

One Big Union For the International Working Class

DIRECT ACTION



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ONE PENNY

War Makes Gold Kings.

(From the Chicago "Tribune.")

Not millions, but hundreds of millions, it is estimated by stock exchange insiders, will have come to the house of Morgan by the time the last death dealing shell explodes in hell entangled Europe. The Rockefeller will be outdistanced.

What Waterloo was to Rothschild, the experts suggest, the Armageddon over yonder, on an infinitely larger scale, will be to Morgan. With the dwindling of fortunes on the continent Morgan is destined soon to become, according to intelligent men, the richest man in the world—riches garnered out of the world war while half a billion of peoples are engaged in the Christian job of converting their slice of the earth into graveyards and their places of abode in city and countryside into charnel houses.

But more of Mr. Morgan later on. Rising Tide of Unrest.

The immediate concern of this narrative is the industrial situation in the United States.

A cursory investigation of labor conditions in respect to the present inflation of values discloses a general and an obvious unrest of a purely human nature aspect.

It is not plots or bombs or diplomatic intrigue that the captains of industry fear—it is the rumbling of the workers—the growing demand day by day that the artisans who are making death dealers for the entente powers be let in—be declared in on the division of the spoils. With few exceptions they have no moral scruples against making shrapnel and high explosives—they demand only their price.

That this momentous question has been of deep concern to the big men in the financial world, as well as to prominent labor leaders is known.

Conferences, have been held both in New York and Chicago of late at which the labor problem was discussed in all its ramifications. Meantime a movement is on in labor circles looking to a general demand for a horizontal raise in wages for all workers in the plants that have munitions, high explosive shells, automobile trucks, harness, saddles, heavy waggons, etc.

Enormous Steel Profits.

The preferred stock of the steel "trust" also is cited. Since the war orders came to Morgan and Co., the preferred stock has increased 40, 531,623 dollars in market value. The combined increase in market value of the common and preferred stock of this corporation alone, due to the war boom, aggregates 241,946,693 dollars—almost a quarter of a billion dollars.

To the workers this indicates that there is great prosperity somewhere beneath the surface for the big men in the Morgan coterie, regardless of whether it shows in the increased net earnings in the actual operations of the plants.

The Pittsburgh district—and Pittsburgh, as Alexander P. Moore, the well known publisher of the smoky town, says, is now working on an efficiency of 125 per cent—is taken as a typical illustration.

Conditions in Pittsburgh.

The "Tribune's" correspondent in Pittsburgh wires as follows:—

"Although plants, iron and steel, electrical, glass, special, or general

manufacturing, are busy now where there was idleness before, there has been no change in conditions for the 125,000 workers in the Pittsburgh district in over a year.

"There has been no increase in wages or shortening of hours in plants working on war munitions.

"At plants of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, Westinghouse Machine Company, Westinghouse Air Brake Company, and the Union Switch and Signal Company, whose war contracts for shells and shrapnel amount to millions of dollars and call for the operation day and night of the enormous plants just outside Pittsburgh, the work is being paid for on the piece or tonnage basis; increasing the amount the men earn, but at the same time vastly increasing the output.

Machinists Earn More.

"Westinghouse employees, of which there are 20,000, get the same pay for the same work as previously, but get more by working longer hours and by working faster. Machinists in the past were paid on an average four dollars a day at the Westinghouse plants. Some got more than this, but many more less. Now a man gets 1 cent apiece for turning down shells. He must turn 400 a day to get his regular 4 dollars. They are doing this, working between ten and eleven hours a day to turn out their 400 shells. Every shell in which there is the slightest defect is cast out and not paid for.

"All plants in this district of the United States Steel Corporation, principally the Edgar Thompson mills, Braddock, where ingots of steel are made from which shells for the allies are shaped, the men, paid on tonnage rates, are speeded up, record runs being made in all departments handling this class of work.

"Premium systems have increased the pay by increasing the output of employees of the Bethlehem Steel Company, South Bethlehem, Pa., Charles M. Schwab's company. Similar bonus, premiums, or other "speeding up" systems are making the semi-monthly pay envelopes larger in all factories working on war orders.

"Where is work now where there was idleness, approaching panic times, before. The amount a man of skill or limited skill can earn now is limited only by the length of time he can keep awake. He is getting more money than for years, and therefore is proving difficult proselytizing ground. Union organizers are active just now throughout western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia."

Many of the big men in the labor movement have been discussing the situation quite freely, but hesitate just at this time to issue formal statements for public consumption.

A few of the leaders, however, have decided to talk.

Fitzpatrick Gives Labor View.

John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, said:—

"When the war broke out the manufacturers in England at once set out to make all they could out of the English government, and at the same time to deny to the workers a share in the spoils. When the workers demanded that they be given a small share of the profits the employers of

The characteristic generosity of the Labor Governments to their slaves, and the peculiar kind of benefits derived from Arbitration Courts, are instanced in the case of the Letter Carriers' Union. Recently the Arbitration Court granted the members of this union an increase of £6 per annum, whereupon they were immediately notified by the Federal Government that they would have to increase their life insurance from £150 to £200 a year. One man, 53 years of age, who secured the £6 increase, had to pay an additional premium of £10 10s 11d a year. Truly, "the step at a time" policy of the unions and their political party achieves wonderful results.

Says a recruiting agent recently:—"Think of the nine millions of Mohammedans in Egypt, and the 230 millions in India who may rise against us if we cannot defeat the Turks." It would appear from this, by the way, that the Turks must be defeated not because of any inherent depravity of the Turk, but because it is essential for Britain to terrorise and enslave 240 million subjects. And all our British patriots so pretend to hate the Nietzschean philosophy.

The "Herald" sheds tears over Prime Minister Hughes' projected departure for London. Billy has proved himself such a good recruiting agent that "Granny" fears his loss in that respect will be irreparable. His strike-breaking abilities also come in for some commendation. "His position in his party is such," says the "Herald," "that he can stand up to impetuous unions—as others of his colleagues cannot." We wonder what under the capitalist class would do without their "labor lieutenants."

England at once began to holler 'patriotism.' The workers handed it right back to them. They proposed that if it was entirely a case of patriotism the English munitions manufacturers should deliver their goods to the government at the price it actually cost to produce them, while the men would be willing to work for their board and keep. In that way, they thought, the patriotism would be equally distributed.

All Demands a "Plot."

"The United States furnishes a parallel case just at this time. The employers could not raise the cry of patriotism when it came to making war supplies for the European nations at war. But they raised the other cry—'spy' and 'plot.' Now every time the workers, particularly in the metal trades, demand a share of the big profits the employers are making on war contracts and threaten to strike if their demands are not honestly and sincerely considered, we are confronted with the spy and plot cry raised from one end of the country to the other.

"What the workers of the United States are getting ready to demand is that in these factories working twenty-four hours a day there shall be three shifts of eight hours and not two shifts of twelve hours, and that the wages, which always are the last to benefit by prosperous times, shall be on a scale half way commensurate with the great wealth that suddenly has come to the manufacturers.

That much boomed reform known as the Referenda has been laid to rest. Having failed twice at the elections the politicians have now taken it on themselves to pass the Referenda out. Nominally the bill is postponed, but in political parlance the Referenda is passed out. It seems that the States have (without consulting the electors) given the Federal Government alleged powers that the people, evidently, by their adverse vote on the Referenda, do not approve of. So much for our alleged democratic control.

The Referenda was formerly said to be a most democratic measure, by which Parliament sought power to deal with the trust. The trust busters boomed the bogey for all it was worth. Now, we are too deeply involved in the murder business to attend to such trifles as exploitation of the people by the trust. The demise of the Referenda following so closely on the death of Miss Cavell is unfortunate. So many tears have been shed over the victims of war that hardly a sigh can be raised over the Referenda.

Even if the Referenda had become law, it would have proved abortive and probably the politicians would discover that the unions are labour trusts, and turn the legal machinery against them, as was done with the anti-trust laws in America. Locally, it is questionable whether this bogey was nothing more than the abortion born of political opportunism and middle-class fear. This child of political lust enabled the Labour party to snare many votes. Now that political office is won, and the mysterious powers have been obtained, the Referenda can be discreetly buried. Perhaps it may be judicious to inform the labour leaguers that the Referenda is not lost but gone before. All this time we have been spending money, wasting time, talking, and voting the combine out of existence, the trust is flourishing and enlarging its operations, unmindful of the crop of political Christs who talked vaguely of leading the workers into the millennium per medium of the Referenda. The trust was out to get the goods while the trust busters and their dupes were flying like kittens at ballot papers. This is just as it should be, for the trust is so businesslike and the voters are so gullible.

There is no necessity for the workers to weep over the death of the Referenda. Except as a specimen of political charlatanism, the passing or postponing, or the possible resurrection of the ghost of the Referenda is of no account. In these days of Prussian atrocities such a political monstrosity need not alarm us. Neither need we worry over those mysterious powers conferred by the States. In the first place, the political State possesses no real power. It's alleged power is purely metaphysical, and exists only in the minds of the ignorant voters who blindly follow political "Will o' the Wispas." To read the papers one would imagine that the "powers" were delivered in bales marked "Referenda powers." "Glass with care," etc. Of course, it is quite on the cards that the State politicians having turned the voters down, would loan them to the Federal authorities. Possibly, the transfer of power may necessitate

packing of voters into bales where they could be stowed away until next election.

After the war is over, a new bogey will be required. Perhaps, if the ghost of the Referenda cannot be resurrected, may be we shall have yet another Referenda to restore to the States the mysterious powers they transferred to the Federal Government at the death of the former Referenda. This will necessitate another political farce; more transfers of powers and voters, and the howl of "State frights and Federal wrongs" will again be heard in the land for the edification of charlatanism and the adulation of muggery.

SOLDIERS AS SCABS.

A right loyal, patriotic Labor Government would appear not to be content with betraying the international principles of the labor movement, but must also show its traitorous instinct locally in its method of using its soldiers.

Schweppes' employees went on strike with the brewery workers, and were rewarded for their loyalty in voting labor politicians into office by the latter allowing the khaki-clad "heroes" to be utilised by their employers as strike-breakers.

This contemptible action is only equalled by that of the soldiers themselves. It appears that on enlisting they were given a patriotic "blow-out" by their fellow-employees at Sargent's, the cost of which came out of the sick and benefit fund run in connection with the Schweppes establishment, to which all employees subscribe. Needless to state, quid-week female slaves were not consulted as to their wishes in the matter, neither were they invited to the "beano."

The "heroes" showed how they appreciated this hospitality by leaving camp and walking in to take the place of their erstwhile hosts when the latter went on strike.

The Germans have been accused of many vile things during this war, but if there is anything to equal action of this kind in the history of the German army, it has yet to be made public. The title of soldier has degenerated in working class esteem of late years, and it only requires a few more examples of this kind for the worker to realise what the real vocation of the soldier is in capitalist society.

And fancy the "preference to Unionists" Labor Government, which unionists voted into office, allowing and encouraging soldiers under its control to take advantage of their uniform for purposes of scabbing.

The "preference to unionists" principle, by the way, was recently altered to that of preference to returned soldiers, but the Labor Government, in its magnanimous loyalty to the bosses' interests, would appear to be anxious to give preference to their "heroes" before they "return"—especially in times of strike.

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

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

DIRECT ACTION

The Law and the
Moke.The Substance and
the Shadow.More Scraps
of Paper.Up From Your
Knees!

WEEKLY

OFFICIAL ORGAN

Of the
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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS:

164 W. Washington St., Chicago,
Ill., U.S.A.Melbourne 'Argus'
on Syndicalism.Melbourne "Argus," in its leading
columns of November 6, has a long
and heart-stirring wall over Syndi-
calism.Syndicalism, we are told, "thrives
only in a free community. It pros-
pers because it preys on the free-
dom of a free people. Like a vam-
pire, it feeds only on living men and
women."This conclusion is arrived at by
the "Argus" after reading the report
of Lloyd George's speech at the Bri-
tish Trade Union Congress where
that gentleman roundly condemned
those workers who adopt a "deliber-
ate restriction of the output." Such
restriction, according to the "Argus,"
is "both dishonourable and suicidal."
The reason why it is dishonourable
in the eyes of the "Argus" is obvious.
But if it is suicidal, one would think
that the capitalist press would leave
it to the workers to find this out for
themselves."The workers have been told," re-
marks the "Argus," "that this is a
capitalists' war, that their work goes
to enrich capitalists unduly, and that
the way to 'get even' is to cut down the
output." What "dishonourable" be-
haviour. Syndicalists and workers
generally should surely be aware by
this time that this war was promoted
by the workers of Europe, Australia,
Canada, and South Africa. "Vampire-
like" syndicalists, no doubt, have their
thousands and millions invested, in
the various war loans, and are fatten-
ing on the dividends resulting from
the blood-soaked trenches of Europe.
If it is also, indeed, "suicidal" for those
"workers," whose livelihood is depend-
ent upon the profits of the Armament
Ring, that any restrictions should be
placed upon the steady flow of those
profits by such damnable things as
"a canny" and sabotage."We do not suppose," says the au-
thor of this screed, in his touching
solidarity for the soldiers at the front,
"that anyone ever realised before this
war what a selfish, cruel, and destruc-
tive thing syndicalism could be."The Rothschilds, Morgans, and big
financiers, the "poble lords and right
reverend gentlemen" who control the
War Trust, into whose coffers this
war is pouring floods of treaure, com-
parably only with the torrents of
blood to the front, the working class
veins, should present the "Argus"
with a good sized bun for its rich hu-"Competent authorities estimated
a man's normal effort at 26½ lbs.,
which would move a trolley 2 feet a
second, and would be equal to pull-
ing 8 cwt.""Witness," in answer to Mr.
Waseman, for the Vacuum Oil Com-
pany, quoted an authority for an ef-
fort by man in comparison with a
horse, mule, or ass. The figures
were:—Horse, 600 lbs. of effort;
mule, 500 lbs.; ass, 360 lbs.; man,
150 lbs. The jolting which a man
would get in going over an uneven
surface had, not been taken into ac-
count when making the tests."Extracts from evidence given in
Federal Arbitration Court during the
hearing of the Waterside Workers' case.The patient beast that Balaam rode,
And in his anger thrice did smite;
Broke into speech the while it showed
To that astonished Israelite
An angel with a carving knife,
And fell designs on Balaam's life.We may believe that Balaam had
A grateful feeling towards his moke,
And that he felt extremely glad
When unto him the donkey spoke,
For had the ass not turned aside
'Tis certain Balaam would have
died.But that mankind, the lords of earth,
With mules and donkeys should be
classed,Would have provoked unseemly mirth
Among the ancient Yids who passed
The time of day, some years ago,
On Jordan's banks, near Jericho.But in these scientific days,
Employers' pimps will demonstrate
That human labor hardly pays;
Since lumpers cannot lug the
weight
That donkeys can; let's give three
cheers

For creatures with expansive ears.

Some years ago, one Mister Bumble,
By legal methods irritated
When dealing with an urchin humble,
His firm opinion freely stated:"There is no difference 'twixt the
LawAnd quadrupeds that say 'Hee
Haw.'"

CRESSET.

"Capital and Labor are twin broth-
ers," say the capitalist economist. So
they are—in a sense. Capital rep-
resents the unpaid produce of Labor,
and the pity of it is that the latter
allows his "twin brother" to run amok
and get into the hands of unscrupu-
lous people instead of bringing him up
as one of the family.

mour.

It is their selfishness, and that of
their class, their callousness, their
unscrupulous disregard of all ethical
and moral concepts, that is responsi-
ble for all things destructive in hu-
man society.What has the ruling class, its
church, and State ever done but burn,
crucify, and destroy? As sacrifices
have been offered up in the past for
the "true God" and the "true faith"
so to-day this hellish brood is sacrific-
ing humanity on the altar of its only
God, the god of greed, the god of
gold—their one and only true ideal
and inextinguishable belief.Fancy this dehumanised and cannibal-
like crew speaking of honour in
economic or human relations;
and fancy a lick-spittle scribe who
has prostituted his brains in their in-
terests talking about the "work-
man who has sold his soul to syndi-
calism." The "Argus," of course,
would prefer that the worker should
sell his soul and his body to the class
it represents. In this "free commu-
nity," of which it boasts the sale of his
body, so that he may live, is an abso-
lute requisite, in any case. The real
trouble of the "Argus" is that the
worker is not quite so ready as for-
merly to leave the salvation of either
his body or soul in the hands of the
Lloyd Georges and other working-
class "saviours."We do move, but oh! how slowly.
Thus the "Labor Call" of 4/11/15:—"Our Bogus Democracy" is the
heading of the leading article in the
"Australian Worker" of the 21st.
The article opens with the question:"Are we Australians a self-govern-
ing people?" and says that thous-
ands of honest citizens bugging
their Vote to their bosoms, and
turning gloating eyes on the Flag,
will answer it with an indignant
"Of course, we are!" "But... are
we?" continues our contemporary,
and replies: "In spite of the Vote,
and in spite of the Flag, WE ARE
NOT!" The Australian people
don't govern themselves at all. They
have the FORMS of self-govern-
ment."Then the "Worker" sub-
mits a case for the Referendum,
the carrying of which is to make
us a real self-governing people. But
it will not! However much the
"Yes" majorities to the Referendum
questions are desirable, and how-
ever much the passing of the propo-
sals will advantage the people,
we will not then be self-governing.Australia is only a vassal State,
politically, and what avails it to
have a Labor Government, even
clothed with the powers sought for
by the Referendum, if such Govern-
ment be always at the beck and
call of the Tory and aristocratic
Governments of Britain. If it is to
do the bidding of such Governments
and impose restrictive and reaction-
ary legislation whenever command-
ed or pursue a policy of adminis-
tration in accordance with the instruc-
tions from Downing-street, no mat-
ter how inimical to the interests of
Australia, without the Australian
people being consulted in any way.
Apart from this aspect, ours is a
"bogus democracy," because it is
not an industrial democracy. Politi-
cal power is the shadow; indus-
trial power the substance. Until
the workers have secured control
of industry as of politics, until they
have equalised the opportunities
and rights of all in the industrial
field as in the political sphere, un-
til they have taken away from one
small class the power it now pos-
sesses over the lives and livings of
the mass of the people, any so-called
system of political self-government
will be a delusion and a mockery."After a quarter of a century of ef-
fort the movement of which the
"Call" is one of the mouthpieces is
now apparently realising that it has
been grasping at shadows. Yet the
policy of the "Call" is to keep the
workers at the same old game of
shadow sparring and political rain-
bow chasing, instead of getting them
to organise at the only point where
it will be possible for them to grasp
the substance, and realise that Indus-
trial Democracy without which, all
else is "a delusion and a mockery."Re the beer strike, the "Sun"
remarks that "no doubt the prin-
ciple of arbitration will prove ef-
fective in the end. If either side
is recalcitrant, it will attract no
admiration; and the longer the
supply of fresh beer is delayed,
the worse it will be for both par-
ties." The principle of Arbitra-
tion will no doubt have the same
effect on the beer strike as in all
other strikes where the principle
is adopted. It will lead the work-
ers to believe still further in the
superstition that amelioration of
their condition lays with some
force external to themselves. We
wonder how long it would be be-
fore "the principle of Arbitration"
troubled itself about the
brewery workers if they hadn't
taken direct action on their own
account.As for the strikers' "recalcit-
rancy," the workers yet have never
noticed any great degree of
gentleness from the capitalists or
their press in any dispute which
involved encroachment on their
profits.The cables give us one more il-
lustration of the capitalist respec-
tation for "sacred" contracts.
Hundreds of Irish labourers at
Liverpool, after having booked
and paid for their passages to
America by the Cunard Company
Line, were, after boarding the
ship, all turned ashore again on
the ground that they were eligible
for military service.We have had a lot of hysterics
about "scraps of paper" lately,
but not a murmur from the capi-
talist press, which prints the news
with apparent approval, when a
rich and powerful company dis-
regards its written obligations to
defenceless and penniless emi-
grants.The same date on which this
cable appeared, the capitalist
papers featured the "unreason-
able" conduct of brewery em-
ployees in not abiding by a wages
agreement entered into some 12
months ago, notwithstanding that
the cost of living has gone up in
the meantime by almost fifty per
cent.The capitalist class never re-
spects contracts, laws or agree-
ments, except when it suits their
purpose. We fear the Cunard
incident though, will not have the
effect intended, that is to en-
courage recruiting. The Irish
people never had any love for
English rule, and this latest in-
sult at the hands of the hated
Saxon is not likely to stimulate
their patriotic enthusiasm for
their ancient enemy. Compulsion
later may be the end in view, but
in that case it will no doubt be
interesting to watch develop-
ments in Ireland.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—Propa-
ganda Meeting.Sunday Morning, 10.30 a.m., Hall—
Business Meeting.Sunday Afternoon, Keane's Goldfields
Hotel, Athletic Club, at 2.30—Lec-
ture.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.

(By R. H. Chaplin).

(Air: "Song of a Thousand Years").
Up from your knees, ye fawning
serfmen—What have ye gained by whines
and tears?Crush ye the Beast of greed and
power—Crush him or serve a thousand
years.

CHORUS.

A thousand years—then speed the
victory!

Nothing can stop us or dismay.

After the winter comes the spring-
time;After the darkness comes the
day.Break ye your chains; strike off
your fetters;—Beat them to shreds; forget your
fears.Fools! they can never break our
spirits.Though they should try a thou-
sand years.

Join in the fight—the Final Battle;

Welcome the fray with ringing
cheers.These are the times all freemen
dreamed of—Fought to attain a thousand
years.

Over the hills the sun is rising.

Out of the gloom the light ap-
pears.See! at your feet the world is wait-
ing—Paid for with blood a thousand
years.

—"Solidarity."

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITIES.

Rooms, Palace Buildings, Sulphide-
street.Wednesday Evening, at 7.30 p.m.—Edu-
cational Class.Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Business
Meeting.Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Econo-
mic Class.Sunday, at 7.30 p.m.—Outdoor Propa-
ganda Meeting, near Post Office, in
Argent-street.Good Library. Also good collection
of Literature for sale. All live rebels
welcome.

E. J. KIELY, Secretary.

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ADELAIDE READERS

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

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 centre 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 em-
ployers.These conditions can be changed and the interests of the work-
ing-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 revolu-
tionary 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 or-
ganising industrially, we are forming the structure of the new
society within the shell of the old.

"Britons Never Never --"

Last week we referred to the operation of the Munitions Act in England, and how it was being utilised by the master class for curtailing the few vestiges of industrial and personal liberty which the workers previously enjoyed.

We publish herewith a report which appears in the September issue of the "A.S.E. Monthly Journal and Report" of the manner in which the Armament Trust and other capitalist concerns have taken advantage of the workers who have been fooled by patriotic clap-trap into putting their necks into the noose which Lloyd George and other "friends of Labor" dangled before them.

Industrial Feudalism was the term we applied last week with regard to industrial conditions under the Munitions Act. That term was altogether too mild. If this report is a sample of conditions prevailing there, it is industrial conscription and a form of chattel slavery as vile and insidious as could possibly be thought of.

The Trade Union Congress in September last, even while the members of the unions represented were suffering from injustice and tyranny of the character referred to in this report, passed "hot air" resolutions against conscription and compulsion. The force of it! The union leaders were apparently up to their old game of mouthing about the "traditional liberties" of the British workers, while binding them hand and foot to their masters what time the workers were cheering their oratorical effusions.

The workers of Australia should take a timely warning, and beware of those leaders of their own who are going about prating of their patriotism, while endeavouring to bring the workers in industry under the iron heel of a military despotism.

The following is the report:—

The Newcastle Munitions Tribunal sat for the first time at the Labour Exchange, with Mr. I. M. Bally, barrister, of Eldon Square, presiding, and there were 24 cases before the court.

All the cases in which employees were defendants were brought at the instance of Messrs. Armstrongs, Whitworth and Co., Elswick.

The cases were then dealt with on police-court lines.

For having been absent from Elswick Works without permission on three days in August, R. Crowe was fined £1, to be deducted from his wages. Thomas Armitage Turner was also fined £1 for absence on one day in August.

Frank Brown, for having been asleep at 11.10 p.m., when working as a tool-setter, was fined 10s. He was in khaki, and had a good character. William Charlton, asleep in 58 shop at 5.7 a.m. on 14th August, said he was ill at the time, but he was fined £1.

I. Cummings, said to be a bad time-keeper, was fined £1 and similar fines for absence from work were inflicted upon J. E. Punccheon, M. Hill, Thomas Cowell, Thomas Hughes, and J. Turnbull. J. Dowson, earning only 30s weekly, and who had a good character, was let off with a half-crown fine.

Leonard Colville, who had taken drink into the works, was fined 1s. and £1 for having left the works.

George Boyle, tool setter, found asleep on August 13th, was fined £1. John Cardwell, Matthew Storey, and Thomas Mackay, forge furnacemen, were each fined £1 for absence from work.

A number of applications for leave certificates were made. Two referred to men working at Messrs. Emerson, Walker and Thompson. The secretary of the firm said they had lost 50 per cent. of their men through enlistment and going to other works, and they felt very strong reasons should be advanced before permission was given. Both men said that in consequence of the long journeys to work their health was impaired. The applications were refused.

A special tribunal to deal with cases under the Munitions Act was held in the Juvenile Court at Minshall Street, Manchester. The court was presided over by Mr. P. W. Atkin (the Salford Stipendiary), and he was accompanied

by Captain Brooks, and Mr. Tom Fox. There were eight cases down for decision, and they were chiefly connected with the withholding of consent to workpeople who wished to leave employment of firms on the munition schedule.

The first complaint was made by Charles Kenyon, against the Linotype and Machinery Company, Limited, Broadheath. The firm, he asserted, had unreasonably withheld a certificate of consent. His reason for wishing to leave was that he lived at Dukinfield, 16 miles away, and that his expense for travelling were 5s 5d per week, and it required three hours' time for the journey.

A representative of the firm said that the man was engaged on making gun mountings and castings. It was work of a special nature and was very difficult, and so the employers refused the consent because the work was vital.

Kenyon said that he had got another job at Stalybridge, where he was also engaged on munition work.

The Chairman said that the consent was reasonably withheld, and the complaint was dismissed.

The same firm were concerned with a similar complaint made by Arthur Dolman, who said that he was taken off intricate work and transferred to big work, which meant he earned 15s a week less money. He had eleven miles to travel to get to work and back, and the extra money he earned helped him with the expenses.

A representative of the firm said that he told Dolman he could not be permitted to go unless he was going to do work of a more vital character. Also as an example he could not allow men to chop and change their work as they pleased.

Dolman said that he got work at Armstrong Whitworth's, where he could work seven days per week.

The Chairman said that when the conditions of labour were changed he could have asked for consent to leave. He did not do that, but he went away for three days. Under the circumstances the consent was reasonably withheld, and the complaint was dismissed.

Messrs. De Berge and Company, Limited, complained that David MacGrath had infringed a section of the Munitions Act by absconding himself from duty.

Mr. Binns, of the A.S.E., appeared for MacGrath, and explained that illness was the cause of the absence. This was considered as satisfactory, and the case was dismissed.

Another complaint of unreasonably withholding a certificate of consent was preferred against Messrs. John Shaw and Sons, Limited, Salford.

The desire to leave arose out of a complaint from which MacGrath suffered. He wanted lighter work, the hydraulic work he was engaged on necessitating a lot of bending.

The complaint was dismissed.

A similar complaint was laid against Messrs. De Berge and Company, Limited, by Henry Briscoe, who said that about five weeks ago he had a difference with one of the work people, and he wanted to leave as he was afraid trouble would arise.

It was essentially agreed that a certificate of consent should be given.

Briscoe: Then I apply for compensation. I have been out of work two weeks and I have lost £5 in wages. I have had to borrow money to keep the home going.

The Chairman: We shall not consider compensation.

John Whittle complained of the withholding of consent against Messrs. Nasmyth, Wilson, and Co. He wanted to go back to the mines as a collier.

The Chairman appealed to a representative of the firm to grant the certificate. The man was only labouring for them, and he would be serving his country to greater advantage at his new work.

This was agreed, and the complaint was withdrawn.

Christopher Hudson wished to obtain a certificate from Messrs. L. Gardner and Son, Patricroft. His complaint was that he lived at Altrincham and had to go 12 miles to work, and there was neither tram nor train.

Speeding-up Produces Insanity.

We commend the following to the Melbourne "Argus," which, lately, in its thoughtful consideration for "women and children," defined the "canny" tactic and syndicalism as "suicidal, selfish, cruel, and destructive":—

"Speeding-up" systems are sufficient to upset the mind of an ordinary individual and produce insanity. This is what the solicitor of the United States Department of Labour thinks of the stop watch method of production.

The department has sustained this view, which is included in an opinion by its legal advisor that a worker injured because of a strain from working under a "speeding-up" system is entitled to relief under the federal Workmen's Compensation Act.

The decision was made in the case of D. C. Manning, sailmaker at the Mare Island navy yard, California, who worked for 20 years without losing a day from illness. A time card system was introduced, and in his plea for compensation, Manning brought out these points:—

"Under the time card system you had to give an account of every minute you were on the job, and we were given to understand that the men who did the most work would hold their jobs the longest. Later the Halsey system was introduced. Under this plan a time man, equipped with a table, lead, pencil, and stop watch, sat in front of the worker to find out how long it takes to do a certain piece of work. The report to headquarters was your future standard for that class of work."

"The Halsey system is designed to get out of the man employed under it the greatest possible amount of work he can do in a given time, with the fear ever hanging over his head that a failure to keep up to the standard will cause him to lose his job."

Manning was engaged in making coaling bags, which are 24in. long, and 8ft. in circumference. It is the hardest work in sailmaking.

Between the physical strength necessary in this work and the mental strain caused by every move being "tabbed," Manning collapsed, and asked for relief under the compensation act because of "a strain from rushing work under the Halsey system." Physicians reported that he would be disabled for life, and that he was "suffering from incurable heart condition."

The attending physician reported that Manning was "an unusually vigorous man, as well as an energetic worker."

In endorsing the statement of claimant that he was entitled to compensation, the solicitor of the Department of Labour declared that the treatment accorded Manning was enough to produce insanity. The official said:—

"Here was a strong, hearty, hard working employee, who, for about 20 years, had been regularly employed by the Government, and whose rating was first-class. After putting in all these years of driving every minute of his health, strength, and vigour, a new system was installed in the Government establishment by which the employee was kept under the highest nerve-racking tension by reason of the fact that a man sat watching his every movement during every minute of an eight-hour day. In addition to this it will be observed from claimant's letter, above quoted, that the work he was performing was one of the heaviest and hardest kind to be performed in his occupation. Under such circumstances, it is not a matter of surprise that his health should be injured and shattered, for it certainly seems that such treatment of a man engaged in heavy manual labour, necessitating also the use of the intellect, would be sufficient to upset the mind of an ordinary individual and produce insanity."—American Federation of Labour "Weekly News Letter."

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

A representative of the firm said that the boy had been with them six years, and it was hardly fair they should lose their apprentices that way, after they had trained them. The family only left Patricroft last week. The complaint was dismissed.

E.-W. Strike.

Writing from Platelayers' Camp, E.-W. Railway, under date November 3rd, 1915, a correspondent says:—

"Fellow Workers,—As I promised to report result of trouble here, I pen the following:—

As stated before, we gave them the required eight days' notice, which expired on Monday night, November 1. The only reply that we received was that no word had yet come from Melbourne, but the decision that was last given that we would not be paid for the two days still stands at that.

Another threat was, if the platelayers do not shift the police camp on shifting day, they will only be paid half a day for shifting camp. I was instrumental in securing the full day for shifting camp the last time the engineer-in-chief was here.

Well, after putting these matters to the gang, I asked what action they intended taking in the matter, and one man moved that we cease work; the other motion was that we slow down. The ganger said his instructions were if the work wasn't going along satisfactorily, he was to knock all hands off. On putting the motion for and against, the majority decided to stop work. We therefore all came home, and are engaged in a starvation strike, and are now endeavouring to pull all hands out along the line.

I interviewed the "Rep." who said he wouldn't allow I.W.W. literature to come into his gang, and asked him about it; he said it was correct. I asked him what were his reasons, and the only reason he could give was that "this was an A.W.U. job, and we didn't want I.W.W. literature here." His name is C. Gray, and he figures among the names of delegates to convention, the ballot for which closes in December next.

The weather is warming up a bit; the flies are in millions, and sore and bunged eyes are very prevalent here.

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.

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Enclosed please find P.O. for 4s., for which please send "Direct Action" for one year to the following address:—

Name.....

Address.....

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The 'Argus' Wail.

Mrs. J. MacDonald writes in reference to the "Argus" lamentations on Syndicalism, commented upon elsewhere in this issue:—

The enclosed gem was published in the Melbourne "Argus" last Saturday (6/11/15). Thought you would like to laugh over it, more especially as this paper is not a humorous publication, but intended to be educational, loyal, and patriotic (in addition of course, to being a handsomely paying business proposition).

There are individuals here and elsewhere who will argue themselves purple in the face that syndicalism trives no ice and cursed be they who advocate it.

Yet here is the most conservative capitalist newspaper in Australia declaring that "if Britain should be beaten by her knees (which, of course, God forbid), the working man will not be so much to blame as union leaders who preach syndicalism."

"Think of it, picture it, disoluble man." As a poet once sang. It is news indeed what "syndicalism thrives only in a free community," and that the discipline and tyranny of pure socialism would destroy syndicalism at a blow.

Silly as are these remarks of a leader writer, paid to print such stuff, one can understand that back of it all is the capitalists' fear of the awakening of the working class amongst all nations. Surely the day of reckoning, the coming of one big union, is near, when the "Argus" can write: "We do not suppose that anyone ever realised before this war what a selfish, cruel, and destructive thing syndicalism could be!"

And all because Lloyd George complains that munition workers in England are going slow on the job; restricting the output of weapons of murder for their own class on the slaughter fields of Europe.

The same paper does not mention the cruelties and other viciousness of the master class who for centuries have ground the working class in the mills of slavery, misery, and poverty. Or the prostitution of girls and women, the slaughter of hapless infants by starvation, the iniquity of long hours, mutilations of workers by defective machinery; such crimes as the steamer "Eastlands" sinking beside a wharf, and drowning hundreds of wage slaves.

Are not these things a million times worse crimes than the biting back of the workers by adopting the "canny" principles?

Oh! these crocodile tears of the prostituted and vicious press, run in capitalist interests. If the working-class worms turn, the fraction of an inch, what lamentations from the class that would tread these worms down into the lowest depths, could these unhappy victims of capitalism become unnecessary and useless for Fat and all his tribe—priests, parsons, politicians, and landlords.

J. MacDonald.

We hear a lot these times about the patriotism of the "better" classes and their eagerness to serve their country at the front. The following news item may help to explain their patriotic attitude:

'Melbourne, Thursday.—The Treasurer, introduced a bill, to provide for the payment of a lump sum of £4500 to Lady Bridges in lieu of her pension of £156 a year. He pointed out that, had General Bridges died on duty in Australia, his widow would have received that amount, which was three times his annual salary. The money could be invested in the War Loan.

Where is the working stiff who would not be "patriotic" if he knew that his wife and kids would be so handsomely provided for in the event of his stopping a German bullet?

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

Warner v. Police. The W. P. Army. The Beer Strike. The Barker Fund. The Remedy for Conscription.

Alderman Warner, a member of the Socialist party, recently got into trouble with the "powers that be" owing to too explicit definitions of "Hunnism" in the Sydney Domain.

Warner informed his audience that the recent prosecution and sentence of Jim Quinton was traceable only to that disregard of truth so characteristic of the police force in general. The "Huns" amongst us deemed this declaration so insulting and prejudicial to their dignity that Warner was immediately arrested, and charged with insulting behaviour towards the police.

After appealing the sentence from the Magistrates' Court, the police view of the matter was upheld by Judge Docker in the Appeals Court.

It seems, therefore, that the police force is a body which ordinary mortals dare not criticise.

In spite of this decision, however, militants have their own opinion to which they will doubtless give expression, as to the infallibility of the police, and police court procedure.

Mrs. Warner (who is, by the way, the real sufferer in the case) recently thanked the I.W.W. for its action in her husband's case in the letter following.

Those who have subscribed so generously to the Barker Defence Fund, will, it is to be hoped, endorse the action of the committee in making use of the surplus for a case so deserving.

The Editor.—Permit me a few lines in your paper. Mrs. Rudolph Hamilton brought me, this Monday morning, five pounds from the committee of the Barker Defence Fund. Needless to tell you, that it was just in time, for it was badly needed, as was explained to you, by Mrs. Hamilton.

My husband, Alderman Warner, though a working man, and of working-class associations, is not, I believe, a member of your I.W.W. organisation. I, therefore, wish to thank you doubly for your assistance, and undoubtedly your people stick to your motto, "Direct Action," for yours is the first sum I've received, and with six young children to feed, it was only just soon enough.

Though I'm forced to realise that my husband's only British freedom is to be allowed to spend 10 weeks' vacation in a cell at Goulburn Gaol, it makes my burden a great deal lighter with men like you, sticking to his wife and kiddies.—Yours for freedom.

FLORENCE WARNER.

Editor, "Direct Action."

Allow me through your columns to congratulate your paper, which is a vital need in times like these. Your denunciation of labour members and conscription deserves highest praise, for the doings of these have of late made the blood boil in all true laboratories.

In a crisis as this we see our foes in their true colours among the labor members we have elected. Our false and cruellest foes who have got their votes under false pretences. Their avarice and tyranny exceeds that of the capitalists, for the capitalist is a sincere and open rogue, but these Labor members are rogues and robbers and traitors of the Judas type. While feathering their own nests, the workingman is worse off than ever. The Labor Party is at present rotten to the core, and must be resisted and exposed. They are at present engaged in wild harangues and threats of conscription; we are accused of hiding behind the excuse of Germans being employed in the public service. They prate of our rights and liberties; while they deny us the liberty to speak. The commonest and meanest of all liberty, is free speech—which they deny! The commonest of all liberty and the meanest right is the rights of a man to his own life. Conscription would ruin the world, annihilate the working class, and give a new life to capitalism.

"A.W.U. UNIONIST AND SUBSCRIBER."

MISS PANKHURST'S VISIT.

Misses Pankhurst and John, organiser and secretary of the Women's Peace Army will arrive in Sydney on Friday, the 19th instant, to deliver lectures.

At present there is some slight difficulty in getting a suitable hall for the lectures, owing, we presume, to the bigoted and benighted attitude of the capitalist press, and the ultra patriots towards anyone who is working towards an early peace.

As soon as the hall is decided upon, the name and dates will be well advertised. The lectures will be "Down with Germany," and "The Price of Empire." The recent howl set up by the kept press in their reviews of Miss Pankhurst's new book, "Put up the Sword," should go a long way towards packing Miss Pankhurst's meetings to the doors.

Radicals, anti-militarists, industrialists, Socialists, and anti-conscriptionists should co-operate to make the meetings successful as far as possible. A large quantity of Miss Pankhurst's book will be on sale, and also literature handled by the Women's Peace Army, will be on sale.

Both Miss Pankhurst and Miss John are powerful speakers of the militant type, who will appeal particularly to the more advanced workers in Sydney. The women folk are particularly invited.

The hall for the lectures, and the dates will be announced at the I.W.W. meetings held over the week-end. Handbills will also be issued.

The "Bulletin" has recently been howling for Miss Pankhurst's internment for the ideas expressed in her book. It is up to the I.W.W. and other advanced workers and radicals to prove to the "Bulletin" that Miss Pankhurst will receive an attentive and sympathetic hearing from the workers of Sydney.

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 Building, Sulphide-street, Broken Hill, N.S.W.

Fremantle Local, No. 5—C/o. W. Johnstone, Burlington Hotel, Pakenham-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, Umang-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.

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.

The Brewery employees have returned to work and have left themselves in the gentle hands of the Arbitration Court. If the court grants an increase of a few shillings a week, Trade Union officialdom will point to the fact as being another victory for the principle of Arbitration. Had the brewery workers not taken action on their own account, the Arbitration Court would not have troubled itself overmuch about their welfare; and in fixing the rates of pay and conditions of labour, the determining factor will be just how much the workers will take without kicking. They will get that; no more, and no less.

The brewery employees can scarcely be blamed for throwing up the sponge so early in the struggle, seeing the forces arrayed against them. They were compelled to place themselves at the mercy of an arbitration court judge, not because of the superior economic power of their master, but because the latter took advantage of craft union organisation, and pitted worker against worker, section against section.

Coopers, electricians, engineers, and other "good" union men remained in the brewery plants, being more concerned, apparently, about depreciation in their masters' property than in the success or non-success of their striking fellowmen. As individuals, these men are not to be blamed for their action. It is the logical result of the existing methods of organisation from which scabbery of this kind is inseparable. To have told any of these workers that they were scabbing and ensuring the defeat of the strikers would more than likely have astonished them. They would have exhibited their union cards with pride, and would angrily enquire how union men in good standing could possibly be scabs.

This weird kind of psychology is again only the outcome of craft union teaching, which inculcates the idea that workers and exploiters have interests in common, and that therefore, the interests of the latter must be considered in times of struggle as well as the interests of their own class.

To run with the hare and hunt with the hounds has almost become a maxim with Trade Union officialdom. The interests of officialdom and the interests of the master class thrive on this kind of humbug. The material welfare of both is bound up in keeping the workers divided in mutually destructive sections.

Capitalism, however, is helping by its own development to break down all barriers to class organisation, and it only requires a little more tightening up of exploitation for the workers to see the suicidal policy of sectionalism and the treachery of the "leaders" who would perpetuate it.

"The great destiny of our age is precisely this—which the dark ages had been unable to conceive, much less to achieve—the dissemination of scientific knowledge among the body of the people. The difficulties of this task may be serious enough, and we may magnify them as we like—still our endeavours are ready to wrestle with them, and our nightly vigils will be given to overcoming them.

"In the general decay which, as all those who know the profounder realities of history appreciate, has overtaken European history in all its bearings, there are but two things which have retained their vigor and their propagating force in the midst of all that shrivelling blight of self-seeking that pervades European life. These two things are science and the people, science and the workingman. And the union of these two alone is capable of invigorating European culture with a new life.

"The union of these two polar opposites of modern society, science and the workingman, when these two join forces, they will crush all obstacles to cultural advance with an iron hand, and it is to this union that I have resolved to devote my life so long as there is breath in my body."—Ferdinand Lasalle.

Below will be found a list of subscriptions since the last appeared in the issue of November 6th. As there is sufficient in hand to meet all expenses in connection with Barker's case, it becomes unnecessary for the fund to remain open longer. However, any amounts that may arrive will be placed to the credit of the Barker Defence Committee, and utilised from time to time as circumstances demand, according to the discretion of the committee. This power has been granted to the committee by an advertised meeting of subscribers to the fund, and in those days of automatic mal-administration, it is essential that a fighting fund should be in existence. Hardly a week passes without prosecutions or rumors of them, and in cases where there are others dependent upon those that are placed behind bars and bolts, it is up to us to see that the rebels of the future are not going to be stunted in their childhood days.

F. J. MORGAN.

	£	s	d
Amount previously acknowledged	134	11	2½
A.S. of Carpenters and Joiners:—			
Second Branch, Carlton, Vic.	2	0	0
Am. Soc. of Carpenters and Joiners, Geelong	0	10	6
Per W. Parrott, Waiata, N.Z.	0	17	6
Aus. Bookbinders and P.R.F.A., Vic. branch	0	10	6
Ardlethan branch of the A.M.E.A.	3	0	0
Fed. H. and S. Painters, etc., of Australasia:—			
Victorian head branch	1	1	0
Blackball Mine Workers' Union, N.Z.	5	12	0
R. G. (Matata), N.Z.	0	10	0
W. M. (Matata), N.Z.	0	5	0
H. T. (Auckland), N.Z.	0	5	0
P. E., New Zealand	0	2	6

The following amounts were sent in by George Le Quesne, New Zealand:—
Barnaby Rudge 5/,
Mr. Purchase 5/,
Williamson 2/,
Brennan 2/,
Jolly 2/,
Urbanaki 2/6,
F. Nees 2/6,
J. Mayell 2/6,
C. Lawson 2/,
J. Mortimer 2/,
W. Hales 1/.

Total amount of money received £153 15 8½
Less money returned 3 2 0

Approximate expenses to date 69 15 3

Balance to credit 80 18 5½

Approximate Liabilities £23 9 0

The Miners' Federation of Great Britain, the Transport Workers' Union, and the National Union of Railwaymen, have agreed to the proposal for the amalgamation of the unions. The total membership of such an amalgamation would be approximately a million and a half. Actuated by the spirit of industrialism and direct action, such an amalgamation would be the most potent force yet formed against capitalism in any country. It is to be feared, though, that it will merely become a happy hunting ground for Labor and Socialist politicians. Some M.P.s already hold prominent positions in the unions referred to.

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 Hall.
Saturday, 8 p.m.—Educational Lecture
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.

J. Ward writes:—

The newspaper accounts of the last couple weeks throw a lurid light on the methods of the ruling clique in British communities. We are told that the stokers of a Cunard liner refused to work if able-bodied passengers were carried to New York; that the Cunard and White Star Companies have refused to carry any passenger fit for military service out of British ports during the war, and that the British Government is going to prohibit the emigration of all male fit for military service.

For the first time for 700 years Irishmen are to be prohibited from clearing out of the British Empire. They must stay in the British Isles, and must enlist or starve.

We hear continually about the Poles being compelled to fight with Germany and Austria.

During the last fifty years, more Irish have left Ireland than remain in the whole British Empire. If the Irish workers of the United States, and especially the waterside workers, only act as men, they can stop the forcible conscription of Irishmen, or for that matter, of Australians of New Zealanders. The waterside workers of the U.S.A. hold the key of the situation. Any shipping company refusing to carry steerage passengers to American seaports at the fares ruling in October from British or Irish ports to be declared black, and the waterside workers of America to refuse to load or unload any ship of that company until the embargo is removed. If the British Government bring in a law to prohibit any male from leaving the British Isles during the war, the waterside workers of America to strike against loading or unloading any ship British owned, or flying the British flag. If Australia or New Zealand Governments brought in a conscription law to force men to stop lead every British ship to be treated the same way. In England the capitalist wants a law to prevent men leaving the British Isles. The Australian capitalist wants a law to force men to stop lead 10,000 miles from Australia. But the workers, especially the waterside workers, can do much if they act quickly, at the right moment.

Till the war started, the capitalists were forever telling Australians that we must fill up our empty spaces. Now, the capitalist is practically telling Australians that their supposed country is over-populated, and that every fit man between 18 and 45 should enlist and stop lead 10,000 miles away. The aim of the capitalist is to send able-bodied men out of Australia, so that when the war is over they can import unfortunates and swamp the labour market with men who have been used to wretched conditions of existence. Bad as Australia is to-day, it will be many times worse after the war if conscription is enforced.

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.

"Capital is dead labor that, vampire like, lives only by sucking living labor, and lives the more, the more labor it sucks."—Marx. If Marx lived to see the present war, he would say that Capital as personified by the ruling class was not content with the mere sucking of blood—it must swim in it.

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