

One Big Union For the International Working Class



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ONE PENNY

Mildura, Victoria.

"Spirits of Darkness."

"Direct Action."

The I.W.W. camp at Pinky Bend was deserted on the 1st of February owing to the grape-snatchers making a start. "Old Sol," after sending down his fierce rays at a rate of 116 degrees in the ice-box, at last brought the fruit to maturity, and the "cockies" began to yell for "hands." After three weeks' rest the wobbles picked up their homes and took up their position on the job. Although they have scattered in different directions throughout the settlement, they have made arrangements to meet at different periods through the week to discuss the progress of the class-war and continue their campaign against capitalist society.

During the three weeks we were camped waiting for the boss to call, the I.W.W. camp became the centre of attraction. At all times, through the day and night, when not engaged in fervent debate, the songs of the wage-slave used to rent the air and struggle with the elements for supremacy.

More than one hobo used to sit around the I.W.W. camp listening to the debates and growing about "never being able to change things," was sent off to his shack merrily singing the songs of the One Big Union.

The discussions indulged in were often long and animated, and if we had cared to follow our opponents wherever they went, we would have had to discuss everything that "lives and moves and has its being" on the earth. We made it known that we cared nothing for all the side issues which from time to time worked the slaves up into a state of excitement. The most important question in the world to us was the organising of the One Big Union on the lines of the I.W.W. All else was subordinate.

A "comrade" from Denmark, who was a stickler for constitutional methods, butted in one night and got off his chest an eloquent appeal for the abolition of the drink traffic. Booze, according to him, was the cause of the down-trodden condition of the working-class. We soon got after him and explained the morality of the present commercial system. There were always enterprising individuals who would only be too willing to go in for anything at all which would return a profit. Modern business did not ask whether a thing was good or bad, but whether it could show a profit by its sale. Abolish the drink, and perhaps something more disastrous would be substituted. There are a thousand and one evils more dangerous to the working-class than drink, but they were all mere products of the present system. The way to abolish them was to abolish the system and change the environment of the working class. The I.W.W. was out not only for the every-day fight with the boss, but was organising the workers to be able to run the industries when capitalism is overthrown. Under a sane and civilised society, the evils which now afflict the world would not exist, because the cause—profit-making—would be removed.

The "comrade" from over the seas could not get the hang of the I.W.W. methods and finished up by calling us "anarchists."

An old A.W.U. member wanted to know why we did not send men to Parliament, and put up the plea for

the "good man" in Parliament. He was soon told all about the "good men." Illustrations by the dozens were trotted out to him. It was also made plain that the I.W.W. would not trust Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary. The origin, structure, and influence of Parliament was explained, and shown how that machinery was always used to support Capitalism and could never be utilised in the interest of the working-class. He left by saying, "I believe you are right," and subsequently he was an attentive listener at all our discussions.

An ex-official of the A.W.U. said that his union was far from being perfect, but it served a useful purpose. He was quickly told that the A.W.U. "served a useful purpose" all right, but not to the wage slave. He was told some things about all the leeches and parasites which fattened upon the A.W.U.: £1 a day organisers who did not organise, while he got 9s. when in work and did all the fighting. Secretaries and grand secretaries, editors who did not edit, and managers who had nothing to manage; lawyers and politicians and all sorts of individuals who had no interest in common with the wage-slave. Arbitration was exposed and the effectiveness of direct action demonstrated. He said that he knew all about the shortcomings of the A.W.U., but had never heard them explained in the same light. He has since been seen on several occasions with his eyes glued to the columns of our "official organ."

Although we have not yet heard of any new cards being taken out just yet, nevertheless, there are certainly some good I.W.W. supporters down this way.

The One-Big Union is here to stay. It makes its presence felt wherever it unfurls its flag. Its arguments defy all opposition; its position is impregnable. The future is with us. Speed the Day.

N.R.

BROKEN HILL STRIKE.

At time of writing the Barrier miners are still on strike for the 44-hour week. Their determination to win is illustrated by their refusal to accept the proposal of Senator Pearce to return to work for four days a week pending the hearing of their claims before the Arbitration Court. The miners evidently have little faith in the Arbitration Court unless there is a little economic pressure through loss of profits to the masters first brought to bear on it.

The capitalist press with its accustomed virulence is still heaping its abuse on the heads of the strikers, a sure sign that their action is entirely justifiable from the working class standpoint.

With the price of spelter 200 per cent. higher than at the outbreak of the war, and lead quoted at over £30 per ton, no wonder the masters are squealing at the workers' "unpatriotic" attitude.

Despite the power of the press and the scabby position taken up by many Craft Union leaders, the rank and file of the unions are rallying to the strikers' assistance. Financial aid for the past week seems to be rolling in more rapidly. Circumstances point to a complete victory for the strikers in the very near future.

Sydney "Herald" waxes wrath over the action of the Broken Hill miners in requesting the editor of the "Barrier Miner" not to publish anonymous attacks upon them in his paper.

This action by the miners was perfectly legitimate. The individual who takes advantage of the secrecy which the press affords to pour forth his venomous slime against a body of men who are subjecting themselves and their dependents to starvation and suffering in a fight which they conceive to be right and just, and who has not the courage to reveal his identity, is lower than the lowest prostitute that ever adorned or disgraced a gumn.

Experience proves that such attacks are in the majority of cases manufactured in the editorial office by the mental perverts who sell their brains for the boss's gold; so had the miners taken more drastic steps than they did, and rammed the lying statements down the editor's throat, few of their class would blame them.

It is amusing, however, to notice the Sydney "Herald's" conversion to the right of freedom of speech and a free press. "The defence of every rule of order and fair play," it remarks, "in threatening an editor because he is doing his duty shows that we have in our midst men who will have no opinion ventilated but theirs; and who will suppress all freedom of speech in their opponents."

A truly remarkable statement emanating from a paper which during the last eighteen months has howled for the suppression, the gagging, the gagging, of all those who dared oppose its own jingo ravings.

"If newspapers," it goes on to say, "are to be dragged into publishing what any body of law-breakers may determine they might as well be brought out in Germany at once. The spirit behind this display of anarchism is afraid of the light. It is a spirit of darkness, and is true brother to the soul of the Hun."

An extraordinarily sudden conversion to the spirit of toleration from a source which has consistently applauded every attempt made, whether legal or illegal, to strangle every opinion not in accordance with its own, and which but a few days ago publicly encouraged khaki-clad law-breakers to suppress by violence and murder those who had the temerity to disagree with the "Herald's" conception of patriotism.

In face of this, and in view of the cowardly attacks upon and the gagging and persecution of many workers which have been daily occurrences for the past year, one is forced to admire the "Herald's" mendacity in speaking of the Broken Hill incident as "an assault on public liberty."

As to "spirits of darkness," etc., it is a happy phrase which aptly describes the mental prostitutes who attack, misrepresent, and lie about their betters under the cloak of anonymity.

The cry of "Empire" is the crazy cry of imbecile and tottering authority, not only in England but in all the government-begotten nations of the West. The case of India—the ruin of India, where if ever nation had splendid opportunities England had—proves the falseness, the craziness, of the cry.—Edward Carpenter.

Despite the fact that "Direct Action" is entering upon its third year of existence under conditions anything but favorable for revolutionary propaganda there is no reason to be pessimistic with regard to the part which the paper will play in the future education of the worker along industrialist lines.

Two years ago, when the paper was started, beyond a few active members in the various cities who steadfastly adhered to the propaganda of Industrial Unionism in spite of sneers, abuse and persecution, very little was known of the I.W.W. in Australia. To-day its members are to be found spreading the revolutionary message in every part of the Commonwealth, and this is attributable in no small degree to the influence which the paper has exercised.

The aims and objects of the I.W.W. are now too widely circulated in Australia for any set-back devised by our enemies to be anything more than temporary in preventing the publication and circulation of the paper. The sentiment in favor of the One Big Union is strong, and the disgust of the average worker with political opportunists and the cadging servile methods of Arbitration advocates has grown to such a degree that even if "Direct Action" were suppressed tomorrow, it would be restarted at the first favourable opportunity with ten times the enthusiasm and support now at back of it.

We therefore enter on our third year of existence full of hope for the future, of defiance for our enemies, with a hatred for the system in no small measure intensified and aggravated by the persecution we have been subjected to since we first saw the light two years ago.

The future is with revolutionary unionism, and nobody sees the writing on the wall better than the capitalists of Australia and their political lackeys. Every effort of theirs to suppress the growing conflagration has served but to add fuel to the flames, and their contemplated plans for preventing its growth in the future can have but similar results.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a reference to one of the little schemes in contemplation by the masters, by which it is hoped to counteract the growing clamor of the awakening workers. It is hoped after the war to flood the Australian labor market with hundreds of thousands of returned soldiers, thereby serving the double purpose of relieving Great Britain from the dangers of a starving populace, and at the same time so to reduce wages in Australia that the exploiters will have a chance of competing in the world's markets with German and other competitors. The unionism of to-day is incapable of taking any action counteracting this "patriotic" little scheme of the bosses. The only logical course to pursue would be to reduce the hours of labor so that the surplus of workers imported could be immediately absorbed, but this the present form of unionism, has neither the strength nor the spirit to enforce.

But though the master class may meet with some initial success, it will be but paying the way for the march of Industrial Unionism and its accompaniment of revolutionary agitation. The tens of thousands of workers who fought for "their" country, and who find themselves at the

mercy of unscrupulous exploiters, whose declared intention is to reduce wages to the lowest limit that competition in the labor market will allow, will not be slow to see how they have been duped and fooled; and therein lies the hope of the future and the inspiration of the industrialist.

The war will have a levelling effect upon wages not alone in Australia, but throughout the capitalist world. Unskilled male labor, not to speak of female and juvenile labor, has made, and is continuing to make, such inroads into the domain of the so-called skilled artisan, that the conservatism of the crafts, which has proven such a bulwark of capitalism and a stumbling block to Industrial Unionism, will, once for all, have disappeared.

This combined with the disillusionary process which the war's aftermath is bound to produce in the minds of returned soldiers and other workers now "patriotic," is destined in the not far distant future to give our masters' speculative dreams of "increased efficiency," low wages, and surplus values gone, a huge shock.

It is the mission of the I.W.W. present to aid in the discomfiture of our exploiters, to add to their difficulties by rousing the workers' attention to the economic problems they have to face, and to assist the well-meant (?) intentions of the exploiting class in bowing the path-way towards the One Big Union goal.

"Direct Action" will play its part during the forthcoming year, and the troublous ones to follow. What are you, reader, doing to help?

T. G.

SYDNEY PROPAGANDA.

The meeting held in the Sydney Domain last Sunday in connection with the Broken Hill strike, was a big success. Over £25 was collected in aid of the strike fund. The meeting was addressed by members of the I.W.W. and Socialist Party. Most of the speakers referred in commendatory terms to the attitude of the Sydney Trades Council towards the strike, the remarks being received with strong approval by the huge audience present.

The usual Sunday evening meeting in the Hall was again well attended, Fellow-worker Barker being the lecturer for the occasion.

A benevolent Labor Government owing its position to "good" Trade Unionists shows its gratitude and its appreciation of the meaning of unionism by rewarding scabs with fat bonuses. The "loyal" porters who refused to join their mates at Darling Harbour in the strike of last year, have been so rewarded, and now the "disloyalists" are protesting. Why? Have they failed to realise what Labor Governments are for?

Individualism is only logically and consistently possible if it starts with the postulate that all men must, to begin with, have free and equal access to the common gifts of nature.—Grant Allen.

Don't forget that all Efficiency and Speeding-up schemes are put forward in the interests of the boss. You and he have nothing in common.

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Cowards and Traitors.

LABOR COUNCIL'S DISGRACE.

The chorus of abuse showered upon the Broken Hill miners by the capitalist press in their fight for the 44-hour week indicates that the master class throughout Australia are alive to the importance of every fight for a shorter working day. The action of the Sydney Labor Council in refusing to endorse the action of the miners on two successive occasions is, therefore, tantamount to declaring that that body is on the side of the masters in this struggle.

The form of organisation which the Labor Council represents, irrespective of the personnel of its officials, has always, of course, been a negative factor in assisting in the defeat of strikes; but that two successive meetings should be held weighing the pros and cons of the miners' action, and that delegates supposedly representing working class interests should be found actually ranging themselves on the side of the capitalist press and the capitalist class, show to what dire depths of scabbiness so-called organised Labor in New South Wales has sunk, and what a positive bulwark of capitalism the Trades Hall of Sydney has become.

Indications, however, are becoming frequent that the Labor Council no longer represents the opinions of the rank and file of the workers who support it. At its last meeting on the 3rd inst., the gallery was crowded by members of the working class who showed unmistakably their opinions of their "representatives." Every delegate who took the floor to express an opinion unfavourable to the miners was hissed and booed vigorously, and their anger and hostility at the cowardly, shilly-shallying methods of the delegates ultimately became so pronounced that the meeting broke up in disorder.

The rank and file at all events would appear to be waking up to the fact that so far as alleged working-class organisations are concerned, there should be no two sides to a question between masters and their slaves.

This is a point which even those who spoke in favor of the miners did not seem to recognise. The scabby environment of the Labor Council has such a powerful influence, apparently, that even the militants who enter its precincts resort to apologetics instead of taking up the revolutionary working class attitude.

From that standpoint the question is not whether the miners made agreements and broke them; whether

the arbitration principle has, or has not ceased to operate, or whether this, that or the other should have been done previous to the strike. The master class of Broken Hill, by refusing the miners' demands have brought about industrial war, and in this the strike differs from no others. Side issues don't count. The strike is the outward manifestation of the Class War, and those who are not for the workers at such times are against them.

The discussion of the fine points of etiquette for which Craft Unionism has so much respect, endeavors to justify the miners' position by "logic" or "reason," and similar expedients, remind one of soldiers who would quarrel about the justness of their cause and resort to cutting each other's throats while the enemy was working havoc amongst them with the bayonet.

The Sydney Labor Council is digging the grave of Craft Unionism faster than its worst opponents can do it for them. Its cowardice and treachery to working class interests in this case will stink in the nostrils of every worker who recognises even the elementary principles of Unionism. It is for the most part composed of men who are devoid of intelligence, integrity and honor, and who, for purposes of personal aggrandisement, and to curry favour with the capitalist press, would lease the working class movement to the devil for eternity.

T. G.

Lloyd George's Warning.

WILL WORKERS BE READY?

(A. MACK).

"A new industrial Britain is being developed under the great pressure of war. WE are improving our industrial resources almost incredibly. WE have introduced SCORES OF MILLIONS' WORTH OF AUTOMATIC MACHINERY which will have an enormous effect on industries WHEN THE WAR IS OVER."

—Lloyd George.

The worker, usually receives with profound respect the opinions of his SUPERIORS—of those in authority.

Did some common working man hint at the fact so candidly stated by the GREAT Lloyd George there is good reason to believe his statement would be lightly yet scornfully dismissed with the scholarly comment—"Red Ragger!" "Syndicalist!" "Anarchist!"

But since the warning has sprung from "one in power" Labor's attitude will be anxiously watched, for "surely they will care"; surely the workers who have so long slumbered in the lap of apathy will heed the words of a wisdomite and "get ready" to combat the coming danger—the arrival of forces destined to stamp the "iron heel" of oppression and degradation more brutally in their faces. It may happen that the warning is too vague and that it may as a consequence not cause a quiver on the grey matter of the proletarian brain, whose power to function has largely vanished because of generations of inaction.

Should they not comprehend the coming peril, or should they realise it and fail to prepare they will be plunged into a hell, the like of which the world has not known since the blackest days of chattel slavery.

Every machine introduced into industry is labor saving, otherwise plute will not instal it, and being labor saving it means that workers are being displaced which is tantamount to saying that they will be unemployed; at any rate they will find it necessary to look for another job, and as all the industries and all branches of the same industry are "putting in" the automatic machinery, many workers from other industries will likewise be master seeking and job hunting. To add to the working man's trials and sufferings he will find his place at the machine button and the "rapid calculator" filled by women and girls who will do the work as efficiently as he and maybe a little cheaper. Between the automatics and the females, the honest, stupid, law-

abiding hordes of pen, pick, and lever manipulators should enter upon a successful season of unemployment.

The introduction of automatic machinery and women and child labor is no new development of the capitalist system; it did not take its inception from the exigencies born of the present war; it has been going on for years; the war but provided an excuse to instal these factors of production more rapidly and without any protest from the workers.

It is idle to opine that "the state of affairs" will obtain only during the currency of the war, or that women should not be doing such work and such work.

The boss controls industry to-day and he is not likely to (nor is it desirable that he should) dismantle his new machinery in order to provide jobs for the unemployed.

Again, it is not reasonable to suppose that the women will vacate their present positions in the industries to make way for unemployed men. The women will learn that they can live better as self-sustainers than as the dependents of men content with a starvation wage.

Did the men ever quit their jobs so that the hundreds of thousands of their sisters in the starvation market could "get a job"?

Have the men ever put up a spirited determined fight against the system, on behalf of the millions of women the world over who have to bear the weight of family raising and suffer the inhuman conditions of a factory sweatshop at the same time?

Women have the right to earn their livelihood as they think best for themselves, the idea that her place is in the home is a mere relic of barbarism, but probably comes down to us from a time when the men were spirited enough to provide a decent home for her. Those times have vanished; the woman has patiently but anxiously watched for man to relieve her of her wretchedness; a life of perpetual hunger and rags does not appeal to her; we are entering upon an era where the woman will make an attempt to look after herself. The workers must yet learn that there is no way out of the abyss of misery but the complete overthrow of the system based on "production for the profit" of a few instead of on the "production for use" of all.

The masters of the world will use every force they can control to perpetuate the present system, and since militarism is their grandest prop, we must be prepared to see the whole world struggling along under a vastly increased cargo of military and naval forces when this present war has died away. The armies will be impenetrably strengthened and the recruits will come from the men ousted by the factors previously mentioned. It may be no unusual sight in the future to see women striking for better conditions and being shot down by the men in uniform just as, in the past, they have murdered their brother strikers. The pretence that "this is a war to end war," that it is being waged for the purpose of wiping out militarism is the essence of hypocrisy. The capitalists know what few workers appear to realise, and that is that the militarism of the world is the strongest prop of the capitalist system. In fact, without this prop the working class would be able to "win out" all the time.

The masters have no desire to witness the collapse of the system in any country. Wars are but the inevitable result of the economic classes and the mad struggle for the markets and the vantage spots of the world, which are required by the plutes to enable them to get rid of the surplus values they have siphoned from the workers. So long as the wealth producers are content to be robbed of the result of their toil, they must be prepared for periodic visitations of war. But what concerns the worker most is the system which produces war, and the economic advancement of this system with the effects of this evolution on the position of the wealth producers. We have been warned as to the changes taking place in industry; the result of these changes in their relation to the working class is very evident.

The time when millions of working men will be perpetually on the labor market is rapidly approaching. The continual struggle between those who have jobs and those who want them will work towards the lowest point as regards wages

For The People.

By James Jeffrey Roche.

We are the hewers and delvers who toll for another's gain.
The common clod, and the rabble, stunted of brow and brain.
What do we want, the gleaners, of the harvest we have reaped?
What do we want, the neuters, of the honey we have heaped?

We want the drones to be driven away from our golden board,
We want to share the harvest, we want to sit at the board.
We want what sword or suffrage has never yet won for man—
The fruits of his toil God promised when the curse of toll began.

Ye have tried the sword and sceptre, the cross and the sacred word.
In all the years, and kingdom is not here yet of the Lord.
We are tired of useless waiting; we are tired of fruitless prayers;
Soldier and churchman and lawyer—the failure, is it theirs?

What gain is it to the people that a God laid down His life
If twenty centuries after His world be a world of strife?
If the sacred ranks be facing each other with ruthless eyes,
And steel in their hands, what profits a Saviour's sacrifice?

Ye have tried and failed to rule us; in vain to direct have tried
Not wholly the fault of the ruler, not utterly blind the guide.
Mayhap there needs not a ruler, mayhap we can find the way,
At least ye have ruled to ruin; at least ye have led astray.

What matter if king or council or president holds the rein,
If crime and poverty ever be links in the bond-man's chain?
What careth the burden-bearer that liberty packed his load,
If hunger presses behind him, with a sharp and ready goad?

There's a serf who ose chains are of paper there's a king
With a parchment crown;
There are robber knights and brigands in factory, field,
and town;
But the vassal pays his tribute to a lord of wage
and rent;
And the barons toll is Shylock's, with a flesh and blood
per cent.

The seamstress bends to her labour all night in a narrow room;
The child, defrauded of childhood, tiptoes all day at the loom;
The soul must starve, for the body can barely on husks
The loaded dice of the gambler settles the price of bread.

Ye have shorn and bound the Samson, and robbed him of learning's light;
But his slithering brain is moving; his sinews have all their might.
Look well to your Gates of Gaza, your privilege, pride
and caste,
The giant is blind but thinking, and his locks are growing
fast.

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 centring of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping to defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working-class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working-class upheld only by an organisation formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries, if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto: "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword: "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working-class to do away with Capitalism. The army of production must be organised, not only for the everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when Capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially, we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

This is a matter which concerns the workers of the world. They must now choose between absolute Freedom and the direst slavery. There is no half-way house.
The road towards slavery lies through craft unions, arbitration courts, and politicians. The highway to Freedom is per medium of thorough industrial organisation and determined economic action as preparatory measures towards Social Revolution.
WHICH ARE THEY GOING TO CHOOSE?

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.

Organised Scabery Co-operation Vers- Our Third Year. 'Revolutionary Thinking,' On the W.A. Gold- us Competition. Fields.

(By C. H. ANLEZARK).

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE
WORLD.
(GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.)

BROKEN HILL STRIKE.

The Broken Hill workers (with the exception of a few small unions who attempt to cover their scabbery with the cloak of the Arbitration Court) are out on strike to the extent of 6,000 for the purpose of enforcing the 44-hour week.

The Industrial Workers of the World endorse every struggle of the working class for shorter hours. Therefore, we issue an appeal to all locals of the Industrial Workers of the World, all members-at-large, and the working class generally for funds to carry on the strike.

All monies should be sent through the General Secretary-Treasurer, Box 98, Haymarket, Sydney, who will forward the cash on to the Secretary of the Strike Committee at Broken Hill.

All monies enclosed will be acknowledged through the pages of "Direct Action." Remember that sympathy is of no use unless it is of a practical nature. "He who gives quickly, gives twice."

Yours for the One Big Union,

TOM BARKER,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

SPEAKERS' CLASS.

The Speakers' Class has been re-started at the Sydney Local. There is a pressing need for an ever-increasing supply of able propagandists.

Fellows who can expound and explain the philosophy and methods of the I.W.W. and make more converts, especially on the job. There are plenty who have a fair understanding of Industrial Unionism, but fail to make its principles clear to their mates owing to lack of practice in speaking and putting their case logically and concisely. The speakers' class aims at starting fresh ones on the road to effective speaking. It is held every Saturday at 7.15 p.m., at 330 Castlereagh St.

BOOK OF POEMS.

It is the intention of the Press Committee to print a booklet of revolutionary poems within the next few weeks. Most of the poems that have appeared since the inception of "Direct Action," will be included.

The contents will include:—"Man With the Hoe," "The Dishwasher," "Evolution," "The Cry of Toil," "Born For What?," "Might is Right," "Mask of Anarchy," "The Way of Kings, Crowned and Uncrowned," etc.

In all probability the booklet will run to 32 pages, and sell at 3d. per copy, with the usual reduction for quantities. Orders will be booked right away.

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 Argentin-street.

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

E. J. KIELY, Secretary,
Local No. 8, I.W.W.

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."

To-day we enter upon the third year of our existence. "DIRECT ACTION" is an established fact. On its own merits it started; on its own merits it has won its place as the most uncompromising, straight-out working-class paper in Australia. And it has done this in spite of the most bitter opposition. In the eyes of our enemies, we have, no doubt, all the faults possible for a paper to have.

We have endured slander, persecution, and the thunders of the press. We have been written against, spoken against, sworn against; we have been sent to the devil, sent to jail, sent to Christ. We have been "warned" most solemnly, cautioned mysteriously, frowned at, sworn at, laughed at, sneered at, pointed at—and yet we live and move, and we are growing bigger and more vigorous than ever.

We have to thank all those good friends and fellow-workers who in any way have helped to make "Direct Action" a success, and those friends have been many. Their work has been done ungrudgingly and well; their enthusiasm has been devoted to it, and without this, success would have been impossible.

During the last two years we have been the butt of slander and abuse by pulp and press. They have persecuted us and a corrupt government has prosecuted us. They bark and yelp, they cannot bite. The tools of Capitalism in Parliament have got convictions against us; they have demanded fines with costs; we refused to pay, and there the matter rests until the politicians are again intimidated by their masters to bluster and threaten.

And what have we done, after all, to provoke hostility? We have committed neither crime nor misdemeanor. The crime we have been guilty of in the eyes of Capitalism is that we have told the truth. Against this class our warfare has been one to the knife. We shall show them no more quarter in the future than during the past two years. Our great work is to open the eyes of the downtrodden slaves. We are out to teach the working-class how to organise on right lines. We point out the failure of all saviours who ever undertook to lead the workers. Our object is to get the working class to think for themselves, to use their own reason, to be their own masters, to rid themselves of the superstition which is attached to parliament and church alike, which involves the worst of slavery, and to stand erect in conscious manhood instead of crouching before creatures of their own disordered fancy as they have done for thousands of years.

There is our object. Who can oppose it other than fools and rogues? We have done good work in the past, although we have had a perpetual fight for the freedom of speech. That fight is still on, and will be so long as Capitalism exists. What victory we have had in this fight, we venture to say, cannot be reverted by a tyrannical government.

There is much yet to be done, work enough to appal any man who speculates upon it. But as we are more practical than speculative, we may hope to do some of that work, and also inspire others to help us.

No paper has done so much in the same period to arouse thought and emancipate the working class as "Direct Action." When it ceases to do so, let it die a natural death, and let something better take its place.

A politician—one who would circumvent God.—Shakespeare (Hamlet).

dividing the product of the world's labor among all workers, thus doing away with all poverty, misery and unemployment.

This, fellow workers, will only come about through education and organization. It may or may not come soon. But we can use our union to get us better conditions in our factories today, and we can work and hope for the future.

Thus we have the Industrial Workers of the World.

MERCE C. WETTER.

Just when the idea of competition of man against his fellow man first started, it is hard to tell. It is known that, in America, Indian tribes competed or fought against other tribes, but that within these tribes they shared the necessities of life with one another. That no member of an Indian tribe ever went hungry when there was food to be had. There was competition of tribe against tribe for the necessities of life, but little competition of man against man.

For years the idea of individual competition has been taught and preached. The people have been taught that they must compete against their fellow men to live. In the workshop or factory they must do more work or better work than the other fellow, and that they must gain the favor of the boss. So that if the boss should decide to cut down his force, the worker who has beaten his fellow man at work is the one the boss will continue to employ.

This idea of individual competition has been preached by many men who profess to believe in the Christian doctrine of brotherhood and brotherly love.

But how can a man feel brotherly love for a fellow man, if he must compete with him for a living? How can one worker feel love for his fellow worker when he knows that if he does not do better than the other worker, he may lose his job, and thus be reduced to poverty and misery?

Do the bosses or capitalists compete? Not like they used to. They are co-operating, that is they are forming trusts or alliances in industries, that they may do away with the waste of competition and thus have more profits for themselves.

Is there such a thing as individualism? That is, can a man stand alone from his fellow men? No, he cannot. Every human being is dependent upon his fellow men. Take for instance electricity; it was supposed to start with Benj. Franklin. Other men since have taken his idea and improved upon it. It was not the work of one man, but of generations of men. Take another instance, the school books of to-day; they are the work of generations, each generation has improved on the work of the others. So no man to-day would be what he is were it not for the work of other men.

Then why should a man compete with his fellow men and try to hold them down? Why should a man who, because he has been able to gain an advantage through some circumstance over which he has had no control, use this advantage to make his fellow men work long hours for little pay, while he makes an enormous profit from their labor?

The capitalists or bosses control all the industries and are using their power to oppress the workers.

Now, fellow workers, how can these conditions be changed? We know that the capitalists have had brotherly love and brotherhood preached to them for generations, and they have claimed to believe in the same, but still they oppress the workers.

We now come to see that it is impossible to change conditions by preaching love and brotherhood to the capitalist, whose only god is the God of Profit and gold.

Then how can we change these conditions? The capitalists are forming great trusts, that is, they are combining a number of small industries into one big industry. Then why not let us, the workers, combine or organise into one big union by industries and force the capitalist to give us better conditions—that is, to cut the hours of work of each man, giving more men work, and also increasing the wages?

When we are organised into One Big Union we can use our power to take away the industries from the capitalist and run them for the benefit of humanity, instead of them being run as they are to-day for the enrichment of a few and to the misery of many.

May the day come quickly when the workers the world over co-operate for the benefit of all and when they seize all industries, dividing the work to be done among all workers, and

I am writing from Corinthian, a one-horse place in the wilds of the West, where the daily routine of the slave is work, work, work, Sundays not excepted, amusement being conspicuous by its absence, and where the boss's cow is a goat.

A dozen or so rebels remain here to tell the news of the One Big Union to the newly-arriving blanket stiffs.

The only attraction, or will I say, amusement that we have had for the last two or three weeks, has been to watch through our O.B.U. field glasses, the industrial war in and around Kalgoolie and Boulder.

The capitalist class formed into a square, using only the weapon of solidarity against the noisy but feeble efforts of a divided rank file and their yawping, gawping, brainless misleaders.

Some few hundred wood-choppers set out with empty pockets and stomachs to fight the wood companies for a rise of a whole sixpence per ton.

The mine owners immediately locked out about 2000 men, for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the swingers of "douglars" to accept any old terms their masters offered.

When it became known to the wood company that a strike was certain, they immediately brought in all their stores, horses, and general goods and chattels on their wood trains. So to begin with the railway men scabbed by assisting the boss to prepare for the struggle.

Next, the mines locked out all those whom they could conveniently do without, only keeping engine-drivers and firemen to unwater the mines, a few timber-men to keep the mines in repair, and last, but not least, firemen were kept on to keep all their furnaces heated, otherwise they would have collapsed and cost the boss a pocketful of money to build them anew. Consequently all this lot of men scabbed by assisting the masters to continue the struggle.

The masters of industry have once more pitted one section of the workers against the other, whereas if those of them on the mines that the bosses used as tools had "downed and out," they would have reversed the tables by pitting one section of the masters against the other, and thus gained a decisive victory.

There are three wood lines running out from Boulder and each line has its own union of wood-choppers, and each union has its own bum officials.

However, Labor-fakir Collier (Acting Premier) came to the rescue, and decided to open up a State wood supply, and thereby absorb all the wood-cutters on strike, and supply the necessary fuel for full mining operations.

The problem would have been solved as by magic, with the wood-line company, the only ones left lamenting, and, in their frenzied despair, compelled to break the Kitchener pledge to drown their sorrow.

But when Collier woke up, he discovered he had only been dreaming, as he had to first meekly ask the Chamber of Mines, "Would they take his wood?"

Answer, an emphatic NO!

I wonder now, will the boneheads of the Golden Mile tumble to who governs the country—the capitalist or the politician; and will they take a lesson of the example of class loyalty set them by their oppressors on this occasion. The master class has clearly demonstrated the power of their ONE BIG UNION, and THEIR system of sabotage.

The slaves of the Golden Mile are working overtime to manufacture bombs for the destruction of human life but they can't manufacture a bomb to win their own fights or to destroy the pirate ship of capitalism.

E. McLOUGHLIN.

Briefly, the reason for unemployment is that there is not enough jobs to go around. "What about a shorter work-day and slowing down?"

"IF..."

The Fighting "Instinct."

Some prominent "patriots" are anxious to stop war—no, not the war in Europe, industrial war. They are so keen on keeping the former going that the workers are to be disarmed on the industrial field, and Greed, relentless, unscrupulous Greed, given a free hand to filch and plunder at its own sweet will.

Following upon the request made by the Employers' Federation that no Wages Boards should sit to consider demands for increased wages during the period of the war, we have now a proposal emanating from other disinterested (?) sources that no strikes should be allowed while the war lasts and "the employer or employee causing them should be interned."

The employer, too, mark you! How impartial! The gent responsible for this suggestion, one Hagelthorn, a member of the Victorian Liberal Cabinet, knows of course, that the boss, according to capitalist law and capitalist ethics, never causes a strike. This is a "crime" the punishment for which is strictly reserved for the boss's slaves.

Hagelthorn, at time of writing, is endeavouring to get an "Industrial War Council" (ominous name) established to put his ingenious idea into effect.

Now, most workers in Australia (all, except Industrial Unionists and a few other "malcontents" who will not compromise with the boss, come weal or woe, this side of the gates of hell) would be only too willing to fall in with this suggestion while the war lasts.

IF.

Hagelthorn and his friends will agree that the workers are compensated for all increases in the cost of living for the past eighteen months, and that no further increases will occur while the war lasts.

IF.

Profits, by the exploitation of female and child labor, are prohibited—while the war lasts.

IF.

Only adult male labor is employed in those occupations previously occupied by men, and pre-war rates of wages paid—while the war lasts.

IF.

War profits made by employers are distributed amongst the parents of the children supplanted in industry, so that the latter may go to school—while the war lasts.

IF.

Hagelthorn and his friends, the loud-mouthed paid political patriots, will agree to forfeit their unearned salaries—while the war lasts.

As already said, most workers would probably agree not to strike if the above suggestions are adopted by the "Industrial War Council." Most, but not all. Those who understand their class position, and see through the hypocritical "patriotism" which decries strikes and would punish strikers, will surrender their right to strike, or any other "right" deemed expedient to advance their class interests, only when Hagelthorn and other haggles who place profits before human life, the whole brood of parasites and "patriots," are hauled down from their perch and made to earn their bread by the sweat of their vile, thick hides.

It is time the workers awoke to the diabolical schemes that are being hatched by their enemies, schemes in which many union officials and labor politicians are working hand-in-glove with their exploiters.

There must be no strikes—no! There must be no demands—no! There must be no discontent, no word of protest, nothing about exploited men, weary women, over-worked and half-starved children, all these things must be borne in silence in the name of a bastard patriotism, so that its blood-soaked profits may be safe from molestation.

T.G.

The difference: Craft Unionism sanctifies and embraces wage-slavery; the I.W.W. execrates it and is out to abolish it.

All social agitation arises from the persistence of right against the obstinacy of law.—V. Hugo.

Some people believe that Organization is the greatest thing in the world. They point to the German military organization to prove their contention. They refer to the German Social Democracy. But we do not agree with them.

Organization, unless it does something—unless, it acts, means nothing. Perhaps man's natural tendency to fight is the greatest of all his heritages. Some of us see this. We know that it is man's natural tendency to satisfy his hunger, to seek shelter, and to perpetuate the species. But he has to fight for an opportunity to do these things.

From savagery to civilization it has been the tribes, and later, the nations, which have known how to fight that have survived. The weak and peaceful tribes met the strong and warlike hordes, and were annihilated.

And the old law holds good to-day even as it did a hundred thousand years ago: the weak man, the peaceful man, goes down in the struggle and the strong survive.

The strong continue to take from the weak and grow stronger with every theft, for men learn to fight by fighting, and men grow strong to fight, by fighting.

Civilised man to-day is governed almost as much by the things he has learned and the habits he has formed, as by his natural instincts and tendencies. Our natural instincts, when we are hungry, is to satisfy that hunger—and yet hundreds of thousands of starving men and women pass and repass every day, wagon loads, and train loads, of food which they do not touch.

The habit of respecting Private Property in them has grown stronger than the old instinct to eat and to live. Historically, it has been only recently that man learned to work, to apply himself, for hours at a time to any given task. He did not take naturally to work. His instincts were all against application. And yet we see some people so far tosing this instinct for idleness and for play that they actually beg to be allowed to perform work in their old age that they had rebelled against and loathed in their youth.

Most of man's original tendencies, or instincts, serve to preserve the human race. But these instincts may become so suppressed in childhood and in youth by the long and painful efforts of their parents, teachers and employers, as well as their governments, that some of them cease to function.

Habit may become so fixed that it will prove even stronger than the instinct to eat when we are hungry; this is why hundreds of thousands of people go about in a semi-starved condition from one year's end to another.

The working class of the world is increasingly exploited by the owning classes. And man's original tendency to-day is to fight over the food, the clothing, etc., just as the primitive men fought for the results of the chase centuries ago.

And the owning class, or capitalist class, is to-day fighting for more and ever more of the things produced by the workers. The Class Struggle is the every-day struggle of the workers and the holders for the products of the workers.

The capitalist, or owning class, is appropriating these things to-day. Who is going to have them to-morrow?

We believe the class that fights most steadily. For as soon as the workers pause to rest, cease to fight and to demand more and ever more of their products, or the value of their products, the stronger grows the capitalist class.

And every time the capitalist class grows lazy or careless, the workers will, if they continue to fight, gain more of the things they make.

Peaceful habits, in their association with the capitalist or employing class, will mean lower wages, longer hours, more abject slavery for the workers. Fighting habits, habits of rebellion, among the working class will mean more strength to fight, more wisdom on how to fight, more desire to fight—the capitalist system which robs them.

Some of us love the rare, nice lit-

tle boys who refuse to fight when they are playing. We reward those boys with candy and words of praise; and we punish the children who fight. This is the general attitude of parents to-day. We punish those who possess the fighting spirit when we should reward or encourage them.

Boys are young fighting animals, and we may either start the long period of suppression of this natural and vital instinct in their early years or encourage it.

The thing we should do is to teach our children and the youths about us, and the working class in general everywhere, to fight in their own interest; we should show them that to fight in their own interest means to fight the present profit system.

The instinct to fight for what we need is what the working class must encourage to-day and to-morrow, and the next day. We shall never get anything from the exploiting class the intelligence to fight untidely, and only then, can we ever hope to win a victory over the capitalist class.

As long as we only go about whining, and talking and regretting the condition of the working class, we shall never gain one foot of ground against our exploiters. Every time we reel and fight for more of the things we produce, we learn new ways for more effective fighting, we grow more in the habit of fighting, we become better prepared to meet the next attack of the enemy.

Every time we meekly permit a further encroachment by the employing class we are building up habits of submission that will be all the more difficult to overcome when we do engage the enemy.

It is not to-day the capitalist class that holds the working class of the world in subjection, but the habits of inaction, of turning the other cheek, of submission on the part of the workers themselves.

The capitalist class exploits you because you have not fought often enough, hard enough nor regularly enough to learn how to fight. And they are going to keep right on exploiting you until you become a great world-wide fighting organization of the working class. And remember—

An ounce of fighting rebellion to-day will mean a pound of revolt to-morrow.

M. E. M.,
(International Socialist Review).

THE BARRIER MUNITION WORKS

AND THE MINERS' HOLIDAY.

BROKEN HILL, 4-2-16.

For the benefit of readers and soap-boxers, I.W.W. or otherwise, it is advisable at the present juncture to mention some facts in connection with the local "murder factory" and the 14-hours' dispute, seeing the capital that is being made out of our action in striking at this "critical time for our boys in the trenches," as the capitalist press all over Australia puts it.

As readers are aware, the diggers on the Barrier are on a "starvation strike" for a 14-hours week and better conditions, and of course, as is usual, the boss has to look out for something or other to scarify the worker with, and at the same time make himself look a good fellow.

Some few months ago, scenting bother, and knowing what boneheaded fellows the workers as a whole, are, he decided to erect on this field (for purely philanthropic purposes, of course, you bet!) an apology for a munition factory, and while he was about it he did the job well, as the spot selected and the means of securing power (electric) for working it will show.

In the first place, he erected it in such a position that one would be at a disadvantage in knowing whether it was part and parcel of the South Mine, South Blocks, or the Zinc Corporation, and in size, well, I've seen hundreds of cockles' barns that would make it bluish with shame. The power is procured from the South Mine.

Seeing that the miners are on strike, and, of course, picketing the mines, and as the necessary slaves were not available to provide power,

etc., to work the concern, he got in a devil of a stink; in fact, the point he worked for came to a head, and he set the press of the country to work to subdue the strikers and stop the "necessary" work coming in; for seeing the patriotic state the country is in, the cry of "un-British," "pro-German," and "the work of German money," etc., the workers, or a good lot of them, have given us nothing but sympathy up to date.

The strike committee, seeing the capital the boss was making out of the stoppage of his toy "factory," decided to issue permits to a sufficient number of slaves to work the same. Result—no good to the boss at all. He alone was to have sole control, and he even issued bogus permits to the slaves he required, and sent them to the picket lines, only to be turned back, which, of course, he wanted. Bye-the-by, this also the slaves wanted themselves, as some of them informed me that they didn't want to go through the lines, and they'd be damned if they went through under police protection. So the same goes on, the slaves approach the pickets each Monday morning and get turned back; the press says the works are still idle, and "our boys are being murdered in the trenches" through the unpatriotic action of the pro-Germans in Broken Hill, which is a damnable lie, as the manager of those works knows that he couldn't produce a solitary shell there. Shells are made with certain pieces of machinery and material, with the aid of the human machine, and the former not being there, there is absolutely no necessity of the human machine, but still, anything is good enough to lash the workers with.

"SULPHIDE DIGGER."

ECONOMICS FOR THE WAGE-

PLUG.

Fellow Workers.—The identity of interest between all workers is something that can be understood and acted on before the brotherhood of man is established. To understand the relation of one worker to another in the same industry and also between those of different industries, you must first of all consider what your purpose in life is under the method of production now prevailing.

Your purpose in life is to "get a job," that is, to sell your labor power and receive wages, whereby you procure the means of subsistence. To be useful to those that buy your labor power, you have to produce, not only those commodities which you consume, but also commodities that you do not consume. If this were not so, of what use would you be to the class that employ you, and how comes it that there are commodities which the workers never consume as means of subsistence, and are used only to further production, such as machinery, material to work on, ships, steel rails, rolling stock, and other things necessary for transport, and production generally?

When you begin to view the present state of society from a commodity standpoint, you will slowly realize that your "purpose in life" is to produce commodities. Now, as stated, you have to produce your own means of subsistence as well as a surplus of commodities. It is here where the process needs a close investigation, and just here where the capitalist economist will deceive you, for he will not reveal to you that the mass of commodities produced is ever increasing, while the portion that you receive does not so increase. An ever-increasing mass of commodities, with your portion stationary, allows the capitalist class to widen the fields of exploitation and to command a greater number of workers. In short, there is more capital to be invested, and while this process continues uninterrupted, it is what the capitalist considers a sound state of affairs.

The time necessary for this commodity producing process is from 8 hours to 15 hours out of the 24 for each worker, and when we look back a little, we will find that not only do the capitalists increase the number of workers in their employ, but they also get a greater return from each in those hours.

We then observe that labor is becoming more productive; hence the possibility of increasing capital, with an ever-widening ratio between what

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: Loria, Bound, 2/-.
The New Unionism: T. idon, 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.

"OUR" TRADE AND "OUR" WORKERS.

The trade organ of the Australian Traders' Associations, the "Australian Traders' Weekly," had again, in its leading article of last week's issue, some remarks which should be of interest to workers.

Australia, we are told, can never become a "great export country," nor supplant German trade to any extent, until the "industrial conditions peculiar to Australia at present shall change." One of the "peculiar conditions" objected to by the journal is, apparently, what it calls "excessive wages."

The bosses anticipate, however, that the war's aftermath will assist them out of this difficulty. Sir Rider Haggard's scheme of immigration, the paper opines, will cause a great influx of population, and "we may then hope," it adds, "the price of labor will decrease."

Workers should mark, note, and learn the masters' benevolent intentions and prepare themselves accordingly.

"When the war is over," the article concludes, "the revolution in the world's trade should be to our advantage." Sure! That is the why and the wherefore of "our" exuberant "patriotism," "our" hatred of our kinsmen competitors, and "our" similarly kind feelings and future intentions towards the boneheads who fight for "our" trade.

ADELAIDE READERS

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

the worker produces and what he gets.

It is to be hoped the workers will give this process some study and realise the identity of interest between all workers. Organise in industries, combine in the One Big Union of the working class with a purpose other than the production of commodities, and then we can command the wealth we produce and be no longer subject to the property we create.

That is the object of the Industrial Workers of the World.

G.P.W.

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