits.

The best way in which we can profit by the
new form of industry is by shortening the
hours of labor. As each new machine enters
the workshop, it swells the mass of unem-
ployed, but by reducing the working hours this
effect could be counter-balanced. The shorter
work-day would absorb all the unemployed,
and would be followed by an all-round rise in
wages, and improvement of industrial condi-
tions.

The shorter work-day has got to come. The
army of unemployed is becoming so huge and
its effect so disastrous to the workers as a
whole, that they will be forced, before long,
to take action in the matter, or sink to a depth
of degradation hitherto unknown.

The I.W.W. stands out as the only organ-
isation capable of dealing with the difficulty.
Trade Unionism has proven its uselessness; it
now remains for the One Big Union to take
the field in the fight for the international
working-class.

FRANK CALLANAN.

Hunger Knows No Law.

When women, carrying their babes and
dragging older children by the hand, stormed
the Mayor's office in New York, mobbed the
more fortunate who were buying food at the
extortionate prices charged by the dealers, up-
set the huckster's cart, and threaten to de-
molish the stocks in the stores; when similar
scenes were enacted in Philadelphia and other
cities, and when there were threats of raids
on the wholesalers' places and cold storage
depots even in our own city of San Francisco—
when all these things occurred within the
space of a few days, the response was prompt.

Congress, which has been dilly-dallying
along, suddenly realised it was expected to do
something to relieve the situation, and
promptly devoted 400,000 dollars for a thor-
ough investigation of the cause of high prices
and to assist in the prosecution of such per-
sons, firms, and corporations, as might be
found conspiring to take advantage of a food
shortage to extort unreasonable profits.
Mayors, Councilmen, and supervisors bestir-
red themselves to relieve local conditions,
and measures were taken to release freight
cars and rush them, filled with foodstuffs to
the centre of populations.

It was no time for hesitation and procrasti-
nation. A HUNGRY PEOPLE WILL NOT BE
DENIED. Bread riots are uncommon in
America—but given the driving impetus of des-
titution and hunger, the scenes enacted in
other countries will have their counterparts
here.

That there is a serious food shortage in the
world as a whole is undeniable. With millions
of producers withdrawn from the fields and

factories, for upwards of three years, it could
not be otherwise. But that there is not
enough and to spare in America, though it
may be badly distributed, is not believed by
the masses of the people. Rightly or wrongly,
they have reached the conclusion that they
are being victimised by rapacious dealers. A
governmental investigation will go far to
straighten out matters (provided it is prompt
and determined) if it combines and compen-
sates; or to satisfy the consumers if a real
shortage is shown and steps are taken to en-
serve for our own people the products of
this country, rather than to send our natural
supplies abroad to relieve the necessities of
those whom improvident governments have
forced from the peaceful tasks of tilling the
soil to the fiendish work of slaughtering their
fellow-men.

If a real food shortage exists, it would ap-
pear that it is the duty of the authorities to
take possession of all foodstuffs, fix reasonable
prices, and distribute them as equally as pos-
sible, that all may be fed with a minimum
of waste. Government has no higher duty
than the care of its people, and when ordinary
means and methods of supply break down,
there should not be any hesitancy in following
the example of the European Governments in
conserving and distributing the necessities
of life.—San Francisco "Sun."

All governments are essentially immoral.
It is the offspring of evil, bearing all the
marks of its parentage. Violence is em-
ployed to maintain it, and all violence is cri-
minally. The State employs evil weapons to
subjugate evil. Morality cannot recognise it,
it can give no countenance to anything growing
out of it.—Herbert Spencer.

Prison Fancies.

(By Ernest Jones, Chartist).

Troublesome fancies beset me,
Sometimes as I sit in my cell,
That comrades and friends may forget me,
And foes may remember too well.

That plans that I thought well digested,
May prove to be bubbles of air,
And hopes when they come to be tested,
May turn to the seed of despair.

But tho' I may doubt all beside me,
And anchor and cable may part,
Whatever—whatever betide me,
Forbid me to doubt my own heart!

For sickness may wreck a brave spirit,
And time wear the brain to a shade,
And dastardly age disinheret,
Creations that manhood has made.

But, God! let me ne'er cease to cherish,
The truth I so fondly have held!
Far sooner, at once let me perish,
Ere firmness and courage are quelled.

Tho' my head in the dust may be lying,
And bad men exult o'er my fall,
I shall smile at them—smile at them, dying,
The Right is the Right after all.

Workers, Listen!

Whence did all these millions come now being
shovelled into the burning belly of the God of War?

They came from the labor of the people. They came from aching backs and anguished hearts. From broken lives and trampled opportunities. From hunger and suffering. From oppression and degradation.

The Employers' Federation did not bring them into existence. The Stock Exchange did not toil to win them from the lands, and dig them from the mines, and wrest them from the seas.

The Rich who splash mud on us from the wheels of their automobiles; who shove us into the dingy backgrounds and the dirty seats while they sit in the front rows, resplendently upholstered; who eat the costliest foods and wear the costliest clothes, and appoint judges at sixty pounds a week to fix the wages of the multitude at less than sixty shillings—these have not soiled a finger or strained a muscle to produce the millions of which you speak so lightly, Joseph Cook.

No, the war is a cruel thing, not only because of its murdering and maiming, but also for the reason that the wealth wrong from the agony of the workers is being squandered in a carnival of blood and brutality.

And when a traitor to his class, like Joseph Cook, comes along, and delivers what the capitalist papers call "an optimistic speech," assuring us that this extravagance fraught with horror need not disturb our equanimity, there are no words in polite dictionaries to express the disgust we feel.

"Even after a nation is bankrupted, it still has the sunshine and the soil, and the spirit of the people," said the sapient Joseph Cook. And the listening audience cheered.

Would they, I wonder, if they could have visualised the grisly prospect lurking at the back of his cheerfulness.

For all that, such "optimism" amounts to is this—that when the war is over, when the masses of the nations have been beggared by destruction on the one hand and exploitation on the other, they will trail back from the battlefields, sick, wounded, and weary, and take up the task of replacing the millions that the plutocratic Marx has consumed.

The soldier will doff the uniform of the King and don the livery of the Capitalist. He will put aside the gun and take up the pick; and having fought for liberty abroad, subject himself to slavery at home.

That Joseph Cook, the meaning of the buoyant phrases in which you told us that national bankruptcy is nothing to worry over.

If you had put it into the language of candor you would have said, "Never mind about these wasted millions; when the workers about these millions leave off spilling their blood they'll rush the job of filling our purses."

But the language of candour is not popular among politicians.

Had it been otherwise in days gone by, there would have been no enmity between the nations, there would have been no war; and the classes who thrive in the darkness of the people's ignorance would have perished in the light of an alert Democracy.

In the 'Worker.'

H. E. D.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION.

The One Thing Needful.

"Don't mourn, but organise." Those significant words uttered by Joe Hill, the great working class poet, on the eve of his murder, will ring down through the corridors of time to immortal fame.

Organisation is the collective ability to achieve physical results.

To understand industrial unionism or I.W.W. organisation, it is first necessary to know what result the I.W.W. is aiming at. Intelligent industrial unionists all over the world, want a new civilisation; in fact members of the I.W.W. look upon their organisation as the germ, or the beginning of a new civilisation.

The spreading of this new idea is called Education. The striving to achieve it, Organisation, and the final consummation, Emancipation. This is the order in which the words appear on the I.W.W. label.

A glance at the statement of principles, wherein it says, "not only must the army of production be organised to fight the every day struggle with the master class, but also to carry on production when capitalism has been overthrown," will make the meaning of industrial organisation clearer and simpler to any inquiring member of the working class.

Organisation is power—even the most servile and reactionary of workers recognise this. How often do we hear workers who are not members of the I.W.W. who are even opposed to it saying, "if the workers only stood together they could rule the world."

Trade unions after being fooled by the politicians and tricked by the Arbitration Courts, know they must fall back on the only weapon the workers have got, their industrial organisation—the strike, in some form or other.

The trade unions are afraid to use their power because they are unable to concentrate their unions, and they lack that determination and courage that education only can give.

Concentration is the main essential of Organisation. One Big Union of Workers, all concentrating their energy and

activity upon the ownership of industries, is going to change the whole of the present social institutions.

Arbitration and Political Action do not concentrate the workers upon the ownership of industries—it scatters their force, and is therefore useless to the working class.

The One Big Union organisation will have as many industrial departments and subdivisions as is found necessary for the workers to achieve the greatest results, with the least expenditure of human energy. The exact details of industrial unionism can only be made as the need arises, and the membership gains experience in their historic mission.

The General Executive Board in any given country would act as an information bureau to gather statistics of the people's material wants, and then hand this on to the industrial departments to be produced by the workers and under conditions decided upon by the membership of that industry.

Intelligent working class organisations would not produce haphazardly as is done under capitalism.

In the I.W.W. every opportunity is given for the voice of the individual. We want the assistance of every workers' knowledge, for there are geniuses in organising, the same as there are geniuses in science, poetry or music.

The master class organisations conserve and concentrate wealth. The I.W.W. will concentrate the producer of all wealth, the most precious thing on earth, labor power; and this always in keeping with the spirit of working class revolt, so aptly expressed by the ploughman poet, Bobby Burns, in a few lines—

If I am designed yon lordling's slave,
By nature's law designed,
Why was an independent wish
E'er planted in my mind?
If not, why am I subjected to
His cruelty and scorn,
Or why has man the will and power
To make his fellow mourn.

M. SAWTELL.

Nothing in Common.

Scene: A wage plug has strolled along from the steerage to the saloon on board an ocean liner, and is engaged in conversation by a saloon passenger. "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common," remarked the wage plug.

"Ah! no, my friend," exclaimed his capitalistic conversationalist. "They surely have interests in common: relations between employer and employed should be cordial, as this is in the best interests of both." He continued, "There should be no discord or hatred; these class distinctions you speak of do not exist; for if the workers would only—"; but the conversation was abruptly interrupted, and an arrogant voice demanded of the wage-worker, "To what class do you belong?"

Looking around, he saw an irate steward glaring wrathfully at him. The wage man instinctively answered, "To the working class." Came the retort: "Well, get down to where your class belongs."

Slowly he wended his way down from amongst the gaudy and music, where his masters were making merry, as they drank of the choicest wines and smoked of the most fragrant of cigars. He saw on every hand luxury and comfort; saw the wives of the rich attired in gorgeous costumes; he saw the happy children frolicking, observed their faces radiant with joy and happiness; he saw the pet poodle dogs of the idle society ladies; bedecked with diamond collars, sufficient in value to clothe a hundred starving children. He heard the sounds of merry-making, the joyous intoxicating music, the laughter and joy which permeated the indulgent throng; he saw the luxurious furnishings, the brilliant lights, the stewards flitting to and fro, subservient to their masters' bidding.

All this, and much more he observed, and as he reached the Steerage, another sight met his eyes. He saw the wives of the workers huddled together, sick and weary, upon the bleak, exposed decks. He saw the scanty clad, under-fed children of the toilers; he remembered the poodle dogs. He saw the look of hopelessness stamped indelibly upon the features of the "bottom dogs"; he noticed the gaunt thin faces, the ineradicable stamp of their grinding toil day after day. He remembered the fat, sleek and pompous gentlemen of the saloon, the powdered, bejewelled ladies. Mentally, he contrasted them with the faces around him. And again, as he looked

about, and descended into the vile, evil-smelling, over-crowded cabins into which the working-class were berthed as so many horses, the irony and bitterness of it all arose in his mind, and his soul revolted in horror, mingled with pity, at the social system that allows millions to exist in poverty, millions to be slaughtered on battle-fields, and millions to live in the hopelessness of agony and despair; whilst on the other hand, the few had taken unto themselves all the joys and comforts of life.

Again, this time with greater significance, producing a greater effect, the words rang more clearly in his mind, "The working class and the master class have NOTHING in common."

HARRY MEATHERINGHAM.

PROPAGANDISTS!

The Press Committee will forward twelve copies of "Direct Action" to any address for four weeks for three shillings. This is a chance for workers out of town to get in some good constructive work for the One Big Union. Write to-day. Song Book sent free to each sender of three bob for "Direct Actions" in bundles of twelve.

We have also a quantity of May Day papers left. They are a shilling a dozen; cash with order.

If you order a bundle per week; don't forget to say when we are to terminate the sending of the order. Some members forget to let us know when they leave the district, and the result is "Direct Action" going in the P.O. destructor. A letter saves us money here; so don't forget.

THE MANAGER.

MR. READER!

Militant is as militant does. The best and most effective propaganda is getting subs for this paper. Let the present subscribers all get one each every month, and in a very short time you can have a six page paper. Remember, there's a free song book attached to every four bob subscription or two two-bob subs. So act to-day! Get busy, and let's see your hoof marks on the sands of revolution.

The law has always been wrong.—Wendell Phillips.

Without an economic organisation, and without economic power, the fruits of any political victory the workers may achieve will turn to ashes on their lips.—E. V. Debs.

What Shall It Be?

In exact ratio as working-class organisations weaken or become obsolete, ruling class institutions grow in strength and cocksureness.

At the present time the capitalist class, having thrown the workers of the world at each others' throats, thereby causing race hatred and dissension, and (for the time being) broken down all international fraternal feeling and aspirations (on the part of the workers), for a world-wide form of organisation, are feeling in good form.

We have only to watch their various laws and proposed measures, to see and understand to what length they would go if allowed to by the militant working-class unions.

We have seen the conscription issue of last year and its terrible aftermath, when twelve of the most militant fighters against conscription of human life, were sent to gaol, thereby clearing the way for another attempt.

In Great Britain, under cover of the excuse that newspaper is a luxury, and not to be imported, our press is being slowly but surely strangled.

In all the warring countries, industrial, as well as military conscription is the grim reality of the day.

The ruling class of to-day have not even hesitated to invade the supposedly sacred domain of race propagation. As they have scientifically bred horses and cattle, so they now propose to breed a race of slaves in accordance with their own ideas of fitness. In several states of America, they have laws giving judges the power to declare "unfit" any member of the working-class whom the police may drag before them; and order the sterilization of such person. Of course, according to ruling-class ideas of fitness, it will be only the rebellious slaves who will be operated upon, and rendered stupid.

A prominent member of the capitalist class in America has publicly stated that it was the intention of his class to employ only the physically fittest of the workers, and by giving them a living wage, encourage them to propagate their species, allowing the remainder to die out.

And so on, throughout the capitalist world, as the workers have gradually left their power slip from their grasp (through parliamentary action, arbitration courts, etc.), the ruling class has become more and more aggressive. And they have no intention of calling a halt yet for a while. In fact, they are but starting.

As Australasia is further removed, geographically, from the world's markets than any of the warring countries in Europe, it naturally follows that she, like them, must have industrial conscription, if her exploiters are to hold their own in the mad rush for profits which will follow this war. Already the cry of Imperialism is raised throughout the land.

Workers, beware, be warned; another attempt will be made to foist conscription up on you.

What are you going to do about it? Your parliamentary machine has broken down. For long years you have pinned your faith to parliament; now, in your hour of need, you have no parliament to appeal to. Your life-long enemies, the advocates of cheap colored labor, are in possession of that institution. Faced with conscription, with the almost certainty of a reduction of wages, or a lengthening of working hours (you know that the interest must be paid upon the enormous debts now being piled up), faced with the certainty of unemployment, and the possibility of an influx of cheap, colored labor, your outlook is, indeed, black as night.

But the I.W.W. puts before you a method whereby you can confound and defeat your enemies.

Will you listen to us? Or will you go on for ever, hearkening to the siren voices of your oppressors and betrayers?

For several years now we have been trying to show you a way out of your mental and physical slavery. Not, as the prostitute press has told you, by violence and incendiaryism; but by scientific organisation in the industries wherein you work. In short, One Big Union, to include every man, woman and child that works for wages.

Think well of that—can you not see that if we were so organised, we would be ALL-POWERFUL?

"The workers have in their hands a weapon more powerful than all the machine guns on earth."

Men and women of the working class, find out for yourselves what the I.W.W. is, and what it stands for. We are not afraid to have our teachings and our methods investigated. We want them investigated by the workers. Read I.W.W. literature; listen to I.W.W. speakers; join the I.W.W.

Join us in the coming fight for liberty, and life, against military oppression and death.

THOMAS O'CONNOR.

Parliament is a talking shop. If it were called a jobery shop, the truth would not be violated.—Caryle.

American News.

GRAYS HARBOR FISHERMEN TAKE OUT I.W.W. CHARTER.

About two weeks ago the members of the Industrial Fishermen's Union, an independent organisation that was formed here one and a half years ago, decided to take out a charter from the I.W.W.

A delegate from Union No. 432, Aberdeen, Wash., was here and lined up 24 members and a charter was sent for by the secretary of that union.

Two days ago he sent us notice that the money for charter had been received by headquarters, that supplies had been forwarded and charter and seal would be sent us as soon as possible.

Yesterday—March 29th—the Fishermen's Industrial Union, which is No. 448, held a meeting, and the writer was elected secretary.

At the present time we have thirty members and several of the boys have expressed their willingness to join as soon as they get the necessary cash.

Believing that this small beginning will develop into a strong, well-organised fishing industry by the workers of this locality, we are yours for the O.B.U.

FISHERMEN'S INDUSTRIAL UNION,
No. 448 Grays Harbor, Wash.

By Ben Hegdal, Secy.

EVERETT.

I've never seen such a bunch of fellows get along as good as the fellow workers in the County Jail. I visit them four or five times a day with the daily papers, tobacco and other necessities. Don't think, in the eight years of my membership in the I.W.W. that I have ever seen a spirit to equal theirs. They say that they have the co-operative commonwealth, with the exception of being unable to come and go as they please. Oh, jail, where is thy sting. The I.W.W. is getting stronger all the time in Everett.

WALTER SMITH.

There were 3,160 strikes and 108 lockouts during 1916 in the United States. Probably there were more strikes than in 1915, although there were less lockouts. The employers won in 471 and the employees in 706 strikes, 70 were arbitrated and 512 compromised. Practically every occupation was involved somewhere. "1916," says an expert of the federal Bureau of Labour Statistics, "will long be remembered as the year of strikes. The scarcity of labour and the rapid increase of living seem to have caused wage earners to feel that they were not getting their share of the present prosperity and to show their discontent by striking. Higher wages and shorter hours were the causes of two-thirds of the strikes last year, while a large proportion of the remainder was due to causes connected with unionization."

WAVES.

Paper says, "Wave on wave of applause resounded through banquet halls of the Hotel La Salle when 400 of Chicago's biggest business men gave themselves over to a remarkable patriotic demonstration." They restrained themselves later however and failed to "give themselves over" to the recruiting office.

THEY DON'T WANT US.

"Industrialists Not wanted as Citizens," by "Naturalization Examiner Thomas at Butte." He held up the papers of one Matt Hakala because two names like that were on the original records of the Butte I.W.W. held by the examiner, who asked a lot of questions. If Matt never heard of the I.W.W. he is on the road to knowledge now.

THEY'RE COMING.

Judith, Mont., paper says "The I.W.W.'s are coming into the state from all directions." As other states' papers say the same thing there must be a lot of I.W.W.'s running loose.

ALL STUCK UP.

Spokane paper reports, "Gummed stickers bearing I.W.W. sentiments and attacks on the capitalistic system pasted on the backs of seats in churches hired by the Federal Peace League, have brought that organisation in disfavour with the churches."

GUILTY ON TWO COUNTS.

Man beaten up and pinched in Salt Lake City was said to be a German and an I.W.W. We don't know of anything worse that could be said.

ABERDEEN, WASHINGTON, BUSY.

We are taking in members at the rate of 45 per week here. A number of Rebel Girls are lining up as well; two already carry credentials and they are getting members. We expect to have a Domestic Workers' charter here before long. Ten girls came in this week and more are on the way. Talking of Rebels, these girls won't dance with a man who doesn't carry a red card. We are doing so well here that the chief of the police gives us credits for it in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The chief says that in all the logging camps a number of I.W.W.'s will be found, and that all of such men do not stay long in town but

WOMEN.

FEMALE LABOR IN SHIPYARDS.

Much has been said about the employment of female labor in British shipyards to replace men drawn away for military service. Women, it appears, are now employed on the following shipyard operations: Cleaning out machine shops, stores and offices; attending light drilling machines; red-leading and rough painting, and laboring for joiners and carpenters—all with satisfactory results. "Engineering" (London) thinks that women could be employed with equally satisfactory results on much more work. They could check sizes of plates and angles on delivery into the yard; where adequate facilities are available for the handling of raw material there should be no difficulty in measuring the dimensions of raw material and comparing these with the order. Rivet, tool and general storekeeping is work which could easily be undertaken by women, especially on the serving and accountancy sides, under the supervision of an expert storekeeper. In the platers' sheds there are a number of machines and operations which could well be undertaken, viz., attending plate-planing machines, high-speed drilling machines, counter-sinking machines, and operating large hydraulic or electric machines and cranes; the making of light wooden templates and marking plates and angles from templates, screwing up material ready for riveting on the skids, and even light hydraulic riveting. Among general operations which could be undertaken are the making of brass clips for electric wiring, soldering operations; working of engraving machines, weighing material, tapping and screwing operations, finishing smithwork such as stanchions and mast-mountings, cutting and welding by the oxy-acetylene process, packing of waerlight work before riveting, and operating moulding, sand-papery, mortice and tenon machines in the joiners' shop. Timekeeping and the issue of checks could be done by women. Laboring work of the lighter kind, such as for joiners, sawmill, carpenter's, plumber's, and electrician's work is easy for accomplishment by female labor.

The same authority states, however, that "The problem of the employment of women on board ship during building operations presents some difficulties, among which the insurance of efficient supervision and the provision of suitable staging during the earlier stages of construction are of importance. Neither difficulty is, however, insuperable, and women could then be employed with advantage in screwing up decks, shell plates, etc., packing water-tight work, running electric cables, drilling and reaming operations involving the use of electric or light pneumatic machines, red-leading and cleaning up the ship. The operation of hoists, derricks, travelling cranes and winches is another field for the employment of female labor, while their employment as rivet heaters would enable a large number of lads to commence riveting. This last could, of course, be extended so as to cover many minor operations suitable for women, but these vary with local practice and may not be universally applicable."

REPATRIATION.

All the middle-minded politicians and the pot-bellied buzzards are frothing a good deal over the repatriation of the soldiers when they return from the front. But talk and froth won't fill the returned soldier's stomach, no more than it will win the war. The slave-drivers and workshy can't solve the problem, and moreover wouldn't, if they could.

The only people with a practical way of solving the extreme unemployment resultant upon hundreds of thousands of men returning to industry is the Industrial Workers of the World. The solution lies in an immediate reduction in the hours of labor, in order to find places for these men in industry. Even the Trades and Labor Council in Sydney recognise that as they are calling a special meeting to discuss the matter during this week.

The I.W.W. in order to put all arguments in a brief, handy succinct form are issuing a pamphlet entitled "The Case for a Shorter Work Day," written by Fellow-Worker A. E. Brown. We can recommend this pamphlet to all workers, organisers, union delegates, and reds. This pamphlet also contains Vincent St. John's celebrated and classical essay upon "Industrial Unionism," which is now out of print in Australia. The brochure is nicely got up with an attractive cover, and a handy pocket size. It is just THE thing for the workers who want to know what the I.W.W. stand for.

The price will be threepence, and orders can be booked now. Quantities at the rate of 2s 3d per dozen, or 17s a hundred, posted. Special rates for thousands. Free copies to all men sending in a half-yearly subscription for "Direct Action." Address: The Manager, Box 98, Haymarket, N.S.W.

get out into the camps and start organizing as fast as they can. He also stated that the trouble here in 1912 put the treasury of the town on the bum, and that it looks as though the slaves would be able to take back what belongs to them before long.

Stung Right.

CONSTERNATION ON THE CANBERRA.

A scout was sent out, and discovered the slaves were recuperating, basking in the sunshine, and some were down in their bunks. Punctually at 2.30, we massed our forces and announced another meeting would take place on deck. A rather "conspicuous position" was selected, and Comrade Klausen announced his intention of debating with a political confessionalist, representing the Labor Party. The debate lasted an hour. Just at this time a heroic Australian, just returned from France, a recruiting sergeant, to wit, inspired by the large gathering of fully 300, and amid the hand-clapping and handkerchief-waving of the "leading citizens" on the saloon deck, jumped down on the steerage deck and mounted the hatchway, and delivered a recruiting speech, and challenged anyone in the crowd to refute his argument.

There was about 13 pairs of size tens up on the hatch just like the way the "brave Anzacs" raced up the hill-sides at Gallipoli. The highly-educated and influential members of the capitalist class were greatly interested in the proceedings and demonstrated the fact by bringing their deck chairs and KUSHIONS down on the steerage deck. Yes, brother, to "ENJOY the fun." But they were doomed to disappointment, for Fellow-Worker Jackson just happened to make the position so transparently clear to them that their smiling faces changed quickly to that of "positive disgust." The alley ways and stairs were not even large enough to allow a quick enough exit from the arena of hostilities, and the brave returned soldier was "one of 'em." Bravely he stood on the second highest bridge and listened—yes—listened to the "cutting satire." A few jeers and snobbing sneers came from the saloon deck, such as "You scoundrel, you ought to be lashed." The answer quickly came their way. Just then the position was darkened by a cloud of buzzards, a cloud of lay, loading human vultures. The captain sized up the situation, and made a frontal attack on "This Scoundrel," and lo, and behold, the captain pushed me off the hatchway on the deck, the captain stating he was a BRITISHER, and the ship British, and threatened to put me in irons, amid the shouts of victory from the shrewd, cunning, intelligent, silk-hatted cowards on the saloon deck. As the position became acute, due to the fact of the third-class passengers showing their resentment, per medium of interjections, groans and hoots, the seamen were ordered to "stand by," as one seaman remarked to the captain, "I'm ready, sir."

Altogether, 450 passengers travelled board the Canberra, and the meetings were highly successful, especially the last one, which, of course, will be the "last one" on board the Canberra.

W. JACKSON.

TAFKY.

Because Theodore and a few other ignoramuses, too well paid to think and too prejudiced to learn of the trend of any movement outside their own narrow ambit, took it unto themselves to caution Unionists against having anything to do with anybody connected with the I.W.W., the Tory press, which always keeps a watchful eye on probabilities, have the following chunk of slobber at them:

"The tardy conversion of Mr. Theodore, Mr. Moir and others (Fihelly's name was omitted), to a saner view of the responsibilities of political and union leaders is, however, none the less welcome on that account; it is grateful and refreshing to find such common sense and sturdy sentiments, voiced by those high and responsible positions."

Methinks we've read that sort of preliminary laudation many a time before to-day, and have regretfully followed the subsequent career of the poor victim.

No doubt the words spoken by the gentlemen, called for the commendation from the master class press. But the words they used in condemnation of that organisation are equally as familiar to our ears as are those contained in the praise bestowed on their utterances. We have been called "fire-brand agitators," and in days gone by, our mates on the ships and the wharves, the mines and the shearing sheds were dubbed "incendiaries," "murderers," and by the very press which now praises Labor Leaders for their "commonsense and sturdy sentiments" uttered by them at a time when there were lying in capitalist prison twelve members of that organisation whose sole crime, according to the most brilliant Labor journalist in Australia, Henry E. Boote, consisted of having fought for freedom of speech for the working class.

When the capitalist press praises a Labor leader, whether he is in or out of Parliament, it is high time for him to take a retrospective view of himself, also it is time the organisation he represents was on the alert for a successor to him. For no capitalist would ever be guilty of extolling the efforts of a Labor man were he doing his duty—striving for the elimination of the capitalist class from our industrial system.

—Townsville Federal.

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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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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J.T.—No. There are no politicians in the I.W.W., and what is more, we don't want any.

Punter.—We have no room in our paper for such stuff. We are only concerned about the Human Race.

P.N.—Chuck it, old boy, chuck it. You will never make a poet.

W.W.—Received. Thanks.

Anzac.—Very good; but it would never pass the censor.

O.L.T.—We are not concerned about the relative merits or demerits of any politicians. The fact that they are politicians is enough to condemn them.

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