

DIRECT ACTION



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ONE PENNY

"Who Pays For Strikes"

Under the above caption "The Sun," of October 16, takes the Employers' Federation to task for implying in its annual report that employers lose more by strikes than the workers.

"The Sun" quotes figures to show that in Australian industries, after prices of raw material, light and fuel, and interest on land, plant, and buildings, etc., have been met, the nett profit does not exceed 10 per cent. of the value of the total output, while wages amount to 20 per cent. Hence, concludes the "Sun," if the workers are told (though falsely), that while they lose 10/- a day, the employer loses 20/-, they will flatter themselves with the futile belief that a big strike will give them victory in the battle of purses.

What strikes one here is not the loose and sloppy reasoning of "The Sun," scribe, though that is obvious enough, but the fact that the theory of surplus value is virtually admitted. The 10 per cent "clear profit" (what a shame it is not more!), which it is admitted the bosses draw from industry, after all expenses of production have been met—where did it come from? It is a value which the workers produced, but did not get; and just here we may inform "The Sun," that while this unpaid product remains a thousandth part of 10 per cent., strikes and other manifestations of the war for its possession are inevitable.

We are concerned here, however, in pointing out the absurdity of the argument that the individual worker, as "The Sun" infers and would have us believe, loses more through a strike than his employer. Let us say a hundred men are employed. A hundred strikers, therefore, according to the figures quoted by "The Sun," lose 20 per cent. of a certain quantity of value, or, in other words, 20 per cent. each; the employer loses 10 per cent., and lo, the genius on "The Sun" concluded that 20 per cent. of a given quantity is greater than 10 per cent. of the same quantity!

The capitalist press, if it suited its purpose, would even try to make the workers believe that two and two are half a dozen, or that a part is greater than the whole. It is from this kind of reasoning we are informed further on in the same article that Sabotage is unsound, because it is based upon the principle that "Capital surrenders to Labor because it is losing money." . . . It is wise for the worker to remember that in this form of the game with the sabots (i.e., coming out on strike) the boss kicks him harder than he kicks the boss. Nowadays, French workers, we are told, recognise the truth of this, as they "advocate the sabot without the strike." To which we say, hear, hear!

Although, as demonstrated above, the boss loses from a hundred to a thousand times more than the individual worker by a strike (the proportion depends upon the size and "up-to-dateness" of the industry), it is, nevertheless true that, while the worker suffers to any extent, something more scientific for "kicking the boss's inside out of him," as "The Sun" has it, should be devised. Which is why the I.W.W. is grateful to "The Sun" for bringing this point of striking on the job so prominently



The Humorous Side of National Registration and the Wealth Census.

Will Dyson in London "Herald"

mentally and forcibly before working-class readers.

Having congratulated "The Sun" on the question of tactics, we are now sorry to have to take the liberty of giving it an elementary lesson on economics.

"Sabotage is a weapon which reacts upon the workers in that it raises the cost of production, and therefore, prices." This is, in effect, the concluding portion of this weird and contradictory epistle.

This contention might be answered by merely asking "The Sun" a simple question: If prices are a test of working-class prosperity, why is it that in those countries where prices are low the workers are no better off (in most cases they are worse off), than in the countries where high prices obtain?

While "The Sun" is ruminating on this little conundrum, we want to hasten on with our promised lesson.

Prices are limited by value and regulated by competition. The value of an article is determined by the amount of labor socially necessary for its production. Prices fluctuate, sometimes above and sometimes below, this value, but in the long run these fluctuations balance each other, for the sum total of prices cannot exceed the sum total of values. That would be merely altering the names of things, and names alter nothing—not even when The Sun juggles with percentages.

Now, suppose Sabotage is employed in an establishment where 10 per cent. net profit is being made. The labor time in that establishment is greater than that required in other establishments of the same industry; but can the boss arbitrarily fix a price to meet his loss in this connection? Certainly not; competition by his fellow-exploiter across the street, or in the next State, or in Japan or Timbuctoo, compels him to put

his commodities on the market at a figure not exceeding market prices. His loss by Sabotage is, therefore, direct, and it comes from the spoil of 10 per cent. which the workers were previously robbed of.

That is why a philanthropic capitalist press warns the workers that Sabotage is bad for their health, and really doesn't hurt the boss. Oh no! Not much. Then, why squeal?

Objection may be taken, however, that if Sabotage is universally practised, prices must have a tendency to rise. The question already asked on this matter meets this objection; to which, however, may be added the remark, that when the workers are universally educated on the ethics of Sabotage, when they have lost all respect for capitalist property, and capitalist law, when their eyes are opened to the whole game of capitalist plunder, it will not then be a question of high prices or low

prices. It will rather be a question of how the boss is to get a living without his little item of 10 per cent., and how best to introduce prostitute scribes on the capitalist press to the business and of a pick or shovel.

BARKER DEFENCE FUND.

A meeting of subscribers to the above Fund, will be held at the I.W.W. Hall, 330 Castlereagh St., Sydney, on Monday, 25th inst., at 8 p.m., to discuss the question of the fine imposed at Barker's trial. Action decided upon will be advertised in the following issue of "Direct Action," to give subscribers who cannot be present an opportunity of forwarding objections, if any.

J. MORGAN,
Sec. Defence Committee.

Do you know more about the war in Europe than the war on the job? Which affects you most?

Direct Action

Our Standpoint.

"Stickers" and
a Story.

Racial Antipathy.

Innisfail, N. Q.



OFFICIAL ORGAN

Of the

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF
THE WORLD.

(Australian Administration).

Office—330 Castlereagh St., Sydney
Australia.

MANAGER: E. A. GIFFNEY.

HEADQUARTERS I.W.W. (Australia):
330 CASTLEREAGH ST., SYDNEY.GENERAL HEADQUARTERS—
164 W. Washington St., Chicago,
Ill., U.S.A.The Why of a
Six Hour Day.

In capitalist society, there is at any given moment a certain number of jobs to be filled. In carrying out the work entailed it is required that a certain number of workers should be employed for a given number of hours per day. Meanwhile, a number of unemployed are tramping from job to job in an endeavor to find a master.

Though no individual worker is continuously unemployed, yet it is true that the unemployed problem has always been a characteristic of the capitalist system.

The number of men who have gone from this country to the war, without leaving any apparent shortage in the labor market, while production has been practically kept up to its former level, shows the large amount of unemployment which must prevail even during what the capitalist press calls prosperous periods.

It is no concern of the workers whether this or that capitalist can afford to meet the extra outlay of variable capital—that is, wages—which a six-hour work day would entail. The fact is indisputable that of the values produced in this country from year to year, the workers who create those values receive only one-fifth. Yet we are frequently told by the capitalists and their economic and political spokesmen, that the reason of the chronic condition of poverty in which the great mass of the workers find themselves, is because "there is not enough to go around."

The capitalists appropriate the good things of the social breakfast table, hand a lean morsel to their pleading slaves, and then placidly excuse their own greediness on the plea that "there isn't enough to go around." This is the kind of political economy that is at present being forced down the workers' throats.

It is essential that workers should recognise that if they are to gain an increasing proportion of the products of their labor, it can only be accomplished by continually decreasing their working hours.

A six-hour day will have the following effects:—

(1) It will enable the worker to have more leisure, whereby he will be in a position to improve his intellectual faculties.

(2) It will distribute the jobs available at a given moment more equitably amongst the workers as

The recent stink created in Parliament over the payment of members' expenses, who were engaged in the late recruiting campaign, reminds one forcibly of Dr. Johnson's definition of Patriotism. It is easy to be a good and loyal citizen on a couple of quid a day. The workers should now be able to judge at its true value the perverted oratory of the paid patriots on the street corners. The assumed indignation of the politicians who caused the row is not likely to deceive anybody. Jealousy, because of their exclusion from the "beau monde" had more to do with their protests than any virtues of honesty they themselves possess. The question occurs: Why are men jailed for making statements likely to prejudice recruiting when the New South Wales politicians are allowed to be at large? The clique of rooks and crooks behind Holman should never see the outside walls of a prison if justice were not as scarce a commodity in New South Wales as water is in hell.

The "Navy," the organ of the man with the bowyangs, is publishing a series of interesting articles on "Eugenics." It would be much better if the navvies and their paper created an agitation for conditions on the job somewhat approaching a healthy and reasonable standard. How can a navvy in his filthy dug-out practice hygiene, and what does he want to know about Eugenics anyhow?

The "Labor Call" of October 7th says:—"At a special meeting of the Naval Base branch of the Australian Workers' Union, held on Tuesday, September 28th, at the Naval Base, a resolution was carried to the following effect:—"That this branch, as workers, condemn the action of the Holman Labor Government in casting into prison Tom Barker, and consider that if his sentence is just, 60 per cent. of the workers of Australia should be placed with him, and we, as Labor supporters, ask the Government to extend to him Australian justice." At a meeting of members of the No. 2 Camp branch, A.W.U., held on the 29th ult., the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That this branch of the A.W.U. notes with great concern the attitude of the court in meting out such drastic punishment to Mr. T. Barker, a man who has had the courage of his convictions; and, furthermore, we call on the Labor party to immediately move in the matter if it wishes to redeem itself in the eyes of the workers of Australia."

The Sydney "International Socialist" accused the former editor of this paper of endeavoring to smash the socialist movement in Australia. What an absurdity! There is no socialist movement to smash.

a whole, thus relieving competition for jobs, and raising the standard of working class comfort.

(3) With less competition in the labor market, it will place the working class less in a position of dependence, and will thus be a powerful lever in the direction of increasing wages, bettering conditions on the job, etc.

(4) The relative wage—that is, the proportion between what he produces and what he receives—will have increased, thereby lessening the power, influence, and domination of the master class.

(5) It will wipe out the meanest of all exploiters, the small capitalist who "can't afford it," thus centralising the means of production, and therefore making concerted action on the part of the workers possible in industrial warfare.

(6) With educated and intelligent workers as a result, it would hasten the day when the One Big Union of the working class would take over industry, to be run in the interests of workers and not of idlers.

We shearing men are a nomadic lot. We blow, as it were, wherever the wind of employment listeth. During the course of my recent travels in search of a master, I spent a night in that town which has the misfortune to be represented by the chief villain of the N.S.W. Labour Party; and what more natural than, in my peregrinations of the evening, I should seek to counteract the evil effects thereof, with the aid of that quiet, but effective means of getting in the dope, namely "stickers."

The office-window of the local rag I found to be decorated with a medley of war cartoons, recruiting posters, and belated war reports, and, having an eye for the artistic, I sought to relieve its monotony by placing thereon a few of the aforesaid stickers. On passing the office next morning, I was attracted by a bareheaded old fellow, minus a coat, who, I surmised, was the Annanias responsible for the rag. He held a large, open pocket-knife in one hand, and was gesticulating in a strangely wild manner in front of the window. He seemed in danger of doing himself, or some of those around him—for a small crowd had already collected—some serious injury.

My labours of the previous evening had escaped my memory. "Ah!" I thought, some moving picture actors," for the old chap was contorting his face in a manner with which the picture comedies have made us familiar. But, on looking round for the camera, I found my surmise to be wrong. I was puzzled, and drew near. Somehow, I felt sorry for the old chap; he seemed so uncomfortable.

His grey moustache protruded at an angle of forty-five degrees, and his face had taken on a purple hue. He was puffing and blowing at a great rate, but at times he would stop breathing, and a hoarse gurgle would come from low down his throat. In a vague way he reminded me of an internal combustion engine that missed fire occasionally.

"What—what's wrong?" I asked, uncertainly.

He turned abruptly toward me.

"What's wrong?" he gasped, repeating my question in a manner which suggested that he thought me the most ignorant fool in the State. "Look!"

He swung the podgy old hand which held the knife across the window in my direction.

I looked at the knife.

There were no bloodstains on it, as I began to dread. It was a large one of its kind, but, otherwise it was quite an ordinary knife. Then noting that his gaze was directed towards the window, I looked there, but failed to observe anything likely to produce such painful excitement. My stickers were there all right, but they appeared to me to brighten up an otherwise sordid aspect.

Noting my look of sympathetic astonishment, he seemed to lose patience with me for my stupidity. Stepping towards me, he grasped me unceremoniously by the arm, and hauled me in front of the window. Fearing the worst, I eyed the beautiful curve of his corporation with malicious intent, and prepared to punch hard before a blow could fall. His intentions towards me were quite pacific, however.

"Read that," he commanded, placing a finger on the sticker on the right. I swear I did not laugh, I have had that cough for years. I obeyed obligingly. "Don't sear on the unemployed by working hard, etc., etc." I read in a loud voice, for the crowd was now quite a large one. The well-dressed and fat spectators muttered angrily, a ragged old chap with a swag gave forth a chuckle of pleasure.

"Damned good advice, mate! Damned good advice!" he said. Then, morosely, "I've been humming my bloody tucker for three months."

The old editor's feet beat a vicious tattoo on the pavement. "Good advice, you fool; good advice!" he screamed. "Why! They'll have my printer doing only half his work next, and, and—" he spluttered with righteous indignation. "And I'll have to put on another man. I'll fix the soundrels. I'll fix 'em," and with a threatening gesture with the knife, he advanced upon the offending stickers. In a few seconds they lay in fragments on the pavement; then procuring a broom from the office, he swept them into the gutter. Shouldering his broom with a gesture of finality, he assumed a martial air, and marched pompously into the office.

A.J.W.

In organising all workers into One Big Union, the chief difficulty lies in racial antipathy. This antipathy has an influence upon the relations of the races which is something to be reckoned with, and may prove to be the chief obstacle in the harmony of the whites, browns, and yellows of the genus homo.

Personal egotism always tends to make a difference between individuals into something appearing to be a sign of superiority to members of opposite races; thus we find the white worker thinking himself superior to the yellow, and the yellow worker thinking himself superior to either white or black; whereas they are all on the same economic footing, being victims, or possible victims, of the capitalist exploiter, who is crafty enough to use racial differences to promote dissension and check, if not prevent, the world wide union necessary for the existence of a stable, united and happy society.

One thing favorable to the promotion of united action between the races is the intensely practical nature of the bulk of the "coloured" races, who, if shown the possibility of attaining economic freedom, and a practical way of doing so, may be depended upon to make every effort and any sacrifice to attain their objective.

On the side of the European worker there is required some restraint, which may be easily exercised, if it be constantly borne in mind that all workers, of whatever race, have a common objective which can only be attained by united and direct action on the part of all victims of the present system of exploitation.

J. Z. JONES.

ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL No. 6.
HALL, LANE ST., BOULDER,
W.A.

Wednesday Evenings, in Hall—Class Meeting.

Friday Evening, Boulder Post Office—Propaganda Meeting.

Saturday Evening, Kalgoorlie—Propaganda Meeting.

Sunday Morning, 10.30 a.m., Hall—Business Meeting.

Sunday Afternoon, Keane's Goldfields Hotel, Athletic Club, at 2.30—Lecture.

Sunday Evening, Boulder—Propaganda Meeting.

Good Library at Hall. All Reds are invited to dig in and make Industrial Unionism the Topic of the Day.

F. H. LUNN.

Push the sale of "Direct Action." The boss loves it.

Doings at the Sugar Mills.

The season's crushing at Goondi Mills has been marked by unusual activity of the workers. A number of enlightened slaves have at least, partially, succeeded in raising the worker to a truer realization of the position of master and man.

At the outset of the crushing, the officials of the A.W.U. endeavored to debar the Japanese worker the right to live, but without success.

In the two adjoining mills, South Johnstone and Mourilyan, the workers, without the sanction of the A.W.U. officials, succeeded, by direct action in gaining an increase of wages and other concessions.

The Goondi workers sought to follow the example. With the complete solidarity of all sections, including Japanese, they were about to use the same methods of direct action, when the officials of the A.W.U. succeeded in nullifying their power, with the result that the conditions remained unaltered. The worker who represented the A.W.U. at the mill, however, now finds himself looking for a job elsewhere.

The outcome is that the workers are clamoring for a more serviceable and truer organisation. It only needs examples like this to bring the workers to a realisation of the ineffectiveness of their former tactics.

T. HEALY.

Promises!

Oh, they just wave a flag or they just sing a song,

And the workers come rushing fast through upon throng.

They just promise medals, they just promise stars,

And oh; but the workers a-rush to the wars.

For years they have fooled them, have moulded their thought,

With lies from the pulpit—from leaders they've bought,

And oh! to this falseness what gain doth attend!

Tha' slaves leave their children—their masters defend,

But we who have knowledge refuse to be fooled,

And we've only laughed while the masters have "sooled."

And we long and we hope, and we wait for the day,

When we'll sweep those damned scabs clean out of our way.

—A. J. WALLACE.

I. W. W. Preamble.

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 centreing 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 wages 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 everyday 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.

Will Ford and Suhr be Freed?

Subscribers: Please Note.

The Decay of the Craft and it's Union.

(A. Mack.)

The article following is taken from the "San Francisco Examiner." Ford and Suhr were sentenced to life imprisonment on a trumped-up charge of murder. They were two of several thousand workers engaged to pick hops on the Durst Ranch, Wheatland, Cal., on August 3, 1913. The degrading and filthy conditions on this ranch are said to be indescribable. A strike occurred; a drunken gang of deputies were called out; a peaceable meeting of the strikers was in progress, when they were, without provocation, fired upon by a deputy named Anderson, who, by the way, has never been brought to account for his action. In the resultant disturbance, one deputy was killed, several strikers were also murdered, and dozens of women and children strikers were wounded. Ford and Suhr were prominent in the strike, and, of course, were marked down for revenge by the masters and their courts from the very first.

It remains to be seen whether the solidarity and direct action of the working class in the U.S.A., as well as throughout the English-speaking world, do not prove stronger than the master class of California, their hirelings, and their murderers.

Thousands of the "stickers" referred to below, have been posted up all over Australia, and to our knowledge have been circulated wherever Californian canned goods are likely to find a market.

Whether the I.W.W. is responsible for the fires in California or not, this paper holds the opinion that it would be better that all the ill-gotten wealth of the master class should go up in smoke, than that two working-class rebels should rot in gaol for the "crime" of refusing to work under conditions that would make a dog vomit.

FIRE TRAIL FORD-SUHR I.W.W. FIGHT.

Burning of Buildings Follow Circulation of Stickers Declaring That Slayers "Must Be Free."

Industrial Workers' Organisation Starts World-Wide Boycott on California Canned Products.

Letter From Sacramento Headquarters Tell Members to Keep on Job Until the Finish.

(By International News Service.) Sacramento, September 1.—Numerous incendiary fires, resulting in thousands of dollars of loss, have occurred in the grain fields and commercial establishments of the Sacramento Valley and Central California this summer. Currently these fires are attributed to the I.W.W. or itinerant members of the organisation throughout the valley.

The basis for the charge is the fact that hundreds of thousands of stickers covertly advocating reprisal for the life imprisonment of Ford and Suhr have been pasted on the various highways and byways of California, as well as abroad. Ford and Suhr are in Folsom prison for the murder of District Attorney E. T. Maxwell, of Marysville, in the Wheatland hopfield riots of August, 1913.

"We Don't Care." When asked if the I.W.W. were responsible for these incendiary fires, Secretary C. L. Lambert, of local No. 71, of the I.W.W. of Sacramento, said: "We don't care what the papers print about the organisation in regard to incendiary fires. But Ford and Suhr must be free."

The first petition of character for the pardon of Ford and Suhr was presented to Governor Johnson, in February—about six months ago. This petition was prepared by Attorney Maxwell McNutt, of San Francisco. In March Governor Johnson met labor leaders, I.W.W. members, and others in the Mills building in San Francisco, who urged that Ford and Suhr be pardoned.

Supervisor Andrew J. Gallagher, now candidate for Mayor of San Francisco,

who arranged for the meeting, espoused the cause of Ford and Suhr, declaring that "these men are innocent of any crime," and that the only charge justly lodged against them was that they were agitating." Gallagher's position was endorsed by Paul Scharrnburg, member of the State Immigration and Housing Commission, and by Mrs. George Sperry, sister-in-law of W. H. Crocker, and representing the New Era League.

Statement is Issued.

Following this hearing, the Sacramento headquarters of the I.W.W. issued a circular letter, sent broadcast to "all local and camp delegates, Bulletin No. 64," which said in part: "The petition for pardon of fellow-workers Ford and Suhr was placed in the hands of Governor Johnson on March 5. What action he will take in the matter will very likely depend on your action during the coming summer on the job."

The letters told of a boycott declared on all California canned goods in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania, and of stickers posted all over these countries, stating that this boycott would remain until Ford and Suhr were released.

Stay on the Job.

The circular I.W.W. letter then continued:—"There is only one way that we can see to free these two innocent men, and that is for every member or sympathiser with the I.W.W. who still believes in justice to go out on the job this year, and in the years to come, as long as these two boys are in jail, with his or her mind made up that he or she will either shake hands with Ford and Suhr on the outside of Folsom prison gates or he will take a chance on saying 'Good morning, Herman,' and 'Good morning, Dick,' on the inside. 'But while all this is going on, don't forget that these two boys like to have a little chewing and smoking tobacco, also that there are lots of small bills to be met in this office for postage stamps, writing paper, and other things incidental to carrying on this fight for the release of those men.'"

Then began the sticker campaign, in which several hundred thousand stickers, according to Secretary Lambert of the Sacramento I.W.W., were sent out, most of them being distributed in California and the Eastern States, while thousands were sent to Australia and Great Britain.

These stickers, printed in red ink, read as follows: **FORD AND SUHR MUST BE FREE. Therefore a Boycott is on Against the Hopwads, Fruit Canners and all Ranching. Beware Especially of All Canned Goods Made in California.**

HAY HANDS ATTENTION.

Wages Per Day, \$2 or More and Board for 10 Hours or Less. Don't Forget Ford and Suhr on the Job.

As Long as Ford and Suhr Are in Prison Don't Stick Copper Nails or Tacks in Fruit Trees or Grape Vines, It Hurts Them.

As Long as Ford and Suhr are in Prison BEWARE OF ALL CALIFORNIA CANNED GOODS.

Widely Distributed.

When asked about these stickers, Lambert said:—"The stickers gotten out by the Wheatland hop-pickers' defence committee have been distributed throughout the entire English-speaking world, and have been translated, printed and distributed throughout all Europe by the revolutionary organisations of their respective countries."

"The sticker, which reads, 'As long as Ford and Suhr are in prison don't stick copper nails or tacks in fruit trees or grape vines,' was distributed only in the State of California, and was got out for this purpose."

"Some townhads had been overheard by someone talking of the harm that could be done in this manner, and we, being solicitous of the welfare of our masters' property, decided to put out this sticker, warning the worker of the damage that could be done in this way, and, as you will see by reading the sticker, warning them not to do anything like this."

Subscribers should note that now we have become a weekly, the yearly subscription to the paper will be four shillings; half-yearly, two shillings.

Those who have already subscribed will be supplied with a weekly copy until their subscription runs out, on the terms now prevailing.

If we are to continue as a weekly, it is imperative that all interested should immediately support the paper by sending their sub. at once, or renewing the old as soon as possible.

A little effort on the part of all members now, will obviate in the future those painful appeals for financial help which so often characterize revolutionary organs.

"Direct Action" is one of the very few working class papers that never looked back since its inception.

It depends upon YOU that its reputation in this direction shall not suffer in the future.

Remember, without a press all other propaganda is useless.

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PRESS FUND.

J. Lawrence, £1; "Amicus," 2/6; M. McCol, 5/-; W. Beatty, 1/-; Jas. Smith, 2/6; J. McDonald, 2/6; H. Peterson, 5/-.

The violation of Belgian neutrality, we are told, was the reason for Great Britain going to war. Great Britain always posed as a champion of small nationalities. Ireland, South Africa, Egypt, India, are cases in point. Now we have Britain violating Greek neutrality by landing an army at Salonica. What becomes of her great moral indignation over "poor Belgium"?

If the Greek Government resisted by force of arms, would Australians be told that they would be "protecting their country" by going to fight there? Germany had the same right in Belgium as Britain has in Greece, or Australians at the Dardanelles. And that is no right at all.

"But there are still among the working class those to whom one can tell nothing, and who are eternally expecting in an endeavor to destroy the profits of the master class."

Unionism had its birth in the recognition that group action was more effective than industrial effort. Practically the same psychology operated in the development of flocks and herds among the lower animals, and also towards the formation of tribes and clans among our early forebears.

Two thousand years ago the Romans had craft groups, called by them collegia, similar to our trade unions; and we need not be surprised to behold the English-speaking world, in another decade, celebrating the centenary of craft unionism, for it is bordering on 100 years since such organisations of workers were first legalised by the masters of England.

To be effective the Labor union must reflect the economic conditions of the workers. This, the early craft union did; every workman was in those times the master of his particular activity; he worked on the article through all its stages to completion. Usually, he was the owner of the tools with which he worked. The craft groups were distinct organisations and the men were classified in agreement with their finished product. The slogan of these unions was the well-known "Fair day's pay for a fair day's work;" not a very high ideal, we will admit, but when we consider the ignorance of the people, and the fact that class distinctions were less distinct then than now, and also that many of the workers had an opportunity of themselves becoming employers, we must not cavil at their moderate demands.

The advent and gradual improvement of the machine has completely banished the old methods of production. The workman is no longer an artist; he no longer makes the whole article; now he performs perhaps only one per cent. of the operations required for the completion of the article on which he labors. He has been reduced to and resembles a cog of the machine with which he works, performing the one uninteresting operation his whole life through. Thus, in the making of a pair of boots in efficient factories, the services of 115 workers are utilised, and these 115, working with modern machinery, can put out 20 times as many boots as 115 efficient workmen could do under the old plan.

The capitalist has found the advantage of a division of labor, not only in the increased output, but also in the fact that this machine process has split the workers into many groups in every industry. Where there are many divisions there is no solidarity among the workers the boss wins and smiles. Every industry to-day presents the sorry spectacle of several warring factions in its working ranks, each endeavouring to assert its right to be considered the aristocracy of that section, and each group fighting for itself alone, each trying to climb up by pulling the others down. Instead of being united, as of old, according to the nature of the finished product on which they sectionally work, they class themselves according to the lever or button they pull or press.

No wonder the boss believes in craft unionism to-day! No wonder he patronises the union picnics and the eight-hour celebrations! He likes unionism, and intends to help it all he can, for he sees in the class divisions it perpetuates among his workers a stronger proof of his own supremacy than any he could forge himself. He knows that craft unions are harmless to him; he recognises that they are the weapons of a dead generation; he can see that they do not express the economic demands of the working class; but when will the workers themselves see this? Intelligent workmen have for long been warning the craft unionists, and pointing out the urgent need for a more scientific organisation of their forces on industrial lines, but as yet little notice has been taken, or, at any

rate, little change has been made; whether this lethargy is more due to the ignorance of the toilers or to the power of fakir politicians and ignorant, self-hunting union officials, it is somewhat hard to determine, but certainly much of the crime lies at the doors of these latter groups, in whom the trusting worker has apparently undying confidence.

When they realised, a quarter of a century ago, that the craft unions failed to improve their living conditions, or even secure them a "fair day's pay for a hard day's toil," they were enlightened by the aspiring politicians in their ranks that it was because the craft union was like a bird trying to fly with one wing, and that before they could hope for success they must build a legislative wing, from among the workers, to assist the union wing. This they have recently done, but find that the bird still refuses to fly towards Paradise. Some say it is because the wing is not strong enough, while others assert the feathers are the wrong color, and some think the bird wants a new "constitution." This kind of strategy is known in craft union circles as "a step at a time."

While all this "step at a time" humbug is going on—to allow the fakirs to hold their jobs—the masters are building up their machine grip on the working class, and rubbing from the economic board any trace that may remain of the old crafts, upon whose existence the first craft unionists built their organisations.

That the old unions have failed to achieve anything for the workers in recent years, must be evident to the densest of the working class intellects. After nearly a century of craft effort, they have not yet succeeded in landing that beautiful ideal—"a fair day's pay, etc.," and we find them receiving less purchasing power now than they were 20 years ago. This is only as it can be, and the farther we go the quicker will be the backward step, for the craft union is so long obsolete that it is at present little better than a toy for the workers, it keeps them quiet, and gets them nowhere.

The only hope for the working class lies in and through the industrial unions. When they learn to so organise, and do their own fighting, instead of wasting time and energy in securing good jobs for others in the Parliamentary benches of Capital's Doghouse, they will be in a position to secure for themselves the full social results of their labor, which is the only "fair pay" for any work.

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITY.

Things are looking up a bit at Local No. 3. Now the cold weather is passing away, we have started our propaganda meetings once again. The crowd increases, paper sales are increasing, and altogether things have a brighter outlook. Our propaganda meetings are held every Sunday night at 7.30; also educational classes every Wednesday night.

C. H. BARRETT, Sec-Treasurer.

ADELAIDE READERS.

Can obtain copies of "Direct Action" and Industrialist Literature from Charlie Russell, bootmaker, Gibson-street, Bowden, Adelaide, S.A.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

For

"DIRECT ACTION."

Enclosed please find P.O. for £s. for which please send "Direct Action" for one year to the following address:—

Name.....

Address.....

Fill it in NOW!

State Socialism • Scabbery at Wonthaggi. Mittagong.

(To "Direct Action.")

The slaves of the State coal mine at Wonthaggi, Victoria, have been having a very trying time of late. Distress and hardships have made their marks upon the lives of the coalies, in that State-controlled town, discontent and strife is in the air, and there is rumor of strike.

The coal-miners are in a fog as to what methods they can adopt for the best, but it looks as if the Arbitration Court will be asked to settle their trouble for them. If the coal miners want to gain better conditions, they must leave all courts of law seriously alone, and resort to direct action on the job.

The spectacle of an Arbitration Court should make the working-class vomit with disgust. The safest and surest way to settle any dispute is by using direct action and sabotage. If the miners know what they want, why go to a judge to hear all about it?

The employees of the State mine are treated with the utmost contempt when they appeal to the Commissioners for better conditions. When asking for more wages lately, the general manager informed them that if they would work another shift every pay, they would get more money. What marvellous logic from a £40 a week boss!

It is a well-established fact that the longer the working-class toil the shorter is their pay. It is an economic law that whenever the working-class reduce the hours of toil their wages increase accordingly.

If the slaves of the coal-pit want more pay that will really be a material gain. There is only one way to do it, that is, by continually fighting for a reduction of the working-hours. It is the best concession the slaves can go for.

Last week-end fellow-worker Rancie visited Wonthaggi, and spoke to the coalies upon the I. W. W. and its methods and tactics. He exposed the fallacy of the Arbitration Court, and put up the argument for direct action and sabotage. He challenged the argument that more work would mean more pay, and explained how a shorter work day would mean a longer pay envelope. He put forth the form of organisation advocated by the I. W. W., and showed why it would be successful in industrial troubles, and explained why sectional unionism has failed, and will continue to fail.

Three very successful meetings were held. The interest and attention displayed, the pointed questions and pertinent discussion which followed each meeting, show that the slaves are beginning to think that something else wants doing besides passing motions. If only they would catch on to the methods and tactics of the I. W. W., success would be theirs.

It matters not what part of the great industrial army is at war with the boss, there is only one sure and speedy way to success, that is by organisation according to industry, fight the battle on the job, and use the weapons of direct action and sabotage.

Furthermore, the I. W. W. is not only engaged in fighting the every-day struggle with the master-class, but is organising itself to be able to run the industries when Capitalism shall be overthrown.

—DIGGER.

NOTICE.

Any member knowing the whereabouts of R. J. (Dick) Welch is requested to communicate with J. W. Welch, 144 Auburn-street, Goulburn.

"EXPIRED."

Subscribers who find a stamp "Expired," upon their paper, are notified thereby that their subscription will expire during the following month. That will give subscribers ample time to renew their subscriptions. Terms, 4/- per year, 2/- per half-year. Address, "Manager."

I wish to bring cutting enclosed, from the official organ of the R.W. and G.L.A. ("Navvy," 4th Oct.), under your notice, and point out to you the sort of men that we have got at the head of our union. I might say it has been a great shock to our members, and I have not the least doubt but our President and General Secretary will be called to account for it. I take my hat off to the 57 men who refused to be led by the nose to work with a scab, and to my mind, where there was one scab before, Rosser and Bodkin succeeded in adding 79 more. In answer to Rosser, I might state that we Union is on a better footing to-day than ever, and the labour market is not in such a bad state, as there is any amount of harvesting and other public works, where the men could get employment if the worst happened. The real reason Rosser and Co. do not want trouble is because they do not want to disturb the accumulated funds, but to conserve same for the payment of self and friends. I say, friends, because most of the officers were elected on a ticket issued by Rosser, to wit the Amalgamation ticket. I say, in conclusion, save us from our friends, and speed the day when the I.W.W. will be the only working-class association operating in this glorious old world of ours.—I am, yours for the O.B.U., "NAVY JACK."

P.S.—As I have to get my living at the above calling, I do not wish to be expelled, so I therefore ask you to withhold my name.

"MITTAGONG DISPUTE."

The dispute at the material yard, Mittagong, has been adjusted, and the men returned to work on September 27. The cause of this dispute was that during the ganger trouble, a strike occurred at the material yard, and a man named Wilson, who is engaged carting coal for steam purposes on the job, when asked to come out refused. When the ganger trouble was fixed up, the men at the material yard refused to return whilst he was on the job. Every effort was made to have him removed, but the Commissioners stated plainly that they were going to stick to him whatever happened. It was reported at one time that he drew his time and was leaving the job, but this was not true. A section of the men desired to strike and hang the job up, and much discussion ensued as to what action was to be taken. Organiser Marris and Lyons visited the job on different occasions, but no satisfactory settlement could be reached.

On Friday, Sept. 24, the President (W. Rosser) and General Secretary (G. C. Bodkin) visited Mittagong and Alpine, and held a meeting at No. 2 Alpine Camp. The President, in his speech, said that on no account would the Executive sanction a strike, and the only way to reach a settlement was to accept the Resident Engineer's terms that all men be reinstated and return to work on Monday, Sept. 27. In the President's opinion it would be most ill-advised to strike on such a matter, and he emphasised the fact that to strike in a period such as the present, was only courting defeat, and urged that a little common-sense should be used.

G. C. Bodkin (General Secretary), supported these views, and called attention to the critical period Labor was passing through and the financial embarrassment the country was in, and the fact that such works could be closed down definitely. Mr. Bodkin had interviewed Mr. Kendall, and he stated that on no consideration could he accede to the request asked for, but was prepared to start all men involved. Therefore, he advised the members under such difficulties to return to work.

On a vote being taken, the advice tendered by the President and General Secretary was carried by 79 to 57."

HARVESTERS!

Members striking out for the harvest fields should arm themselves with a supply of Subscription Cards for "Direct Action." Don't miss such a splendid opportunity for Propaganda.

Make the job last, if you don't want to join the unemployed.

A Good "Reason" The South African Hubbub.

The following is an excerpt from our contemporary, the "Maoriland Worker," dated October 6, 1915:

"The I.W.W. has been ten years in existence in America, having originated as the result of a huge Congress in 1905. To commemorate the birthday, a special number of 'Solidarity' was issued. It was an excellent production, and miles ahead of the usual I.W.W. journalistic standard. A perusal of its matter would really make the William-Joseph Fusion, of Maoriland, wonder why they had vetoed its admission into this country."

We have, therefore, learned at last why the boss objects to the I.W.W. Press in Maoriland. At last the cat is out of the bag. The Massey-Ward Government objects to the journalistic get-up of our papers. Perhaps we are not a good advertising medium for Messrs. Pat and Company, and maybe we are too prone to leave the clouds of Fabianism and the worship of G.B. Shaw, and get down to the mundane prosaic work of organising on the job. "The Maoriland Worker" is to be congratulated on surviving the ordeal. Its advertisements and reform dope serve a good purpose from the standpoint of the Employers' Association, which, despite all twaddle to the contrary, is the Government in New Zealand. The Massey-Ward fusion is only the other dummy in the Social Democratic Party's triennial shadow spar.

As for the I.W.W. press, it is not concerned so vitally with its journalistic excellence, as it is with propagating the ideas that will be of lasting use to the working class. And the fact that we have been debarred from entering the realms of the N.Z. Employers' Association and the "Maoriland Worker," is a sign at least, notwithstanding our "journalistic standard," that the working class understand the message that the I.W.W. has attempted to put before them in the pages of "Direct Action" and "Solidarity."

If the "Worker" had continued in the start that it made to propagate revolutionary industrial action on the part of the working class, the shorter work day, sabotage, and the limitation of the output, it might, to-day have depended on the working class for its support, instead of relying on the advertisements of the bosses of New Zealand.

The day when we contaminate our pages, even at the risk of regaining our "journalistic standard," with the gold of the slave driver, will be the day when the working class can count us out as being the allies of those who are the top-dogs. The "Worker" dare not teach the REAL philosophy of the working class, if it did so, it would be dead in a month.

When the I.W.W. can't run a paper without the boss's assistance we will do without it. And if the N.Z. boss don't want I.W.W. papers to be imported into N.Z., then we'll oblige them by publishing one in the country for them. And we will sacrifice willingly our ambition for a high journalistic standard, and the boss's money, in order to let the common or garden working stiff, know what we stand for and what we advocate.

TOM. BARKER.

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 243 William-street—Monday, 8 p.m., Business Meeting. Thursday, Propaganda Committee Meets.

Friday, 8 p.m.—Propaganda Meeting at South Melbourne Market. Saturday, 8 p.m.—Educational Lecture at Hall.

Saturday, 8 p.m.—Propaganda Meeting at Flinders Park (Yarra Bank). Library and Reading Room Open every night. Working-class Papers on file. Industrial Union Literature on sale. All rebels are asked to blow along and make themselves known. All slaves will be welcome.

J. LAWRENCE,

Secretary-Treasurer.

I. W. W. in N. Z.

Authorities Active.

News from New Zealand is to the effect that the business place of P. Josephs, of Wellington, also his private residence, were raided by the authorities in the search for mental dynamite in the shape of "Direct Actions."

Systematic search was made but nothing more harmful to the bosses' well-being than a few copies of "Mother Earth" could be discovered.

Josephs was arrested and detained all day in the "cooler" until 4 o'clock in the afternoon when he was released without any charge being placed against him.

Since Massey & Co.'s special law was enacted against "Direct Action" there is a greater demand in New Zealand for the paper than ever; and if the law remains in force for a year or two we hope to have a wider circle of readers in New Zealand than even in Australia.

MELBOURNE PROPAGANDA.

October 14.

Runcie, Clark, and myself visited, by invitation, the men at the military hospital (at present building), and dished out the O.B.U. goods to a pleased and satisfied audience; sold 5/- literature, song-books and "D.A.s." This job propaganda is the goods. Organising a thorough campaign this summer. You'll hear from Melbourne shortly. We are quietly sapping the foundations of capitalism (ignorance of the workers), and letting in some daylight on the O.B.U., the fair-dinkum one; no fakes, or "just as good" about the I.W.W.; it is the one and only. Saw Runcie and Clark off on Wednesday by 4.30 dog-boxes to Broken Hill. We'll hear from them in the Hill soon, I guess. Had a good economic class to-night. Professor Woolf in the chair. The giant Labor is moving. He rubs his eyes; he's straining the chains of craft unionism, and reaching for the I.W.W. club, and God help the heads when he gets it.—Yours in revolt, R. M. ROSE.

ORGANISATION NEWS.

F. W. Rancie, on his way through from Sydney to Broken Hill, visited Wonthaggi, where he conducted a series of three meetings. Great interest was manifested by the miners in that district, who have just recently had the usual treatment meted out to them from the Arbitration Court. We hope that, at some future date, other members of the organisation will be able to continue the work begun by F. W. Rancie.

Good work is being carried on for Industrial Unionism on the East-West Railway by members of the I.W.W. We are constantly receiving paper subscriptions and orders for literature from various parts of the line, a fact which only goes to show that the organisation is growing rapidly.

A series of meetings under the auspices of the I.W.W. are to be arranged for Sutherland District, New South Wales, by the Sydney Local. The workers in that part of the country are quite sick of the Labor Party, and craft unionism, and are anxious to hear a newer and better philosophy.

Good work is reported from various parts of New Zealand, where the boys, in spite of Massey-made laws, are propagating the ideas of the One Big Union, and a slower working pace. No wonder the rulers of N.Z. are rushing panic legislation through. "Those whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

Printed and Published on behalf of the Industrial Workers of the World, by John Hamilton, Chairman of Press Committee, 330 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

Notes from a Hobo.

After some of the slaves got fired from the Boulder, W.A., they made down to the agricultural districts for the harvest. I beat it from the Cross to Northam, and left I.W.W. dope and papers all along the line. At Northam, we fell in with some Swedish fellow-workers, and we put in good propaganda all the way to Gormaling; here we struck F. W. "Pie-man," and a couple of Swiss slaves.

If the master class keep us on the move this year, I.W.W. propaganda will begin to spread. When you meet a fellow-worker now, the first question he asks is, "Is Tom Barker still in goal?"

Some of the Federal Senators have large farms in this State. Nuff sed.

"THE KITTEN."

BARKER DEFENCE FUND.

In acknowledging sub from J. Wilson in our last issue, 1/- should have read £1.

A sub. of 1/- from J. Luitjens was also omitted.

Tom McMillan has sent in £3. Since the case concluded the following sums have been received and returned:—

Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Broken Hill, £1; Australian Meat Industry Employees' Union, Melbourne, £2 2s.; Amount previously acknowledged, £118 11s. 8d. Total of Fund, £122 12s. 8d.

A balance-sheet will be issued when expenses in connection with the case are finally wound up.

Industrial Efficiency on the job means prolonged holidays at both ends of the social scale. More holiday jaunts for the boss, and compulsory sight-gazing on the street corner for the working stiff.