

# DIRECT ACTION



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ONE PENNY

## A New Social Order.

"IN OUR TIME."

By A. MACK.

It is claimed to be the historic mission of Labor to overthrow capitalism and emancipate itself from the misery and degradation of its coils by building up a social system wherein the industrious many will not be exploited by the idle, useless few. The capitalist form of society can only last a certain time; sooner or later it must come to an end; this is recognised by even middle-class economists, though they love to believe the end is not a near one; at any rate, they propagate the idea that it has still a long while to live, yet they may pretend to believe this in order to hoodwink the hosts of toil, and develop in them an apathy and a disinclination to prepare for the "Fall of the System."

If that be their purpose, they would appear to have achieved their object, for while the army of labor recognises the inevitable decay and death of capitalism, they have the opinion that the time is centuries off. Still, it must ever be drawing closer, and it is the sacred duty of labor to perfect its weapons and be ready for the fray. The class which has the most efficient organisation, the class which is the more consciously aware of its object, will win out in the struggle, and mould and control the next social structure. Should the struggle come and find the working-class unprepared, or only partly organised, they may depend upon it the new order will hold for them a slavery more wretched than the present.

Every May Day we are ready to celebrate the Workers' International Holiday, but every May Day also finds us without the machinery to win that day as a no-work holiday and reveals to us (and our masters) that we are no nearer than the last time to establishing on earth the "Kingdom of Man."

The curse of modern Labor is the apathy already mentioned.

"The ruling ideas of every age are the ideas of the ruling class." And how many working men and women are living proofs of this statement!

Unfortunately for Labor, the majority of this class merely reflex the opinions of the masters. They like to ape his morals and his manners.

Karl Marx struck the root of this question when he saw that the economic foundations of society determined in great part the domestic, religious, moral, and political attitude of the people. The rulers of society hold the opinions dictated by economic necessity, while the ruled hold the same opinions largely because of a servile mentality. Always since civilisation, society has been divided into two camps—one consisting of a few—the masters, and the other comprising this great army of toiled workers.

Always since civilisation the workers have been slaves. At first the system was Chattelism, and the workers were chattel slaves; changes in the methods of production compelled the rulers to institute serfdom, where the workers were Feudal slaves. Further economic advance forced the master class to introduce our present system—wage-slavery—with the workers as wage-slaves.

"Is little wonder then that after several thousand years of economic slavery the working-class should have developed a servile mentality. This servility and apathy, so distinctive a feature of the average worker, is undoubtedly a development, for it was not apparent in the early chattel slaves; they had memories and traditions of a freedom we cannot boast, and it was just these and the proud high spirit born of ages of liberty that enabled the gladiator Spartacus, to gather round him a million rebels and defeat and defy the powerful Roman armies during four stormy bloody years." Their effort was, perhaps, the grandest of all the bids made by the early workers to tear themselves free from the unnatural system where man becomes a mere beast of burden, and, contrasting them with the stupor and servility of the modern worker, the supremacy of the human spirit, born and bred in Freedom, to that nurtured in bondage, seems fairly well established. labor market to be hired by the highest bid-

der, is offering silent proof, that he who owns the job owns the men who depend on he job for an existence.

"Changes in the economic basis of society," wrote Marx, "will produce a reflex in the social superstructure." It is on this, now generally accepted, fact that the downfall of the capitalist system of society is predicted; though it must be stated that an attempt has been made on the part of interested persons to spread the notion that the collapse of capitalism and appearance of the co-operative Commonwealth were both inevitable; but the consummation of both events was so far away that preparation for the event was a useless waste of time.

The effect of this teaching on a working class not given to thinking for itself is obvious, and it must be stated some of the worst offenders for most successful propagandists have been our Australian self-styled Labor-Socialist Parliamentarians. It is not suggested they taught primarily for the purpose of disarming Labor in the interests of the master class, but rather to render them the more easily amenable to political trickery. They convinced the workers that social progress was the result of evolution, and since evolution was painfully slow, there was no danger of any revolution coming "in our time." The explanation that the Drama of Human Emancipation would be staged somewhere in the distant future was accepted as scientific, and besides it was pleasant to think there would be no social upheaval "in our time."

The majority of the Labor Army are even now enjoying this doubtful delusion. They appear to shrink from a chance of making a better world. In this cowardly attitude the ages of slavery in its effect on the working class spirit is again in evidence.

However, there is a hope that the social revolution is near at hand, for, looking into the advances made in the economic world during the last decade, and particularly so during the last couple of years, we notice wonderful changes taking place. The time is even now ripe for the working class to commence operations upon the old order and prepare the way for the new.

When industry has been so far organised as to reach the stage of trustification it is ready for control by the working class. Every time an industry is perfected on trust lines some hundreds of workers go on the scrap-heap, so that at this stage it becomes desirable, possible, and absolutely necessary, that the working class should assume control of those industries; but before this can be efficiently effected the workers must be organised in the industries on Industrial union lines.

The modern rapid march towards an industrial efficiency, controlled by the masters, commenced with the elimination of competition and the appearance of the first trust; from that date the Trade Union became an obsolete weapon, but Labor couldn't part with an old friend, and consequently has not been ready to take advantage of its opportunities.

The International master class saw the danger that was inviting disaster to themselves should the working class wake up. Their object is the formation of a world trust, and to successfully build this, to perfect their class solidarity and strengthen their economic grip, they have kept the eyes of Labor centred on a world war. Behind the screen of blood and tears thus generated they are developing the new society. When this has been fairly moulded we may expect to see the blood fumes float away and the working class given a peep at their new industrial hell.

"The Revolution is on; it has come 'in our time.' The old capitalism is passing out, the new order is being built, and, as has happened on previous occasions, when changes were being made, the working class have not been consulted. The class which have been the victims in all civilised societies are to be the victims once again."

The demand for Labor Solidarity was never so urgent as now. The machinery of the One Big Union is needed, and it is needed at once. There may still be time for us to take a hand and direct the structure of the new social order. The choice is between Unionism and Future Industrial Serfdom.

Which is it to be!

## Australian Kaisers

Many years ago P. B. Shelley, in one of his soul-stirring poems, says:—

"What is freedom? Ye can tell  
That which slavery is, too well,  
For the very name has grown  
To an echo of your own."

After travelling down through all the long years since Shelley penned his inspiring verse we come to what we now call Australian democracy: we see a Labor Party in power, an umbrella repairer as Prime Minister, and a toiler from the mines as High Commissioner in London.

One would think by the past reputation of the men now looking after the destiny of Australia that everything would be rosy and bright. But what a difference! Instead of showing themselves as the mouth-piece of democracy and liberty, the Labor Ministers have proved themselves to be the advocates of oppression.

Despite the fact that the Labor Party now holds the reins of power in Australia, and have amongst its leaders men who were once socialist agitators and anti-militarists, we are still forced to ask ourselves: "What is freedom?" And the reply comes thundering back in unmistakable tones: "We can tell that which slavery is, too well for the very name has grown to an echo of our own."

It is a self-evident fact that the working-class of this big island are sinking deeper and deeper into the depths of slavery, and all scraps of freedom are rapidly vanishing from the horizon.

With mathematical precision, the traitors from the working-class ranks, have put into operation and are ably carrying out all the mandates of Plutocracy.

The dastardly and infamous deeds perpetrated by the Labor Government, are so glaring and palpable that they stagger all thinking men.

It has been vividly demonstrated to the working-class of late that they can "put no hope in Governments." The political saviours and "emancipators of the people" have not only deserted the working-class, but are doing their damndest to fasten the chains of servitude upon them.

The applause of the master-class and the banquet halls appeal more to the Labor politicians than the cry of the outraged toiler.

Having become drunk with power, and dazzled by the luxury and spoils of office the Labor Party has earned itself a reputation such as no other political party ever knew.

It is surprising to many how those erstwhile socialist agitators, in such a short time, can be transformed into ranting Imperialists and administrators of Prussian-like laws.

Look where we will, in all parts of Australia, we find cases of working-class martyrdom brought about by the Labor Party's laws. In every State under the Southern Cross the jail gates have clanged behind working-men for daring to speak the truth that was in them. Brave men have languished behind prison walls for no other reason than using their brains and giving utterance to their thoughts.

The rights and liberties of which we once boasted so loudly are being violated and trampled under feet by our Labor legislators.

After an unsuccessful attempt a few months ago to cripple our press and jail our editor, the Labor Ministers have once again rallied to the call of Plutocracy, and are attempting to put Tom Barker, publisher of "Direct Action," behind the prison bars for 12 months. He is guilty of the awful crime of publishing a cartoon depicting war profits from the blood of the working class.

It is well known to all that huge profits are being made out of the war. But our Labor Members, so solicitous for the welfare of the working-class, will jail anyone who dares to speak harshly of the depredations of the 44 per cent patriots!

For having the temerity to tell the truth about the human vampires who are waxing fat as a consequence of the war, the pub-

lisher of "Direct Action" is to be gagged, dressed in a degrading uniform, thrown behind prison bars, herded with felons and guarded by officious beings with loaded guns.

It behoves every live member of the industrial army to arise to their responsibilities and take a stand against the suppression of free-speech and the press.

How can we call ourselves men if we take no stand against the malicious persecution of working-class agitators.

We must be awake to the dangers which are threatening us on all sides, and be prepared to reply to tyrants in such a way that will set the iron bars of the prison gates rattling until Barker is set free.

If we allow this persecution to go on without any demonstrative action by the working-class it will simply mean that one after the other, all active workers in the industrial arena, will be pounced upon and put where they can do no harm.

With the industrial field cleared from all agitators, the master class will then have easy work to put into operation their scheme of industrial conscription, and grind the working-class down to depths of slavery and degradation which many prominent men in the world have often depicted to us.

How can we boast of freedom if we tamely submit to such tyranny? How can we talk of democracy with such despotism rampant? How can we prate of justice when all around we see acts of repression?

The liberties of which we once boasted so loudly are being snatched from our grasp one by one, and unless we are prepared to resist this oppression we will soon find ourselves in a far worse condition than the slaves of old.

Well might Sir W. Byles, in the House of Commons, say: "What are we fighting for if we are to jettison all our liberties one by one: first, the freedom of the Press, then the freedom of the platform, then open Courts of Justice, next trial by jury, next the censorship of news and opinions by a Government that never appreciates the blessed light of publicity. If we are getting rid of all our liberties one by one, I do not know for what we are fighting."

The way to reply to these assassinations of thought is by the putting into operation some I.W.W. tactics on the job. The industrial field is the place where we can reply with some effect. Irritation strikes, sabotage, and the general strike, if necessary, will make the Kaisers in Australia squeal.

We are determined that Tom Barker shall be freed. We will use any tactic, adopt any weapon, do anything in our attempt to release our fighters for freedom.

We ask all working-class organisations who believe in free speech, free press, and the right of public meetings to unite with us in this fight.

We are desperate men, and with time our desperation grows, and no one knows what may happen if the powers that be do not relax.

"We shall come in all the madness, borne of hunger, pain and strife,  
On our lips the cry for vengeance, in our souls the lust for life;  
We shall swarm as swarmed the locusts that on Pharaoh's kingdom fell,  
And shall swing your damned detectives and your gunmen into hell!"

—Norman Rancie.

If you know what you want, don't vote for it. Take it. Get wise; join the I.W.W.

What you earn is the capitalists. It's only what you get that's yours—and not all of that.

Men are fools because they are poor, and then they are poor because they are fools ("poor fools.")

"Pray for them that despitefully use you." But I'm a son-of-a-gun if you have to give them your vote on election day.

Capitalism thinks it is better that one rich man should have too much than that ninety-nine workers should have enough.

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## May Day and the War

The ruling class at all times, and especially in war times, is tyrannical, unscrupulous and bloodthirsty. It has no control, however, over the thoughts which are uppermost in the minds of the militant working class throughout the world every succeeding May Day; and in spite of war and other devilish expedients for preventing the solidarity and organization of the workers on international lines, those thoughts will one day be translated into action.

This is the revolutionist's hope and desire. For this alone he lives and works. For this he braves persecution and the gaol; and as May Day comes round it is ever chosen by him as the occasion in company with kindred spirits, to renew his fealty to the cause of working class emancipation.

While in some respects May Day, 1916, may be said to look anything but promising for the extension of the ideas and education essential to the achievement of our goal, from another point of view, the war may yet prove to be the greatest factor in opening the eyes of the international proletariat.

True, the wars of the past have not assisted materially in this direction, but in view of the number of workers directly involved, this is no cause for surprise. The percentage of soldiers returning to civilian life, and the "glory" afterwards reflected upon them when taking their place in the bread-line or the work-house, was never large enough to attract any considerable amount of attention from the rest of the working class.

Not so, however, when this war is over. Every field and every mine, every factory and every workshop, will have its quota of exploited ex-soldiers: every city in Europe will have its crippled alms-seekers, and every labor-market in the world will have its crowd of unemployed, a large proportion of whom have fought for "their country"—a country which may possibly reward them with bullets when they ask for bread.

No canting cries of patriotism can then assist in denying the Class War. Thousands who heaped sneers and cheap ridicule upon those who formerly laid stress upon its existence, will then, by the logic of experience, be compelled to remodel their opinions.

This will be the revolutionist's opportunity, an opportunity which the ruling class fears, but which, owing to economic forces over which it has no control, it will be unable to avoid.

That this is so is clearly evident from the utterances of those who are watching the signs of the times on behalf of capitalism. Mr. Meredith Atkinson, of the Sydney University, portentously remarked in the "Sunday Times" a few weeks ago: "There are not wanting in Australia signs of the approach of widespread industrial trouble. My own feeling is that the difficulties which are sure to ensue upon the close of the war will, if they are not carefully handled, induce a great industrial disturbance."

Of course Atkinson informs us, with the exemplary professional profundity, that

the cause of this will be "the ancient one of unemployment and economic depression," as if unemployment and depression were not themselves mere effects of the economic system.

The war, with all the suffering it has entailed, and notwithstanding that it has temporarily shattered the hopes of the militant working class, will ultimately be the indirect means of shattering the system which promoted it.

Capitalism breeds the industrial disturbances and revolts, which Capitalism itself fears. The war has been engineered largely as a means of avoiding these revolts, but a trump card, no matter, how powerful, can only be played once.

If another world war be ever brought about, it will undeniably be, at least partly, the fault of the proletarian "advance guard" through its failure to point out the lessons which the present war teaches.

While Capitalism lasts, periods of unemployment and industrial depression are unavoidable, but those are just the times when the seeds of discontent and revolt should be scattered broadcast. Shall we then lose the faith that is in us in these days of trial and tribulation, or shall we rather with every blow we receive, more resolutely bend our energies to the task ahead? Shall we bow our heads to the yoke of the ruling class and for ever admit its right to exploit, rob, and murder, or shall we stand erect this May Day, 1916, and pledge ourselves once more to the cause of human emancipation by the international solidarity of labor?

The I.W.W. has already answered the questions. Let us see that thousands more of the unenlightened so answer before May, 1917.

Down with Capitalism and War! Up with the banner of One Big Union and Industrial Democracy.

T.G.

## TRADES HALL FATUITY.

At a meeting of the State Executive of the A.L.F., the W.A. "Worker," of April 7, reports as following:—

Mr. G. Dennis asked how unionists were to get any advantage except by slowing down. After five years of Labor Government they had not got better wages, and they must strive for easier conditions.

Mr. A. McCallum: "Your theory is opposed to all my reading of economics."

Just so: now Mr. McCallum is General Secretary for the Trades Hall, Perth, an official who draws just about eight pounds a week from different A.L.F. Councils, and he is so obviously ignorant of economics and the class struggle, that he doesn't know that slowing down on the job is in the interests of the working class; a class by the way that Mr. McCallum claims to be trying to industrially organise.

But Mr. McCallum believes in slowing down, that is, for McCallum. A few weeks ago, this Labor official told the M.D.C. that his medical adviser had advised him to "slow down," otherwise he would suffer from a nervous breakdown. The M.D.C. graciously appointed an assistant secretary at four pounds a week; and yet if any unionist suggests to make conditions a little easier for the workers by slowing down on the job, this pedantic snob sneers, "Your theory is opposed to all my reading of economics."

The twelve pounds a week that the M.D.C. now pay in officials' salaries, etc., they might as well go and throw in the Swan River for all the good it is, as it is sheer waste in any case.

McCallum and the rest of the Trades Hall harpies, who live on the workers, are corruptly interested in keeping the workers divided instead of trying to industrially organise them.

The case for industrial unionism is splendidly put in the Preamble of the I.W.W. The sentence, "Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers in to the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers" amplifies the antics and ignorance of Labor officials like McCallum.

M.S.

## STICKERS.

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

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.

## News and Views

Belgium apparently is not the only place where there are "Huns" who would maltreat women. There is a recruiting sergeant named Brooks out Auburn way. Brooks, according to his own story, recently addressed a recruiting meeting. At the psychological moment he pointed to the "emblem of liberty and justice" and said: "Boys, is not that old flag worth fighting for." We do not pretend to know the exact value of the piece of calico in question, but it appears there was a woman in the crowd who had some confidence in her discernment, so she boldly replied, "No, it isn't." In relating this awful study to the Auburn Recruiting Committee later, Sydney "Sun" remarks that "A lady" interjected: "If she had said such a thing in Auburn she would have been torn to pieces." "I was surprised she was not," said the heroic Brooks. Readers will note that it was "a lady" who made this humane remark; and the "chivalrous" Brooks, whose kidney pretends to be so shocked at "Belgium atrocities," was disagreeably surprised because a countrywoman of his own was not "torn to pieces!"

The Capitalist press of "the Empire" is extremely shocked over what it calls "the Shipping Scandal." The shipping companies have taken advantage of the war to increase their profits by as much in some cases as 1000 per cent. So rapacious have the shipping combines become, that "our Allies" have begun to squeal at the price which excessive freightage adds to coal and other necessities. Of course if "we" are to "capture German trade" "we" must give our brave allies every chance to assist us. Hence the concern of the press. The "poor populations of Belgium, Poland, Russia, and France," we are told, must not be exploited in this way. Nothing at all about the poor populations of England, Scotland, Ireland and other British victims of British exploitation. Nothing about the wholesale robbery of workers which preceded the war, which has gone on with the war, and which the "capture of German Trade" is going to enhance. So far as the capitalist press is concerned, the outcry against the shipping companies is prompted by a fear of this latter idea being endangered. Incidentally, Capitalism would appear to be becoming frightened at the Frankenstein of its own creation.

"The war has been the sun which has dried up the mists of suspicion with which class regarded class," said Billy Hughes at the Guildhall in London the other day. Needless to say, Billy's audience was not of the working class. "The vast room," says the cable, "was crowded by a distinguished company." No doubt any suspicions which this company entertained of Billy were removed long ago. Billy will find, though, that the workers' suspicions about Billy's own self and his "distinguished company" may yet deepen into such a "mist" that it will resolve itself into a destructive storm.

The pastry-cooks went on strike last week and "His Honor" Heydon was duly concerned about "the law." The law in this case, as it nearly always does, took a concrete property expression. The bosses had "perishable property" which the holiday, in conjunction with the strike, jeopardised. Abel and Co., for instance, had £400 worth of pastry on hand for the holidays, the sale of which, owing to the strike, became impossible. His Honor was shocked at this exhibition of "lawlessness." "Let the workers return to work at least until after the holidays, and in the sacred name of the law save the masters' property." Such, in effect, was His Honor's advice. Upon the question of whether the strike would not then also be illegal, "His Honor" was not quite so confident. Which only goes to show, as already indicated, that "legality" is inseparable from property interests. For their refusal to accord with "His Honor's" conception of "justice," the Pastry-cooks' Union was deregistered—which, if the pastry-cooks only knew it, was the first good thing the Arbitration Court ever did for them.

The far-seeing section of the ruling class in Australia has shown on more occasions than one of late that interference with the freedom of speech is not necessarily always diplomatic. Judge Higgins, in Melbourne, the other day, delivered a lecture, wherein from the point of view of simple logic, is unanswerable, for the right of free speech. Why? Is it because Higgins is a friend of liberty and an enemy to oppression? No. Higgins, himself, has frequently shown that where the interests of his class are in danger, he

## We Never Shall Forget

(In Memory of Joseph Hillstrom).

By CASH M. STEVENS.

The hell-hounds hunt him now no more,  
No more his trail is haunted  
By "Curs of covete breed;  
Their yellow fangs have torn his throat,  
Their wolfish jaws are wet  
With blood that was not shed in vain,  
"We never shall forget."

The serpent fangs of venomous hate  
Have pierced the breast of love;  
The vultures' greedy talons torn  
The warm heart of the dove;  
But in a million Rebel souls,  
By Freedom's torches lit,  
I wrote, in words of whitest flame,  
"We never shall forget."

The shots that sped that Rebel's soul,  
Have echoed round the world;  
The standard of the clan of toil  
Shall nevermore be fuffed;  
Truth's sword is drawn, the bugles sound,  
And eyes that tears have wet,  
Flash forth the fiery message,  
"We never shall forget."

He is not dead—his spirit lives—  
He is not in the tomb,  
His blood, on slavery's midnight sky,  
Shall paint your system's doom;  
And through the night of toil and tears,  
By Freedom's torches lit,  
You'll read: "The Kingdom's finished"  
"We never shall forget."

No, never while this whirling earth  
Upon its axis turns;  
No, never while a Rebel coal  
On manhood's altar burns;  
No, never while the ghoul of greed  
In Freedom's temple sit  
To drink the blood of Freedom's sons  
"We never shall forget."

—"Rebellion," U.S.

## 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 the 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 allow 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.

## BROKEN HILL LOCAL.

The above Local wishes it to be announced through "Direct Action," that there is room for one or two good "soap-boxers" at the Hill. Jobs are plentiful, and I.W.W. propaganda at the present time can be sent ahead by a couple of efficient speakers.

can be as great an enemy to freedom of speech and action as the rest of them. He is clever enough to see that even in these days when terror reigns, there is a point beyond which the ruling class dares not go. Every act of tyranny is more convincing than all speech that our masters fear the light. This is the idea which Higgins desires to convey, but his warning is rather belated. "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."



# As it tickleth my fancy

## TABLET VI. BY AJAX.

"Put no trust in princes," is a saying old and true,  
"Put no hope in Governments," translated it anew.  
All "Books of Law" and "Golden Rules" are fashioned to betray,  
"The Survival of the Strongest" is the gospel of to-day.

—Ragner Redbeard.

Lo and behold, there were rumours that a learned court scented political bribery ament public contracts, and the ignorant murmured exceedingly thereat. It was even whispered in the temples of fat that honorable ministers had behaved in a dishonorable manner, and a great scandal arose among the rabble in the city of Kidney. Lo and behold, the stench of Political Graft was exceedingly strong and even "lead kindly lighters" in the house of slander were affected. Then the caueus took counsel together and decided that base men had deceived the herd in order to out the government, and that it was expedient to resurrect the ghost of political propriety. The minister therefore explained to the mob that the obnoxious odour was but the smell of oil that had been wafted in on the wind of slander, and the rabble wondered exceedingly at the wisdom and sagacity of the allwise.

Labour should be more concerned over the industrial slain in the great class war than the victims of a military war, which are insignificant in comparison to the industrial war raging in every country.

The religious and the political systems are closely related. Indeed the latter is but an extension of the same idea wrapped up in a different garb. The slave philosophy which accepts such ideas as looking and believing in a higher authority, expecting others to do for you what you are too apathetic and sheepish to do for yourself, and the credulous mind that hopes against hope that in some mysterious way, every wrong will be righted, find in a vision of "Christ and Saints in Glory," on high, and their "political party" elevated to the government benches in parliament, a snug satisfaction in harmony with their mental outlook. Just as religion is for those who cannot think philosophically, in like manner politics is for those who do not think socially. In that sense—and in that sense only—the church and parliament are justified in so much as they are a psychological utility to the ignorant.

The patriotic British Parliament votes many millions sterling for the purpose of murder when ordered to do so by the master class, yet a few years ago when asked for a few thousands to feed the starving school children of London by the labour members the Government could not afford it! Meanwhile parsons from plush pulpits unctuously proclaim, "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep."

There is no necessity to become excited over an election. Between the crooked croreionist and the crooked conscriptionist there is very little difference. At best only a difference of degree—a small degree in political depravity.

There is no case on record in industrial history in which the master class have ever willingly conceded anything to the workers. When concessions were granted without a struggle, they were always grudgingly given for economic class reasons; never from any higher motive.

The worst disease of the body politic is ignorance, and the best doctor, Knowledge. Nearly every social evil can be traced to ignorance and nearly every social good to the growth of intellect.

The plutish press is never tired of reiterating ante the laziness of workmen. Such shibboleths as "A fair day's work for a fair day's pay," and "Slow Workers" are part and parcel of the gospel of toil; that creed which teaches to the criminally industrious wageslaves the virtues of industry, sobriety and thrift. Though this doctrine is opposed to all scientific knowledge yet there is an element of truth in the charge of slothfulness. Most of the workers are mentally lazy, in fact in the case of the horny-handed sons of toil in many cases, and the hobnails, the corns on your brains are as hard as those on your hands!

Ever and anon a feeble cry goes forth from the "great unwashed," who, when unemployment becomes acute, gather in crowds and murmur vaguely of "the right to work." Mind you, these desti-

tute men don't want any of the good things of life that they see in every shop (the surplus commodities many of them made), they only want work! Even the feudal slave was assured of food, clothing and shelter, but the free born Britishers (sons of H'empire, in democratic Australia, ruled by a Labor Government) can be seen every day of the week hanging round Sydney Registry offices willing to pay their last few shillings for the privilege of being sweated. These derelicts of commercialism are mostly conservative in thought. Their haggard and worried appearance is not caused by poverty and drink, oh dear no, rather is it the fear that is born of the idea, that in the future socialism will level them down!

Most strikes are caused by the increasing rapacity of the Capitalist class which tends to lower wages to a point which is insufficient to buy back the necessities of life. The alleged higher standard of living, growing intelligence, etc., are minor points. Generally the worker strikes blindly under the lash of poverty. Moreover the stupid way he revolts frequently does himself more harm than good. If he were intelligent there would be no starvation strikes. Even an intelligent minority of workers have the power to practically dictate their own terms.

There is no power, static, military, or judicial, that could say them nay, once they understood their strength. Labour performs every necessary function for society, except the so-called art of government. Even in the administrative sphere, labour—unconsciously perhaps—already functions to a greater degree than is generally supposed. Labour will rule and reign as soon as a sufficient number of the units of that class are virile enough to say, "We will it." The moment that happens, what labour determines will be, not because it is ethically right, but because they have the might, and Might is Right."

It is a sad travesty on all our boasted justice, religion, morality and progress, that there is no case on record in English history where any important reform or betterment of the social condition of the people has ever been obtained, unless violence was threatened. In the majority of cases violence had already taken place, and rulers reluctantly began to give way only when they became afraid, that is, when their life and property was in danger. This explains why the feudal baron, the priest caste, and the capitalist class in succession all obtained and maintained their power by terrorism.

Apropos the deism of democracy. The populace is still metaphysical in thought, and this mental affliction has been cunningly taken advantage of by exploiters, and enabled them to build up an economic theory, just as sacerdotalism and orthodox political economy are in the same category as orthodox religion, and are frequently closely associated. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hobnails, "Beware of the mental poison of those who profess to stand on the rock, Christ Jesus."

Here endeth the sixth and last epistle of Asiticklethmyfancy—the scribe to Hardheaded Hobnails.

## TRADES HALL AND OLD MEN.

In a recent issue of the W.A. "Worker" the following appeared in the reports of the M.D. Council:

M.D. Cameron moved: "That a committee of three be appointed to inquire into the condition of the bed-ridden old men, at the Claremont Old Men's Home."

This is an example of the futility of trade unionism; always tinkering with the effects of a rotten social system.

The way that capitalism treats its old, worn-out slaves is terrible and cruel. A wage-earner can waste his life away, working for some idle master; and then when the worker is physically unfit, he is thrown on to the industrial scrap heap, and there left to rot and die—or else he has, according to recent disclosures, a living death ahead, of him in some old man's home.

To show the futility and hypocrisy of the Labor leaders, the trades union in this country agree to the making of old men.

The craft unions with their cowardly acceptance of "Arbitration," "Industrial Efficiency," etc., are helping to manufacture old and worn out slaves in every industry in Australia. Recent inquiries into the saddlery trade of Perth show that young girls, working at "creasing" on contracts for the Federal Government, throw their arms down in sheer weariness, vide a Government Inspector's report.

It is the same in every industry. In the north of Australia, North Queensland, N. T., and the Kimberlies, the stockmen

and drovers sit in the saddle sixteen and eighteen hours a day. These men from hard living, beef and damper, become prematurely old, and suffer all the many forms of indigestion accentuated by bad climatic conditions and malaria fever. Also let us not forget the many sex perversities arising from men living under unnatural conditions.

Shearers grow old and suffer from rheumatism from the "joke of the wool and wet sheep. The sleeper-hewers and fallers in this state, W.A., work so hard that nearly all of them in time strain their hearts and suffer from "Axemen's Heart."

Of the men working in the timber mills, one in five has lost a finger, a hand, an eye, etc. The mining industry is a death trap, and turns out men prematurely old and worn by the hundreds. Go where you will it is the same; every industry has its particular ill and disease.

As fast as the M.D. Council can cure the bed-ridden old men at Claremont, every industry in the state is producing more old men to go to Claremont.

What are we to do?

Stop the disease, cure it. Healthy old age is just as natural, just as comely, and beautiful and healthy youth.

The workers must not work so hard. We can and must reorganise society so that no man need work after forty-five or fifty. The rest of life can be given to leisure and study.

Dealing with the effect of industries the laborers call "a step at a time." Slow Down, Slow Down. The I.W.W. calls for the industrial organisation of the working class, with a "historical mission" in sight, the overthrow of Capitalism and all its evils.

M.S.

## ECHOES FROM THE WEST.

By M.M.

Sunday, April 9th.—At the usual Esplanade meeting, F.W. Hancock presided over a good attendance. F.W. Sawtell, who is in Perth for a term, was the first speaker and had his audience from start to finish with a general propaganda exposition of the principles of the I.W.W. and the system of organisation, methods, and tactics adopted to secure success on the part of workers against Capitalism.

After an electrifying speech of nearly an hour's duration, he closed amid an ovation of applause. We are glad to have him with us, as men of clarified thought and the power of consecutive expression of the same in the garb of earnest eloquence, is the best stimulus of our movement.

Fellow Worker Saran, also in Perth for a brief interval, followed the lead of F.W. Sawtell and made a neat and effective speech. This F.W. was ripe for the advent of the I.W.W. in this State, being a stout rebel on a solid mental basis.

At this stage of the meeting a new industrial saviour, with a scheme of earthly salvation, for the workers came forward and proffered to exposit his new and better way for the full redemption of the toiling masses.

As usual it turned out that the new apostle of a panacea for the ills working class flesh is heir to, suffered from a confusion of ideas, worse confounded by his distorted conception of what is really meant by "One Big Union," advocating that the I.W.W. should form a mission band to the Trades Hall, Craft Unions, and the politicians, and by merging our organisation in theirs at once have the one big union in full existence. Hey presto! The crowd took it as the humorous and comic incident that ever crops up at propaganda meetings, and which is of solid utility, inasmuch that it demonstrates what a wonderful talent nature has given some of the genus homo to transform themselves into asses without the aid of Arbitration Courts. The reply of F.W. Sawtell to the proposal to save the doomed coffin ship of craft unionism by the novel expedient of patching it with a plank of sound I.W.W.ism capped the climax of the absurdity, and sent the audience home to tea in right good humour.

In the evening F.W. Miller lectured at the Literary Institute Rooms, his subject being "Woman as a Worker." The long increasing presence of women labour in the industrial arena was exhaustively dealt with and this rapid accession to distinctly new lines of industry as a make-weight to the withdrawal of male labor, consequent on the war, was lending a new and vast importance to the question. "After the War" the security of labor could only be attained by a wise combination of male and female labor—capitalism would foment jealousy and competition; but for the workers, that way madness lies. Only by one big union of men and women could the sinister purpose of capitalism be defeated and victory achieved.

# Echoes From the West

Sunday, April 2, was marked by a record attendance at the Esplanade meeting, F.W. Reeves holding the platform with a long-promised and oft-deferred lecture on "Hereditary and Environment." There being no rival meetings, the I.W.W. became the centre of attraction to all who congregate on the people's forum on the margin of the square.

Our fellow-worker was in fine form, and held the great crowd from start to finish, the chief feature of success, as usual, being the demand for "Direct Action" and pamphlet literature; every copy of the paper was cleared out, and the literature went off briskly, one line, "Sabotage," by E. Gurley Flynn, 50 copies of which had just come to hand, was fairly raided, not a copy left. This sowing of the thought seed of our movement must soon result in a full harvest of membership, which is to-day at the stage of slow and hard-won increase.

This does not damp the ardour of our rebel band, since we all know that thought precedes action, and when the revolutionary ideas contained in our papers and pamphlets are embedded in the minds of the people, the revolution in economic conditions will soon follow.

Evening meeting at the Literary Institute room. F.W. Reeves took the final chapter of Blatchford's, "Not Guilty," as a basis of address, at the conclusion of which questions were asked and satisfactorily answered, some of the questions relating to the exclusive form of membership for actual wage-earners only; one question being upon non-admission of married women engaged in domestic home duties elicited the answer that members' wives were eligible for attendance at all meetings, lectures, etc.

Meeting closed at ten. Collection satisfactory, covering rent for two Sundays to come. In contemplation to hold alternate week meetings at Perth and Fremantle.

M.M. (Corresponding Sec.).

## CONCERNING CARTOONS AND RIDICULE.

The master class are most insidious and cunning in their methods of class warfare. Every human instinct and passion and art is used by them to defeat and fool the workers.

Ever since the human race has evolved the faculty of speech, ridicule or abuse has been used, even by the most primitive. In fact, philologists inform us that invective is amongst the earliest form of speech, and is generally very effective.

As soon as the human race attained any degree of culture, men of artistic and literary genius have used ridicule and satire in various ways. Euripides, the ancient Greek playwright, used to cast contempt upon the gods, much to the discomfiture of orthodox. Aristophanes, another Greek, used to ridicule all and sundry. Voltaire, with his powerful writings and his use of ridicule and satire, broke the power of the priest craft in France.

Dean Swift, in England, with his deadly satire, has gained immortal fame.

Of later days, with the introduction of daily newspapers and periodicals, the artists use their skill in cartoons.

So powerful has cartooning become as a recognised weapon of the masters in their political fights that a cartoonist is just as essential to the big papers of the capitalists as is a leader writer.

A clever artist like Phil. May can command a huge salary and world-wide fame.

Knowing the psychological effect of cartoons, the hiring artists of the masters always cartoon the workers as clumsy and clownish, or anything that the workers do or say, as dull, stupid and ignorant.

Ben Strange, the cartoonist of the "Western Mail," cartooned Billy Hughes as giving a "Syndicalist" a knock-out blow with a huge fist.

But if "Direct Action" turns the tables and publishes a cartoon showing up the greed and rapacity of the master class, the law steps in and says, "You mustn't do that."

"Why!"

"Oh, it's prejudicial to recruiting," we are told.

Of course we know what is behind all these excuses—armed force, which is always the final argument of the masters. In fact, the masters never intend to use anything else.

All this writing down of the I.W.W. and objecting to cartoons is really only just a bit of by-play. The masters are counting their guns and men all the time. If the masters use logic with logic we will refute them. If they cartoon us we will cartoon them. If they use force against us we will use force against them. It does not matter what the masters may do from time to time, the education and the industrial organisation of the workers are and must be always going on, so that in time the workers will become so alive to their own class interests that they will refuse to print scab news, or buy papers that cartoon and ridicule fighting working-class organisations. We must and will be powerful enough to say "That is prejudicial to the growth of Industrial Unionism."

—M.S.

## Wage-Slave Redeemers

### P.L.L. CONFERENCE.

Uproar prevailed during most of the sitting of the P.L.L. on Monday. A new Party within a Party, styling itself the "Industrialist" section, has been formed in opposition to the politicians who have formerly run the conference, and both sections were at each other's throats throughout the day. Not that there was anything really at stake from a working-class standpoint. Most of the discussion, if the pandemonium which prevailed could be so called, centred round the order of procedure, the two factions nevertheless solidly voting against each other on blue or comparatively unimportant points.

The proceedings, however, distinctly showed what might seem to be a paradox, namely, that even a political labor party is beginning to see the futility and hopelessness of Parliamentary action. The politicians present came in for a rough handling from the "Industrialists," and it was apparent that only the rules of debate prevented the latter from expressing very un-Parliamentary opinions about their "representatives" in the MacQuarie Street, "Gas" House.

A significant sign of the times with respect to the altered state of opinion as to politicians was evidenced in a resolution moved by Mr. Cullinane of the A.W.U., to the effect that no member of Parliament be allowed to sit on the P.L.L. executive or at annual conferences.

Mr. Cullinane remarked that the workers objected to politicians running the Labor movement. The Labor Party, he said, had issued a publication showing what it had done for the workers, and on opening it he found—nothing. So far as the speaker could see there was no difference between the Liberal Government of Victoria and the Labor Government of New South Wales. The latter had indeed proved itself to be more hostile to working class interests. The politicians had shown that they merely wanted to get on to conference to promote their own interests.

Considerable feeling was manifested by both sections during the discussion of the motion. Premier Holman was on the platform, outwardly serene and smiling, but his countenance from time to time at the stinging taunts of the "Industrialists" indicated that he was not unconscious of the writing on the wall.

The motion was eventually carried by 75 votes to 72. The President, however (a gentleman well known to I.W.W.ites for his hostility to direct actionists), the "Honorable" J. W. Fitzgerald immediately took direct action on the motion and declared it negative, explaining that a two-thirds majority was required to alter important fundamentals of this kind, which, in the opinion of the "Hon. Fitz," would seem to mean that one politician is worth two workers.

Another motion which called forth considerable uproar and feeling was one requesting the Government to liberate Chidley. Mutch, of the A.W.U., in opening the discussion, roundly castigated Czar Black, Chief Secretary, who, it will be remembered, refused to hear the views of Chidley's friends on the question of his sanity or otherwise, and who also recently informed the I.W.W. at Mildura, who passed a resolution on the subject, that they were "profoundly ignorant and presumptuous."

Black replied, and in order to cover up a most glaring example of a Labor Government's tyranny, commenced by making a virulent attack on the "people at the back of the Hall," who appeared, by the way, not at all impressed with Black's appearance as being an ideal authority on sanity. One delegate put a pointed question to Black to the effect, whether as a fact, he (Black) did not promise to release Chidley if the latter agreed to behave himself. "In other words," said the delegate, amid laughter, "Mr. Black asked an insane man to become sane." Black's facial distortions at this thrust conveyed the idea to many onlookers that he ought to be in Chidley's place.

As closing time approached, Guihen, a very evident aspirant for Parliamentary honor and ease, rose to speak against the motion. The conference and the large audience at the back showed their disgust at Guihen's glib effort by getting up and walking in a body out of the hall.

Thus ended the Easter Monday conference of our political emancipators. Tuesday morning, at the sound of the whistle, the wage-slave turned to be usual to be exploited and robbed. On reading the account of the conference in the morning press the "majority of him" no doubt expressed fervent thanks for the fact that somewhere in the year 1,000,000 the bosses' grip upon his throat would be released by these self-appointed saviours.

## The Barker Case.

### MORE PROTESTS.

The following resolutions have reached us in connection with Tom Barker's case:—

Amalgamated Society of Carpenters (Redfern Branch) 22/4/16, says:—  
"That this Branch sends an emphatic protest to Senator Pearce, Minister for Defence, against the sentence imposed upon Tom Barker, publisher of 'Direct Action,' as we consider it is entirely against the principles of a so-called Democratic Government to gaoil men for the use of privileges granted them under the Magna Charta."

Footscray (Vic.) Political Labor Council, on 22/4/16, says:—

"That this League protest against the continued persecutions meted out to Tom Barker, in Sydney, and a copy of same be forwarded to Senator Pearce." Socialist Party of Victoria, at a meeting addressed by Fellow-worker J. B. King, carried the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of Melbourne citizens condemns as grossly partisan and tyrannical the sentence imposed upon Tom Barker under the War Precautions Act regarding it as a dastardly attack upon free speech; and this meeting calls for the repeal of the sentence at the hands of the Federal Cabinet."

Bricklayers' Society at the Trades Hall on the 17th April:—

"That this Sydney meeting, representative of several branches, protests against the evident persecution of Mr. Tom Barker for his fight for free speech; and this meeting further protests against the tyrannical and severe sentence imposed upon him under the repressive and coercive War Precautions Act."

Fellow-worker D. Grant writes from Brisbane that at a meeting of the Building Trades Union, which he addressed last week, a strong resolution of protest was passed, which was to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Federal Labor Party.

### THE KAISER A SOCIALIST.

As prophesied by the prophets of all time the millennium is at hand. Hunger and want are no longer going to stroll hand in hand with misery, bloodshed and travail; grim and gaunt starvation will be consigned to the deepest pit of the deepest hell that posterity can discover. Joy and love, full and plenty, will emerge from the nocturnal gloom of a buried past, and all will be happy, happy with radiant laughter, bathing in the glorious sunshine that will light and make smile every nook and corner in our bountiful future.

The Kaiser has been converted to socialism.

The "Sun" of Sunday, 23rd inst., contained an interesting note to this effect. At a private audience with the socialist leaders he is reported to have said that he was not a deadly foe of Marxism, and had not assailed socialist economies, but had censored anti-patriotism in Germany. He said that he was leading a Socialistic State, everything was nationalised, even the industries for war purposes, and they would remain so after the war.

Our friends the socialists should be pleased at the advent of this new convert, who is a pard of the Almighty. This is very interesting in these days when priests, politicians of the Holman-Hughes type, parsons and pot-bellied plutes, unfold their tale of woe in the grandiloquent oratory of their species. How their hearts bleed for the poor and needy, who have their sympathy.

It can easily be understood why brigands of the Kaiser ilk are not opposed to nationalisation, for it means a more despotic rule of the slave class, a more secure position for the exploiters, and they will do all in their power to help it along. But of course they oppose anti-patriotism, or, in other words, internationalism, which would probably mean their taking off their coats and doing some of the useful toil of society.

The enlightened who understand the position smile at the conversions, for they know that if the working class and the capitalist class have nothing in common, it is not reasonable to expect anything but opposition from the plutocrats of Capitalism.

WILLIAM MUGGS' SISTER.

### ADELAIDE READERS.

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

## Melbourne.

The local is now doing good work in the Barker case. In conjunction with other bodies we are holding a big demonstration on the Yarra Bank on Easter Sunday. We are doing our best to keep the working class alive to the fact that Justice, even in a British community, is not all that could be desired.

The No-Conscription Fellowship is putting up a good fight against odds, the soldiers seem bent on denying to them the "British" right of free speech. It seems remarkable that the working stiff should desire his chains more tightly fastened round him, for once conscription is on us the job to shake off the capitalist yoke will be still more intensified.

J. B. King is with us, he spoke before a good audience at the Guild Hall, under the auspices of the V.S.P. last Sunday. On Sunday, 22nd, he will speak to the A.S.P. on Capital versus Labor.

Good hearings and intelligent audiences are the order at our Friday night meetings at Brunswick. Sales of paper and literature continue to be fair.

We have lost all too soon the services of Ted Moyle, who was such an acquisition to the speakers' class. He has left Melbourne for Broken Hill.

At the last meeting of the speakers class we heard a remarkably clear exposition of Marxian Economics by our studious young Fellow-worker Phil Woolf. Members will do well to come along every Wednesday night (changed from Thursday) to hear a good discussion, and also to make an attempt to become soap-boxers. Speakers were never more necessary in the movement, especially in Melbourne, than they are at present. We are, I firmly believe, on the eve of great developments; it will need good, strong men who understand the I.W.W. position to show the way to the awakening working class.

ROLAND FARRELL.

### SYDNEY PROPAGANDA.

Week-end propaganda in the city was more than usually successful chiefly due to the large influx of wage-slaves from the country for the holidays.

The Domain meeting was well held by the various speakers, notwithstanding an exceptional variety of counter-attractions. A collection amounting to £5 9s. was taken, with good sales of literature and paper.

In the evening Fellow-Worker Rance held forth at the Hall to a crowded house. A number of delegates to the P.L.L. conference were present during his address, but though questions and discussion were invited, there was no manifest anxiety to tackle the speaker's remarks. Possibly, though, the delegates are reserving their intellectual combative instincts for the Holman-Fitzgerald brigade.

Members of the Local have been busy for the past week getting our new Hall in readiness, and it is expected that the "goods and chattels" of the Sydney Local will be installed in new quarters before the next issue of "Direct Action" appears.

Much interest is being centred in Tom Barker's case. Resolutions of protest are constantly rolling in. News has been received from Melbourne that Fellow Worker J. B. King last week end addressed the Annual Political Labor Conference in that city, and his remarks in connection with the Barker prosecution received a good hearing.

Sales of tickets in connection with the concert in the Town Hall on May 13 are steadily increasing, and the concert committee is hopeful of a highly successful evening. The co-operation of every member, however, in the ticket-selling business is necessary, so that there shall be no mistake about the annual I.W.W. Concert in the Town Hall becoming an established innovation.

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