

ONE UNION. ONE LABEL. ONE ENEMY.



VOL. 4., NO. 129

SYDNEY.

July 7th, 1917. ONE PENNY

Queensland Moving.

HUGHENDEN.

Bill Jackson called here on his way to Glencurry, and delivered an address in Page's Hall. He dealt with the conspiracy cases at some length to the great interest of his hearers. There is no doubt that his visit has shattered the boss fostered prejudice and lies against the imprisoned men.

I and others collected £4 at an A.W.U. meeting. We also collected £4 15s at Jackson's meeting.

Some of the boys here are greatly taken up with the I.W.W., and are prepared to do anything at all to help along the organisation.

Yours for Solidarity,

C. HICKEY.

Hughenden.

KURIDALA.

F. W. Jackson left Townsville for Kuridala on Monday night, June 11th, and was advertised to speak thereon the following Saturday.

To those who are not familiar with the name of Kuridala it might be as well to mention that it was lately known by the name of Friesland, and is 530 miles west of Townsville. It is the largest mining centre of the north-western copper fields.

On arrival of the train at Hughenden, on Tuesday morning, F. W. Hickey asked Jackson to leave the train and have a talk to the shearer. A bumper meeting of shearer and shed hands was held on Wednesday night, and £1 15s was collected.

The workers of Richmond having heard that one of the I.W.W. criminals from the South had arrived in the district, they were anxious to have a look at them.

A meeting was arranged, and the audience was so satisfied with the talk of the criminal that it threw in £3 8s 7d as a collection, and wished Jackson good luck.

On arrival at Kuridala, dodgers were got out advertising a meeting for Sunday night in the local hall. A good audience rolled up to hear Jackson, and £7 15s 1d was collected.

Jackson left for Selwyn and spoke there on Wednesday night. Great interest shown. Sales of literature and song books exceedingly good.

The camp now resounds with the strains of wobbly songs. All the musical instruments in boarding houses and pubs are going day and night, hammering away at the I.W.W. songs.

At every centre, Jackson has visited he has received a good reception, and all his meetings have been very enthusiastic.

But we always remember that this enthusiasm is born of the martyrdom of the twelve working-class agitators now rotting in jail.

The slaves of North Queensland have made it known that they are ready for any action and can display solidarity with some effect.

F. W. Brown will follow Jackson through the mining camps, and attend to the numerous orders for papers and literature.

Already the prejudice and misunderstanding has been lifted, and the workers up here are hungry for the I.W.W. dope.

The workers at the different centres are anxious to get "Direct Action," and are very indignant about it being stopped through the post.

North Queensland holds out great hopes for the I.W.W., and before long the red card will be recognised in the mining, cane, and pastoral industries.

W. JACKSON.



Unemployed.

If They Would Only Organise.

SYDNEY.

Owing to the splendid free advertisement given us by the masters' press, our propaganda meetings have been a huge success. Several new speakers have taken the stump, and have been ably handing out the goods.

The logic, reason, and soundness of our position is the stimulating factor in making many members take the platform. When one knows he is right, there is nothing to be afraid of.

Members and sympathisers are asked to note that when the weather is too unfavorable to hold meetings in the Domain on Sundays we will hold forth in the hall in Sussex street, where music and speeches will fill the bill.

Literature sales are booming and the sales of "Direct Action" are on the increase. Everything is looking healthy for the Organisation, and if our boys were only out of jail we would almost think the New Age was not very far off.

Many attempts have been made to try and get a larger hall for our Sunday night lectures, but we have always been turned down. But time is on our side, the future is with us, and truth supports us, and before long we will not beg for something which rightly belongs to us, but—?

Call for Convention.

Owing to the great progress being made by the I.W.W., and the hearty endorsement of its principles by an ever increasing number of the working class, it now becomes imperative that another convention be called to map out a plan of campaign for the future. There are many things to be discussed by the different locals, and some changes made. The locals must be brought more in touch with each other, and supply headquarters with a monthly or quarterly report, and headquarters should supply locals with a report also.

There is much business of an important nature to be transacted, and to do this in a proper and scientific manner a convention is necessary.

All members would do well to discuss this matter at the next business meeting, and write to the General Secretary-Treasurer their decision.

We can then elect delegates and decide upon the time and place. No time should be wasted in arriving at a decision, as the welfare of the organisation depends upon it.

I will guarantee to take from this jail, or any jail in the world, five hundred men who have been the worst criminals and law-breakers who ever got into jail, and I will go down to our lowest streets and take five hundred of the most abandoned prostitutes, and go out somewhere, where there is plenty of land, and will give them a chance to make a living, and they will be as good people as the average in the community.

—CLARENCE DARROW.

"DIRECT ACTION."

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The I.W.W. and Dogma.

The Industrial Workers of the World Organisation is no rigid, Calvinistic believe or be damned kind of institution which sets up a dogma and compels all its units to accept such in all humility and faith. Undoubtedly, it projects certain forms of organisation, but such are the outcome of present day capitalistic conditions, and in accordance with the vital needs of the revolutionary working class army. The I.W.W. organisation is no mere expression of some "high-brow" theory, but the logical outcome of working-class experience. As time goes on, it may be that certain modifications will be necessitated. These should be accomplished without undue friction, because it is the teaching and aim of the I.W.W. that all power be vested in the rank and file. According to the understanding of the units of the Rebel Army shall we be able to meet the needs of circumstance and mould our organisation for the purpose of achieving its revolutionary aim. Certain organisations in the past have been more concerned in perpetuating particular dogmas than in seeking the most efficient and practicable method of achieving the goal of militant endeavor. Consequently, they became mere shrivelled shells of scholastic ignorance; even the refreshing waters of experience failing to vitalise them into a healthy, virgorous growth. The I.W.W. learns from past and present experience, and although at all times keeping in new its aim of working class organisation for the overthrow of capitalism, nevertheless tries to steer clear of the morass of dogma. It is a live body, and, being alive, acts. Mistakes have been made—will be made—but the greatest blunder ever perpetrated is an improvement on a spiteness, hair-splitting, stove-pipe philosophy of masterly inactivity. The capitalist system cannot be theorised out of existence, nor can it be effaced by a plentiful supply of platitudinous piffle hurled by excited humanitarians in the teeth of the ogre. Neither can the system be exorcised by the metaphorical burning on the altar of economics those who fail to recite without a slip all the pap that's been dished up for our education by learned theorists since the time of Adam Smith down to the latest edition of the working-class intellectual.

By all means, however, let our theorists theorise, our philosophers philosophise; but Lord—Lord preserve us from an over-indulgence in the brain-storming, action-destroying, mental dope dished up by the superior persons.

GEE BEE.

Adelaide.

WORKERS' DEFENCE AND RELEASE COMMITTEE.

The agitation for the release of our jailed stalwarts is still going on. Larger crowds at our meetings implies that good fruitful work is being done. This week end four meetings were held, and at each our speakers were listened to with the most careful attention. At the Botanic Park meeting on Sunday afternoon reference was made to the bottle workers being on strike, and a call to their assistance by way of funds occupied a part of the time, in which F. W. Gilligan was engaged in his delivery of a sound address upon matters vitally concerning the welfare of the toiling masses. The collection in aid of the bottle-workers amounted to £1 10s 0jd.

The coming week will be a busy one, as two indoor meetings are arranged for F. W. Monty Miller, who will arrive in Adelaide on the 19th inst. A debate between Mr. Craigie (secretary of the Single Tax League) and F. W. Miller has been fixed up for June 20th in the Trades Hall. Subject:—"Will Single Tax Emancipate the Workers?" Sixpenny tickets have been issued, the proceeds to go to the funds for the wives and children of our imprisoned fellow-workers.

P. T. C., Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Mt. Guthbert, Queensland.

Send seven hundred and fifty "Direct Actions" every week. Send £20 of literature at once. Posting £20 next week. Record meetings every where. Denny Foley put on as organizer.

JACKSON.

Direct Action



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of the
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"Socialism at Work."

For the past few months the Queensland "Worker" has been publishing a series of articles under the heading "Socialism at Work."

It is reasonable to suppose that in such a place, the working class would at least be free from all the terrors of starvation, and exploitation would be unknown. But just the opposite is the case.

The articles in question are full of eulogistic talk, statistics are quoted, conditions mentioned, and comparisons drawn. One would almost believe that things were all rosy and bright in the northern State, but, sad to say, it is not so.

If, as the "Worker" says, Socialism is at work in Queensland, it does not speak too well for the advocates of Socialism. If the concerns mentioned are samples of "Socialism at work," then we can honestly say Let us have no more of it.

In Queensland, as in all other States, all the evils and crimes of modern capitalism exist and flourish. Just now is the busiest time of the whole year. The sugar harvest is in full swing, the meat industry is at its highest, and the water fronts are busy, not to mention the mining centres. Despite this fact, a large unemployed army tramps up and down the country looking for a master. At the present moment, despite the temporary prosperity, Queensland has its fostering slums, and men committing crimes which are the direct result of poverty; women are upon the streets, children are in the factories, and strong men are on tramp. When the sugar harvest is over, and the meat works close, thousands more men will be thrown into the ranks of the unemployed, then poverty will become intensified, and thousands of women and children will experience what hunger means.

If these be the conditions in the land where Socialism is at work, then we might truly and fearlessly say: Save us from Socialism!

But let us examine a little more closely. The brand of Socialism boasted by the "Worker" is the State controlled industries.

One time the word Socialism told of an ideal future State, where slaves and masters were things of the past, and every able adult produced for social use and not for individual profit. But the word that once spoke of good times ahead now seems to have become commercialised, and according to the Parliamentary Socialists, means any old thing at all. These meat ticket artists are prepared to distort words and pervert ideas, if only they can ride upon the backs of the working class to power and fame.

Once a man starts dabbling with politics, he loses all respect for the truth, and loses caste with the militant workers.

It is of no importance to the industrial unionist what name they give the State concerns; he knows that all State ownership is only State Capitalism—another phrase in the profit making system.

The workers in State controlled jobs

have the pleasure of being robbed by the Government, instead of by private employers. What other difference is there, unless it be that the slaves in State jobs are very often worse off than the workers in private establishments? The conditions on some State jobs have been so bad that in Australia, not to mention other lands, the workers have on numerous occasions been forced to take the extreme measure of striking to better their conditions.

The workers in many State controlled jobs know what it is to have tyrannical bosses, and be under strict discipline.

If State ownership is such a good thing for the workers, and it is Socialism realised, according to some people, how comes it that the international financiers, who live upon interest, are prepared to lend money to start these State shows? Can anyone imagine that these financial giants are going to pay large sums of money to put themselves to work?

Even if the Government were to try the impossible and run their works without making a profit, the money-lenders and bond-holders would still demand their interest on money lent; so the workers would still be exploited and have to keep a parasite class.

It might be contended that some State industries show no profit. Precisely. But there are other government lay-outs which show a huge profit, and they counteract the others. In all the State concerns, whether they show a profit or not, the workers are robbed of three-fourths of what they produce, and are destined to feed a useless, idle and parasite class.

Although some Parliamentary Socialists call State ownership Socialism, nevertheless, by the State buying out and taking over industries the lot of the workers cannot be lightened. Such a system will not abolish poverty or eliminate the slums; it can not decrease unemployment nor alleviate distress.

Since the wages of the working class are based upon the cost of the necessities of life, it matters not who we work for. Since solidarity and organisation determine our conditions on the job, we care not by what name the boss is called. Be it storekeeper, or trust magnate, financier, or Labor Government who runs the joint, the workers will only get a subsistence wage and have those job conditions which they are able to take and hold.

The militant unionist troubles not about the many transformations of capitalism, but per medium of his industrial organisation is after all he can get.

The only way to rid the world of all the social sores and festering evils is by One Big Union of the working class organised on the industrial field.

With a sound industrial organisation the working class will be in a position to bid farewell to capitalism and all its infamies, and inaugurate an Industrial Republic with all its glories.

N.R.

As Others See Us.

In answer to the accusation that the Alaska Labor Union is responsible for the spread of I.W.W. ideas, "which are of a poisonous nature to everything that makes for an ideal labor union here in Anchorage," made by one of the papers there, the Alaska Labor News reports:—

"Frank P. Walsh, the chairman of the Industrial Commission, said in speaking of the I.W.W. that it was the most truly American institution in the United States today, that no organisation so thoroughly expressed the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and made for the preservation of truly American principles and democracy as the Industrial Workers of the World, in the United States."

Continuing, the News makes the statement: "We may differ with some of our I.W.W. brothers on matters of tactics, but we certainly agree with them in their demand for the overthrow of capitalism, and the economic and social dominance of the working class, and the abolition of all other classes in society."

"A union that does not stand for this as its ultimate goal is a farce and sneaking travesty, forfeiting all rights to be called a union of working men and women."

Every citizen may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty. No law shall ever be passed to curtail or restrain the liberty of speech or of the press.

—Constitution of Connecticut.

The I.W.W. does not refuse concession, but it will not halt the Revolution because of them.

Millionaire Tramps.

"Mr. Edwin Brown, a Denver millionaire, has been amusing himself by making a tour of the principal Pacific Coast cities, dressed as a tramp, in order to see if the submerged tenth ever received any human sympathy. He passed through Chicago, and was asked about his experiences. He replied: 'I found a country of condensed human suffering, where the churches are as idle as painted pictures, and where charity associations seek to avoid giving when ever possible.' Mr. Brown was arrested many times as a vagrant."—Sydney Morning Herald.

This is not the first case of a wealthy individual exploring the slums for experience. There have been many. But no matter what sights they see or what horrors thrill their being, they can never experience what it is like to be a slum dweller nor feel the agonies of the "submerged tenth." These millionaire tramps get tired of society blow-outs, and for a novelty go strutting about the slums. They then boast of knowing "how the poor live." But they lie. They do not know how the poor live. They have no idea of the struggles and battles, the heartaches and mental torture, the tears and sighs of the struggling poor. They do not know what it is like to look hunger in the face and fight a grim life and death battle with the hideous monster of starvation. They do not know what it feels like to return home after a day's tramp in search of work, and look inside a cold miserable den and see their wife and children hugging themselves before a fireless grate and crying for food. They have never seen THEIR children waste with famine, nor have they felt the gnawing pangs of hunger. They have never seen THEIR daughter, the child of their affections, struggling with herself and making her choice between the brothel or the river's bed. They have never felt the manhood surge through their bodies, and with clenched fists and staring eyes swear for vengeance against the masters who are responsible. They have never known what it is like to feel like a law-breaker, and with all nerves a-tingle, rush out into the night, half crazy, half mad, and swear an oath that they will return with either bread or death.

No, these wealthy hoboes do not know how the poor live. They have no idea of what it feels like to be poor.

All the while they are nosing around amongst poverty and disease, their kidneys are well lined and their stomachs full. While in the midst of distress and

suffering they have the knowledge that they are economically secure. How can they feel like those who are struggling in the cesspool of capitalism?

How do they know how it feels to die of slow starvation?

In a few moments these guided investigators can call a taxi, and in a few hours be washed, well-clad, sitting in a beautiful home, surrounded by healthy, happy and rosy children, and in the midst of all the comforts of modern life. How can these individuals know what it feels like to be poor and live a lifetime in the slums?

No, Mr. Millionaire Tramp, you can keep your sympathy. We don't want it. You may have lived a few weeks amongst us, but you do not know us, you cannot understand us. You might dole out a few shillings to some charity, but you will still continue your exploitation of the working class. It is the exploitation of the working class that is the cause of millionaires and paupers.

Amid the toil, and sweat, and blood, and groans of the industrial hells, a spirit of unity is spreading. Amongst the toil seared slaves of industry the idea of organisation is catching on. Around the industries of the world the chain of One Big Union is stretching. Ere long the links of Industrial Solidarity will be welded together. United into one army, under the one banner of the working class, the toilers will realise their power. Then good-bye to millionaires and paupers, the overworked poor and the useless and idle rich; farewell to hovels and squalor, palaces and parasites, so long to rags and starvation and arrogant and insolent wealth.

On the day of the One Big Union, the "sympathy for the poor" crowd will have to stop sympathising and do some useful work.

The battle-scarred heroes of industry are at last beginning to think, and when once they begin to think, it is not long before they begin to act.

The sympathy, and sops, and palliatives cannot be used much longer to hold the workers in subjection in order that they might be more effectively exploited.

All hail the I.W.W., the One Big Union of the working class, the wage slaves' hope and joy, the harbinger of peace and prosperity, the forerunner of happiness and comfort for all.

Speed the day of Industrial Democracy.

N.R.

Why Strikes are Not Wanted.

Repressive measures, against workers and unions participating in strikes, are threatened to be introduced wholesale into this State. And the more militant unions are (according to Minister for Labor, Beeby), to have their legal right to exist as unions, taken away from them.

We hold no brief for trades unionism: the fact that the said Beeby is an Ex-Labor politician does not concern us; but it should make those workers who rely on politicians to improve their (the workers) economic conditions put on their thinking caps, and seriously ask themselves the question—how many Beebys are there in the ranks of today's Labor politicians?

However, apart from this, the reason for the authorities hostility to strikes is that they want the working class to remain peacefully at work, in order to create wealth, so that there may be no diminution in the revenue.

The war that is being waged in Europe is maintained by the wealth that the belligerent countries produce. From the capitalist standpoint this means that the nation's life-blood, wealth, must not, in the course of its circulation, be interfered with. The ruling class realising that their position depends entirely upon the wealth producing capabilities of the country, will endeavor to prevent their security from being undermined.

Labor applied to natural resources is the source of all wealth, and from no other source does it flow; therefore, the authorities argue, labor must be kept continuously at work, and no matter what the degree of exploitation may be, labor must not protest.

Owing to the excessive interest arising out of war loans, parliament to-day needs more money than previously, and to carry on the functions of government, parliament must have money, and still more money. This money is exacted from the capitalist class in the form of taxation. This money, with which the capitalist pays his taxes, does not come

from the air, but from the surplus value which he has exploited from labor. The more revenue parliament needs, the heavier the taxation, and the heavier the taxation the greater the tendency of the capitalist to increase exploitation.

The working-class as a whole are exploited by the ONE COMMON ENEMY. Therefore, the working-class AS A CLASS should be organised to resist it.

From the foregoing it is deducible that the authorities will do their utmost to suppress strikes and gaul labor agitators. A start has been made with the unlawful associations enactment, and declaring the preaching of the general strike treason. Now the authorities are about to play their third card, viz. the smashing of labor organisations. If this fails then we can expect their fourth card—conscription for industrial purposes.

Three spectres are hovering over the working class of this country—unemployment, starvation, and conscription. Are the workers organised to resist them? No.

We have seen that the whole system of capitalist government in its final analysis rests upon the labor power inherent in the working class. Therefore, it is in the spheres of economic production, distribution and exchange at the foundations of society, where the workers have common interests, the common bond of exploitation; that they must be organised, and not at the ballot box.

The I.W.W. recognises the identity of the economic interests of working class, and accordingly organises them upon that basis, and upon that basis only. Our economic power keeps society as it is to-day.

SHILJA HILL

Great literature is always the record of some great struggle.—V. D. SCUDDER.

Hymn of Courage.

By JAMES WALDO FAWCETT.

I see old men grow tired and fall beside the path,
I see sweet youth bend in the storm, and take
The sheltered road beneath, and furl our
flags,
And speak no more of that great day in which
revolt
Shall flame across the sullied skies, and
strike
The shackles from the broken limbs of Man.

I see the roses fade in girlish cheeks, and
eyes
Grow dull and dim that once were filled with
fire,
And see the old, worn kings go marching
proudly by
And masters bend the race unto their will and
take
The bread from children's mouths, and steal
the love
From out the souls of brothers in the strife.

But I am not cast down; my heart still cries
for peace,
My eyes still hold the glint of hate for tyrant
power,
My lips still sing the rebel song, my hands
still ache
To catch the fallen banner and go down in
the wild host
Wrapped in its folds all crimson with our own
glad blood
Shed in the deathless cause of Light at war
with Night.

Come, stand together, Brothers, for the fray!
Take up with me the broken sword of common
wrath,
And with me climb the steely gates of fort-
ressed shame,
And plant the people's pennon on the crumbled
tower,
To speak to all the world of Right too long
denied:
Come stand together, Brothers, dawn is here!

"We cannot traffic in our principles; we can
make no compromise, no agreement with the
ruling system. We must break with the
ruling system and fight it to a finish."
Wm. LEIBKNECHT.

Free Minds and Free Lips.

In all ages, the truest lovers of mankind
have toiled to imbue their fellows with the
spirit of open-mindedness. The cause of
free speech numbers the most glorious mar-
tyrs in history. Socrates, whose name we hold
in reverence to-day, was murdered by the
Athenian people for seeking to lead them to
think for themselves. Bruno in death, and
Galileo in imprisonment, paid the penalty of
loving truth more than public opinion. Roger
Bacon upheld the cause of scientific research
against unnumbered persecutions. Milton
perceived that no error was so fatal as the
suppression of thought, and penned his glo-
rious Areopagitica, which remains to this
day an unanswerable argument to all who,
either from mental weakness or from tyrannous
disposition, seeking to set bounds to
human speculation or expression. Voltaire,
Paine, and a host of others have followed in
demonstrating that free minds and free lips
are necessary, in order that men might grow
and learn. In our own land Elijah Lovejoy
gave his life for the principle of freedom of
the press; and from his martyrdom was born
the grand apostleship of Wendell Phillips in
the cause of freedom. We stand indeed on
holy ground, when we approach the sublime
company of those who, through the ages, have
striven to secure not only for themselves, but
for all mankind, the right of unfettered utter-
ance on every theme. Well for us, if we are
found worthy to tread in their footsteps, and
to bear the most humble part in this great
work.—JAMES F. MORTON.

WHAT CONSTITUTES DISLOYALTY?

Wars never settle anything, but the victor
in a particular fight. Right and truth and
justice, make their way upward through the
age in spite of victories and defeats of arms.
Some wars have appeared to be necessary;
others have been forced upon nations; but
practically all of them could have been avoid-
ed had those in charge really wished. Are
the nations to fight on to the end of time or
may we look forward to a day when reason
instead of might shall prevail. And if reason
is ever to prevail may we not plead for it in
our day without being called disloyal.—"The
Public."

CLASS DISTINCTIONS.

The "Argus" of the 13th inst. lets out
a wail because two judges of the Supreme
Court are about to retire and only have
£2500 per annum to share between them-
selves on pensions..

Seeing that these judges have been
drawing salaries of only £3500 per year,
one wonders why these legal gentlemen do
not try the business end of a pick for ex-
perience. Or perhaps they would like the
position of the broken-down old wage-
slave, who was of more value to society
than judges, and draw 12/6 per week from
the State to save it the trouble of properly
feeding, clothing and sheltering the
old stiff.

I take it that the wage slave needs
just as much food as a judge, and those
of us who are above the "herd that eats,
breeds and dies," have developed a taste
for the intellectual things of life. So at the
breakfast table, in the study, and at the
shrine of the muses, the wage slave and
the judge are as "brothers under the
skin."

And yet we have the judges of the Ar-
bitration Courts talking about a basic
wage for the wage slave.

Mr. Justice Powers says: "The method
of ascertaining the mass unit on the esti-
mated consumption of all classes from the
Governor-General downwards, made it
impossible to ascertain the cost of living
of a working man and his family."

If the needs of one individual is put
down at £10,000 per annum and the other
just what the Court will make him take
at the point of the pistol, it is certainly
some job to be a Governor-General or a
judge.

The above mentioned oracle was "sat-
isfied that 9/ a day was necessary to en-
able the man with a wife and three chil-
dren to live in reasonable comfort."

Reasonable comfort! Ye gods! Then
Governors and Judges must live very
greatly above "reasonable comfort."

And this is what the working stiff levies
himself for—to go before a £60 a week
judge and be told that £2/14/ per week
will keep him and his family in "reason-
able comfort."

The slaves of old fared much better
than this. They were well fed, well car-
ed for at all times and in all weathers,
but the slave of to-day is in a very dif-
ferent position.

The penalties and laws against tres-
passing and poaching stop the worker
from hunting for his tucker; the vag-

rancy laws keep him from begging for
food.

workers followed their leaders into the
Arbitration Court, where the slaves go
upon their knees to a high salaried hench-
man of the capitalist class and then get
insulted for their pains.

The workers are rising against these
conditions, and the following clipping
from the Melbourne "Argus" of the 16th
ult. is very explanatory:—

Parliament, nominally invested with
supreme power, is impotent while lump-
sums in Geelong cripple public agencies
and prevent the handling of wheat on
Looking around for a way out, the
wharf. The wheat had reached Geelong
with the aid of men who worked
lawfully and patriotically. The lumpers
do not care for the law nor for Parlia-
ment nor for patriotism. They set up
a law for themselves, and seek by every
means in their power to impose that law
upon others. They are revolutionaries.
They act against established government
as openly and as effectively as
though they stood on the wharves with
fixed bayonets or loaded rifles. To them
the verdict of the people, given in a
constitutional manner, has no signifi-
cance. There are arbitration laws which
they defy; there are wages boards
decisions which they flout. Ministers,
members of Parliament, and judges are
disregarded as though they had no sig-
nificance. Even servants of that de-
partment most intimately associated
with the prosecution of the war cease
work, and like the irreconcilable fac-
tions in revolutionary Russia, seek to
dictate the terms upon which they will
resume. The representatives of the law
may cajole, may denounce, and may
threaten, but they are powerless to pun-
ish. The forces outside the law proceed
on their own way. If the arbitration
law pleases them they avail themselves
of its advantages; if it displeases them
they flout it.

After reading the foregoing, one won-
ders what could be done if the workers
were only organised industrially.

If the transportation industry was only
linked up into one union the workers
would have a power which is mightier than
kings, and greater than armies.

But the "Argus" in the article men-
tioned is responsible for pointing out to
the workers the might they possess, so it
is now up to Billie to turn his Bengal
tiger loose in Collins street.

JAMES POPE.

Capitalism and Morality.

One of the chief functions of the propa-
gandists is to destroy the belief held by
the great mass of workers, in the absolute
nature of capitalist morality. Whilst such
a belief exists the work of revolutionary uni-
onism is sorely handicapped, and the fight
against capitalism weakened in direct ratio
to the intensity of the belief.

Every ruling class has sought to impose its
interpretation of moral tenets upon the sub-
ject class, and every ruling class has just-
ified its overlordship by appealing to the pre-
valent moral code.

Moral codes and their interpretation change
with changing circumstances. There can be
no absolute morality; that is to say, no moral
law had yet been discovered that can be uni-
versally applied. Many philosophers have
attempted the impossible. Kant enjoined us
to act in such a way "that the maxim of our
action would be a law of universal applica-
tion," but the trouble with our over-wise
philosophers is "that they ought to find a
solution to the problem without understand-
ing the fact of class warfare.

Morality has its roots in earthly conditions,
and is no product of a divine brained prophet.
Of course it may be said that the command-
ments, etched on stone and delivered to the
children of Israel, some few thousand of
years ago by Moses, still holds good. Dur-
ing those years various economic systems
have held sway, and consequently the argu-
ment above adduced falls to the ground.

Those who speak in such manner must
remember the interpretation placed upon the
commandments. "Thou shalt not kill" is a
plain, direct command. Can it and is it
universally applied?

The desires of ruling class determine the ap-
plication of this moral tenet. "Thou shalt not
steal." There you have it, plump and plain.

But such a command can only prevail if the
system of society prevailing is one based on
private property. Under tribal communism
where all wealth was held in common it would

have as much meaning as principle to be a
politician.

But what is stealing, anyway? Can it be
defined? Capitalist lawyers define it, but
only in such manner as to safeguard the in-
terest of "Big Binky, Fat and Co." If a work-
ing plug takes a loaf of bread without handing
over the counter a piece of silver—well, that's
stealing. So says the boss. Stealing means
taking something without giving an equal
return. But what about when the Boss takes
the product of eight hours' labor, and returns
only the product of two hours to the laborer.
That's not stealing. Oh, dear no! That is
merely appropriating the reward for organ-
ising ability. At least so says the boss, and
he ought to know.

To be candid, stealing is only stealing when
it endangers the capitalist rule.

"Thou shalt not steal" is another moral
tenet interpreted in a manner to suit the
interests of the ruling class.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against
thy neighbors." The application of this is
universal (?) except when it means allowing
agitators to roam the country at will; then
lying becomes highly moral, righteous and
just.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery," but if
war babies are in big demand—well—excep-
tion can be taken to the command. Fellow-
workers, for years the capitalist class have
taught through their paid teachers those ideas
that have helped to keep you in subjection.
Any action taken by the workers to further
their own interests is morally bad from the
standpoint of the boss.

In future, we, of the working class, must
interpret morality to serve our own class in-
terest. That action which will strengthen
our organisation, increase our class-conscious-
ness for us is good and moral, no matter
what Big Binky and his circle may think
about it, and any action that tends to weak-
en our positions as a class is for us highly
immoral, and must be tabooed.

GEE BEE.

Oh! Slaves of Labor!

O, slaves of these laborious years,
O, freemen of the years to be,
Shake off your blind and selfish fears,
And hail the truth that makes you free;
Arise from sleep; the night is gone;
Across the world the day is breaking,
And whosoever slumbers on
Will suffer soon a rude awaking.

O, think of those who bravely bore,
Through persecution, death and shame,
The flag of freedom on before
That you that heritage might claim!
What is a dream for which they died?
Lo! its fulfilment we inherit!
Nor need we mourn that they are dead,
If we who live can breathe their spirit.

Yet, patience, brothers! If the power
Of tyrants tread you down to-day,
Be sober in your triumph-hour,
And act a nobler part than they!
To your oppressors comes at length
The dreaded day of retribution;
Deal wisely, therefore, with your strength,
O, giants of the Revolution.

Free Speech.

Make no laws whatever concerning speech,
and speech will be free; so soon as you make
a declaration on paper that speech shall be
free, you will have a hundred lawyers
proving that "freedom does not mean abuse,
nor liberty license"; and they will define and
define freedom out of existence." Let the
guarantee of free speech be in every man's
determination to use it, and we shall have
no need of paper declarations. On the other
hand, so long as the people do not care to
exercise their freedom, those who wish to
tyrannise will so do; for tyrants are active
and ardent, and will devote themselves in
the name of any number of gods, religious
and otherwise, to put shackles upon sleeping
men.

—VOLTAIRINE DE CLEYRE.

Every attempt to gag free expression of
thought is an unsocial act, a crime against
society. That is why judges and juries who
try to enforce these laws make themselves
ridiculous. It is very hard for the robber to
convince his victims that he is acting in their
behalf and for their good. Is there no paral-
lel between the gag of the burglar and the
gag of the law? Why does the burglar use
the gag? It is because he wants to get away
with your goods, and he does not want you
to make an outcry and call the neighbors.
He knows that he cannot convince you by
argument that he is entitled to the goods
and that it is really in your best interest to
pass them over to him. Capitalism holds up
the toilers; it robs them of the result of their
labor and is enjoying life to the fullest on
the result of its plunder. Naturally, it doesn't
want to be deprived of its special privilege;
therefore it puts the gag of the law in the
mouth of anyone who attempts to make an
outcry.

JAY FOX.

WE COME.

Tremble before your chattels, lords of the
scheme of things!
Fighters of all earth's battles ours is the
might of kings!
Guided by seers and sages, the world's heart
beat for a drum,
Snapping the chains of ages, out of the night
we come!
We are the workers and makers! We are no
longer dumb!
Tremble, O Shirkers and Takers! Sweeping
earth—we come!
Ranked in the world-wide dawn, marching
into the day!
The night is gone, the sword is drawn, and
the scabbard is thrown away!

—JOHN G. NEIHARDT.

THE WHOLE SECRET.

The man who had made a huge fortune
was speaking a few words to a number of
students at a business class. Of course, the
main theme of his address was himself.

"All my success in life, all my tremendous
financial prestige," he said proudly, "I owe to
one thing alone—pluck, pluck, pluck!"

He made an impressive pause here but the
effect was ruined by one student, who asked
impressively:

"Yes, sir; but how are we to find the right
people to pluck?"

I.W.W. IN AMERICA.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN.

May, 1917.

With the acquittal of Fellow Worker Thomas Tracy, and the final release of seventy-two other members who were held in gaol at Everett, Washington, the Everett prisoners' defence is now a matter of history, with the exception of Fellow Workers Edith Frenette and James Johnson, who are still held for trial under bond. If the defence and protection of innocent members can be proclaimed a victory, then a remarkable victory has been achieved in the courts of Seattle, Washington. The class line was clearly drawn in this battle. The Lumber Trust, Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, Commercial Clubs and Chambers of Commerce, not only of the State of Washington, but of the entire Pacific Coast, hired prosecutors, perjured witnesses and detectives from distant cities. On our side, Thomas Tracy, the working man, supported by the Industrial Workers of the World, of which he was a member.

"Not Guilty" was the verdict rendered in the case of Thomas Tracy, but someone is guilty for the murders that occurred at Everett. Five, and perhaps more, members of the I.W.W., are cold in death, while many are seriously wounded. Herbert Mahler, secretary of the Everett Prisoners Defence Committee, writes that Fellow Worker Joe Ghilezani has to be taken back to the hospital for a second operation to extract a bullet from his leg.

In summing up, this is what the exploiters of Labor are to account for. The murder of men who were guilty of nothing except trying to improve the conditions of their class; the maiming and killing of others; the long imprisonment of many innocent persons; cruel, as which would have been resorted to only by Apache Indians. These indignities and outrages we will never forget. Organize, to strip the exploiters of their arrogance and power. This will be done only when the working class is in control of the industries.

The Everett Prisoners Defence Committee have conducted the work in hand in a most commendable way, which will be appreciated by the entire organization. A report of the receipts and disbursements will be published and sent out from Seattle at an early date.

Metal Mine Workers Industrial Union, 490, in conference at Virginia, Minnesota, adopted the following by-law—

"Section 1, in case of strike on any range of the mining industry that Industrial Union 490 has jurisdiction over, shall be under control of the membership of the respective union, and no organisers shall be allowed to have a vote in any matter pertaining to the strike. A strike committee shall be elected immediately after the strike is declared, and, if possible, all members shall be in good standing in the I.W.W. Section 2, Defence Committee shall consist only of members of Industrial Union No. 490, and no organiser shall have a voice or vote in its affairs except through the general secretary-treasurer of the I.W.W."

Had a similar by-law been in effect at the time of the Mesaba Range strike, it is possible that our 3 fellow workers would not be in the Minnesota penitentiary at this time.

I have received the following telegram from Tom Mooney—

"San Francisco again outrages justice. Rena Mooney trial started to-day. Criminal scoundrels, Fickert, Cunah staff, prosecuting innocent woman and defending perjured Oxma. Take warning. More underworld perjury jury bribing will take place to save their political social standing. Chamber Commerce solidly behind prosecutions. Railroad conspiracy against labor. Real fair trial impossible under these circumstances. Monster demonstrations protest meetings should be held immediately. Exert best efforts to prevent further prosecutions our case by these criminals. New trial for myself yet undecided in spite of glaring perjury exposure. This is real danger ahead for defence. Enlarge elite telegram. Give some direct possible publicity."

To which I sent the following reply— "Your message will go to I.W.W. press, all languages. Thousands of delegates will convey the words to the working class. Your splendid efforts for labor are not forgotten. Perjury and bribery cannot catch you in our estimation. Be of good spirits. Yourself, Rena and others will be liberated. Have sent some money. Will send more."

H. L. Varney and Manuel Ray, organisers for M.T.W. No. 200 with forty other members, were arrested while holding a peaceable meeting at 152 Main street, Buffalo, New York. All but ten have been released. There are not serious cases, but your attention is called to them because there is no telling what may develop at Erie.

The strike of the Log Drivers in Idaho and Montana is still on. Send funds to James Rowan, 424 Lindelle Block, Spokane, Wash.

Membership book, General Number 171162 is lost. Finder will please return to this office.

Joe Fox, a member of 575-2, has been expelled. Found guilty of being a labor spy and detective.

Geo. B. Stone, a member of 574, has been expelled. Charges, disruption.

Secretaries of Industrial Unions are notified that every new member is entitled to a six months' subscription to any I.W.W. paper that he may select.

After June 1st, direct all communications to General Headquarters, to 1001 West Madison street, Chicago.

West best wishes, I am

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
WM. D. HAYWOOD,
Gen. Sec. Treas. I.W.W.

SYDNEY LOCAL

— No. 2 —

403 SUSSEX STREET, CITY.

— ACTIVITIES —

MONDAY, 7.30 p.m., SINGING CLASS.
TUESDAY, 8 p.m., SPEAKERS' CLASS.
THURSDAY, 8 p.m., BUSINESS MEETING.
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—PROPAGANDA MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF CITY.
SUNDAY, 10.30 a.m., ECONOMIC CLASS.
SUNDAY, 3 p.m.—PROPAGANDA MEETING IN DOMAIN.
SUNDAY, 7 p.m.—PROPAGANDA MEETINGS BATHURST STREET AND OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY.
SUNDAY, 8 p.m.—LECTURE IN HALL.
BEST WORKING-CLASS LIBRARY IN SYDNEY.

ALL SLAVES WELCOME.

BOSS NOT ADMITTED.

TOM BARKER,

Sec. Treas.

BRISBANE LOCAL

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MEETINGS

Alternate Tuesdays—Business Meeting.
Alternate Tuesdays—Educational Class.
Friday, 8 p.m.—Outdoor Meeting, Market Square.
Sunday, 8 p.m.—Trades Hall, Lecture.
Literature Secretary,
W. TREMBATH.
Financial Secretary,
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ALL MEMBERS PASSING THROUGH ARE
INVITED TO LOOK IN GOOD LIBRARY.
— SLAVES WELCOME —

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Work and Wages.

(To the Editor).

In "Direct Action," of June 23rd, John Rawstrong says: "I wish to open up a discussion on the theory that an increase in wages is, or is not beneficial to our class."

In the previous issue I put forward two causes why the price of commodities went up in the last few years. Firstly, owing to the decrease in the value of gold, owing to new and improved methods being used in its production. Secondly, owing to the big demand temporarily for commodities on account of the war.

The prices of commodities going up forced the workers to demand an increase in wages, and to that extent it is beneficial to them.

In answer to this Mr. Rawstrong said: "I do not believe that we as a class benefit by an increase in wages."

In the face of this argument, allow me to ask three questions. First, are the two theories outlined in my article wrong? Second, if wrong, explain why prices went up in the last few years. Third, explain how the workers would be just as well off by receiving £2 8s after the cost of living went up to £2 2s 6d.

John Rawstrong says: "I claim that Marx drew his conclusions from an assumed premise, that commodities are produced in quantities. (Variable, I take it, and not fixed). The above is taken from "Value, Price and Profit" which, by the way, is not an elaborate analysis of the process of capitalist production, but a critique of certain arguments put forward by Citizen Weston."

The opening remarks of Marx are: "Citizen Weston's argument rested, in fact, upon two premises. Firstly, that the amount of national production is a fixed thing, a constant quantity or magnitude. In answer Marx said: 'Now, his first assertion is evidently erroneous.' Year after year you will find that the value and mass of production increase."

This within itself should be sufficient to put Weston out of court. But Marx, anxious to consider his problem from every standpoint, said: "But suppose the amount of national production to be constant instead of variable. Even then, what our friend Weston consider a logical conclusion would still remain a gratuitous assertion. If I have a given number, say eight, the absolute limits of this number do not prevent its parts from changing their relative limits. If profits were six and wages two, wages might increase to six and profits decrease to two, and still the total amount would still remain eight. Thus, the fixed amount of production would by no means prove the fixed amount of wages. How then does our friend Weston prove this fixity? By asserting it."

Poor Marx is again upon one of those rambles of his, which, strange to say, all Marx's critics find out when he (Marx) tells them so. John Rawstrong is no exception to the usual, for he evidently has had the necessity to find out that the amount of production is not fixed as stated by Citizen Weston, but that it is variable, after Marx told Citizen Weston that the idea was an "assertion."

"Suppose now that the workers demand an increase in wages. . . . The medium of exchange being the connecting links (between master and slave) which can be raised to any magnitude and still the relative value remain the same."

How and why is the medium of exchange raised? You do not prove it from your statement, but rather prove that the prices of commodities have gone up 100 per cent. and the medium of exchange has remained constant.

"If the workers were to demand two pounds instead of one, the capitalists would then raise his price to two." To follow this argument to its logical conclusion, the ups and downs of the prices of commodities are accounted for by the ups and downs of the wages paid to the working class. This being so, would Mr. Rawstrong please explain how it was possible in England for the years of 1849 to 1859 for the agricultural workers to receive a rise in wages equal to 40 per cent., and wheat, the principal agricultural product of England, to fall from £3 for the years 1858 to 1848, to £2 10s for the years 1849 to 1859?

If the raising of the price of commodities depends upon the will of the capitalists, why, we ask, does the capitalist fight against a rise in wages? Why do the houses spend thousands of pounds in the Arbitration Courts to keep wages down? When the workers go for a 1s 7d day rise in wages, why does the boss not say: "Here, my men, take a £1 rise and don't come worrying me again for a few years," if he can pass it on? If the price of commodities can be risen by the boss because wages have gone up, what is there to stop him from rising the price of commodities before a rise takes place? If a rise in wages is followed by a rise in the prices of commodities, then would a fall in wages be followed by a fall in the prices of commodities?

(To be continued).

MATADE.

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 centering 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.

LIST OF LITERATURE.

CAPITAL, Vol. I, II, and III, by Karl Marx. Price 8 shillings per volume, posted.
POSITIVE OUTCOME OF PHILOSOPHY, by Joseph Dietzgen. A world-renowned work. Price 4s 6d.
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. Mack—Received. Thanks. Appear next week.

S.P.Q.—The date for the next Trade Union Conference is fixed for Saturday, July 14th. P.O.L.—It has nothing to do with the I.W.W.

A.T.—Received your screed, but much time and trouble would have been saved if you were to send us along "The Book of Kings," by Morrison Davidson, from which you copied.

T.Q.—No; definitely no.

A. E. Brown.—Received. Thanks. Appear next week.

George A.—Received. Good.

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