

One Big Union For the International Working Class



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ONE PENNY

Sydney Activities

A record crowd attended at the Hall on Sunday evening, 19th inst., the attraction being a debate between a member of the Political Labor League, Mr. Leonard Green, and Fellow-worker J. B. King, of the I.W.W. Mr. Green affirmed: "That the principle of Parliamentary action as advocated by the P.L.L. is the quickest and shortest method for obtaining social reforms for the masses."

He spoke for thirty minutes at the outset, and put up an exceptionally good argument from his point of view. He contrasted the social condition of the people in Russia, Germany, and other continental countries, as well as in England and the United States, with the conditions prevailing in Australia, and asserted that the poverty of the masses in the older countries was due to limitations or lack of the franchise, and the fact that the machinery of government remained in the hands of the master class. Conditions in Australia were not all that could be desired, but, nevertheless, they were superior to those prevailing in older countries, which was attributable to the fact that adult suffrage was a reality in the Commonwealth. The workers were thereby enabled to give expression to their needs through the Parliamentary machinery, and if Parliament failed to achieve their desires, the franchise was the weapon by which Parliaments were made and unmade, and the workers could elect those who would agree to carry out their wishes.

King, in reply, created some laughter by drawing a picture of the workers every three years experimenting in selecting a Parliament. At the end of half a dozen experiments they would be too old to worry much about the result, and it did not appeal to him personally as being the "quickest and shortest method." He said that while Labor Governments were in power, in the majority of States, as well as in the Federal House, the economic conditions of the workers were growing rapidly worse, worse even than under Liberal governments, and the conclusion of his opponent was unwarranted, therefore, that the material welfare of the worker depended upon their electing men to Parliament. Economic power was the ruling factor in capitalist society, and all Parliaments and Governments were necessarily subservient to that power, otherwise they would cease to exist. The Governor-General, for instance, was invested with the power to dissolve Parliament when he so desired, and if the economic order of the capitalist class was seriously endangered, there is no doubt he would do so on behalf of the class to which he belonged. The only hope of the working class lay in building up a powerful industrial organisation on international lines, so that the ruling class could not use the workers of one country to defeat those of other countries in their struggles.

Mr. Green replied with a ten-minute speech, in which he pointed to the achievements of the Labor party, notably the Arbitration and Conciliation measures introduced by it. In all other countries workers were bludgeoned and gaoled when going on strike, which was due to the fact that they left the political machinery in the hands of their enemies. Everything could not be attained in a day. The Labor Party might be moving



"FAT'S" CHRISTMAS SPIRIT 1915.
"WHAT! YOUR HUSBAND KILLED IN ACTION? THAT'S UNFORTUNATE. BUT WE CAN'T LET SENTIMENT INTERFERE WITH BUSINESS. NO RENT? YOU MUST GET IT!"

slowly, but the I.W.W. method "would take a thousand years." Free education was something else for which the Labor party deserved credit. These were measures which put millions into the workers' pockets.

King, who had fifteen minutes to reply, criticised the Arbitration principle. Its greatest achievement to date was that the workers were by law compelled to accept 9/6 per week less than what was admitted to be a fair living wage. Workers were also punished and gaoled for striking under Labor governments. As for "free" education, it was farcical. The children of the workers had to be taken out of the schools at such an early age in order to assist their families in getting a livelihood, that to speak of education at all in connection with the majority of working-class children, was absurd. The "millions" which the workers had pocketed through the advent of the Labor party, according to his opponent, did not seem very apparent from their condition to-day. The "moving slow" policy of the Labor Party he described as crablike—moving backwards.

Mr. Green wound up the debate with a ten-minute address, impressing upon workers the need for both industrial and political action. One, he said, was the complement of the other.

In accordance with Mr. Green's

request, no vote was taken on the matter under debate, but to judge by the applause which punctuated the speakers' remarks, there was no doubt about its being another victory for industrialism, though Mr. Green undoubtedly had his supporters too. There was not even standing room in the Hall during the debate, and Sydney Local must soon be on the look out for larger premises if its audiences continue to increase at this rate.

SUBSCRIBERS: PLEASE NOTE.

Owing to the advent of the holidays and the difficulty of getting lines, and other matters attended to at the proper time, there will be no issue of "Direct Action" next week. The next issue will appear on January 8th.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. J. Grant (Melbourne).—Too late for this issue.
R. Farrall.—Report of Melbourne activities too late for this issue. Appearing later.
A. Wilson.—Verses too hot for these patriotic days. You should read the War Precautions Act.

The cessation of work by the Engineers at the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Newcastle, has brought about a stoppage of munition making in New South Wales. The bosses, the capitalist press and so-called "organised labor," as represented by the Sydney Labor Council, have united in a chorus of denunciation. "Disloyalists," "Traitors," "Pro-Germans," are some of the mildest words used. Just a little question for the "loyal patriots." What percentage of German capital is directly or indirectly represented in the Broken Hill Proprietary Company?

At time of writing wharf laborers are out on strike at Darling Island for an increase of 3d per hour for loading "special cargo." Secretary Wood, of the Wharf Laborers' Union, previous to his departure for Melbourne, advised the men to remain at work. Assistant Secretary Hunt condemns their action through the columns of the capitalist press, and says that they are only a minority of the union—which means that the majority, under Hunt's instructions, are scabbing. President Kelly also is perturbed over the fact that the "Christians of the union were not consulted. What a god-send union officialdom is to the bosses.

"The Call"

Fifty thousand men are required from Australia for the trenches in Europe. "The Call" has gone forth, and the men must be supplied. This is the final test of the voluntary (?) system of enlistment. Men must decide whether they are prepared to obey, and if they refuse to answer they must be made to, or punished.

So we are informed by the capitalist press.

Ninety per cent. of the fifty thousand, as a matter of course, must come from the ranks of the working class. The workers concerned are denied any expression of their own opinion in the matter. "Must" is the invisible word running through the whole murderous scheme.

It would be useless to comment on "The Great Betrayal" of the so-called labor leaders who have brought the workers, whom they pretended to serve, into this dire predicament.

They, the workers, have only themselves to blame. Lack of organisation leaves them at the mercy of the powers that now use the "categorical imperative" for their own vile purposes.

The ruling class of Australia fears competition from its more far-seeing German fellow exploiters. If the exploited should doubt the efficacy of domestic fleecers in robbing them of the product of their toil—why, they must be made to see that vampires prosper better under the folds of the British flag than under the German.

What right have slaves to choose the flag under which they shall be robbed? "Theirs is not to reason why; Theirs is but to do and die." Why should modern slaves dare question the right of their masters to demand their blood? Their forefathers have made this sacrifice down through the centuries. Poverty, starvation and bloodshed have always been their portion. Subjection and blind obedience to their masters' dictates are the milestones of history; and Labor Leader Hughes, in whom the slaves have placed their confidence, is right in punishing any departure from the historical rule.

"Right," because might is the deciding factor in this as in all other social questions under present day society.

Miseducated and fooled; divided, disorganised and betrayed, the workers to-day have no might which cannot be brushed aside by a mere tap of the military drum.

So bow your heads, you slaves; obey your masters, call and be content with the good things which the God of War and Billy Hughes provide for you.

In an interview with a press correspondent on the question of supplying drink to soldiers, Archbishop Kelly says he believes "a little solace is due to the boys if they take it in safety." The difficulty was "that a man drawing 8s or 9s a day was in danger when he got his pay. When people knew he had money they pursued him and trapped him into evil." The temptations besetting the path of Bishops and other highly-paid people must, according to this, be tremendous.

DIRECT ACTION

Follow the King.

Melbourne
Carter's Demands

"The Bulletin"

GROWING OLD, FAT, AND RESPECTABLE.



The following cable appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of the 15th inst.:-

LONDON, Tuesday.—The Press Bureau has issued a medical bulletin, which states: "The King is so far recovered from his grave accident as to be able to resume work within certain limitations. The King has lost seriously in weight, and until a normal state of health has been attained it is essential to avoid fatigue. It has been necessary, on medical grounds, to take a little stimulant daily during convalescence. When His Majesty's health has been restored he will resume total abstinence, which was self-imposed for public reasons."

We are informed from a reliable source that the following comment by the "Herald" on the above cable was, for some reason, censored:-

"The 'Herald' hopes that His Majesty's medical advisers will adhere to their resolution to prevent His Majesty undergoing unnecessary fatigue during the period of convalescence. Having 'sworn off it' ourselves, however, in our loyal desire to 'follow the King,' we regret that His Majesty's anxiety to resume work has induced him to depart from his previous strictly temperate habits. Such a course may have a demoralising effect upon munition workers, notwithstanding His Majesty's undoubted capacity for arduous labor, and may conceivably affect the outcome of the war."

What with the Christmas holidays and the King "on the sick," "Direct Action" has grave fears for the "Herald's" sobriety, and recommends Archdeacon Boyce and Walter Bentley to keep an eye on the editor.

WAR! WHAT FOR?

We have a limited supply of the above book, printed on superior paper, and attractively bound, which will be forwarded to any address upon receipt of cash for 4s 6d. In conjunction with "Put Up The Sword," the two volumes will be forwarded upon receipt of cash for 7s. Address: Box 98, Haymarket P.O., N.S.W.

"sacrifices" of this kind is like asking a man who has been robbed to share in the exultation of the robber who spends the plunder for his own ends.

If the workers' standard of living is not to deteriorate more rapidly in the near future even than it has done for the past sixteen months, a different stand must be taken towards Arbitration Courts. They were established, so we were told, to prevent strikes and secure to every worker a "living" wage. Arbitration has miserably failed to accomplish either purpose.

Strikes are inevitable while capitalist exploitation exists; and the "statesmen," Liberal and Labor, who pretended to believe that a "scrap of paper," a law on the statute book, could eliminate the class conflict embedded in the economic foundations of society, were merely fooling the workers for their own purposes. As for the "living" wage it has never operated, and never will, while the workers depend upon others to procure it for them.

The remedy lies not in Arbitration, nor in law-making or taxation. The real chairman at all Arbitration Courts is Economic Power; the only law worthy of the name from the workers' standpoint is the law made and enforced on the job; the only "taxation" that will benefit the working class is shorter hours and a longer pay envelope. And until the workers organise industrially and internationally to wage war on the capitalist class with the ultimate object of overthrowing the system through those tactics, there will be destitution and poverty, crime and disease and scanty Xmas dinners, in Berlin as in Sydney, in London as in New York; and so also will they remain at the mercy of their exploiters, and be fooled, threatened and punished by the judicial lickspittles of capitalism.

Three thousand members of the above union demanded more of the good things of life. Their advertisement read: "Mass meeting to consider the advisability of taking Direct Action to secure higher wages and shorter hours. As the matter is extremely serious, every member is asked to attend."

The secretary said the time had arrived when the men should not only threaten strike, but should carry it out.

He may not know, but there are two kinds of strike, on, and off the job. To withdraw your labor-power and leave the way open for scabs. To take a holiday at your expense may suit the boss, but to cause him all the trouble you can will suit you better. If you really want a holiday in order to go to Europe, I hope that the feeling will spontaneously overcome the members of your union when you are out with a load and far from the stables or garage. To obtain policemen to guard your masters' property, in case some vulgar people get busy helping themselves will cost the ruling class a few diamond tiaras. To lose a couple of wheels and tip the dear bosses' goods in the street would annoy the old "Argoosie" and her fossilised supporters. If you are a motor lorry driver, motors are very delicate, and the least draught of emery powder is a wonderful stimulant.

To mix up the names and addresses or labels on the goods, and take a little more time taking them to the wrong people, will give the boss syncope, and compel him to think a great deal more of you. A little acid has a great affection for leather; it it accidentally finds itself there, it might cause your horse to part company with some of his clothes. He won't be annoyed if he happens to leave the lorry behind.

Also, horses have no brains, that's why they don't buy a 2/11 alarm clock to wake them up in time for the boss. They also like a valet to put their clothes on for them. You, drivers, of course, don't need anything so common as valets to dress you. Wages boards are only used by politicians and judges who have a low standard of living, and require protection from you high and mighty carters and drivers. If your conditions are as bad as you say, what must be the position of the dear boss? He won't be able to go to Europe this coming summer if you should follow the example of the Broken Hill underground workers and take direct action on the job. Don't blame the boss if he gives you £3 15s a week to waste on slow horses and fast women. Your direct action will annoy "Granny Argoosie," and "Auntie Age," especially if they fail to get the necessary paper to waste printer's ink on.

If you will continue in your desire for direct action, I hope you'll forget to tell the boss fourteen days before hand, and catch him bending.

R. M. ROUSE.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

For

"DIRECT ACTION."

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

Name.....

Address.....

-Fill it in NOW!

TO FRENCH COMRADES.

Camarade français desire entier en relation avec des camarades anglais allemand, ou suisse parlant français écrire au journal.

ADELAIDE READERS

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

There was in Sydney, years ago, A paper that I used to know. And working folk were all agreed It WAS a paper, good to read.

Each week they used to pay, their sprat To read this paper's handy chat. The lines on which this sheet was ran Were crimson, and republican.

To princes, kings, and queens as well, It always gave particular hell. All parsons, priests, and 'woasners meek It knocked slops out of once a week.

And portly folk, who lived on rent, Were promptly to the devil sent. And towards the politician plastic The language used was most sarcastic.

At sight of military folk, With rage this sheet would nearly choke. At parasites of every sort In fury it would rip and short.

Exploiters by their tricks accurst Enraged it so if almost burst. At folk in high society, It gibed with an unholy glee.

It printed tales of fornication To stimulate its circulation. And in those days, you may be sure, Its owners were extremely poor.

But as it gained in power and pelf, This paper twisted on itself. Its principles were all denied, Or placed conveniently aside.

And those that once it cursed as robbers, It hailed now as the best of cobblers. And brainless folk it seeks to please With foolish jingles—such as these.

But now this sheet has lost its punch— Folk spend their sprat on counter-lunch. The reason why is plainly seen: The Fat Man runs the "Bulletin."

—CRESSET.

The Wooden Shoe

In ancient times the beasts were caught And penned within a noisome sty, And scraps of food their master brought For fear his useful beasts should die; A lash of heavy weight and shape Discouraged efforts to escape.

The careless hand that flung the food Could wield the lash with deadly skill, And often in an angry mood, A beast or two would sometimes kill, But over this no sleep he'd lose, More beasts there were than he could use.

The beasts at times by methods crude Would strive, and seek to break away, Then would the hand withhold the food, And bring the dreaded lash in play, Submissive then the beasts would stand And try to lick the master's hand.

But lately to this noisome sty, A stranger beast an entrance sought, With brain alert and shining eye, A new philosophy he taught; The toilworn slaves could dimly see He had some plan to set them free.

The hand that wielded the lash is strong, And learn to lick that hand we must, Said some who'd lived in sties so long, They heard his teachings with distrust. These boneheads, one could plainly see, Rejoiced in their captivity.

But some were slaves of sharper wit, Though holding views extremely odd, For even these, I must admit, Looked on their master as a god And they were at a total loss If Fate deprived them of their boss.

The stranger taught, with patience rare, These slaves of somewhat keener brain; At some, who'd timidly declare, "By peaceful means our ends we'll gain," The stranger winked, and brought to view, The "Peaceful Means,"—A Wooden Shoe.

—CRESSET.

Heydon's Xmas
Homily

To hear the capitalist press exult about the shortage of food, high prices, etc., in Germany, one would think that these were phenomena entirely unknown to Australia. Yet the fact is undeniable that there will be an Xmas Day in Sydney thousands of workers, men, women and children, who will either be compelled to go without their Xmas dinner or have to depend on charity therefor.

The applicants for relief to the Benevolent Society in Sydney alone has increased by 300 per cent. since the beginning of the war, and who can compute the number who suffer in silence, or are depending upon friends for a crust, rather than accept the grudging and degrading doles handed out by charitable institutions. Even to those workers whose employment is more or less of a permanent character, their Xmas dinner table, in view of the fearful rise in prices, can present anything but a bounteous appearance. Many there are, indeed, in this boasted land of plenty, whose wages will be only supplied by "mortgaging" their wages to the butcher, baker, and grocer.

In face of such facts, we had Judge Heydon delivering one of his periodical homilies from his comfortable £50 a week job (or is it £30?) on the Arbitration Court bench last week, pointing out to workers that they must be prepared to make sacrifices for the "national welfare," and cease demanding higher wages. If we look up the reports of the financial, industrial, and commercial institutions since the war began, we shall find that in nearly every case profits or dividends have not diminished, and that in many cases the war has been the direct consequence of increased prosperity to many of them.

Heydon is therefore playing the master's game with unblinking effrontery when he tells the working class that a low wage, with ever soaring prices, is a sacrifice they should cheerfully bear, while profit, interest, and dividends are constantly increasing—increasing at such a rate, in fact, that the Federal Government has found it necessary to follow the example of the Government in Great Britain, and make a pretence of placating the worker by imposing a 50 per cent. tax on excess profits accruing from the war.

No tax imposed on profits by governments can raise the economic position of the worker one iota. Taxes were never imposed, and are certainly never applied for such a purpose. Such taxes represent nothing but portion of the unpaid product of labor, and to ask the worker to share in

The Empire and the Slave.

(By A. E. Brown.)

"And what shall they know of England,
Who only England know?"
So sings Kipling, the "Banjo-bard of Empire," in satiric allusion to those people who would see a country happy rather than "great."

We hear a good deal now-a-days about "Empire." The claims, obligations, defence, and glories of Empire are dinned incessantly into our ears. Working men are exhorted to fight for the Empire, and to become more efficient (for the Empire) on a lower standard of living. A writer in "John Bull" pathetically remarks: "The people are pouring out their blood for the Empire; let the millionaires pour forth their gold."

For some years workers have been exhorted to think "imperially." As the sole result of such imperialistic thinking so far is the most savage war the world has known; it would have been on the whole as well, perhaps, for the slaves, if they had continued their mental efforts (as before) merely to "smooching up" to the boss.

The proper "imperial" thinking for working men is how to improve the conditions of their own class. This will lead them to take a larger view, of their class interests. They will cease to be "citizens of no mean city," and become cosmopolitan; they will negative Nationalism, and affirm the world-wide solidarity of Labor.

The master-class, however, gulls the workers into the belief that the interest of the millionaire and the workman "still" is essentially the same. As Fagin says to Noah Claypole in "Oliver Twist": "My No. 1 is your No. 1, and you can't take care of your No. 1 without taking care of my No. 1." Fagin said this because he wished to get Claypole into his power. So it is with the master-class and the workers.

It is amusing in this connection to notice how loosely and carelessly the words "capital" and "labor" are used in the capitalist press. Capital is stock; labor is human life; but to read the capitalist press, one would think it was the other way about. This trifling aberration on the part of the masters is due to the fact that they do not think in terms of human, but of surplus value. That is the kind of imperialistic thinking they wish to enforce upon working men.

It is nothing to the "bottom dogs" of society that they are members of an Empire upon which the sun never sets and the sun of Freedom never rises, since they are to all intents and purposes slaves, with a prospect of a still lower descent into the gulf. For it is safe to assert that, thanks to the imperialistic tendencies of the workers, in ten years' time a great bulk of the working class will be purely and simply chattel-slaves, bought and sold on the market like cattle; and in twenty years' time the whole of the workers will find themselves in this enviable position. We may therefore parody Kipling's lines, and ask:

"What shall they know, of Empire,
Who only slavery know."

The British Empire is an aggregation of countries from which the original possessors of the soil have been either driven off, exterminated by war and decimated by famine and disease, or enslaved for purposes of exploitation. Australia, with its dying aboriginal race; Canada, where the Indians, another dying race, have been driven into reservations; South Africa, with the natives, after a gallant resistance, enslaved in compounds; and India, with its exorbitant taxation and periodical famines, are cases in point.

Another Empire war looms on the horizon when the present strife is over. That is the clash of the white and yellow races.

"O East is East and West is West,
And never the twain shall meet."
But it is safe to assert that, while workers listen to the voices of capitalist sophistries, East and West will soon find themselves meeting on the field of battle, amid the "shock of matter, and the crash of worlds." Meanwhile, where does the working "star" come in? He comes in at the "front," and goes out at the back.

For with all their imperialistic ambitions, the status of the workers does not improve. After the war is over, the cost of the destruction and waste entailed thereby must be extracted from labor. "Surplus value" is sacred: proletarian life and labor is cheap.

The conclusion of the whole matter is, that the Empire and the slave have nothing in common. Let the working class concentrate its energies upon the improvement of its own conditions, and leave Empire to take care of itself. This universal effort on the part of Labor will blind together the workers of the world in a closer bond than any that Empire can supply.

To secure the full product of your toil, that is the goal for working men. Capital is necessary; but it should be owned and controlled by Labor, which creates it. Organising on the industrial field for ownership of our own capital—that is the primary occupation for the worker. In the words of the poet:—

"Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate,
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to confound and take."

POST OFFICE SWEATING.

A P.O. official writes:—

No doubt, being a constant visitor at the Haymarket P.O., you will spare me a few lines in "Direct Action." I wish to mention that although it is Christmas time, the staff has not yet been given any extra assistance, which is most necessary owing to the rush which is now existing. At most times, even in the slackest, the business done daily at this office is all ways with a rush, as you will always find the public lined up at both the postal and M.O. counters. They are generally on an average of three deep. It is no fault of the officials on these counters, as they are exceedingly fast, and there is certainly room for complaint on the officials' side, for as fast as the crowd are attended to there are others coming in their place.

A continual stream is assured all day long. This matter requires looking into by some of the heads of this department, and extra assistance should be rendered to the overworked officials on both these counters, which would enable them to cope with the Christmas rush.

To belong to the family of a Labor politician is a paying proposition now-a-days. The purchase of annuities for the wives of the late Messrs. Dacey and Trefle will cost somewhere about £3500. The workers who keep the labor politicians in office are recommended by Chief Secretary Black to go to the benevolent institutions for their Xmas dinner, if they should happen to be out of a job. Yet some foolish people enquire, "What is the use of politics?"

ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL No. 6.

HALL, LANE ST., BOULDER, W.A.

Wednesday Evenings, in Hall—Class Meeting.

Friday Evening, Boulder Post Office—Propaganda Meeting.

Saturday Evening, Kalgoorlie—Propaganda Meeting.

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

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

Sunday Evening, Boulder—Propaganda Meeting.

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

F. H. LUNN.

Literature List.

Capital: Karl Marx, 3 vols., 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.: Pense, 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.

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 243 William Street. Monday, 8 p.m.: Business Meeting. Thursday, 8 p.m.: Educational Class. Working Class Economics—T. Turner, Instructor.

Friday, 8.30 p.m.: Propaganda Meeting, Brunswick, corner Sydney Road and Victoria Street.

Sunday: Propaganda Meeting, Yarra Bank.

The rooms are open to all workers every night. All working class papers on file. Good Library. A welcome to all the "disobedient ones."

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITIES.

Rooms, Palace Buildings, Sulphide Street.

Wednesday Evening, at 7.30 p.m.—Educational Class.

Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Business Meeting.

Alternate Sundays, at 3 p.m.—Economic Class.

Sunday, at 7.30 p.m.—Outdoor Propaganda Meeting, near Post Office, in Argyle-street.

Good Library. Also good collection of Literature for sale. All live rebels welcome.

E. J. KIELY, Secretary,
Local No. 2, I.W.W.

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.

STICKERS.

The Press Committee have plenty of I.W.W. Stickers on hand. They are in large type, smart, and to the point. Each Sticker has an imprint on it, in accordance with the boss's law. We will send along 1,000 to any address in Australia for 2/9, 5,000 for 12/-, and 10,000 for 21/2/6. Please send cash with order. Orders will be sent to New Zealand, provided 3d extra is enclosed per thousand for additional postage. Address: Manager, Box 98, Haymarket, N.S.W.

Push the sale of "Direct Action." The boss loves it.
Every copy of "Direct Action" sold is a kick at the boss. Get subs.

W a g e s

By W. E. Reynolds.

What determines the wages you receive? What do we mean by wages? Wages have been described as the sugar-coating that makes a job endurable.

Four-fifths of the men, women and children of this country are dependent upon daily wages for their existence. Four-fifths of all the people, with the exception of the farmers, are wage-workers or depending upon wage workers. With so many people depending upon wages life you would naturally expect to find the public schools teaching what wages are and what determines whether they are "high" or "low"; wouldn't you?

The more you know of a problem and the principle involved, the easier you can solve it. We all have the problem of life to solve. With so many of us depending upon wages for life, the things or conditions that determine wages are of vital importance to us.

It should be the business of a public school to equip the child to better meet and solve the problems of life. If this is not the function of the public school, it is omitting the most important thing in the world.

Somebody defined wages as "that portion of the products of labor which the employer allows the worker to keep." But this is not true. Any wage worker knows that he is not allowed to keep even the smallest bit of what he produces. Should he be caught keeping back even the tiniest portion of the things he makes his boss would have him arrested for stealing company's property.

Imagine a diamond digger keeping a part of the diamonds! Or a shoemaker keeping a part of the shoes! Right here is the first colored gentleman in the capitalist woodpile; the first joker in the stacked deck of the wage system. Wage workers, whether they know it or not, have to AGREE to give up title to all the product of their labor, before they can get permission to go to work. They have to agree to take something different from the things they produce.

The employers know that if you got a part of what you produce, you would be apt to size up the SMALLNESS of the part you received and the BIGNESS of the pile left the company and you MIGHT start something!

The modern wage system, as a flim-flam, has the old three shells and a pea bunco game backed clear off the boards. With the shell game you had an occasional chance to win! Never yet has any man been known to beat by the wage game and become a millionaire!

Suppose that you got a ration. So many pounds of flour, salt hog, beans and a clothing allowance in exchange for what you did in the factory! NO! SIR! That would never do. Why you would feel like a slave working all the time for your board and clothes. Foxy bosses! They do not give you rations. They translate it into money. By the time you get the money changed into the food and clothes and necessities you have to have, the operation has become so complicated that you don't know just where you are at. You know that the best you can do is to keep even. You feel that there is something wrong; that you are cheated somehow.

What determines the amount of money you get for your labor?

You compete with your fellow workers for the job. They offer to do the work for three dollars a day. You offer to do it for two seventy-five. They make it two and a half and so it goes, down, down, down until it finally gets to a place where you decide—"I can't live on that." There! There is the rock that competition breaks upon. It is the standard of living the worker will accept. Here is the proof of that.

Go to any country you choose. Find out what it costs the workers to maintain their standard of living and that will be the wages they are receiving. In China it costs about 20 cents a day to live and wages are about 20 cents. In Alaska it costs about six dollars a day to live, and

wages are around six dollars. Here, in the States, it costs about two dollars a day to live and wages average two dollars.

What you do has nothing to do with the wages you get. Your wages are determined not by what you do, but by what it costs to keep you able to do. As a class, no matter what your cost of living, remember this—the employer always has to give the employee enough to live on and get back on the job.

Here is a little problem that shows up wages in their true light. If it costs you two dollars to buy the necessities, etc., how long will you have to work in order to save enough to buy a home?

One more little problem to apply the principle. You have been told from childhood, to save your money and become independent. Now the standard of living which you, as a class, are willing to accept, determines your wages. You have been getting two dollars a day (because it cost you two dollars a day to maintain your standard of living). Now you decide that you will each save fifty cents a day. How will you do it? By going without butter, tobacco, new clothes or some such thing? But when you do that you cut down your standard of living. And if the standard of living is the thing which determines your wages, then you have cut your wages and have nothing to save and are worse off than when you started!

Know what determines wages and avoid being misled into a lot of foolish by-paths which do not better your condition!

We are sick of the wages system. What we really want is a system in which the working class receive the value of the things it makes—for the working class.

"International Socialist Review."

Christ will have a warm time in a week or two with his "peace and goodwill" followers praying for the success of the war in their respective countries.

"The wild Prussian beast of Militarism must be brought to its knees," said patriotic little Billy lately. Quite so; a beast of that kind should not be allowed at large in Germany. Is not Australia its natural environment, as Billy proved with his boy conscript system.

Now we shan't be long. N.S.W. Labor Party has decided to establish a State Bakery, and buy out the private bakers. When Hall has succeeded in reducing the price of bread by a penny a loaf we may expect a fresh oration from Judge Heydon on the "living" wage question.

Marriages are booming in New Zealand, we are told, owing to the fear of Conscription. Which ever way the workers move, except in the direction of the One Big Union, they seem to be playing into the hands of the boss. A fruitful crop of young slaves in the sweet by and by for capitalist exploitation will be the result of the Conscription agitation.

The mayor of that half dead burg, Newcastle, has blossomed forth as "a wit." He announces himself as not in favor of Conscription, but "there were a number of young men who ought to be 'shanghaied.'" "Only the other day," he informs us, "he was travelling in a train when one of those shirkers got in and sat opposite a pal. The latter remarked: 'Where are you working now?' The other said nothing for a while but grinned, and then said, 'Working! I don't work while the old man has got his job!'" If his worship, the mayor, only knew it, there spoke a kindred soul to his own and shirkers of a similar type.

Says John Pancner

"DIRECT ACTION" APPRECIATED
IN GAOL.

The following letter to "Direct Action," received from fellow worker Pancner, at present undergoing a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment in Nevada State Prison, in connection with labor troubles in that State, will be of interest to readers:—

Nevada State Prison,

Carson City, Nevada,

Nov. 17th, 1915.

Fellow Workers,—You are publishing a splendid little paper, and it has been a source of enjoyment to me to have the opportunity of reading it during my imprisonment here. My time will expire Dec. 2nd—two weeks more.

There is a philosophical society here in America, and they are making strenuous efforts at "converting" prisoners. They have in Washington D.C. what is known as the O.E. Literary League. It costs 10d. per month to be a member, and they loan out books on all kinds of subjects. They also give each member who is in prison, if he is interested in any particular study, a correspondent. That helps him in his study. Why would not some system of personal correspondence on a large scale be the means of overcoming the "Order in Council" in New Zealand?

During my incarceration I have taken a course in English from the People's College at Fort Scott, Kansas. It is a Socialist institution; most of the officers are in sympathy with industrial unionism.

Say, the articles signed "Ajax" in "Direct Action" are fine.

You may keep on sending the paper here until the subscription expires, as fellow worker Barris Thomason is doing 21 years here, and he would like to read it.

With greetings and best wishes to the Social Revolutionists of Australia, I remain, yours in the cause of true liberty.

JOHN PANCNER.

Heydonisms

THE "LIVING" WAGE, is 1d PER
HOUR.

Judge Heydon, after, no doubt, a terrible strain on his mental powers, has at last given us his opinion on the "living" wage. It should be one shilling, one penny and half a farthing an hour. What an Eldorado this opens up to the worker! We do not know by what mathematical process "His Honor" arrived at this decision, but it is certainly worthy to take a place beside "His Honor's" best pronouncements on the subject.

An economical wage slave has now really something to look forward to. By going without, that extra half-cup of coffee in the morning, and seeing that no margarine is wasted by a microscopic examination of the knife and a careful application of same to the tongue, it will be possible to save that extra half-farthing, and his great-grandchildren may be in a position to invest a modest tenner in the War Loans of their day.

But, of course, this is a course that would only suggest itself to those impressed with "His Honor's" teaching on the subject of economy. A spendthrift husband or an extravagant housewife might save their conscience by pretending to believe that a worthy Heydon of the future would provide for their posterity as generously as "His Honor" provides for the present generation. In that case the half-farthing might be saved up from time to time for the purpose of purchasing the biggest biscuit in Sydney for presentation to "His Honor" every time he opens his "trap" on the living wage question.

The coke workers on the South Coast went out on strike last week, being dissatisfied with the award recently announced. Another "victory" for Arbitration. As usual, the capitalist press is shocked at the "illegality and disloyalty" of the workers' action. When the One Big Union gets into action the prostitute scribes will require to learn German in order to get appropriate words to express their indignation.

'Mean?' Sure!

Sydney "Sun" is annoyed over what it calls the "stop-work meanness" of some unions. It is unable to see why a body of men should cease work in order to discuss their grievances. It appears particularly annoyed because this method of ceasing work "is not a strike, but the evasion of the legal consequences of a strike." Tactics such as these the "Sun" describes as a "particularly mean form of sabotage."

Of course it is mean—from the boss's point of view. We have never heard any form of sabotage described as decent by the victims of it. When sharks of the food rings send prices soaring skyward, for instance, the average worker's language when he tries to make 14/6 do the work of a pound, is lurid compared with the polite journalism of the "Sun." If he "gets back" on the boss by a form of strike for which he can't be fined and gaoled by a benevolent Labor government, he does not expect the "Sun" the class it speaks for, or the Labor government to be over-enthusiastic about it.

The exchange of little compliments of this kind between Capital and Labor is the inevitable result of the class war. We wonder what the "Sun" wants. It should know that any novice could beat Jack Johnson if the black fellow had his hands manacled.

It would offend the "Sun's" sense of fair play if it were suggested that what it really requires is to see the worker manacled to the job with the boss standing over him with a rawhide whip. Little stop work "meanness" would then not outrage its conception of what it calls "fair fighting."

"In the name of fair play," concludes the "Sun," in the name of immediate national efficiency for war, it is time that the rank and file of unionists should suspend their adherence to this inglorious form of strike."

This whine forcibly reminds us of a bully whom we knew at school, who would always cry foul play when getting the worst of it in a rough and tumble. What "glorious" traditions, to be sure, stand to the credit of the master class and its press in their dealings with the workers. When old men, for instance, are dumped on the human scrapheap, after giving their lives to useful labor, because they can no longer produce profits for a parasite class, there are no sermons forthcoming from the "Sun" on "stop-work" meanness.

What a glorious record of "fair play" the bosses have to their credit in the industrial struggles of the last half century; and what a shame it is for the workers to "evade the consequences of a strike" instead of allowing themselves to be fined, imprisoned, or bludgeoned into submission.

It is to be hoped the "Sun" will have learnt to control its feelings by the time the workers, as a whole, realise the effectiveness of "particularly mean forms of sabotage."

A Roman Catholic priest refers to the present system of education as "maimed, deformed, and lopsided." A system which begets maimed, deformed, and lopsided institutions, not the least of which is the Roman Catholic Church, can scarcely be expected to produce sound and healthy ideas. Figs won't grow on thistles.

FREMANTLE ACTIVITIES.

Sunday, 3 p.m., Esplanade, Perth. Speakers: F.W. Mrs. Westbrook, F.W. Miller, F.W. Sawtell.

Wednesday, 8 p.m., The Hall, Phillimore-street, Fremantle. Economic class, F.W. O'Neill.

Friday, 8 p.m., The Hall, Phillimore-street, Fremantle. Business meeting.

Saturday, 8 p.m., The Hall, Phillimore-street, Fremantle. Lecture by F.W. Reeve.

Local 5 has now a library of the best revolutionary Economic working class literature in the Hall at 35 Phillimore-street, and all rebels after a bit of mental dynamite are invited to blow in and add their unit to the organised army of labor.

On Adulteration

The workers' lot is not a happy one. Except in some cases where he is not too apathetic to recognise his position in society, the average wage-slave of to-day is quite content to have some abstract notions of a "fair day's work for a fair day's pay," and takes a good deal of insulting, cajoling, or yelling at, to get him into that state of sweet reasonableness suitable for revolutionary propaganda. But we aim to get at the man who is capable of realising that he is as much a slave as ever, and is prepared to fight his masters. Wages are the price of the commodity human labor-power, and this commodity is subject to the same laws as any other commodity, and has to be sold on the market in a similar manner.

The price is called wages, and with these wages we are compelled to buy adulterated food and clothing, and use substitutes for almost every good thing we require; this substituting a cheaper thing for a dearer thing does not confine itself to margarine for butter, and, in some cases, prostitutes for wives, but everything we handle is contaminated with adulterations. Why not adulterate our commodity, labour-power? Do not do good work, so slow as to restrict the output; this will cut down the unemployed, who are a strong pillar of the system. Give adulterated work for adulterated food, and show the masters that sabotage can be returned for sabotage.

WILLIAM MUGGS' SISTER.

Bijou Theatre, Melbourne, appears to have been the scene of some little excitement on Sunday evening last. Miss Pankhurst was billed to lecture. The title of the subject being, "Shall Men Enlist?" The theatre was crowded, amongst the audience being a large number of soldiers. The soldiers rushed the stage, but, according to press reports, in spite of the pandemonium which temporarily reigned, Miss Pankhurst succeeded in gaining a hearing eventually. The capitalist press gleefully comments on the matter, but the press and the authorities may be reminded that public meetings will not end with the war, and they may yet have reason to regret the precedents which they allow their soldiers to set with regard to the right of free speech.

Melbourne Trades Council has advised affiliated organisations to ignore Billy Hughes' recruiting scheme, or rather the scheme which Billy pinched from Lord Derby. (Billy, by the way, has become such a loyal imitator of everything done in Britain that we expect to see him taking to "small stimulants" in imitation of the recent action of the King.) The Clerks' Union of Perth is so disgusted with their fellow-clerks in Melbourne in affirming their intention to ignore Billy that they want the military authorities to take a hand in the matter. The members of the Clerks' Union in Perth have diligently refrained from "getting into khaki" for the past 16 months, so their "disgust at the disloyal action"—as their resolution is worded—of their fellow clerks is worthy of comic opera at its "screamiest."

ADDRESSES OF I.W.W. LOCALS.

Adelaide Local No. 1.—Secretary-Treasurer, S. G. Drummond, 43 Charles-street, Unley, Adelaide, S.A.

Sydney, Local No. 2.—Secretary-Treasurer, T. Glynn, 380 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.—Secretary-Treasurer, C. T. Reeve, 18 South-street, Fremantle, W.A.

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

Brisbane, Local No. 7.—Secretary-Treasurer, G. E. Bright, Redfern-street, West Gables, Brisbane, Q.

Melbourne Local, No. 8.—Secretary-Treasurer, R. Power, 248 William-street, Melbourne, V.

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

Job Pointers.

INDUSTRIAL JIU JITSU.
Sabotage is a toe-hold in the capitalist system; the general strike is a strangle hold.
The bout is just starting.
Ring the bell!

THE I.W.W.'s.

Masters fear us.
Apologists excrete us.
Reactionaries belittle us.
But the Sab Cat loves us and the One Big Union grows.
Kismet!

VIOLENCE.

Violence in the Class Struggle is the attempt of Labor to make up with blind force what it lacks in intelligence. The real need is not for more force but for more skillful application of force. No power on earth is as great as that of the producers of the world's wealth "on the job." Efficient organisation backed up with the high-pressure fighting tactics of the I.W.W. will make violence as antiquated as the blunderbuss.

SABOTAGE.

It is true that Sabotage is sometimes criminal—even from the viewpoint of working class ethics. "It's a crime to get caught."

WAGE SLAVES.

Agitation makes them members of the I.W.W.
Education keeps them members of the I.W.W.

One Big Union brings them daily prosperity and ultimate emancipation.

REFORM.

While the I.W.W. is a revolutionary movement it nevertheless believes in reform—even petty reform; but the reform we stand for starts with the pay envelope and job conditions and winds up with the whole works. The only "fair day's pay" we recognise is the full product of our labor.

THAT KITTEN!

If you are a member of the great mass of the gouged and exploited workers you will find the Sab Cat a friend in need. Get acquainted.

If you are living from the toil and sweat and blood of your fellow men—beware! The Sab Cat has nine lives and no conscience.

If you are astraddle the fence or serving in any capacity as paid apologist or mental or physical retailer of the parasites—well keep your eye on that kitten, that's all. His retractable claws are as sharp as daggers and he can see better in the night than in the day time.

SOCIAL BLOODSUCKERS.

The parasite has no excuse to be! BINGO, in "Solidarity."

A man named Hagen was recently fined £25 in Wellington, N.Z., for "disloyal utterances." As reinforcements were preparing to leave, he said, "There goes a lilly lot of—; they will get all they are looking for." Hagen made a mistake. He should have said they WON'T get all they are looking for—when they come back, so his punishment was deserved.

"Efficiency" was the keynote of a speech delivered last week by the Railway Commissioner, to the members of the Railway and Tramway Ambulance Corps. He asked every man to be able to say to himself, "I am going to be efficient so as to fill, when called upon, the position above me." Quite so; when every body is efficient enough "for the position above him," there will be many applicants for the job that the Railway Commissioner will gleefully and promptly reduce the wages or salary attached to it. Judging by the present unrest in the railway service, a little more "efficiency" in filling the pay envelope would not be out of place.

Printed and Published on behalf of the Industrial Workers of the World, by John Hamilton, Chairman of Press Committee, 380 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Barker Defence Fund.

RECEIPTS.		BALANCE	SHEET.		EXPENDITURE.	
(As acknowledged and Itemised in "Direct Action.")					£	s d
1915.		£ s d				
October 1st		82 8 8½		Cash Book		1 9
" 16th		40 4 0		Notices of Recognition		3 0
" 23rd		6 2 6		Counsel's Fee—Chamber application for Bail	10	10 0
November 6th		11 18 6		Counsel's Fee at Police Court	15	15 0
" 20th		16 2 6		Notices of Appeal (two cases)		9 0
Since the above were acknowledged, the follow- ing subscriptions have been received:—				Counsel's fee at Quarter Sessions	20	0 0
J. McLean		2 6		Exchange of Cheques		2 7
Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Brunswick, Vic.		1 0 0		Postage	1	6 6
"Woman Voter"		2 6 0		Telegrams	19	7
Per G. Phillips		17 0		Sundry Small Expenses		4 0
				Barker's expenses to Mel- bourne	10	0 0
				Printed matter		18 0
				Expenses Guildhall meet- ing, Melbourne	3	0 0
				Solicitor's fee—filling ap- peal papers	1	0 0
				* Donation to Mrs. F. War- ner	5	0 0
				Cheques returned	3	2 0
				Issuing and Circulating Balance-sheet	10	0
				Balance at Bank	87	19 3½
Total Receipts		£161 1 2½				

* This donation to Mrs. Warner was authorised by the Committee, her husband, a member of the Socialist Party, being arrested while speaking in the Sydney Domain and gaoled for one month.

(Signed) F. J. MORGAN,

Hon. Secretary,
Barker Defence Committee.

Audited and found correct, 21/12/15.

(Signed) E. A. GIFFNEY,

WM. TEEN,
G. P. WILSON.