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ONE PENNY

Strike at Randwick. Xmas in the Trenches. The Light That Failed.

At time of writing the employees of the Randwick Railway and Tramway Workshops are on strike. The plant is practically tied up, with the exception of a few engineers who are remaining at work pending instructions to strike, or, mayhap, instructions to scab, from their precious executive.

The trouble began with the boys employed refusing to work until they were paid the wages laid down in a recent award. Other trades and occupations employed refused to do the boys' work, with the result that the services of most of them were dispensed with, on which the majority walked out.

The spirit of solidarity displayed and loyalty to the boys would be admirable, were it not for the fact that Craft Unionism steps in with its damnable influence towards division of the workers; at present, at moment of writing, we are treated to the spectacle of nearly a dozen unions, with a dozen secretaries, and a dozen executives, meeting at a dozen different places to discuss a matter affecting one plant where they all work, and each passing motions and resolutions, totally unconscious of the line of action advocated by the others.

It is instances such as this that show up the value of Industrial Unionism, and prove, the contention of the I.W.W. that sectional and craft unionism, instead of being useful, in reality functions in the interests of the boss.

THE JUDGE WHO WOULD BE ASHAMED TO BE A SOLDIER.

The appeal of J. Skurrie, of Melbourne, against his conviction under the War Precautions Act for making statements prejudicial to recruiting was quashed in the Second Civil Court in Melbourne some days ago, and Skurrie is now undergoing a sentence of three months' imprisonment.

It would appear from the report of the case which appeared in the Melbourne "Socialist" of last week, that the principal utterance on which the conviction rested was the following:—

"Crimes have been committed in our midst by ruffians who, when they go to the war, will repeat them."

The Judge, in upholding the conviction, remarked that "were he a soldier and read the statements reported to have been made by Skurrie about what Australian soldiers were likely to do, he would be ashamed to be a soldier." Any boy contemplating enlisting would be apt to say, remarked the Judge, "I would not be amongst such a crowd."

That a man should be sentenced to imprisonment for giving utterance to facts which every newspaper in Australia has been loudly advertising ever since the recent soldiers' riots, is but another illustration that those who want to fight Prussianism, and the kind of tyranny associated with that word, have their work cut out right here in Australia without travelling twelve thousand miles to find scope for their zeal.

When we find such prominent men as J. D. Fitzgerald, of the New South Wales Government, calling upon all sections of the civilian public—in his own words, "the press, the police, the government, and each individual citizen"—to unite in protecting themselves from the criminal passions of those whom he described as "misguided fan in uniform," when, in addition, the capitalistic press for the past three weeks contains columns of denunciation of the unlawful behaviour of the soldiery, and when, further, police court records and the findings of military tribunals testify to the truth of Skurrie's statement, it would be as reasonable and just to imprison a man for predicting that the sun will rise to-morrow.

The patriotic Judge who "would be ashamed to be a soldier" because of a future contingency—a prediction of what the soldiers MAY do—will now, we may rest assured, never find himself within range of a German rifle in view of what the soldiers HAVE DONE.

Funds are needed to meet legal expenses in

How little those who do the fighting in war are interested in its cause, or have anything to do with promoting it, is illustrated by the fraternity of the soldiers in the opposing trenches on Christmas Day and on other occasions when the opportunity occurs.

The following extract from a private in the Canadian Scottish Regiment, to his relations in Melbourne, which appeared in the Sydney "Sida" makes one think hard on the "why" of war:—

"We were given strict orders that we were not to fraternise with the enemy on Christmas Day, although many Germans had shown a desire to do so with us."

"Just at midnight on Christmas Eve a German yelled across to our front lines, 'A merry Christmas, Jock.' Our sentries, remembering instructions, did not reply, and the remainder of the night passed in quietness. Just as dawn was breaking, one of our look-out men discerned a hat being waved backward and forward behind the enemy's lines, and just above the parapet of this trench. He replied in a like manner. 'Then the German's head appeared. Not to be outdone, our chap showed his head above the parapet. Neither man could speak the other's language.' So they just stood and gazed at one another across that hundred yards of shell-scarred, barbed-wire-strewn ground known out here as 'No Man's land.'"

"Very soon other heads began to appear on both sides, and it was not long before the whole German trench in front was lined with heads. There was Karl, and Fritz, and August and Hans, and the whole family of them. Seeing that nothing happened, it was not long before the men of both sides were out of their trenches in between the lines. None carried rifles; all went unarmed."

MEN CALLED BACK

"Some of our boys started off towards the German lines, and the Germans advanced to meet them. But our officers called our men back. The order that we were not to fraternise with the enemy came evidently from higher up. I am sorry that I was not able to join in the fun. I had been busy all the afternoon in the magazine detonating bombs, and when I finally finished, and got up to the front line it was getting dusk. Both sides had returned to their trenches, and our boys were standing to with fixed bayonets. I hung round for a while, but as nothing interesting happened, I returned to quarters."

"Later, though, a chap came down from the front, and he said that when he left all our boys were sitting on the top of the parapet singing ragtime, and the Germans were on the top of theirs beating time to the singing. Not a shot had been fired on our front all night or day, and we were perfectly safe wandering round in plain view of the enemy."

The orders forbidding the soldiers to fraternise with "the enemy" is another example of the anxiety of our rulers to prevent any extension of that international spirit of solidarity and brotherhood amongst the workers which they know to be inimical to their interests.

RUSSIAN I.W.W. PAPER.

The secretary of the proposed Russian I.W.W. paper has to acknowledge the following amounts, per medium of Fellow-worker Fred Logovik, of Moscow (Q.):—

Fred Dunneff 10s. B. Bull 10s, John Henry Zarenba 3s. F. W. Malottin 5s. V. Gagaroff 5s. M. Finogentoff 5s. L. W. Slinko 10s. S. Somnikoff 5s. E. S. Ashman 2s. 6d. David Mainwaring 2s. 6d. Syd. B. Cheetham 2s. 6d. V. Egboff 5s. E. Covoishinek 2s. 6d. F. Logevik 5s. Total, £3 13s.

J. FAGAN, Secretary.

connection with the Skurrie case, and to carry on a further agitation for his release. They should be addressed to R. S. Ross, 283 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne.

(By "Ajax.")

The "Northern Light," the official organ of the Methodist Mission in Newcastle, is to hand. As this journal is little known to the workers, perhaps a few tit-bits from this wows-eristic sheet will not be out of place.

It is not quite clear whether this pious sheet is leading its readers. The principal leader in its February issue is headed, "Whither, that is the Question?" The writer indulges in vague generalities for three columns which only confuse the reader (perhaps that is the writer's intention), and eventually winds up by stating, "There is strong evidence for the statement that the answer to the question at the head of this article—'Whither?'—is Christ-ward." How the mischief a Methodist mountebank arrives at this astounding conclusion passes human comprehension. Only God knows, and presumably he won't split on a pal, least of all, a Methodist missionary.

In the middle of the article one observes the following gem, which, presumably, is the sum and substance of Methodist economic philosophy:—

"The World Workers' Union by a combination of the world's labour, has considered itself on the path to peace, to brotherhood of humanity. It has by such a combination of manual forces deemed it possible to destroy the capitalist, and level mankind to one of equality in general. The realisation is to be carried out through conquest of those who have, by any means in their power, acquired a larger share of this world's goods than are essential for their existence in comfort. They forget that, without capital, there can be no labour—that the destruction of the one means the impoverishment of the other, and until they realise that the young lion of wealth must be taught to lie down with the fading of labour, and led by the little child of Christian brotherhood, there can be no consummation of their justifiable objective—the brotherhood of man in the Parliament of the world."

Such a rambling statement is hardly worthy of criticism, but it might be said for the benefit of people ignorant of the labour movement, that labour has no quarrel with capital. Capital (without going into technical definitions that are open to dispute) is simply the tangibilities—articles used in wealth production. The quarrel is with the class who monopolise the means of life. Labour does not quarrel with the bricks and mortar that constitute a factory, or the cogs of machinery. The class that legally (only legally) own and control, and by virtue of these two factors appropriate fully three-quarters of the wealth produced by labour, and incidentally, are responsible for the major portion of the disease, poverty, prostitution, premature death and other evils that afflict the workers, is the enemy. The destruction of that class with its alleged brains and money would not impoverish labour. Rather the contrary. If an earthquake destroyed every bank, capitalist sweatshop, and, last but not least, every gospel shop to-morrow, it would be the best thing that could happen to the workers. Of course it suits a journal that blazons on its cover "Right is Might," to repeat in wows-eristic jargon the old bogey of wealth and labour going hand in hand. Sufficient to add that in things spiritual as well as mundane, Might is Right. The history of Christian sects proves that conclusively, and if Methodism had had the power, this sect being narrow minded would have done its share of persecution along with the rest.

That the spirit of Methodist malice is strong, though the flesh may be weak, is illustrated by the "Northern Light's" leading article, which is headed, "Traitor's to the Common Cause." Briefly, this is an insidious, trade against the Broken Hill strikers, and the irony of it lies in the fact that just above this article there is a prayer which concludes thus:— "Who hath called us to be His servants and soldiers, treading in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Amen." There is nothing on record to show that Christ generously abused strikers, rather was he the friend of the poor

and oppressed. One trembles to think of the fate of the Methodist writer when he shall stand before the judgment seat and Christ shall ask, "Writest thou this?"

One peruses the "Northern Light" in search of mental food. There are several dubious advertisements, sundry references to the blood of the lamb, exhortations to trust in God on the one hand and commands to get into the murder business on the other. Much talk of Christ, prayer, the call to arms, Methodist mission meetings and so on, but nowhere can one find the way to spiritual life, much less the road to economic salvation.

But stay, there is just one ray of intelligence in the wilderness of wows-erism in which the "Northern Light" appears to have wandered. A brother in Christ in a long-winded letter concludes by saying: "Alas, how much of praying is useless temple trample."

We know of a "Dead Letter Office" for mis-carried mail matter. Methinks there is a pretty bulky "Dead Prayer Office" somewhere. One fears that it will not be to the editor's advantage that he passed this when he stands before the throne of grace. One need not look further than the "Northern Light" to find the "Dead Prayer Office."

The "Northern Light" is typical of the sectarian press—a press that the workers would do well to be on their guard against. Methodism is but a fungus growth in the clerical world, and is fast decaying, howbeit the "Northern Light" speaks eulogistically of the good work this sect is doing in Newcastle. Judging from appearances the alleged good work consists in upholding that strict Sabbatharianism which has made Newcastle one of the gloomiest and most wows-eristic stricken cities on Sundays.

We have already seen that the economics of the "Northern Light" are bad, its philosophy slavish, its spirituality dubious; it seems no less weak in politics. It propounds no scheme of social salvation and has no remedy to cure the body politic. It is true the paper is full of advice and exhortations to all and sundry and lays special emphasis on the need for prayer.

Perhaps a little advice, even though it comes from an infidel, may not be out of place for a paper that is so profuse in advice to others. In the first place, the editor could do worse than study the labour movement just a little before he indulges in tirades of abuse against the miners. Secondly, Methodist economics, like its creed, are woefully mixed and out of date. Thirdly, if missionaries cannot give over the old lie "Right is Might," they might get a little nearer the truth if they changed the name of the paper. In no sense can the "Northern Light" be considered as a shining light. It would be more appropriate and correct to call this sectarian sheet "The Light that Failed," for there is a vast void and darkness o'er the face of it.

BAND NEWS.

The Band is making steady progress. There are good musters on practice evenings. New players are invited, as there are instruments waiting. The fund is still open, and cash will be received by the secretary with much pleasure. Fellow-worker Christie, of Nana Glen, N.S.W., has donated five shillings to the fund.

Information re good instruments will be welcomed, as will players, on Monday evenings, after 8, at 330 Castlereagh-street.

J. SMITHERS, Sec.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 7, 1916.

Jos. Broughton, 1s; P. Cannon, 2s; T. W. Dixon, 4s; H. Edwards, 1s; Peter Finneran, 2s; W. Gaynor, 1s; E. Hanson, 1s; J. Kelly, 2s; J. McSherry, 4s; A. J. McDonald, 4s; Miss Gregory, 1s; Jas. McFarlan, 1s; J. McDonald, 2s; A. C. Needham, 2s; G. O'Connor, 2s; L. Pfahl, 2s; Frank Page, 4s; A. H. Parker, 4s; Alfred Smith, 4s; F. Thompson, 2s; T. Tyre, 1s; John Waugh, 2s; W. A. Waldeman, 2s; V. White, 1s; F. J. Ellis, 1s; J. McMahon, 1s; J. Duncan, 2s; Edw. Cox, 1s; Geo. Johnston, 1s; Reuben Baty, 1s; Wm. Johnston, 1s; R. Christal, 2s; E. Muller, 2s; C. Brown, 2s; J. Atkin, 2s.

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The Logic of Efficiency

The "Journal of Commerce" dated February 16, publishes a report of a lecture delivered by one J. L. Law, of the manufacturing firm of Pearson, Law and Co., Ltd., on the subject of Industrial Efficiency. The firm of Law, according to the lecture, would appear to be well up in the game of exploitation, and Australian manufacturers would also appear not to be very far behind their Yankee and British brethren in efficiency experiments.

Law and Co. are engaged in the shirt and collar business, and the lecturer gave some striking examples of how the efficiency trick increases profits enormously, notwithstanding any rise in wages which the workers engaged in that industry have received for the past few years.

In six years the wages of females have increased from 16/6 to 22/6 per week; and that of males, from £2/2 to £3/5, though the labor cost has been reduced by as much as 50 per cent.

This can have no other meaning than that over 50 per cent. less workers are now required for the same output than formerly. Fifty per cent. of Law's male and female slaves are turned adrift in the sacred name of "Industrial Efficiency" to compete with the unemployed.

Truly a magnificent thing for the working class as a whole are these efficiency schemes, which gives a few paltry shillings' rise in wages to one-half the workers and turn the other half into the street to live on charity or starve.

Even the increased wages are not attributable to the increase of output, though Law would have us infer as much, but are due to the struggles of the workers concerned, owing to the higher cost of living; and while the firm of Law was reaping the advantage of a 50 per cent. increase on surplus values, they, no doubt resisted every effort of their slaves for the betterment of their conditions.

An example of how the efficiency trick throws workers on the slave market is given by Law himself—unconsciously, of course. The firm employed three girls stamping collars at the magnificent wages of 25/-, 20/-, and 12/6 per week. Evidently 48 hours toil a week was not sufficient compensation to Law and Co. for munificent sums of this kind; as the lecturer says, "they had their eyes open to possibilities."

In this case, the "possibilities" eventuated in the sacking of two of the girls employed, after the stop-watch, "motion study," etc., had done their work.

Law says—

"The timing we got shows that one girl working efficiently could do all the stamping, so we picked out the smartest girl, who was getting 20s. per week, put her on piece work, and guaranteed that she would get not less than 25s. per week." (How generous!) This had the effect, he admits, of reducing labor cost 50 per cent.

Little incidents of that kind have also the effect of increasing that great army

of unfortunate women recently described by a polite reverend gentleman, as "human monsters." "Possibilities" of this kind, however, do not trouble exploiters of the Law type. Are not all the flunkies of Capitalism, professors, politicians, bishops, and others, preaching Industrial Efficiency as the salvation of the worker, and when a Bishop says a thing is true, what do plain facts to the contrary matter?

The end and aim of all Efficiency schemes is profit, and not human well-being. This is so palpable from the utterances of capitalists themselves on the subject, that one wonders at the mental make-up of those alleged leaders of labor who profess to see better conditions for labor in an increased output. That the capitalist class rightly assume this kind of leadership to be advantageous to themselves is shown by the fact that at the meeting which Law addressed, it was suggested that a course of similar lectures be given at the Trades Hall. The workers have surely every reason to cry, "Save us from our friends."

The I.W.W. is continually pointing out that the only antidote to this efficiency craze is systematic sabotage and a shorter work-day. By this means alone is it possible to keep production from expanding to such a degree that the unemployed question will become intensified tenfold.

And yet in face of the every-day experience of the worker, and the facts and figures which the capitalists themselves put forward, we have such arrant humbugs as "Old man" Spence, President of the A.W.U., pretending to be horrified and thunderstruck at the very idea of sabotage, and devoting a two-hour address at the Convention of that body in denouncing those who advocate it.

It is high time these fossilized officials, these lieutenants of the Law type of exploiter, and the organisations which they boss, were dumped on the scrap-heap. An organisation that is prepared to adopt every "scientific method of Decreased Efficiency" is absolutely necessary if successful warfare is to be waged with the modern exploiter.

T.G.

NORTH LVELL, TASMANIA.

The following letter received from an I.W.W. correspondent at North Lvell, Tasmania, is interesting in view of the trouble recently brewing there—

The fatal day has arrived and passed without the catastrophe that was to put Mt. Lvelly mines on the bum. The revolutionists (?) here are hard to beat. There were 90 per cent. strikers came into the meeting, and after a couple of "intellectuals" spruiked for a few minutes, you could almost see the rebellious sentiments vanish into thin air.

We are back at work now, pending negotiations re the rates to be paid to contractors. These scab on each other like hell. They (in cases) give backsheesh to the truckers, or promise to, to induce them (the truckers) to go like blazes and get plenty of dirt out.

One case came under my notice last week, when some contractors had promised a backhand to a trucker, who did the work of two to get it, and didn't come through with the brass. The trucker then started to cut down the pace to normal (every week, of course, the "normal" varies), and his "mates" complained to the boss who chatted the "ass." I mean trucker. Result: a job open. One shift here, trucking, puts up a record; next shift tears along like hell to beat it; where 'twill end I don't know.

"The injury to one being the concern of all," is a motto quite unknown here, for the boss, finding his methods successful is induced to try them on in other States.

At the meeting last night, I noticed one "Mr. Block" call an official and point out someone who, he said, was an I.W.W., and asked that he be put out. And of course he was asked to leave, though it was as much to his interest to be present, seeing it concerned him as well as any other "good" unionist there.

There are some blackguards here who have stuck those pernicious "stickers" around in conspicuous places. I saw a few in the neighbourhood of the A.M.A. hall, on pub. bars, windows, and even—such a shame—about the master's works.

"WAGE PLUG."

SUBSCRIBERS.

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

An Open Letter

W. G. SPENCE, M.H.R.,
PRESIDENT, A.W.U.

Sir,

In your address to the Thirtieth Annual Convention of the A.W.U., held in Sydney, you were indiscreet enough to make a splenic attack upon the I.W.W.

The trouble with you, sir, is that you are politically, economically, and industrially dead; and it but remains for the I.W.W. to read your funeral oration.

Whilst you have vegetated beside the stagnant pool of Australian politics, the onward march of Progress has swept past you.

This is the day of the young men who have no use for fossilized old decrees such as you are, with your 17th century idea of economics. You jabbered of economic lunacy, and rule by minority: mere frothy, mouthing of nothings.

You quoted George Sorrell and Emile Pouget as the chief apostles of Syndicalism. Why, sir, the thickest bonhead (and your address was evidently meant for bonheads) could have told you that those writers are even rejected by the International Comrades of Europe, who are busy to-day trying to usher in the Brotherhood of Man with machine guns and bayonets. You yailed about Sabotage and the destruction of the bosses' machines. You dismally croaked that the I.W.W. was a sham and a throw-back to the dark ages of unionism. Did you but possess an elementary knowledge of evolution, you would know that there could be no such thing as a throw-back in Industrial Unionism. It marches onward, past such antediluvian parasites as you.

Evidently, to a mind like yours, that musty affection of hoary lies and myths, known as Holy-Writ, is the last word in revolutionary thought, and the ancient Yiddish prophets, the highest authorities upon twentieth century political economy.

You raved about the destruction of labour-saving machinery; when you daddering old imbecile, did you ever hear, or read, of an industrialist advocating the destruction of a labour-saving device. This is the twentieth not the seventeenth century. We, the industrialists, welcome the ever improving machine; we hate laborious toil with a bitter hatred; we look with longing eyes to the day when manual labour will have become a thing of the past, when the exertion of physical strength in the production of commodities shall have vanished from the earth.

The days of huge brawn and muscle are gone; to-day is the day of intellect. We, the present generation of young men, want the machine so perfect that it will collect and transfer the raw materials into the finished commodity, and simply by the pressing of a button land it at our bedside and so save the exertion of rising. You fanned and worked your sterile old carcase into a dangerous state of excitement ament the I.W.W. gospel of "slow down on the job." Slow down, indeed; did the slaves do so, there would be no further use for such capitalistic hirelings as you. You blathered about the immorality of the I.W.W. in breaking agreements; to hell with your morality, it belongs to the filthy, blood-sucking leeches who have lived on us. Too long we, the workers, have been bound by their rotten moral ethics.

You fulsomely boasted that the A.W.U. had the reputation throughout Australia of loyally abiding by very agreement put across it by the master-class and their paid prostitutes, of whom you are one, Sir, what a revolutionary boast. How the rulers of bread must love such slimy, creeping things as you.

But in your senile ravings, you stated the case for the I.W.W. clearly. When you quoted the manifesto issued by the Lawrence (Mass.) local, "That every member of this organisation is pledged to a revolutionary policy that admits of no compromise, and knows nothing of contracts with the employers, of arbitration, or of peace." Just so, that is our position; no compromise, no peace, with the hellish vampires who suck our life blood; and, may I add, with parasitical mental prostitutes of the Spence order.

You gibbered about "organising along clear cut and lawful lines, without these shibboleths of class consciousness of direct action, and economic determinism." Deny the class struggle, eh? There is no such thing in this free and democratic Australia, eh? The wandering tramp edges a pint of flour and cooking it in the ashes is the equal of the parasitical landlord, and the bludging sweet-shop owner, eh? The working girl driven to prostitution on the street, and the pampered, pug-nursing, Potts

I.W.W. Preamble.

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organise as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

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

Politicians are a set of people who have interests aside from the interests of the people, and who, to say the most of them, are at least one long step removed from honest men. I say this with greater freedom, being a politician myself.—Abraham Lincoln.

Fight for "your" country if you wish, but what about owning your job.

point dame have everything in common, eh? Of course class-consciousness is a shibboleth. I suppose there is not even any class distinction between an M.H.R. and the slave who cleans his boots; or between the M.H.R.'s wife and the unfortunate women of the working class, who through hunger is driven to wash their dirty under-linen for them.

And even as you mouth your senile rot, the wharries in Melbourne are getting an extra slice of bread for their kiddies by "direct action." Cut out direct action, eh? Oh no, Spence, we will have more and more of it; in fact, it will be the lever that will eventually shove you off your perch, old boy. And you don't believe in "economic determinism," don't you? Well, prove it by throwing up your £600 a year job as a mental prostitute of the master class; come now, be a man of your word.

You charge the I.W.W. with wanting to "bust up" the A.W.U. There is no need to do that. Old blatherskites like you are doing it better than we could ever hope to do. The fact is that you, in bloated admiration of yourself, have come to believe that you are the A.W.U. If that is so, we plead guilty to the self-impregnation; we are out to bust up Spence, and all such master-class pimps and mental harlots.

The I.W.W. thanks you for the advertisement you have given it. Your address has been published in the "Worker," and later on will be printed in the official report of the Convention; and so will reach many sterling old battlers out back, who would never otherwise have heard of the I.W.W.

And were you able to hear some of the remarks passed upon it by old A.W.U. members out here, you might be somewhat disturbed: That you may be spared to us for some years yet in your daddering old age, and continue to mouth senile and decadent addresses to future Conventions is the prayer of—

THOMAS O'CONNOR.

Mildura, Victoria,
21st February, 1916.

"Don't be Alarmed."**Our Growing Press****Mildura.****Profit-Sharing.**

I.W.W. slaves down Mildura way would appear to be making things uncomfortable for the cocky exploiters and their good friends, A.W.U. organisers and officials.

For some time past they have been holding weekly meetings on the streets, and the gospel of direct action is apparently making such headway amongst the slaves that A.W.U. officialdom has become seriously alarmed for the existence of its sacred agreement with the cockies, which by the way, has abandoned the workers concerned to the gentle mercies of the boss for the period of the war, and six months thereafter.

If the contract mongers were allowed to carry the agreement proposition to its logical conclusion, there is no reason why they should not bind down the workers to minister to the needs of their masters when the latter reach hell—their assured destination.

As showing the compensation which the A.W.U. exhibits for the boss's well-being and his perturbed state of mind brought about by I.W.W. agitation, we give the following excerpts from the local sheets in Mildura.

"The 'Telegraph' says:—

"Mr. Macpherson, organiser for the A.W.U. called at this office yesterday, and asked us to correct an impression that had got abroad with regard to speeches delivered on a vacant allotment in Langtree Ave., near 8th Street, on Saturday night. A speaker there gave expression to views which did not meet with the approval of many people, and Mr. Macpherson states that the public are under the impression that the meeting was organised by and the speeches delivered under the auspices of the A.W.U. This is not the case. The speeches were delivered by members of the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World), a totally different body, and one whose aims are entirely at variance with those of the well-known A.W.U."

The "Mildura Cultivator" goes more into detail concerning friend Macpherson's "disclaimer," and his anxiety to assure the boss of A.W.U. goodwill. It says:—

"Mr. J. Macpherson, organiser for the A.W.U. and a member of the local Board of Reference, arrived in Mildura on Sunday morning, and will remain here throughout the picking season. He called in at this office on Monday morning to disclaim any connection with certain street speakers who on Saturday night were declaiming (in the name of the I.W.W.—'Industrial Workers of the World') against the signing of agreements. The A.W.U., says Mr. Macpherson, wants peace, and aims to get as many signatures as possible to the season's wages agreement. The A.W.U. intends to stand loyally to the award made by Judge Higgins at the recent compulsory conference, which fixed wages which are to operate for this season and until 6 months after peace is declared. Settlers need not be alarmed by what the representatives of other organisations say; the A.W.U. will stick to its agreement in spirit and in letter."

Surely it is an encouraging sign of the alleged evolution of the A.W.U. towards the "one big union" goal, when we find its representatives assuring exploiters that "they need not be alarmed."

The assurance seemed a little superfluous on the face of it, for the bosses of the country have long ago learned that they have nothing to fear from the agreement-worshipping type of "unionist."

The Macpherson brand of official is more concerned with getting a cheap ad. from the mental prostitutes of the capitalist class than he is with serving the interests of the slaves who pay him double the salary that they themselves can possibly earn under their precious agreement; hence Mac's little expedition to the editorial offices of the "Telegraph" and "Cultivator."

The members of the "rebel clan" in Mildura are to be congratulated on the speedy recognition of their propaganda by the enemy press, and the enmity aroused in the breasts of scabby union officials.

The parting of the sheep from the goats in the industrial labor movement is not one of the least important missions of the I.W.W. in Australia; and with the rising discontent of the rank and file of the workers, and their ever increasing experience of the accursed system of organisation that sells them into perpetual slavery, the time is not far distant when the Macphersons in the movement will have to declare themselves as the scabbies they really are.

"DIRECT ACTION."

English. Weekly, 4s. per year. Published by the I.W.W., 330 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

"SOLIDARITY."

English. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. Published by the I.W.W. Publishing Bureau, 112 Hamilton Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

"A BERMUNKAS."

(The Wage Worker.) Hungarian. Semi-Monthly, 6s. 6d. per year. 350 East 81st St., New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

"ALLARM."

(The Alarm.) Swedish-Norwegian-Danish. Monthly. 4s. per year. 164 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

"SOLIDARNOSC."

(Solidarity.) Polish. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. 164 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

"DARBININKU BALSAS."

(The Voice of the Workers.) Lithuanian. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. 869 Hollis St., Rlatmore, U.S.A.

"HET LIGHT."

Flemish. Monthly, 4s. per year. Franco-Belgian Hall, 9 Mason St., Lawrence, Mass., U.S.A.

"IL PROLETARIO."

(The Proletariat.) Italian. Weekly, 6s. 6d. per year. Gen. Del. Hanover Sta Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

"EL REBELDE."

(The Rebel.) Spanish. Bi-Weekly, 4s. per year. Bundle rate 1d. per copy. Address all communications and remittance to Administrator, El Rebelde, Box 1279, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

"RABOCHAYA RECH."

(The Voice of Labor.) Russian. Weekly, 4s. per year. Bundle rates, 1d. per copy outside Chicago. Address: 1146 South Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

"A LUZ."

(Light.) Portuguese. Semi-monthly. Subscription 4s. per year. Bundles of 50 1d. per copy. Address, 699 South First St., New Bedford, Mass., U.S.A.

ADDRESSES OF I.W.W. LOCALS.

Adelaide Local 1.—Secretary-Treasurer, S. G. Drummond, 43 Charles-street, Unley, Adelaide, S.A.

Sydney, Local No. 2.—Secretary-Treasurer, T. Glynn, 330 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

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

Fremantle, Local No. 5.—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, Woolloom-Gabba, Brisbane, Q.

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

Perth, Local No. 10.—Secretary-Treasurer, A. Westbrook, Victoria Park, East Perth, W.A.

Mount Morgan, Local No. 11.—Secretary-Treasurer, A. Murphy, Queensland National Hotel, Mount Morgan, Queensland.

Cairns (Russian), Local No. 12.—Secretary-Treasurer, W. Yudaeff, Box 201, Cairns, N. Q.

SPEAKERS' CLASS.

The Speakers' Class has been restarted 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. 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 Street.

The I.W.W. still continues to cause great consternation, not only amongst the employers of labor, but also amongst parliamentary aspirants and highly-paid union officials. If the I.W.W. is a nightmare to the boss, it is a hideous day-dream to the many union parasites who for long years have enjoyed themselves at the expense and suffering of the toiling slaves.

The continual corruption, duplicity, infamy, and lies which goes on in many trade unions and amalgamations of labor must be exposed and brought to light in order that the slaves may see how they are side-tracked and sold-out by their officials.

The plain talking which the I.W.W. adopts and the ever-pointing out of the uselessness of the present form of unionism and the necessity of the I.W.W. has made many union officials feel wary about their jobs, so they have taken Billy Hughes' advice and are attacking the I.W.W. with the "ferocity of a Bengal tiger."

If the attacks of the A.W.U. officials and their satellites were clean and truthful, we would not care how fierce they were, but they are evidently not followers of the famous George Washington.

The opponents of the I.W.W. are hard put to it to find arguments against the organisation. When they discover they are beaten they get down to the language of the sewer and the arguments of the yellow-press.

At the close of the I.W.W. meeting at 9.45 last Saturday night, when fellow-workers O'Connor, Cherrington, and Rancie held a large interested audience for over two hours, the A.W.U. organisers, true to their lawful tactics, mounted a box on a vacant piece of ground near by—they would not break the law like the I.W.W. and speak in the street—and began to harangue the crowd about the I.W.W. They floundered around for some time and said nothing of import. When they tried argument they got bogged. They trotted out some trite about constitutional methods, and sticking to agreements; mentioned a few individual members of the I.W.W. and then put up a piteous squeal about their family affairs and what they had sacrificed for the movement. All this talk cut no ice with the thinking portion of the crowd; they wanted to see the leaders of the A.W.U. put the I.W.W. on trial, but they were disappointed. But this was not all; there was more to come; the trump card was yet to be played.

Amid the self-satisfied smiles of the A.W.U. officials, a Mr. Washburn, an American, mounted the box. It was said that he had come from the "home of the I.W.W." was one time organising for that organisation in Los Angeles, and he claimed to know something about them. He started off by trying to get on good terms with the crowd by cracking a lot of cheap Yankee jokes, which are stale even in Australia. His yarns were falling a bit flat, so, as he thought, he would bring out his winning-card. Here it is: "One day," he said, "I was passing a pub, and saw a prominent I.W.W. man causing a disturbance. I asked the man what was wrong, and he loudly exclaimed, 'I want whisky.' 'Why do you want whisky?' I asked. 'I won't work,' he said. 'Why won't you work?' 'I won't wash.' This sort of thing was got off to the great amusement and loud laughter of the A.W.U. officials, who were trying to rouse the crowd to laugh too. But a large portion of the audience was still waiting to hear what he had to say against the I.W.W.

Seeing that his tactics were not carrying much weight, he changed his methods to one of abuse and slander. He called the members of the I.W.W. bums, wasters, spittoon-philosophers, men who never washed themselves, etc. He complained about being called a white-collared stiff," because he washed his face once a week. The moral character of Bill Haywood and other officers was questioned.

The Trayman affair then came under review, and he finished by saying, "The I.W.W. must be crushed; it was a bum-layout, and with the help of the A.W.U. we will do it."

While Mr. Washburn, "the man from the home of the I.W.W." was pulling off his bit of a stunt last Saturday night, it was owing to the I.W.W. members that he was not pulled off the box. Even old A.W.U.ites were disgusted at the piffle he was getting off, and knew he was telling lies, and wanted, out of fairness, to close him up. But we were anxious to hear him out, thinking we might hear some of the faults of the I.W.W., but we were disappointed. The Yank, who knew so much, and who was looked upon by the A.W.U. officials as the right man to soo-

By W. Jackson.

There is plainly a growing feeling among employers in favour of some sort of profit-sharing. This arises largely from a feeling that loyal and competent slaves, who take a partner's interest in the company, ought to be treated like partners; also it arises from a desire to put more energy and loyalty into the slaves. Hundreds of employers, worried at the slack and slovenly manner in which their employees work, are looking about for some way to make them more efficient. Profit-sharing is the reward for increased work. It must always be figured on Extra Profits. If there should be no extra profits, nothing would be divided among the employees. The bonus is not figured on the gross profits, but always on the net profits. I have known cases in which the gross profits were greatly increased, without adding to the net profits. In such cases the employees profit at the expense of the company. From our dear kind boss's point of view, no profit-sharing is satisfactory unless it benefits "the company."

In estimating the net profits, of course, there must be a full reward calculated for management and superintendence. If a man is managing his own factory, for instance, he should charge a "fair" salary for his services; he should not take dividends as a substitute for salary. If he does he is robbing himself for the benefit of his employees. Once a year is not often enough to divide the extra profits amongst the poor deluded slaves. Every quarter the exact amount should be deposited in a separate pay envelope with a personal note of thanks, and past payments should be added, so as to show the total for the year. To give a practical example of the boss's idea of a "fair profit-sharing scheme," we might take the case of a shop which has 31 employees. Its profits are £3000 a year. The employer offers half of the extra profits to the mugs. At the end of the year the profits are £4000. The extra profits are therefore £1000, and they are divided as follows:—

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Employer gets . . . | 50 shares . . . | £500 |
| Manager gets . . . | 10 shares . . . | 100 |
| Accountant | 5 shares . . . | 50 |
| Window Dresser . . | 5 shares . . . | 50 |
| Head Salesman . . . | 5 shares . . . | 50 |
| 23 Employees | 23 shares . . | 230 |
| 4 Boys | 2 shares . . . | 20 |
| Total | 100 shares . . | £1000 |

The boss's way to share profits is to establish a piece-rate system, based on a scientific study of each job. This is one of the main aims of scientific management. The bosses are not slow in waking up to the fact that it is not at all difficult to establish a method of sharing profits, which will put much money into the pockets of the directors and very little into the pockets of the workers. If you will reason on the position out you will find that it is in the interests of the Capitalist that the manager should receive 10 times as much as an ordinary bonehead. The manager, accountant, window dresser, and head salesman receive "salaries," and are not to be classed with ordinary cheap, common human work horses, who wait at the factory gate for the boss every morning. The "public benefactor" (the boss) takes damn good care he is an easy winner, and is on the half-way mark (for he is both handicapper and starter) with 50 shares, but the 23 employees only receive 1 share each. This is on the understanding that the extra net profits have increased at least 25 per cent., which is not often the case. The boss receives 50 times as much as his wage-earners; for the privilege of participating in producing "extra profits," the workers hand the boss a "swag" containing £500 so that he may relieve himself of any anxiety for another 12 months, or until the mugs wake up to the fact that not only this profit-sharing scheme, but this system of capitalism based on exploitation of the worker is of no damn use to them.

on to the I.W.W., proved a sorry failure.

Not one word against the organisation or its principles was advanced. Not one syllable of logic against our position was brought forward. The Industrial Workers of the World still stand intact, and their position unshaken. Something more solid than cheap jokes, abuse, personalities, and lies, will be needed to defeat the I.W.W. We are too well established in Australia now to be stamped out, even though union leaders do unite with the master class in the attempt.

We extend to all opponents from all lands an invitation to come out and fight. Go to it you cohorts of the master; ratty you paid traducers of the I.W.W.; get busy you union parasites; mobilise, do your damndest, you will find us ready and waiting.

N.B.

Arbitration and the A. W. U.

The "Australian Worker" of last issue contains a report of the debate on arbitration which took place at the A.W.U. convention. The debate arose out of a resolution moved by Delegate McNaught—

"That the the A.W.U. make direct negotiations with the employers and refuse to accept arbitration."

To judge by the remarks of those who opposed the motion, they were more concerned with discussing the alleged sins of I.W.W. men in the industrial movement, and the I.W.W. in general, than with justifying their belief in the arbitration principle. It may be remarked, incidentally, for the education of those "know alls," most of whom gather their impressions of the basic principles of the I.W.W. from the columns of the capitalist press, and from the lips of such unprejudiced critics as Billy Hughes, that mere opposition to arbitration with the boss is not the whole of the I.W.W. philosophy, and by no means the most important principle which distinguishes the I.W.W. from such a polyglot organisation as the Australian Workers' Union.

Most of the arguments put forward in favor of Arbitration were mutually destructive when they were not inconsistent in themselves. Arbitration, remarked one delegate, "could be made effective, and the only way to make it effective was at times to throw it overboard, and try other methods." Why, if the "other methods" could be successful in getting "effective" arbitration (an expression by the way, which to an I.W.W. man is a contradiction in terms), it could not also be successful in achieving other ends, the delegate did not volunteer any advice.

The same delegate said that "it was untrue when I.W.W. men stated that the A.W.U. was only an arbitration union; for the A.W.U., in his own knowledge and experience, had had strikes, all of which had been successful."

This would be a highly interesting argument AGAINST direct action, if we were not told by another speaker, Senator Barnes (what-in-hell has a Senator to do with a wage-slave conference, anyhow?) that they had seen the folly of that kind of industrial strife (strikes) and adopted different methods. Barnes advocated "the capture of the political machine" in order to improve the Arbitration Act. Barnes, whatever his faults, is evidently a consistent politician, and has his eye on the main chance. He ignored mentioning, however, that he and his political cobbles have been in possession of that "political machine" for some years now, without the fact making any difference for the better in the workers' condition.

Another delegate declared that the Arbitration Act was built "upon a rotten foundation"; but, "if one could gain the end by going to Court it was better than the strike with the suffering and terrible sacrifice frequently entailed." "If" sure, only—if. This delegate, one Butler, wound up his remarkably logical discourse by volunteering the totally superfluous piece of information that "the I.W.W. stood for different ideas altogether to the A.W.U."

Another illuminating "argument" in favor of arbitration was that "the I.W.W. came with ideas from America, which was in industrial and political organisation far behind Australia, and with different conditions prevailing altogether." Whatever the justification for arbitration has to do with the origin of the I.W.W. did not appear from the rest of the speaker's remarks, but it is interesting to know from such a reliable source that the methods of the exploiting class differ in the countries referred to.

The whole debate served to show that the A.W.U. differs but little, if at all, from the ordinary craft union conception of the working class movement. It ignores the fundamental basis, the reason for the existence of that movement, namely, the Class Struggle. For the working class to be ultimately successful in that struggle the limit of its action must not be prescribed by any Arbitration Act, be it "good" or bad.

Just as the question of the final ownership and control of industry can not be settled by arbitration but by efficient, organisation and intelligence, so also the degree of success which the workers have attained in the every-day struggle for the products of their labor, is not the outcome of any ready-made institutions such as the Arbitration Court, but marks unerringly the state of organisation and

intelligence which the working-class movement has reached.

Arbitration is therefore essentially wrong in principle, and the contention that it has proved beneficial to the working class, arises either from the desire of interested parties to perpetuate it, or from total ignorance of the invisible economic forces underlying the Capitalist system. The decision given from an Arbitration Court bench does not so much represent the personal opinions of the Judge on what he conceives to be economic justice, as it is a reflex of the Economic Power and class education of the workers concerned.

Judged from this standpoint, and from the plain facts of experience that the wealth, influence and power of the exploiting class are expanding with ever-increasing rapidity, that the stranglehold of Capitalism is tightening year by year with every extension of Arbitration, the superficial vaporings of the A.W.U. with its implacable hatred of the I.W.W., are not likely to count for much with the intelligent worker.

The fact that there are members of the A.W.U. working to-day under an arbitration agreement for wages inadequate for the primary necessities of life,—that fact alone speaks more loudly on Arbitration than all the oratory of a thousand Conventions.

It also throws an interesting side-light on the power of the much boomed "one big union," as represented by the A.W.U. It is not for the I.W.W., as some of the speakers at this Convention would have us infer, to prove that arbitration is rotten. The history of the alleged labor movement of Australia proves that fact better than all argument.

T.G.

RAILWAY COMMISSIONER ON SABOTAGE.

Assistant-Commissioner Milne, of the New South Wales Railways, is seriously disturbed concerning sabotage.

Speaking at Goulburn a few days ago, he said "that there were men in the service who seriously and deliberately debated how they could best bring about a condition of chaos under the name of a scientific strike, which was really sabotage, thinly disguised."

He described the advocates of this form of strike as "imported pests, bred in other lands, where freedom as understood by Australians, was unknown."

It appears that the Railway Workshops are being placarded with posters, which, according to the Commissioner, contains the following advice by the "imported pests":—"Don't scab on the unemployed by working hard; slow work means more jobs, more jobs mean less unemployed; less competition means higher wages—less work, more pay. Slow down, slow down. Don't be slaves."

Truly awful! This sort of thing, says the Commissioner, is calculated to "produce a catastrophe by depleting the fountain from which the necessary capital flowed to develop our great country."

We are pleased to have an admission from such an authoritative source, that sabotage, scientifically applied, is liable to put the boss on the bum.

This latest convert to the efficacy of Sabotage should remember, however, "that the fountain from which all capital flows," as well as all other wealth, is the fountain of physical and mental energy possessed by the working-class. The natural resources of "our" great country have in the past been developed by the brawn and brain of labor for the profit of those for whom Milne speaks, and the "rising tide of anarchy" so hated by Milne and his class, is not likely to cease until Sabotage is universally applied, and carried to its logical conclusion, by the complete expropriation of those who now own "our great country" and all the capital it contains.

PRESS FUND.

E. Higgins, 10s; "Snowy" Hunter, 5s; J. Christie, 5s.

I entered Parliament with what I thought to be the lowest possible opinion of the average member. I came out with one still lower.—John Stuart Mill.

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.....

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Fill it in NOW!

Echoes from the West.

BY EUREKA.

Fremantle and Perth Locals are uniting their forces on the Perth Esplanade in one big propaganda corroboree, on Sunday afternoon. Result, large audiences, rapt attention, and an absence of opposition to the methods of the I.W.W., organisation and tactics.

That bespeaks a conviction in the minds of the hearers that our principles are not only correct but are, Q.E.D., beyond all hope of being logically controverted, and the lack of a large increase in membership is owing to the strong influence of vested interests in the sectional unions. F.W. Reeves's subject for yesterday (Feb. 13th) was to have been "Hereditary and Environment," but was postponed at the request of the Trades Hall magnates and political nabobs to enable a great mass meeting to be held, making appeal for financial assistance to Broken Hill miners' families.

Delegates Kerr and Speck from Barrier's Strike Committee were present, and explained that the miners would not be in receipt of wages till three weeks elapsed from time of resuming work.

Our representatives, F.W. Reeves, came in for the fullest approval of the meeting re his utterances. The really advanced man or two of the Trades Hall were between the devil and the deep blue sea. Vested interests hold them in leash from speaking the truth; hence, their remarks had no true ring of sincerity, no bold, original thought, and the crowd, ever instinctively keen to note and distinguish the lack of earnestness, born out of the knowledge of truths and the utterance thereof, gave no evidence of enthusiasm—save in regard to the I.W.W. spokesman.

Secretary Gibson of the E.D.A., at the close of the meeting had quite a large tub full of sectional union dirty linen to wash; he rubbed it out properly, and hung it out to dry on the line of public observation to the very much mixed edification, amusement and savage wrath of the various sections of the crowd.

A collection was taken up prior to this enlivening episode, and resulted in a sum of £5 5s. being collected. At the previous Sunday meeting of the I.W.W., about half that sum was realised—a more than favorable comparison.

People who reason from cause to effect are expecting stormy meetings at the Perth Trades Hall for the next few weeks.

F.W. Reeves visited the Midland Junction last Monday night (the stronghold of Government shops and railway employees of sundry grades). He gave an address of an hour's duration on Industrial organisation. He was accompanied on the war path by a band of Fremantle and Perth I.W.W. braves.

The meeting (A.L.F. Branch) admitted our rep. to be a man with a message to the worker, and evidently accepted the message as true.

The I.W.W. has been subjected to a most savage attack in the columns of "The Sunday Times" of Perth; however it is a compliment to be scandalizingly denounced by this vile sheet, which resorts to the low vernacular of the Rocks, Sydney, and Little Bourke-street, Melbourne, at their worst.

F.W. Reeves replied at the Sunday meeting, and proved to the hilt and the satisfaction of the audience that all the article is a farrago of malicious slander, and then challenged the writer, if present in pursuit of copy, to come on the platform and justify himself. No appearance.

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.

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 Argent-street.

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

H. J. KIELY, Secretary,

Local No. 3, I.W.W.

"Lese Majeste."

ABUSING THE PRIME MINISTER. THE CASE OF WILSON AND LAIDLER.

On Tuesday the 22nd February Alf Wilson and Percy Laidler appeared before the District Court, Melbourne, to answer a charge of abusive language uttered at the Yarra bank on Sunday, the 6th February.

The language complained of was used in reference to the Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes, and was uttered in speeches delivered at a meeting held by J. J. O'Reilly, strike delegate from Broken Hill. In referring to Mr. Hughes' attitude to the Broken Hill strike and his accusation that there was pro-German influence behind the strike, Laidler said the man who said that was "Wm. Hughes, the blackest scoundrel the working class ever produced." Wilson attacked Mr. Hughes similarly and stated that "The Age" and the "Argus" supported the double dealing and trickery of Billy Hughes, who since the time when a warrant was out for him for horse stealing until the present time has never done any good for the working class."

Police Constable Fennessy, who issued the summons, stated that he had no complaint, apart from the present, to make concerning the speaking of Wilson and Laidler, both of whom he had found to be very fair speakers. He had prosecuted the men because they abused the Prime Minister. Had it been anyone else the case would have been different. When asked if he did not consider that calling the strike leaders pro-Germans, as Mr. Hughes had done, was using the most abusive language possible to-day, he said he did not know.

The Magistrate, Mr. Goldsmith, here stated that if the defendants Wilson and Laidler would give an undertaking to refrain from using similar language in future he would stop the case. The defendants, however, refused to give any such undertaking, and fully fifteen minutes were occupied in the endeavour to get Wilson and Laidler to give the desired undertaking. Mr. Goldsmith stated that he intended in no way to interfere with free speech. Wilson and Laidler then made statements to the Court in which they explained the reasons for such language being uttered and their reasons for refusing to give the Court the undertaking sought. They declared their desire that the Court should hear the case now rather than give any assurance not to use similar language in the future, both desiring above all their rights to freedom of speech. It was agreed by defendants that Wilson's reference to horse stealing was perhaps beyond fair political criticism, and he might well withdraw same. This was done by Wilson, who stated that it had been Mr. Hughes' proud boast that in his early labor experiences he had once had such a warrant issued for him.

The Magistrate said the police had spoken well of the past speaking of the two defendants, and he felt sure they would do as he urged them, that is, refrain from using such language in future. He would adjourn the case for six months with that hope.

(Reports of the above case in the Melbourne capitalist press made it appear as if Wilson and Laidler gave an undertaking to the court to refrain in future from similar criticism of the precious Billy. The above report from one of accused, as well as other communications received from Melbourne I.W.W. members, throw a different light on the matter.—Ed.)

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 Gosh," "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 48 pages, and sell at 6d. per copy, with the usual reduction for quantities. Orders will be booked right away.

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