

# One Big Union For the International Working Class



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ONE PENNY

## Strikes in Sydney.

Following upon the settlement of the Coal Lumpers' Strike, which resulted in some substantial concessions, the brewery employees struck for higher wages during the latter part of last week. Notwithstanding the scabbing inseparable from the present form of organisation, bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, etc., employed by the brewers, remaining at work, there is every indication at time of writing, of the brewery employees winning a complete victory if the spirit of solidarity continues amongst themselves. The bosses have already made an offer of an increase all round on the present rates, which has been turned down by the strikers. It is an encouraging sign that numbers of bar-men and barmaids have joined the strike, though not at first concerned in the dispute, and have seized the opportunity to put forward their own demands.

The strike would have been settled in the workers' favor by this time, if the spirit of industrialism prevailed, and all hands connected with the breweries, irrespective of trade or occupation, had assisted in completely tying up the industry. Fitters, carpenters, electricians, and others, may deem themselves to be genuine unionists in so far as they do not directly assist others to take the strikers' places, but inasmuch as they are assisting the bosses to keep the plants in order they are helping to defeat those on strike. When will the workers learn that in order to defeat the boss in these skirmishes, the blow must be quick, sharp, decisive, and complete? Not, at all events, while craft and sectional unionism exists.

The employees of the Commonwealth Portland Cement Co. struck work last Saturday night for higher wages. The bosses are squealing because the workers entered into an agreement over two and a half years ago, which does not expire till March, 1916. Of course, they forgot to guarantee at the time the agreement was made, that the purchasing power of wages would not depreciate by nearly fifty per cent. before the expiration of the award. This is a little oversight that most bosses are fond of, and their holy horror at the "illegal" action and "disloyalty" of their slaves is therefore amusing. The cement employees are demanding an all round increase of 1s per day, which, considering the recent rise in the prices of commodities, can not be said to be anything very revolutionary.

Last week the Electricians and Shipwrights at Cockatoo Dock had a shindy over the question as to the union entitled to do certain work. Now, two painters' unions are in each other's hair about a similar "privilege" of work. Some time ago the Professional Painters' Union and the Painters' and Dockers' Union drew up an agreement in which it was provided that certain jobs should be optional as between the two unions. It appears, however, that the "agreement" doesn't work, for the former body is so proud of exploitation that it now takes exception to the latter producing any surplus values.

The craft unions will soon require



WHEN FAT CONFESSES.

St. Peter: We don't want you rich coves 'ere. Gorn, get!  
Fat: But, St. Peter. Don't be silly; you know this wealth is not really mine; that other fellow created it.

a Union of Experts to decide upon the different claims of the quarrelling brethren. But then the experts might also quarrel, which would necessitate a further body to adjust their differences, and so on ad infinitum. This is the logical outcome of craft unionism, in any case.

The brewery employees in Newcastle and all hands connected with the mineral water factories, went out on strike on Monday morning last, and the bosses were "politely" informed that if they attempted to deliver to any hotels, the workers would refuse to serve these hotels when the strike is over.

Judge Heydon's recent explosion over the coal lumpers' strike, which was given such a prominent place in the capitalist press in order to impress "troublesome" slaves, does not seem to have sunk so very deep after all.

A strike of navvies took place out Marrickville way last week, because of a gangster's refusal to join the union. The gangster quitted, and peace reigned once more. To have gangsters in the same organisation as the slaves they are paid to drive, is not a very healthy principle to strike

about.

The N.S.W. navvies would be well advised to leave the leathery-junged gentlemen out of their organisation, and if they prove objectionable, follow the example of their fellow-workers on the East-West Railway—take a little "direct action," on or off the job, as most suitable, and send them "tramping."

The Editor, "Direct Action."  
Dear Sir,—I have been shown a copy of your issue of July 1st, so that there are probably no more than 49 now in circulation. I like abuse of the sort; but am forced to the belief that your contributor, "Flaneur," is an idiot, and is unable to read the spirit or the letter of a man who knows his job as I know mine.

Yours, etc.,  
RANDOLPH BEDFORD.

Sandringham, Victoria,  
3/11/15.

(We confess that neither "the spirit nor the letter" of the above is quite understandable, so far as we are concerned, however, perhaps our "idiot" contributor, "Flaneur," may make something out of it.—Ed.)

## WHY WORRY?

### Live On Weeds.

October-November issue of "Stead's Review," gives us some insight as to why the German food supply has been kept up, notwithstanding that the country's imports have been practically cut off.

Scientific investigation and experiments in chemistry have shown that with the aid of a certain fertilizer, recently discovered, agricultural products can be increased enormously. German chemists have also discovered that many weeds, previously regarded as noxious and baneful, can provide a nutritious food after undergoing more or less inexpensive treatment. In these days when economy is so loudly preached to the workers, the future of these discoveries will, no doubt, be watched with interest by the capitalist class of all countries. When the workers accustom themselves to living on weeds, what a glorious paradise this old earth of ours will be for the exploiters.

## The Reward of Loyalty.

According to English newspapers, the Munitions Act recently passed has established a sort of industrial feudalism in the industries. No worker engaged in munition making can leave his employment for any reason without first getting the consent of special tribunals appointed to deal with such cases. Out of eighteen such applications recently made in one day to one of these tribunals in London, only six were granted.

One worker made his application on the ground that he was offered better wages in a similar munition factory, but was informed that the Tribunal "had to consider other things besides wages."

The unions which consented to abolish union "restrictions," that is to forego the few concessions so bitterly won in the past, during the period of the war, will if we may judge from these facts, get more than a bellyful of "patriotism" in return for their loyalty before the war is over; and when the workers awake to the dangers threatening them, the union leaders who betrayed them into their present position will have a rough furrow to hoe.

## CHILD VAGRANCY.

Attorney-General Hall expresses his solicitude for the "charitable public" who are imposed upon by juvenile beggars. Hall is shocked at the fact that a child recently brought up in the Children's Court had the sum of 11s 10d in his possession, obtained by begging in the streets. One would think that a sterling "socialist" and democrat, such as Davy claims to be, would set about doing something to remove the cause of child vagrancy instead of issuing a warning through the capitalistic press against unfortunate and helpless children. Hall knows, or should know, that whether the public are "imposed" upon or not will not alter the underlying causes of youthful vagrancy. The fact, by the way, that it is necessary to call public attention to such a state of affairs is a queer commentary upon the boasted welfare of freedom loving and democratic Australia, for which Hall and other patriots ask the workers to shed their blood.

Surely no German would want to come to Australia, if he knew that his children might have to beg on the street corners.

Notice to Subscribers.—Many complaints are being received as to the non-delivery of the paper. In future those subscribers who do not get the paper regularly should communicate at once with the manager, giving all information and details as to late delivery or non-delivery. This is essential if representations are to be made to the P.O. authorities here.



## DIRECT ACTION "White Australia"

## Tramwaymen

## Hunger



In Theory and Practice.

WHY STRIKE?

W. H. Lewis.

According to a correspondent of the Sydney "Morning Herald," writing from Tokyo, the capitalists of Japan are reaping a golden harvest from the war in Europe. So extensive are the orders pouring in from Russia, France and England, that a scarcity of labour, notwithstanding all the Japanese millions, is imminent.

The correspondent says: "The enormous purchases made by England have been quickly followed by orders almost as extensive from Australia and India, as well as from the Dutch East Indies." Amongst these, we are told, Australia is the strongest customer.

Dear, dear, and we thought this was a "White Australia," too.

After all there seems to be a strong economic motive for the exclusion of "coloured" slaves from this fair, white continent. Contact with a more advanced race might prompt Japanese workers in this country to demand an equal standard of living; exploitation, therefore, becomes more easy in their native country where working class organisation and aspiration to a higher social standard are practically non-existent.

The worker in Australia, who is deluded with the belief that his material progress would be endangered by Japanese immigration would do well to ponder over this aspect of the question. Do not the facts show that Japanese competition in the labour market is just as much a reality now as if factories were established throughout Australia in which none but Japanese were employed.

With the development of faster and cheaper methods of transportation (such as the substitution of oil for coal), bringing the producer of raw material, the manufacturer and the market into closer proximity, this state of things is bound to become intensified, and the white wage-worker will sooner or later be compelled to recognise that coloured competition is as much a factor in keeping his economic status unimproved, as if Asiatics were rubbing elbows with him at the factory gates.

Class organisation, irrespective of colour or creed, is the only solution. Meanwhile, it is pleasing to note that the Japanese workers themselves are waking up. Capitalist exploitation on a large scale always produces that effect. According to the "Herald" correspondent, "the result (of the demand for workers) upon skilled labour is especially unwholesome, as work is sure and wages are good, so that the labourer is apt to be 'spoiled.' " Even now," sadly remarks this scribe, "his attitude of independence is regarded as troublesome, but what is to be done?" What, indeed? "Unwholesome" wage slaves of this kind don't smell too sweet to capitalists other than Japanese. These latter, we are informed, intend to disinfest the position by forming "a trust of munition manufacturers for the control of wages and prices of contracts. As large amounts of English, American and European capital are invested in Japan, it will be seen this 'Oge Big Unkon,' or Trust, of munition manufacturers have no scruples about the colour of each other's skin when organising to protect their class interests. Profit knows no colour or creed.

New industries are springing up on a wholesale basis in this latest capitalist paradise. The glass industry of Belgium and Germany being paralysed, the manufacture of all commodities of this character is well on the way there. Japan will very shortly be in the front rank of capitalist nations. It is not outside the bounds of possibility, if the workers do not realise that their economic interests are bound together internationally as well as locally, that the day may be approaching when the conservative Jap. wage-worker will be looking askance at his erstwhile proud white brethren who may be turning towards Japan to find a master.

T.G.

Minister Estell, of the N.S.W. Labor Government, puts on airs at times worthy of any capitalist potentate. Questioned in the House of "Parley" re tramway men's grievances, he pompously declared that no threats of a strike would have the slightest influence on him.

Estell knows, or should know, that the workers do not talk strike unless there are grave reasons for doing so. But this is the same Estell who issued 800 summonses not very long ago upon the Maitland miners for being presumptuous enough to ask for better conditions, and the same Estell, who a week or two ago refused to express an opinion upon the "justice" of the claims of the slaves in the Marrickville Woollen Mills, so nothing better can be expected.

Estell's pomposity simply means that he will refuse to listen to any demands from the workers which do not coincide with his own views. But greater men than Jack Estell, erstwhile wage-slave and now would-be dictator, have had to bow to the inevitable. A little judicious and wisely directed "direct action" on the part of the tramwaymen, and the Labor Government sweaters might be "induced" to throw off their airs of authority and superiority, and talk business.

In these days when "loyalty" is such a weighty factor in inducing strikers to scab their own job, and when our "best people" and "leading citizens" must, "weally, you know," attend to their multifarious patriotic duties, the tramwaymen would be foolish to go on strike. But there is nothing to prevent their ceasing work for a few hours, and marching in a body to interview and try some "moral suasion" upon the gent, whoever he might be, who has the power to remedy their grievances. Of course, they may not be successful in the first instance, but as our rulers, politicians, and parsons inculcate the gospel of "patience and perseverance," repetition once a week or every few days, at the busiest hours of the morning or evening, could not be reasonably objected to.

Meanwhile, if the Commissioners and Government slave-drivers remain obdurate a little emery-dust, combined with direct action upon, and observation of, the Rules and Regulations would no doubt be beneficial and conducive to the smooth running of the tramway service, as well as modifying friend Estell's idea of his own importance in human affairs.

## ADDRESSES OF I.W.W. LOCALS.

Adelaide Local No. 7—Secretary-Treasurer, S. G. Drummond, 43 Charles-street, Unley, Adelaide, S.A.

Sydney Local No. 2—Secretary-Treasurer, F. J. Morgan, 330 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Broken Hill Local No. 3—Secretary-Treasurer, E. J. Kiely, Palace Buildings, Sulphide-street, Broken Hill, N.S.W.

Fremantle Local, No. 5—C/o. W. Johnstone, Burlington Hotel, Parkham-street, East Fremantle, W.A.

Boulder Local, No. 6—Secretary-Treasurer, F. H. Lunn, Lane-street, Boulder, W.A.

Brisbane Local, No. 7—Secretary-Treasurer, J. J. Burke, "Mimi," Cribb-street, Milton, Brisbane, Q.

Melbourne Local, No. 8—Secretary-Treasurer, R. Power, 243 William-street, Melbourne, V.

Tottenham Local, No. 9—Secretary-Treasurer, A. S. Graham, Umag-street, Tottenham, N.S.W.

## NEW ZEALAND.

Auckland Local, No. 1—G. Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer, Kings Chambers, Queen-street, Auckland.

Christchurch Local, No. 2—E. Kear, Secretary-Treasurer, Madras-street, Christchurch.

Wellington Local, No. 4—H. F. Wrixon, Secretary-Treasurer, c/o P. Josephs, 2 Willis-street, Wellington, N.Z.

What drove the Hebrews from Egypt  
To march across the desert strip,  
Curse Pharaoh's law ignore his whip?  
Hunger!

What moved the workmen in France  
To march with sword and spear and lance,  
And take an almost hopeless chance?  
Hunger!

What drives the girl into the street  
To sell her sex for food to eat,  
And dress her tired and wayward feet?  
Hunger!

What puts the "tramp" upon the road,  
Denies him food, denies abode,  
And gives to us a newer code?  
Hunger!

What causes man to go to war,  
To slay his brothers from afar,  
And dim the light of Freedom's Star?  
Hunger!

What makes a flaming hell this earth,  
To curse the infant at its birth,  
And dry the fountain up of mirth?  
Hunger!

What takes no thought of "golden rules,"  
Puts to route reforming fools,  
And huris to death the Priestly schools?  
Hunger!

What made the beast destroy the man,  
Until the blood in torrents ran,  
And organized the Rebel Clan?  
Hunger!

What is it will pass away,  
Upon some not far distant day,  
When we this cruel system slay?  
HUNGER!

## 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.

## 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.

## SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

For

"DIRECT ACTION"

Enclosed please find P.O. for 6s. for which please send "Direct Action" for one year to the following address:—

Name.....

Address.....

Fill it in NOW!

## SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers who do not receive their "Direct Action" regularly and promptly, are requested to write to the Manager, and give particulars, so that he may take steps to get the matter remedied.

## The Referendum.

"Not Dead, But Gone Before."

The emancipation of the workers has, through the instrumentality of Billy Hughes, been postponed for the period of the war, and one year thereafter. In other words, the Referendum proposals, the passing of which, according to the average labor politician, would land the workers in a veritable garden of Eden, has been postponed for that period. It appears the States have conceded to the Federal Parliament some of the "power" which it sought by means of the Referendum, and now everything in the political garden is going along harmoniously once more.

What is puzzling the average worker is to know what is this mysterious power which the States possessed, and which apparently has now been packed in a sack and delivered c.o.d. to Billy Hughes at Parliament House, Melbourne. Judging by the amount of froth and talk and twaddle indulged in by the politicians and the capitalist press, it must be something in the nature of an infernal machine, beside which all German inventions pale into insignificance.

It only now remains, presumably, for little Billy to turn the handle, and powers are let loose which will immediately extinguish the economic forces that are sending prices soaring skywards. The magic properties of this wonderful phenomenon which has been transferred from the incompetent hands of Holman and other State Premiers to those of the versatile Billy will also, we suppose, have the effect of stopping exploitation on the job, keeping children in the school, women off the street, and securing to workers the full results of their labour.

But we forget. This can only be done by the one and only "fair dinkum" Referendum. So after the war is over and one year and a day has elapsed (sounds like the second coming of Christ business) the cursed Trust will be sent into everlasting perdition at the command of our Saviour, Willy. At the sound of his terrible voice economic development will jump back fifty years, the eternal and natural laws of competition and supply and demand will once more reassert themselves, and the workers will at last find themselves in that economic paradise which little Billy set out to discover for them. Perhaps, and again, perhaps!

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

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

Every copy of "Direct Action" sold is a kick at the boss. Get subs.



# The World's Shirkers.

(A. Mack.)

We have fed you well for a thousand years,  
And you halt as still unfed,  
Tho' there's never a dollar of all your wealth  
But marks the workers' dead.  
We have yielded our best to give you rest,  
You lie on a crimson wool,  
Ah! if blood be the price of all your wealth,  
Good God, we have paid it in full.

—Kipling.

For many months the paid agents and the kept press of the capitalist kingdom have been throwing that word SHIRKER as a degradation at the Australian worker, with the object of tricking him to the trenches to spill his blood and waste himself in a fight on behalf of International Capital. It may be that many ill-informed workers fell to the bait, and are now engaged in a war that is to democratise the world; but for the majority of workers in this continent to-day the word "shirker" conveys no terrors. Every class-conscious worker here knows where the real shirkers are. Too well we have known for years who do all the shirking in the factories, mills, and mines, etc. So, too, we know who do the shirking when the rifles crash and the cannon roar. In ever growing numbers the Australian workers are, with their brothers in all countries, answering the call of the long dead Marx,—"Workers of all countries unite, you have nothing to lose (under capitalism) but your chains, and you have a world to gain." The growing unity of our class is due to the extension of our experience consequent upon the schemes, hypocrisy and development of capital in its on-ward of robbery against the useful and productive members of society. Our improved comprehensive powers have taught us that the evolution of the social organism under capitalism has split the human world into two distinct groups—one a small group of capitalists or shirkers who own all the countries with all the natural resources and the machinery of production; the other group comprises the army of labour, whose members do all the work in every country, yet own nothing but their strength to work, and this commodity they are forced to sell to the world owners at a price that always and everywhere borders perilously near the point of starvation.

In these ideal States the shirker group numbers about 15 per cent. of the population, and appropriates about 80 per cent. of the total wealth production, while the group of wealth producers numbers 85 per cent., and have to be satisfied with the pittance of 20 per cent. of the product of their work. These figures vary but little in any country of the world to-day, and it is the knowledge of these facts that is bringing the workers of the world to unite under a banner which demands the abolition of the wages system and of all shirkers.

The strike wars of the past have taught us useful lessons. We know from experience what happens when the workers fold their arms.

The future will find the workers out after a different ideal than the maintenance of their standard of existence. We produce all, and we want all, and knowing our strength and the way to use it, we mean to take all, and then will be put a stop to all capitalist shirker parasites, and their orgies of blood in the scramble and race for profits.

We are discarding the Craft Union so dear to the boss, and ignoring his political machine, but are building up instead the powerful engine of the International Industrial Union, and with this weapon cultivating our self-reliance and expanding our desire for economic freedom, we will call the count to the capitalist system under which we have slaved and suffered for the last 200 years. Then will witness the first appearance on earth of the "Kingdom of Man" wherein "any that do not work shall not eat," and wherein the lives of men, women and children shall not be coined into gold.

# Capitalistic "Humor"

The Parliamentary War Savings Committee in England is issuing a series of leaflets to the people on the subject of "economy."

Leaflet No. 8 ends by telling the poor how to save, thus:—

- (1) Eat less meat.
- (2) Be careful with your bread.
- (3) Waste nothing: to waste food is as bad as to waste munitions.
- (4) Use home products whenever possible, and use them sparingly.
- (5) Before you spend anything, think whether it is absolutely necessary to do so.
- (6) If you have the opportunity—grow your own vegetables, etc.

Telling the poor in England to eat less meat, to be careful with their bread and to waste nothing, is like telling a drowning man to keep afloat. The advice seems ironically superfluous.

"Grow your own vegetables—if you have the opportunity," is another piece of sardonic humour that will doubtless appeal to the millions of slum-dwellers in London, Liverpool, Dublin, Glasgow and other large cities; but the gem of the lot is No. 5: "Before you spend anything, think whether it is absolutely necessary to do so." The representatives of a nation that is spending £1,325,000,000 a year in murder and devastation, telling its slaves who were robbed of these millions to be economical in laying out their wages, is just about what our Yankee friends would term "the limit."

The War Savings Committee (there is humour even in that title) also invite the workers to invest their savings in the war loan. Five shilling vouchers may be purchased, and upon 25 being subscribed, the purchaser is enabled to draw interest at the rate of 4½ per cent.

In these days of high prices the working class housewife in England who can save 5 in a twelve month is exceptionally lucky. Assuming that she can do so, however, when she has scraped together her pence (by eating less meat and less bread and wasting nothing), at the end of a further twelve months, she will, no doubt, think herself the equal of Rothschild when she draws the huge sum of four and sixpence, that is, a rate of one penny per week as interest.

The position summed up amounts to this:

You are held up by a robber and cleaned out of everything you possess; the highwayman then imparts the wholly unnecessary information that it will be essential for you in future, in view of the state of your finances, to practise the most rigid economy. After thanking him for the advice, and informing him that if he stands for Parliament he will most certainly receive your vote, your robber friend hastens to explain that in the near future he will require more money for an expedition to facilitate similar robberies, and he has the utmost confidence that you will be content to live on the smell of an oil-rag so that he and his "cobbers" needs may be supplied.

Such is Capitalism in the 20th century.

## "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, "Man-

by a group of murderous, heartless bloodsuckers. In the dreams of your downy couches, through the shades of your pampered sleep, Give ear; you can hear it coming, the tide that is steady and deep— Give ear, for the sound is growing, from desert and dungeon and den: The tramp of the marching millions, the March of the Hungry Men. —(Kaufman.)

# The Hen C. W. and Others.

The National Council of Women, which, by the way, is composed of our wives-and-women folk of our very "best people," has outlined a scheme for the national registration of the women in Australia, so that they may have "a cohesive organisation willing to uphold the present rates of production and manufactures, and to continue the various callings necessary to the maintenance of the State." This should be most encouraging news for the women at present engaged in production and manufacture. Mrs. Potts Point, Mrs. Moanman and other N.C.W. ladies, will no doubt give effect to their effusive loyalty and exchange places with them for a while. "Production, manufacture and the maintenance of the State" have always been something which the workers, male and female, have been left a monopoly of, and it is pleasing to see that the N.C.W. has arrived at the conclusion it is time its members and its class done something useful. However, we doubt their good intentions. The "scheme of work" outlined by this parasitical bunch of hussies is on a par with most schemes of the kind, which emanate from their husbands and paramours: a scheme for ascertaining the best means of working and exploiting others.

Still another craft union dispute. At Cockatoo the Electrical Trades Union takes exception to the members of the Shipwrights' Society performing what the electricians claim to be "their" work. Work, and plenty of it, has always been the height of the "Crafties'" ambition. When the slaves are so jealous as to who shall do the work, the bosses should worry.

## LITERATURE LIST.

- Capital: Karl Marx, 3 vol., 8/- per volume.  
Ancient Society: Morgan, Bound, 6/-.  
Value, Price, and Profit: Marx. Bound, 2/-; paper, 6d.  
Evolution of Property: Lapargue. Bound, 2/-.  
The Militant Proletariat: Lewis, Bound, 2/-.  
The New Unionism: Tridon. Paper 1/8.  
Sabotage: Pouget. Bound, 2/-; paper, 1/-.  
One Big Union: Trautman, Paper 6d.  
Sabotage: W. C. Smith, Paper, 3d.  
Sabotage: E. G. Flynn; paper, 3d.  
I.W.W. History, Structure, and Methods: St. John. Paper, 3d.  
Revolution and the I.W.W.: Pease, Paper, 3d.  
Eleven Blind Leaders: B. H. Williams. Paper, 3d.  
Political Socialism, or Capturing the Government: Nelson. Paper, 3d.  
War: What For (Cartoon). Price 3d.  
Revolutionary Unionism: E. J. B. Allen. Paper, 2d.  
Why the A.W.U. Cannot Become an Industrial Union: Alex. George. Paper, 3d.  
Industrial Efficiency and Its Antidote: T. Glynn. Paper, 2d.  
I.W.W. Songs: Paper, 3d.  
Summary of Marx's Capital: Hazel, 2d.  
The Diesel Motor: Frankenthal, Paper, 1d.  
Industrial Unionism: St. John, 1d.

## NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

The Editor suggests to contributors, that in order to make the paper more readable, and for purposes of convenience generally, articles, unless of exceptional interest, should not exceed 1000 words.

Topical occurrences of interest to the working class, which could be briefly commented upon, are frequently crowded out, owing to the unnecessary length of many contributions.

It is essential that all articles intended for publication in any particular issue should reach this office not later than the Monday previous to date of publication.

# Eureka Veteran's Views.

By 'Old Eureka,' W.A.

The cartoon on the front page of your issue of Oct. 9th is a well-deserved and stinging taunt to trades and political unionism throughout Australia, and is fully justified by the wretched failure to abridge the working day by even one hour during the forty-three years mentioned by you since the first Eight Hours Procession in Sydney.

The institution of the Eight Hour Day in Victoria dates fully a decade further back according to the date on the Eight Hours' monument in Spring Street, near Parliament House, Melbourne.

During this lapse of time, fully over half a century, nothing has been done to shorten the time of the working day, despite the facts of the ever-increasing number of the unemployed, the precarious tenure of those who have a job, the constantly increasing completion of the wage slaves, and the logical necessity for shortening the period of the working day, as the only means of absorbing the surplus labor which by its increase ever weakens the cause of the workers, and strengthens the power of the master to bind still tighter the chains of his slaves.

One would think that intelligent savages would evolve the idea of abridging the term of toil concurrently with the increasing number of the toilers, and that the first insistent demand would be, that in every occupation all the workers engage in it must be employed. Of course, such a demand must be preceded by wise organisation, and that is the one factor lacking in the so-called "Labor Movement of Australia." Verily the I.W.W. did not arrive one day too soon.

Had the foregoing simple and sufficient tactic been made the gauge of battle between the slaves and their life-owners during the last half century, it would have compelled a shorter labor day, broken down competition (so loved by capitalists), and have secured to the workers equal opportunity for bread.

The grim satire of this complete paralysis of trades and political unionism lies in the fact that the reduction from ten to eight hours was won at a time when unionism barely had a local habitation or a name; certainly there was no vestige of it outside Sydney and Melbourne; and some few years prior to the demand for eight hours the trades and labour time of the then Crown Colonies had been twelve hours per day (and the writer was indentured under a twelve hours' system). Here was a four hours shortening of the Labor Day, in a little more than a decade, and there were no Labor Parliaments in those days, no numerous trades and labour organisations, affiliated under Trades Hall Councils, and all under a great A.L.F., returning Labor Governments to power—and with paid organisers, numerous (too numerous) paid secretaries—all thrown in, the slaves still toil as they did fifty odd years ago, and in their blind political superstition refuse to think of "One Big Union" and direct action, ignorant of the truth, "That so far as a man thinks so far is he free."

Most of the political platforms of the Labor Party have embodied the plank "Legislation of the Eight Hours," which is the most effective way to prevent any decrease of hours, since the veriest tyro knows, the best way to crystallise and perpetuate a principle or system is to make it rigid by law.

There will be no shorter time for the asses in the mills of toil till it is secured by the I.W.W. and direct action. It was direct action founded Melbourne; rolled back the wave of conviction that England attempted to land on the shores of Port Phillip, and it was direct action that freed the diggers of Ballarat from the accursed tyranny of the early Victorian Government, and the quarter deck martinet rule of Hotham, the tyrant Governor.

Direct action by voluntary union of a few brave men has gained the few liberties that Australia has—very few

indeed, and likely to be still fewer under the regime of indirect action by sly politicians. Leaning on the tissue paper buttresses of the capitalist Labor politicians, the masses of the people have become sapped of the power of initiative, and can no longer think and act for themselves; and only by the acceptance of I.W.W. principles can their full redemption from political and wage slavery be achieved.

The tolls are fast closing round our few rights and liberties. Freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of the printed word—all are being assailed as never before in Australia.

Here, from this far West State, where I write, the voices of Labor politicians are crying aloud for "corruption." What next? The Labor Utopia has had its political dawning in the skies of Parliament, and the Labor gods who sit above the slaves, who in their blind folly, placed them in power, are now pushing their victims to the war shambles with more savagery than capitalism has ever exhibited.

Fellow workers of Australia, how much more will you take, poor worms, before you will turn against your destroyers. Is the spirit of Eureka quite dead and chilled in your veins, that you let traitors from the cold house of Want, out of which you elevated them to opulence and power, bind you faster than your bitter enemies, the capitalists, have yet done? Awake, oh! you sleeper, and

"Respond to the rallying cry from the van,

Be sought but a slave, be sought but a man,

And smiling thro' fraud in the day of your wrath,

To the rights of true men open the path;  
Throw your weight in our scale, to make victory sure,  
And when no man is rich, no man be poor."

## THE LABOR SHORTAGE BOGEY.

A. E. Stewart writes from Coolambour on date 2/11/15:—

There are six Rebs camped here waiting for a master. We considered it advisable to acquaint you of the state of the Labor market here, as there is no possibility of harvesting starting for a fortnight at least. A few of the cookies are cutting a little hay, but they are not employing any men, and at the present time there are about 100 men camped here, and 150 camped around June Junction, and nearly the same number at Gannam, ten miles from here; also on the Temora line there are hundreds of men waiting to find a master.

We would like to see these facts made public, in order that the lies printed in the capitalist press, claiming a shortage of labor, may be contradicted.

We understand the bosses' move, and it would be advisable for anybody coming up here to secure a job and their fare from the Farmers' and Settlers' Association before leaving; by all means secure the fare, if not the job.

There are some men coming here under engagement to the F. and S.A., but we cannot find out what they are getting per day. Eight and six per day is the minimum demanded by the men in camp here for hay making.

Trusting the surplus of labor up these parts will be given publicity.

## ADELAIDE READERS

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

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



# I. W. W. Philosophy and the Law. Tramping the Ganger. The "Cockroach" War Exploiters. Precautions Act.

Frank P. Walsh, Chairman U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations, writes in the tenth anniversary number of "Solidarity":—

Among the thousand witnesses who have appeared before the Commission, two stand out prominently before my mind's eye. One is William D. Haywood, the rugged intellectual, with his facility of phrasing, his marvellous memory and his singularly clear and apt method of illustration. The other is George H. Speed, who spoke of the aims of the I.W.W. and the woes of the itinerant worker while before the Commission in San Francisco last August.

Haywood testified before the Commission for about three hours. In that time, through questioning and in recall, he was dragged forth and back upon an exhaustive examination of the history of the Western Federation of Miners. There was before me a history of the organization. Throughout the questions, Haywood answered, never once missing a date, a number, or deviating in the slightest detail from the written data of the body. There flowed from him a constant stream of philosophy; coolly and calmly, he went through an ordeal that few men could withstand without breaking; patient under a cross fire of questions, gentle under an examination which sought to pick a flaw in an organization which is equivalent to his soul. Haywood, of course, was fortified by a lifetime of study; by years of association with thinkers, by the bracing of a long period of initiatory labors, by countless arguments and by an ease peculiar to speakers alone.

Because of these advantages which Haywood has enjoyed, Speed remains in my mind by contrast. With none of the advantages of extended education, he talked like the philosopher he is. While to the unthinking mind his views may appear destructive, there was underneath it a sincere and lasting love of mankind, a judgment of fundamentals and a Socratic calm, that added much to his appearance and gave force to his ideas. His bent shoulders, his seamed face and the blazing, unquenchable light in the eyes of a true fighter warmed one to this stout old Spartan. You felt he might be mistaken, but never insincerely so. There was too much breadth, too friendly a tolerance, too universal a feeling, and too cheerful an acceptance, even while fighting them, of the obstacles in the way of the worker, to believe that he had done less than consecrate all his energies to the betterment of mankind, according to his views.

His philosophy, personal and professional as a member of the I.W.W., showed plainly in his testimony. For that reason I may be pardoned for giving some of it here. Mr. Speed had told of his work as a lumber jack, of how employers had succeeded in reducing wages in logging camps by forcing workers to bid against each other for jobs.

Disagree with the Speeds if you will, but contact with men like them, with their wholesome earnestness, their very appearance seeming to embody a lifetime of sacrificial struggle and rugged resistance to wrong, cannot but be beneficial.

He spoke of unemployment:—"I believe under present conditions the unemployment problem is an unsolvable problem. I believe the only thing the unemployed worker can do, as they have nothing to lose but misery and they are up against it and everybody's hand is turned against them, is committing some petty offence and make the State look after them. This Commission, nor any other Commission, cannot solve the problem that is confronting the world. There are two economic classes (labor and capital), whose interests are diametrically opposed, and between the two classes the struggle must and will go on. In that struggle there is no compromise, nor arbitration, nor anything that can solve or settle it; either labor has to come into its own or go down."

"Political power is a reflex of economic power. Those who con-

trol the economic power of a state, control its political power. This migratory working class has no political power or influence. The only political power it can possess is a thorough, compact organization and forcing its measures upon that part of the people who control their lives by controlling their industries. There is no equality before the law, no justice in the courts. I hold this that the best law made, was made by labor itself. The building trades like we have in this city have an eight hour law, a Saturday half day law; they don't have to go before some court and establish that law or go into court and inquire if it is constitutional. The legislatures are the places where the members of the prosperity classes can get together and pass their laws. I hold it is to the interests of the unions to organize and in their unions make their laws and enforce them to the best of their power. Power, in the last analysis, determines everything."

A member of the Commission asked Mr. Speed if it is not to the interest of Labor that we have industries. He replied:

"Well, labor is capable of running enterprises; give it a show."

"Do you think that labor, and labor alone, without capital, could start and run enterprises?" he was asked.

"What is capital but unpaid wages?" he retorted.

"Could you start an industry without capital?"

"No," he replied; "we have got the industries. All we want to do is to take hold of them and run them."

"Is it my understanding that your philosophy is to go out and take possession of industry?"

"When we get the power; certainly," Mr. Speed replied.

"No matter whether it is against the law or the land?"

"Yes; the fellow that owns the property makes the law and consequently he makes the law in his own interest. And that is against me, and if I obey it, I cut my own throat. In other words, any act of the working class that will in any way conflict with or destroy the material welfare of the property owning class that is, of necessity, an illegal act in the eyes of the property owning class. And when we see strikes, and we see men out on strikes, what do we find? We find them jailed the same as they were jailed in Aberdeen. We find they hire 200 field detectives to beat men up, to arrest women because one protested against a man getting beat up. They have kidnapped men, and the chief of police stands looking on. Now, that is the law from their viewpoint. They have the power to make the law, likewise they must have the power to break the law when it is convenient to their economic interest."

"Well, then, summing up your philosophy, Mr. Speed, it really amounts to this: that in your opinion might makes right?" he was asked.

"It certainly does make right," he replied. "Sentiment, feeling, emotion, all those things are very fine, but it stands to reason that the fellow who has the big club swings it over the balance. That is life as it exists to-day. How can a man without anything make law? We (labor) are a commodity that is bought and sold like a sack of spuds."

## SYDNEY LOCAL.

### MEETINGS, &c.

Street Propaganda at Bathurst and Liverpool Streets Every Friday and Saturday Evenings, at 8 p.m.; also Sunday Evening, at 7.

### Meetings in Hall:

Sunday, 8 p.m., Propaganda.  
Wednesday, 8 p.m., Economic Class.  
Thursday, 8 p.m., Business Meeting.  
Also, Public Meeting Every Sunday Afternoon in the Domain.

Writing from Platelayers' Camp, East-West Railway, a correspondent informs us, under date 29/10/15:—

Fellow-Worker,—I myself have been spreading the propaganda since we have been here, and we have made a good many converts who will call at the locals first time they reach Adelaide or any of the other cities.

We are up against a supervising engineer named Cook, who recently came from Queensland. Following are some of his tactics since he came:—

Platelayers were doing a mile and a half a day with 90 men; when we reached Tarcoola he reduced the distance to three-quarters of a mile, with 60 men to tracklay, lift and pack and straighten same with 33ft. rails. Then 40ft. rails were introduced, and he wanted us to put in another ten chain with 6 extra men, but we woke up to his game. With 6 men extra, he would get, with the 10 extra chain, a mile of road laid with 48 men, lifted and straightened every eight days, while in West Australia and they were laying a mile a day—track-laying only—with 75 men. Needless to say, his little proposition was turned down.

We have a verbal agreement that when no engine arrives with material, if we present ourselves for work, and have to remain idle through lack of water, tools or material, we receive full time. Twice in 20 miles, while so waiting, Cook tried to get us go shovelling in cuttings, but we refused—and got paid.

The other day the loco-men were on strike and he wanted us to go to work in the yard. Nothing doing. He then rung up on the 'phone, telling the time-keeper and ganger not to book our time as we were idle for 2 days. Then the strike ended, and he wanted to know if we would go to work. We said certainly, but the ganger got wind that we were going to slow down, unless we got paid the two days' pay that he robbed us of, and advised the engineer accordingly. He did squeal.

The "Rep" was sent for by the riding boss and implored not to slow down. Notice of the demand for the two days' pay was also asked. The required 8 days' notice was given, but the boss was informed that if the demand was not complied with, we would use any and every tactic at our disposal to gain our ends.

The engineer was also told that as we would have some sleepless nights worrying over those two days' wages, we could not be expected to generate sufficient energy to go on constructing as fast as we usually did. Our gang here are pretty solid on giving it a go, so expect to hear results in the near future.

There have been ten gangers tramped here since Cook took charge. All the gang's were called out to shift the last one, and though it took five days we did it.

I just heard to-day that a "Rep" in one of the A.W.U. so oop gangs said he would stop any I.W.W. literature coming into his gang. He is a "respectable" old A.W.U. gent, one you would call a "white mouse." The papers have been arriving very irregularly; out of twelve we only get three, and some a week behind time.

I would be glad to see some speaker from the I.W.W. come over here and live the A.W.U. "white mice" up a bit.

Nothing appeared in the press about the gangers tramping. I wonder why! Best wishes to all the boys.

## HARVESTERS!

Members striking out for the harvest fields should arm themselves with a supply of Subscription Cards for "Direct Action."

A feeling possessed by many workers is that if their employer works himself, especially if beside his employees, at whatever work is being done, he should be treated with more consideration, and not be grudging a little additional effort when such is required to facilitate the work in hand.

This illjudged generosity aids the small capitalist in his struggles toward a position as an employer on a large scale, and helps to keep in existence what is called the lower middle class, which as a body is the most unscrupulous of exploiters.

The master thieves, by cunning flattery, fool the smaller thieves into a belief that the interests of the millionaire and the middle class are identical. The attitude of the struggling employer towards the workers was well shown in the recent New Zealand labor troubles. The small employer should be treated by all workers as one of their worst enemies. The would be capitalist who, like Mahomet's coffin is suspended between the heaven of affluence and the hell of the bottom dog, must be ruthlessly dragged back to the ranks of the suffering masses.

During the harvest many of us will no doubt be working for share farmers, and the feeling of comradeship engendered by working together will prompt many employees to bestow more care, effort, and attention upon their work than would be the case if their employer were not working with them. This attitude is emphatically a mistake; we must never forget that all employers, without exception, are out for surplus value, and as proved thieves in intention and act, must be treated as one would a noxious reptile, which must be exterminated as soon as possible.

We must always remember that out of our efforts comes the surplus product that enables the class of thieves called employers, to buy the motor cars that will splash us with mud or cover us with dust when we are again tramping the roads. Apart from the natural enmity between ourselves and the exploiters is, the fact that every small capitalist we crush and bring back to our ranks is a gain to our cause, and a vital loss to the greater thieves, who scheme unceasingly to keep us in our hell of slavery, from which only united and direct action along I.W.W. lines can ever raise us.

J. Z. JONES.

## SYDNEY PROPAGANDA.

Outdoor meetings and sales of literature were exceptionally encouraging during last week end. Mrs. Lynch lectured in the hall on Sunday night, the subject being "Women and the War." The hall was crowded and remained so during the somewhat long discussion which followed. The attendance at the Economic classes of Wednesday evenings remains well up to standard, and it is to be hoped that the numbers will increase in the future.

Those who have aspirations to educate others must first of all educate themselves, and these classes are useful, inasmuch as points of view are brought forward and discussed which are not thought of in personal study.

Labor Governments are getting head over heels in debt to the big financiers and the capitalist class. Yet some foolish people believe that institutions which are financed by the bosses are capable of benefiting the worker.

Class antagonism would be impossible if it did not have an economic foundation. Class wars and class hatred will therefore only be abolished when the economic cause is removed. Organise industrially and make human society into one class—a class of workers, and no shirkers.

The case of K. R. Leslie, sentenced to a fine of £100 or six months, in Tumut, on December last, under the War Precautions Act, has some sinister features. Leslie was charged with distributing anti-war literature, but was not arrested for two months after the alleged offence occurred, and was only served with a copy of the charge against him on the morning of his trial. Though he immediately appealed against his conviction, some underground influences were apparently at work, and he has since been informed that there has been some "misunderstanding" about the appeal, and he has consequently now no means of re-opening his case.

One of the leaflets, by the way, which Leslie was convicted for distributing was merely a list of the principal shareholders in the Armament Trust of Great Britain. Miss Adela Pankhurst, of Melbourne, has recently published a book in which this list of shareholders appears. Miss Pankhurst's book has passed the censorship, has been reviewed by the press, and can be bought, we believe, at any of the principal newsagents. Is it because Leslie was an unknown and thought-to-be friendless wage-plug, that he has been pounced upon by the authorities, star-chamber methods introduced, and an attempt made to railroad him to goal, after a farce of a "trial" before a country bench, whose patriotic sentiments appear to have blinded him to the fact that he was there for the purpose of administering the law, and not for pandering to the prejudices of his jingo neighbours and friends?

Anyhow, why shouldn't the shareholders in the Armament Trust be made public? Is it because those shareholders are ashamed of their trade, of having their names linked with such a murderous industry? How have the Labor gods fallen when Labor governments take upon themselves the task of protecting the reputations of the "noble and revered" gentlemen who make their bloody dividends out of engines devised for the scientific slaughter of human beings! Fancy a Labor Government gaoing a worker when he reveals the fact that those meek and lowly followers of the "Prince of Peace," the Bishops of Chester, Newcastle, Adelaide, Newport, and Hexham, because of the dividends they draw from the armament firms, every time they fill their dirty pouches, they partake of the body and blood, not of Christ, but of millions of crucified workers. What a right rally welcome the rest of the "noble and refined" gentlemen who fatten on war dividends will give to Andy Fisher on his arrival in London for his zeal on their behalf!

Will the workers of Australia tolerate behaviour of this kind from those whom they have raised out of the gutter and placed in positions of authority? Leslie's case may be that of any one of the working class to-morrow. Remember "an injury to one should be the concern of all." Raise your voices and tell the politicians and their paymasters that if they perpetrate this crime you will pull down their whole rotten system about their ears. Ask them if one of your class must go to gaol because bishops betray their master, Christ.

Do you want the assistance of a good "Rep" on the job? Then push "Direct Action," it will agitate when you are asleep.

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