

The General Strike is Greater than any Government



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ONE PENNY

Spasms

By TOM BARKER.

It may be quite a while before I devote any more of my time to writing spasms, so I will make it good and hot this time. My case comes off on the 4th of May, and after that date I presume that I will be the guest of His Majesty's Federal Labor Government at Long Bay Penitentiary. I don't reckon that it will make me penitent, as they have already had two tries and failed both times.

Senator Pearce is the gentleman who is responsible for my persecution. Speaking at the P.L.L. Conference at the opening session, Mr. Pearce incidentally referred to the immense profits that were being made out of the war, and stated that the position ought to be met by taxation. My crime is for stating the same facts as Mr. Pearce. And yet Pearce is responsible for getting me twelve months, for criticising the same people as he did. Does Mr. Pearce want to monopolise the speaking of the truth to himself? Or is there a difference between saying a thing and publishing it? I want to know.

After hearing Fellow-Worker Grant on my case, the Brisbane Industrial Council, and the Building Trades Federation passed strong resolutions against the Government. The matter was well reported in the columns of the "Daily Standard," which will certainly have a far-reaching effect upon the workers in the "Northern State." F.W. Grant is optimistic about the future, as he states that the Industrial Council is taking the matter into all affiliated unions. Many thanks to the Brisbanites for their work.

Fellow-Worker King has had a very busy time in Melbourne. In addition to addressing many unions, he spoke upon invitation before the Political Labor Conference held in that city on my case. A deputation has been appointed to bring, with other matters, my case before the Government. On last Sunday week, a monster demonstration was held on the Yarra Bank, which was addressed by J. B. King, Miss Pankhurst, F. J. Riley, R. S. Ross, and Alf Wilson. Resolutions were passed upon the case. The Clerks' Union and others have written the minister in regard to the matter. Many of the Political Labor Councils are also taking the matter up. Thanks to all for their untiring efforts.

From various other parts of the country the same good reports are coming in. Fellow-Worker O'Malley, writing from Darwin, N. T. says, "If you want money, wire immediately." The railway workers at Emmet, Q. have sent in a petition signed by eighty-five workers, asking for my release. The workers at Innisfail have also sent in a demand counter-signed by every militant worker in the district. The Queanbeyan, Picton, Griffith, and Glenareagh section of the R.W. and U. Labourers' Association have sent in their disapproval of the action of the authorities.

The matter is to be brought up on a convenient date at the Political Labor Conference, in Sydney, by Mr. T. D. Mutch. Mr. Mutch very successfully piloted a resolution of censure upon Minister Black for his incarceration of W. J. Chidley. We believe that the eminent Mr. Black, who is the last word upon matters of morality and decency has become more conciliatory over the Chidley case, and we hope that this much persecuted man will have his liberty again in the next few days.

If the boys are going to get me out of gaol, I hope that they will have me out for the concert on May 13th. Still, if I am in durance ville, I shall be there in spirit. Last Mayday concert some of our best fighters were in the bull-pen at Maitland. So I suppose that it is up to me. Hope that you will all be there, and that you will bring your friends and that you will all enjoy yourselves to the limit. Fill the Hall right up, for we are after the earth, we L.W.W.s.

The L.W.W. is making history with a vengeance now-a-days. Once we are fixed in, our

Warning to Shearers

There seems to be a conspiracy of silence between the capitalist press and the Labor papers of Sydney and Brisbane with regard to the strike at present in progress in Central Queensland and other districts. A member of the A.W.U. called at the office of "Direct Action" on Wednesday last. He had a letter in his possession, received from a member of the Strike Committee, pointing out that shearers were being engaged in New South Wales and elsewhere, and sent to the strike districts, totally unaware of the state of affairs until their arrival there.

Our informant stated that the "Australian Worker" absolutely refused to print any of the facts which were contained in the letter, and his statement is feasible considering that this strike has now lasted for some weeks, and scarcely a word has appeared in the official organs of the A.W.U. in Sydney and Brisbane pertaining thereto.

He further stated that although ninety-nine per cent. of those on strike, shearers, shed hands and others, were members of the A.W.U., an appeal for financial assistance was met by a point-blank refusal by Grayndler, the general secretary, who did not even trouble to consult his executive in relation to the matter.

This, of course, is only consistent with the policy of the A.W.U. organs. From information received from various sources it is clear that this strike is one of the most serious which has taken place in Queensland, or, for that matter, in Australia, for a number of years. Yet, on the face of it, no other conclusion can be drawn, but that the "Australian Worker," the "Brisbane Worker" and the "heads" of the "Australian Workers' Union," have entered into a conspiracy, if not with the bosses, at least with each other, to defeat the rank and file of those unionists engaged in the strike.

However, more anon. Meantime, all shearers and others concerned, who are contemplating going north, are hereby warned to get into communication with the Strike Committee at Bar. caldine, or they may find themselves, after spending their cash, landed into a scab contract.

SYDNEY HEADQUARTERS.

All concerned are notified that the address of the Sydney Local is now 403 Sussex Street, Sydney. Correspondence, however, may still be addressed to Box 98, Haymarket.

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.

E. J. KIELY, Secretary,
Local No. 3, L.W.W.

The L.W.W.'s have but one country—The World.

If your head were fuller your stomach would stand a better chance of not being empty.

What is a political platform? Answer is—What the prospective members use to fool the working class with.

New quarters in 403 Sussex Street, things will boom, as a result of the increased room and accommodation.—Don't forget the new address, fellow workers, and give us all a look in. I don't mean in Long Bay, by the way. And we are nice and handy to Dinnis Guichen and the Trades Hall, mark you us.

Well, fellow workers, until I see the outside again, Good-bye. And a thousand thanks for what you have done, and what you are DOING.

Slave-Prodace

Eat! they are eates for a lady's lip,
Rich as the sweets that the wild bees sip;
Mingled viands that nature hath pour'd
From the plenteous stores of her flowing board,
Bearing no trace of man's cruelty—save
The red life-drops of his human slave.

List thee, Lady! and turn aside,
With a longing heart, from the feast of pride;
For, mix'd with the pleasant sweets it bears,
Is the hidden curse of scalding tears,
Wrung out from woman's bloodshot eye
By the depth of her deadly agony.

Look! they are robes from a foreign loom,
Delicate, light, as the rose-leaf's bloom;
Stainless and pure in their snowy tint
As the drift unmark'd by a footstep's print.
Surely such garments should fitting be
For woman's softness and purity.

Yet fling them off from thy shrinking limb;
For sighs have render'd their brightness dim;
And many a mother's shriek and groan,
And many a daughter's burning moan,
And many a sob of wild despair
From woman's heart is lingering there.

—Elizabeth M. Chandler.

Sydney Propaganda

The meeting in the Domain on Sunday last was up to its usual excellent standard, sales of literature, paper, and collection being highly satisfactory. The "Johns in blue" once again made themselves prominent by taking the names of some members who were selling tickets for the concert, and also of those who were selling literature. The object of this persecution is difficult to understand, seeing that over twelve months ago the L.W.W. established its right to sell literature in the Domain, when Mr. D. R. Hall, Minister of Justice, released some of our members who were gaoled for this terrible "crime," and he even promised the P.L.L. Conference, then sitting, that further prosecutions would cease. Hall, at the time, was also supplied, at his own request, with samples of the literature being sold. It is to be hoped, by the way, that he learned something from the perusal thereof. In any case, nothing further was heard of the matter until the affair on Sunday last. We wonder whether it has taken Minister Hall twelve months to find out the pernicious influence of L.W.W. literature on the wage-slave, or whether this latest attention from the police is due to the interest which Chief Secretary Black has lately been taking in L.W.W. propaganda.

In either case, the L.W.W. neither depends upon Black's good graces, for its right to propagate its ideas by the printed word. So far as the Domain is concerned, we have sold our literature there for the past four and a half years, and intend doing so for the future, persecution and prosecution, notwithstanding.

In the evening A. E. Brown, of Brisbane, spoke to a crowded audience in our old hall in Castlereagh street. The last meeting, by the way, at this address. Our new quarters at 403 Sussex Street, are much more commodious, both for meetings and other conveniences, and when properly fixed up, Sunday night propaganda is going to boom.

Fellow Worker J. B. King returned from Melbourne during the week, and speaks optimistically of the interest being taken in the Barker case by the wage-slaves of Victoria. Barker appears for trial on Thursday, 4th inst. If he goes to gaol, the politicians responsible, from all indications, are not likely to be allowed to forget the fact. The "sub-cat" brigade throughout Australia certainly won't forget. If the show of protests which have rolled in are ineffectual, then action must be tried. The liberty of one member of the working class is more sacred than all the surplus values in Australia.

The capitalistic idea of dividing up is for the poor to do all the work and for the rich to get all the product.

Conscription.

"The working class and the employing class have nothing in common," is a maxim that should be ever borne in mind by the former.

It recurs with striking force to one's memory on reading the following resolution, passed by the New South Wales Chambers of Commerce in Sydney last week:—

"That this conference support the Hobart Chamber of Commerce in urging upon the Minister for Defence the desirability, in the event of Government deciding to call out all eligible men in Australia, to do so on the lines of the Lord Derby scheme, dividing the men into sections to minimise as far as possible disorganisation of industries."

The gentlemen of the Chambers of Commerce are highly patriotic; we see. So patriotic that they willingly favor conscription for the workers, BUT—it must be a scheme which will not "disorganise industry." In other words, these pot-bellied "patriots" are quite eager to sacrifice the other fellow's life, so long as the sacrifice does not entail any loss of profits.

The mover of the motion, one Ridley, exhibited considerable anxiety lest any other scheme of conscription should take away the "experts" in connection with commercial industries; as such a course would reduce their "productive power." In other words, again—profits. The "experts," of course, in the eyes of the Chambers of Commerce, include all the rent, interest and profit-drawing fraternity, who "kid" the workers that their "directive ability" is necessary to production.

Mr. John Perry, M.L.A., a paid-patriot of the political type, seconded the motion. "It makes one's blood boil," said Perry, "to see the fine fellows still loafing about." It is indeed a pity that the "fine fellows" are not a little more enthusiastic in the blood-letting business. People whose blood boil at seeing "fine fellows walking about" would be all the better for a little operation in that direction. And now, listen to this you "patriotic" slaves, who believe the dope that conscription is "fair and democratic." Patriot John Perry, M.L.A., says: **"IF WE COULD HAVE CONSCRIPTION WE COULD SO ADMINISTER THE LAW AS TO DISCRIMINATE."**

There you have it. When the wealth census cards were issued some foolish people imagined that it was done in order to enable the Government to conscript wealth as well as men. "Direct Action" pointed out at the time that its real object was to conscript THE FELLOW WHO OWNED NOTHING. The "experts" of course will be exempt; most, if not all of them, would shake the blood-stained hand of the Kaiser if he landed in Sydney to-morrow, rather than endanger their own cowardly carcasses.

Listen to Perry again: "He urged the conference to make the motion go further and strengthen the hands of the Government, IN FACT FORCE THEM IF NECESSARY. The women, as a war, necessary, would prepare to take the men's places in the warehouses, etc. They need not be alarmed (about profits), if they passed a drastic resolution."

"Force the Government if necessary." This should convince ballot-box dupes as to who really rules, Parliament or Plutocracy.

So now, you wage-slaves of Australia, be prepared to shoulder your guns—or else DOWN YOUR TOOLS. These are your alternatives. Shoulder your guns and leave your women-folk without protection and without organisation, to be insulted, sweated, and exploited by Perry and Company, to pile up profits for a parasitical bunch of exploiters, or else be prepared and determined to stop every industry and every wheel in Australia, and tell these unscrupulous vampires that if they want blood a little may be shed at home.

DIRECT ACTION



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Spurious Industrialism.

On Wednesday evening of last week a vote of censure was passed on the Holman Government by the Political Labor Conference for its laxity in doing something for the wage-slaves of New South Wales. The alleged "Industrial" section within the party, which was responsible for the resolution, would seem to think that if some of its members occupied positions in the Government, matters would have been different for the worker. This idea may be partly sincere and partly prompted by the ambitious aspirants for Parliamentary honors within the trade union movement, but, whatever the motive, many reasons could be given why the workers can not benefit even if the anti-Holmanist ambition is achieved. One or two, however, will suffice for the present.

Holman was censured for "not carrying out the Labor platform." In his defence he made the statement—which nobody contradicted—that 50 per cent. of the Labor platform had already been placed on the Statute Book during the Government's six years of office. Now, one doesn't require to be a politician or even a delegate to the P.L.L. to know that the workers' economic position in New South Wales to-day is more critical and insecure than it was six years ago, and, on Holman's own admission, it is not half so parlous as it is bound to become after the war is over. In eighteen months alone the prices of necessities of life have gone up to over 50 per cent. while wages have practically remained stationary where they have not actually been largely reduced by the introduction of juvenile and female labor.

The question arises, if this is the result of six years of what is called Labor legislation, after 50 per cent. of the "Labor" platform has been translated into law, what in the name of Judas will be the workers' position after our "Industrialist" saviours have achieved their hearts' desire and the remaining 50 per cent. finds its way on the Statute Book?

If a certain amount of political action over a number of years corresponds with an actual reduction in wages, notwithstanding the fact that the productivity of labor has increased largely during the same period, the only conclusion to draw is that, in so far as political action or "labor legislation" affects the economic position at all, its result has been to assist the master class to rob and exploit to a greater degree. Fifty per cent. of labor legislation synchronises with a bitter struggle by the rank and file of the working class—a struggle in which they were handicapped by an obsolete form of organisation—to maintain their standard of living; and far from making any encroachments upon the ever accumulating profits of their exploiters, the latter have steadily and systematically reduced that standard. Yet our politico-industrialists want still more "labor" legislation.

The futility of the workers chasing the will-o'-the-wisp of politics was never more clearly illustrated. The honesty or otherwise of Holman and the rest of them is beside the question. The workers who are robbed on the job, must "legislate on the job, or rather in their in-

dustrial organisation, and every law is useless to them, which they are incapable of enforcing by their industrial power.

If the whole of the Labor platform, over the alleged betrayal of which the "Industrialists" are wailing so loudly, were passed into law to-morrow the relative positions of master and worker would remain unchanged. So long as the latter must sell his labor-power as a commodity, so long must he remain a wage-slave subject to the economic laws underlying the wages system. Politicians can not extricate him from that position if they would, and the vast majority of them would not if they could, seeing that they believe—and have every reason personally for believing—that the present system is the best of all possible.

The economic laws referred to can only be modified or mitigated in favor of the workers by themselves through scientific economic organisation, combined with a conscious knowledge of their slave status under Capitalism. The same principle will also one day achieve their emancipation when the necessary power is generated. If our so-called "Industrialists" would remember this and act up to their name, what a change would come over the scene. But they won't. They are attracted by Parliament like a moth to the candle, but it is the worker whose wings are singed.

A Retrospect

AND A GROWL.

(We publish the following article from one of our subscribers, though of course it is understood we do not agree with everything therein. The appeal to the Labor Party to cease "paltering with the plutocratic minority," for instance, would indicate that the writer still hopes for something from Parliamentary action. We don't.—Ed.)

Twenty-five years of Labor in politics have gone by. Early efforts were spontaneous, enthusiastic, and self-sacrificing. The first elections after the Payment of Members Act, resulting as they did in the return of 35 Labor representatives, staggered the old Free-trade and Protection Brigades and at the same time exceeded the most sanguine expectations of those who put money and time into the contest. Lack of organisation and of funds were manifest everywhere, but the desire to root the noses of the old-time political hogs out of the national feeding trough evolved a third party in the State. The Box-and-Cox methods by which the rival political leaders succeeded each other and rewarded their partisans with the perquisites of office came to a sudden stop. Boodling land sales, political railways, and concessions to predatory persons who were desirous of enriching themselves by pretending that they were developing the country, were hampered in their "honest" endeavors by the watch-dogs of Labor in Opposition. But for them the tramways, with the interested assistance of some of the chief Sydney papers, would now belong to a company, and the Colo River tidal waters would be harnessed to provide power for supplying Sydney and suburbs with electricity, at similar monopoly rates to those at one time being charged for another commodity. The City Council secured the rights and thereby exercised a check on the rapacity of the "poor widows" syndicate, which would otherwise extort higher rates than they do from those more needy than the alleged widows. Better sanitary and working conditions and higher rates of wages were also established for some workers. While in Opposition the Labor men were fairly keen in lessening the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots"; they generally kept in touch with old work-mates and were mindful of their grievances. There were inevitably some signs of "side." While becoming conversant with parliamentary procedure, there was a tendency in some Labor men to ape not only the airs but also the methods of the old Parliamentarians.

On Labor's accession to office supporters of the Party rejoiced in the fact that those measures which had been forced from their opponents and also those enacted by themselves, would be so administered as to prove their ability to hold the reins of government. They had the machinery entirely in their hands—each department controlled by a Labor Minister. It was for them to see that the heads of departments carried out the spirit of the law. Not as Carruthers and Co. administered the Old Age Pensions—by creating conditions and objections which pauperised the recipients, but by giving freely that which had been freely granted. The good results of day labor jobs have been largely minimised or worse, by those whose interests or sympathies were with the sweat-

ing contractors. And when the owners of large commercial buildings and private residences, as well as religious organisations, showed a saving by day labor over builders' estimates, many Labor supporters are bitterly chagrined at a Labor Government suspending a plank in their platform to grant concessions to an English Syndicate for the construction of a railway. The wobbling over labor disputes has, to say the least, disgusted many others.

If the superior elected person finds that the responsibilities of his exalted position creates a sympathy for the class-enemy of his supporters, can it be wondered at that trade union officials may be suspected of a similar weakness? "United we stand; divided we fall," surely stands for Unionism in its broadest sense—the bridge from wretchedness to freedom, in some form or other; and yet we find unions competing with and obstructing each other, even to the extent of interdiction, appeals, and harsh words and blows by rival unionists, while the common enemy complacently looks on, saying, "I am safe while such brotherly love continues!" The Arbitration Laws have proved a delusion and a snare—a device of the enemy to prolong their power and our misery. One Big Union would effectively deal with employers, and would also serve to settle sectional matters without feeding the Devils' Bridgeway. Craft unionism, the last refuge of industrial snobbery, will have to go; then no longer will be heard the taunt of the tradesman to his sometimes very necessary assistant, "What do you know about it? You're only a laborer!" My father paid £100 for me to learn the trade! And in such case the money was invariably thrown away.

In fact the Labor movement as at present constituted, having lost its punch, has arrived at a dead-end, where it will have to shed not only its caste-bound representatives, but also its caste ideas of aristocracy in the ranks of the workers, or make way for a party free from craft snobbery and "side," in which all classes of labor will have equal merit and equal rights; when it will be impossible for one union to fight another on the paltry demarcation lines which have so often, to the delight of the employers, been the means of causing disruption in the ranks. Of course, action in this direction will cause dismay in the ranks of Trades Hall officials, who are looking forward to parliamentary honors, and whose hope of attaining that coveted position and the kudos pertaining thereto, is keeping their snug little coterie intact. But the self-aggrandisement of sometimes arrogant individuals gives no satisfaction to the rank and file, whom they and the Parliamentary Labor Party have already fooled too long. They want something more than the husks, and the exalted and would-be exalted persons who think they are the movement will have either to step out or get out.

The Labor Party has come to the parting of the ways. Not only must all paltering with the plutocratic minority cease, but a more energetic regard for the interests of the toilers must be made manifest to the workers who comprise 80 per cent. of the community—those who batten on Labor shouldn't matter; it may come hard on them to have to work to live, but it's about time they and their snobbish parasites tried the experiment.

"Direct action!" Think it out, ye wage-slaves! It is by the direct action of the other fellows that we are such; the principle has been hallowed by time-honored observance—has become "respectable" in the hands of our class enemies. We have been drilled by their subsidised advocates into the belief that our application of direct action would be sinful and immoral. Get wise! Failure to successfully apply the principle is all we need regret. Any forlorn hope in that direction is worth the support of all militant workers.

"TWENTY-FOUR."

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, 5000 for 12/, 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.

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.

Kalgoorlie News.

Recently we had a visit from Broken Hill strike delegates, and one Kerr, in commenting on his treatment whilst here, said, "The Union secretary here had one eye on Parliament, two hands flapping flags, and both feet on militant unionism."

Kerr, though a stranger to me, was the only bright spot on the horizon for some considerable time, and if that is not the truth, every letter of it, it has never been wrote or spoken in this part of the world.

Quite a few of us had noticed the tendencies of the union officials, past and present, but we could not hope for the amount of publicity which was the result of Kerr's report. The Plutish Press, with its great love for Arbitration, Agreements, and Craft Associations, was at its wit's end how best to kill the impression the truth might make on bony skulls, and redoubled its energy in slinging the pets of capitalism.

The pets try to justify themselves by saying the Broken Hill mines benefitted to the extent of something like £1700, but while drying the tears, they mention that £1500 is only lent without interest, oblivious of the fact that they are establishing a new precedent in unionism, a-la Ike Mc.

We don't stand or fall with one and another nowadays; we only lend, if their names are good enough; and they have got sufficient security. If the unions on the Belt have not the wherewithal to help their fellows on Broken Hill, who is to blame? Not the rank and file. The most of them, though, misled, are an A1 class, but too lethargic, and allow too much rope to the ones our Broken Hill mate referred to. But I'm living in hopes that the old fable re the calf will come true. The writing is already on the wall in this country.

The High Cockerorum of this country, who functions in the interests of capitalism, paid us a visit last month, and held forth in our Town Hall. Although full to the neck myself of listening to their platitudes and side issues, I allowed my self to be persuaded by worker friends to go, and while there I asked five questions.

The hard-worked Premier Scadden jibbed. He said they were questions for the Minister of Mines to answer. Have you noticed Judas? If so, tell me if Scadden is like him. I only put the questions to see if the workers in the crowded hall would recognise him.

In regard to our Local No. 6 it is still growing, although there is little noise at present. The Rebel Reds get scattered now and again, but invariably land back again with few exceptions, and will be here at roll call when trouble begins, which I think is due shortly.

The Cat will phone to the kittens with a lively tune when word is passed around, and Pussinboots is a costly creature, too, when in full regalia.

—Tabby.

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 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 has been overthrown. By organising industrially, we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Awful Conditions

IN COAL MINES, PENNSYLVANIA.
I.W.W. ORGANISING.

BY ROBERT MINOR.

Before starting for the anthracite coal fields to investigate and picture for the "Review" such conditions as might account for a threatened strike of tremendous size, I cast about New York City for a "tip."

"WHY THEY HAVE PIANOS IN THEIR HOUSES!" exclaimed one wealthy coal stockholder. They imagine that big war profits are accruing and they greedily snatch for a part. They are making a good living and more; now they want money to blow in on luxuries."

In the outskirts of Scranton lies the little mining settlement of Underwood. Winning the confidence of a mine mule driver, I went to visit some miners under his guidance.

The first home I entered was that of a Pole, living in a company house.

"Have you a piano?" I asked. He looked at me quizzically.

"This ain't no place to keep a piano," he said, pointing to the front door, where a split up the middle admitted both daylight and whistling wind.

It was cold inside. The back door was a barn door, so crudely hanging in its place as to show a bit of landscape through the crack.

The house is built of one thickness of lumber with a little plaster inside.

The miner explained that he papered the house and partly floored it himself, the place as turned over to the renter by the company having the bare earth for a portion of its floor.

These company houses—each four rooms and a lean-to—are built in a dismal row, all exactly alike.

Asked where his water supply was, the miner opened the door and pointed down the hill to a pump.

"That is the water supply for eight houses," he said.

Sewage systems are unheard of. The vast majority of the houses would just about do for barns. They are not rented to "laborers," as "lajors" (miners' assistants) are not able to pay the rent.

When the union itself tried to get the Underwood miners to wait, they threw down their tools, left the old union, and called upon Joseph J. Ettor of the I.W.W. to organise them.

So, it isn't a desire for "pianos and such" that causes the trouble in the coal fields.

But, as one Irish miner said to me, "Ain't a miner got a right to a piano?"

It is well worth noting that the I.W.W. is organising in unorganised towns, often where the workers permitted the old union to expire because of their lack of faith in its ability to accomplish anything for them. Since August, 1915, the I.W.W. has kept organisers and speakers in the Scranton district. The results were shown in the first I.W.W. convention at Old Forge, on Sunday, Feb. 6. Ten towns and twelve locals and branches were represented by 46 delegates.

The strike throughout this section has been on for over four weeks. The coal barons at Durfee, Dupont and Old Forge have thrown up the sponge, settled with the I.W.W. and the miners are back again on the job. At Greenwood there are several hundred still out. The spirit of solidarity among the Polish and Italian miners is splendid. About one hundred men have gone back into the mines under the protection of deputies, but there were very few miners among these scabs.

In a report of the Greenwood strike, the "Scranton Times," of Friday, Feb. 25, prints the following:

"There is a very peculiar situation in Greenwood, as shown by the ducebills of the striking miners, most of their laborers receiving more money."

A ducebill, it may be explained, is a bill to the miner, showing amounts due to him after the company has deducted all the charges against his earnings.

"The laborers won't work for less than two dollars a day, and miners who shovelled ducebills at the meeting yesterday had anywhere from 31 cents to 19.38 dollars coming to them."

"Anthony Petrosky, who is number 159 on the company's roll, worked eight days. He was out of the mines several days because of the death of a child at his home. It was the intention of Petrosky to pay something on the funeral account when he received his wages. His ducebill showed him entitled to 2 dollars 51 cents for the eight days. He told his story at the meeting yesterday."

"Ludwig Cling was another to tell his story during the session. There are seven in his family, and he has been mining for some time. His number is 160. His earnings for two weeks, amounted to

24 dollars 31 cents. The deductions included three kegs of powder, cost of sharpening tools, ton of coal, and 14 dollars, which was paid his laborer. His balance was 31 cents.

"Some of the duebills shown at the meeting yesterday follow, most of them being for two weeks' work:

"Miner No. 157 earned 7 dollars 67 cents, and the deductions were 7 dollars 75 cents, leaving him in debt 8 cents to the company."

"Miner No. 159 worked eight days and received 2 dollars 51 cents, and one ton of coal. Claims to have been cheated out of 17 dollars 91 cents. Same miners for a previous two weeks received 8 cents."

"Miner No. 518 worked nine days, got out ten tons of coal and earned 38 dollars 51 cents. The deductions were 40 dollars 49 cents, and his net earnings were 8 dollars 2 cents. His laborer received 14 dollars.

Under the company store system, a very close imitation of chattel slavery was shrewdly maintained. A trip through the anthracite hills brings one into contact with men who, in the old days, worked years for coal companies without once receiving a piece of actual money—always in debt to the company without hope of release or even the power to rebel. They simply were doled out what a black slave received before the civil war—their board and clothes.

The strike of 1900 swept that form of slavery away—ALMOST. It still persists in the Scranton region among the smaller coal companies.

The regulations abolishing the system are now evaded by the simple means of putting those miners who do not trade at the company store to work in places where they cannot get out enough clean coal to make a living. Of course, the miners are "free" to trade where they please.

But why do the miners want more money? Strikes of the past have raised their pay about 26 per cent.

Inquiry brings out that the cost of household supplies in the region have increased in the same time between 40 and 50 per cent. Rents have gone up 40 per cent. In Scanton in the past 15 years, according to the miners' figures, and they say the companies charge employees 75 per cent. more for their household coal.

It is easy to see where the 26 per cent. wage increase goes.

Mine jargon divides the miners into two classes—"pets" and "suckers."

The "pets"—who, the miners claim, are chosen for their loyalty to the union—get jobs at "robbing pillars," which means tearing out the solid masses of coal which are left standing till the last to hold up the roof. This enables the favored one to make 75 dols. of 20 dols. in two weeks.

"I want to fight!"

This is the answer I got from a hard coal miner to my question as to living conditions in the anthracite fields of Pennsylvania. This man has been working near Wilkesbarre and living in a company house 18 years. He has four children.

"What do you want to fight about?" I asked.

"For straight pay for every pound of coal I cut, instead of being doctored a quarter or a half-car for a few fragments of rock in the coal."

The man who said he wanted to fight was in a saloon, drinking beer. I wondered whether to take him seriously. Then he invited me to his house. After ten minutes in that windy shack, let to him by his employers, I wondered why he didn't spend ALL his time in the saloon! He was a very sober fellow.

The liquor question is made much of in that district. Some of the miners' union organisers told me a crusade against alcohol is strongly backed by mine operators every time there is a threat of labor troubles.

"It's to give the men something to blame instead of the boss," said one. "The operators pick any movement that has a respectable look and back it up, trying to make the miners place their hopes there instead of in the union."

"Right now there is an evangelist going at it hammer and tongs, diverting the men's minds from the impending strike."

"What makes you think it has anything to do with the proposed mine trouble?" I asked.

"Because all the coal operators are footing the bills for the revivals."

The whole of life there seems to centre around coal. Even the medical profession is not untouched. The compensation law of Pennsylvania requires the companies to pay the medical expenses of an injured miner to the extent of 25 dols. or for a major surgical operation 75 dols.

The miner is to receive 50 per cent. of his wages for the time he is incapacitated after the first 14 days.

Well, the companies hire the doctors, many of whom, the miners say, are so solicitous of their employers' interests as to declare the injured men capable of

"The Time to Strike"

"Now is the time to strike, when labor is scarce," said Premier Holman last week at the P.L.L. Conference. It is strange how even a clever politician like Holman blurs out the truth sometimes. It is true he was only pleading for his political existence, pointing out that strikes would be impossible in an over-stocked labor market after the war, and therefore the necessity of having arbitration "sympathetically administered" by a Labor Government under Holman's guidance.

Holman did not say how "sympathetic administration" of arbitration has benefited the workers during a comparative shortage in the labor market, so it is difficult to see where the advantages will accrue when there are scores of thousands of unemployed.

Not so long ago—just after the outbreak of war—Judge Heydon in his characteristically "sympathetic" style, laid down the principle that when there is a large amount of unemployment wages should be reduced in order to give the bosses a chance to employ more men—which means, of course, more surplus value for the "philanthropic" boss, increased production of commodities, followed by the inevitable plethora, and again—universal unemployment.

This is, as a matter of fact the vicious circle within which the workers are kept under Capitalism, and arbitration is always "sympathetically administered" for the purpose of keeping them there.

To offset this "when labor is scarce" there should be a general strike to reduce the hours of labor, say by one-third or one-half, so that there would be a possibility of absorbing the surplus unemployed when the contingency arises; another method is all-round slowing down in industry, so that if a certain market is to be supplied more men will have to be employed; still a better method would be the ownership and control of industry by the working class, so that a few paunch-bellied parasites would not be able to say: "You shall neither work nor eat unless you work for our profit."

To none of these methods, however, will our "sympathetic" Labor Government and its judicial tools in the Arbitration Court subscribe. On the contrary, the advocates of such principles are benevolently and "sympathetically" lodged in gaol from time to time under one pretence or another—the true reason is never disclosed.

Anyhow, it is hoped that the workers will advantageously study Holman's slip of the tongue. **NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIKE!** Strike hard, strike together, and strike for something that will be of lasting benefit to the working class of Australia. Take a turn at dictating to the master class for a change. What about the six-hour day? Take heed of Holman's warning—given in the anxiety to protect his political job. Remember, after the war the masters will be in a position to dictate to you, "sympathetic administration" notwithstanding, unless you are so organised that you are powerful enough to maintain what you have won, and ready to continue the fight for a still shorter work-day. One Big Union is the ONLY way out.

THE VICE OF MODERATION.

I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be harsh as Truth, and as uncompromising as Justice. On this subject I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen—but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—and I will be heard. The apathy of the people is enough to wake every statue leap from its pedestal and hasten the resurrection of the dead.

—WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

working at the end of the first 14 days, so he receives nothing.

But why are not these difficulties attended to by the conciliation board appointed for that purpose? They are—IN THE COURSE OF TIME. That is, a miner complains of injustice of treatment or unfair discharge and waits for a decision several months. When the decision finally comes, even though it may declare him in the right, the miner generally receives no compensation for time lost.

It seems as though all the machinery of law and agreement, built to protect the coal miners, either clogs or breaks down. He clings to the last reliance in which he has hope—the union.

—"International Socialist Review."

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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.

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The Barker Case.

FURTHER PROTESTS.

Before this issue of "Direct Action" reaches the hands of our subscribers, Barker's appeal will be decided in the courts. The case will be heard on Thursday, 4th inst. too late for the result to appear in this issue. Good work has been done in connection with the case by Fellow-Worker Grant, in Brisbane, and Fellow-worker King in Melbourne. Many organisations in both cities have passed strong resolutions of protest, copies of which, however, have not reached us. We append a few of those which have come to hand. Grant addressed the Industrial Council in Brisbane last week. A report of the proceedings appears on this page. The militants on the Council advocated a general strike in the event of Barker being "sent along." This looks like business. Sooner or later the workers of Australia will be obliged to take drastic action to put an end, once and for all, to persecution of this kind. The Furniture Trades at Brisbane, the Bakers, Progressive Carpenters, Plumbers, Sheet Metal Workers, and Insurance Agents—all have passed strong resolutions, which, we understand, have been forwarded to the Minister.

The following is the resolution carried at the P.L.C. Conference in Melbourne after hearing an address by J. B. King:

"That this conference in emphatically protesting against recent flagrant and illegal attacks on the rights of popular assembly and free speech, earnestly reaffirms that such rights are the inalienable heritage of the people and a necessary corollary to democratic institutions, and that therefore the civil authorities must uphold and protect freedom of discussion and opinion, or prove false to the fundamental ideals upon which the greatness of democracy really rests, and further, this conference calls upon the Federal and State authorities to protect citizens who desire to exercise their civil rights to publicly discuss matters affecting conscription, peace and allied questions of supreme importance to the people of Australia; further that a deputation, on which all Victorian Federal Labor members be invited to act, approach the Acting Prime Minister to urge him (1) to take immediate steps to instruct the military authorities to prevent soldiers disturbing public meetings, and (2) to demand that the regulations shall be so framed that no prosecutions shall take place against free speech, and a free press without the written consent of the Minister, and also demands the instant release of T. Barker, and that the various Ministers withdraw the bonds placed on papers and publications held up in the Customs and Post Office."

The Federated Clerks' Union (Victorian Branch) encloses a cheque for £5, to the Barker Defence Committee, with the following resolution passed at their general meeting last week:

"That this Union strongly protest against the imprisonment of Mr. Barker, and demands that the Labor Government immediately withdraw the charge against him as the Labor Government stands for free speech and expression of thought; also that we forward the sum of £5 to the Defence Fund."

The following letter has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Federal Labor Party by the Australasian Building Industry Employees' Union (Brisbane):—

Secretary Federal Labor Party.
Sir,—
At the last General meeting of the above union I was instructed to forward you the following resolution, which was carried unanimously, and as we consider that we do not receive the attention from the Minister that we as workers are entitled to, we have seen fit to address the correspondence to the Secretary of the Party, where we hope something definite will be done. The resolution is as follows: "That this General Meeting of the Australasian Building Industry Employees' Union assembled, emphatically protest against the action of the Federal authorities, in the wholesale victimisation of the working class, particularly in the case of Mr. Thomas Barker, of Sydney, as we consider his case to be one of fair and candid criticism on the war. We further consider the suppression of these principles to be diametrically opposed to our principles and the principles of the movement for which we stand, and we further demand from the Federal (Labor) Government that they cease the continued persecution of Mr. Thomas Barker and other members of our class."

I am, Sir,
One for freedom,
(Signed) A. E. WILLIAMS,
General Secretary, Brisbane.

April 26th, 1916.

The Melton Branch of the P.L.C. (Vic.), has forwarded the following motion:—

"That the members of this branch strongly protest against the conviction of Mr. T. Barker, as we contend that it tends to strike at one of the basic principles of democracy, namely, freedom of speech and free criticism, which has been the very life blood of the Labor movement in Australia, and would

urge that steps be taken to secure his release or the remittance of the fine as the case may be."

The Barker Defence Committee takes this opportunity of thanking the various organisations which have interested themselves in the case, also individual members of the working class who have assisted financially and otherwise.

Remember, however, that if Barker goes to gaol on Thursday the battle is only just begun.

Grant in Brisbane.

On the 25th ult., Fellow-Worker Grant addressed the Industrial Council, Brisbane, in connection with the prosecution of Tom Barker. The following is an account of the proceedings as reported in the Brisbane "Daily Standard":—

Mr. Donald Grant, delegate to the Sydney Trades and Labor Council (Dock and Ship Painters' Union), on behalf of the Barker Defence Committee, appealed to the council for every possible assistance in this matter. He reviewed the former prosecution case against Barker, which had been dismissed on technical grounds. Mr. Grant said that the article, for which Barker had been sentenced to a year's imprisonment, was absolutely true, inasmuch as it stated that capitalists were making profits out of the suffering and blood of the nation. He quoted the Treasurer's appeal for subscribers to the war loan in which Mr. Higgs referred to the loan as a "gilt-edged security," that it required no self-sacrifice on the part of investors, and that it was a sounder and better financial speculation than could be got elsewhere. He (the speaker) did not appeal particularly for Barker, only in so far as Barker was fighting the cause of freedom of speech on behalf of the workers. If one member of the working class suffered they all suffered, and to effectively protect the interests of the workers they must organise as thoroughly as the capitalist class.

All investigations proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that huge profits were being made by the owning class out of the war. Senator Pearce himself admitted this when he advocated a war tax on profits; so did all who advocated conscription of wealth. Treasurer Higgs, in relying upon the money lords to "invest in 'gilt-edged' Government securities for war purposes, insulted the workers who were remorselessly called upon to sacrifice everything, even life itself.

Barker was one of the most intellectual men in the whole Labor movement of Australia, he was a brave man, and one who had devoted his talents to the cause of the workers.

The case would be appealed against on the legal grounds that the War Precautions Act had never been passed for the purpose of gagging men who dared to voice fair and logical criticisms of national questions, but was intended to be put into force only against those who were really traitors and a menace to the nation. He knew that the council would do whatever was within their power to help Barker to obtain justice, as it was well known that the Brisbane Industrial Council had the courage always to fight unflinchingly for the rights of the class to which they all belonged.

SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

It was unanimously resolved,—"That a letter of protest be sent to the Minister of Defence, emphatically protesting against the harsh and unjust sentence which had been inflicted on Barker."

"In accordance a vote of thanks to Mr. Grant, delegates assured him that the Council would always sympathise with and help anyone who was fighting for the betterment and ideals of the working class, and when made possible by the education of the rank and file of the workers, direct action would be used in order to obtain justice for workers who were persecuted and victimised by tyrannous laws.

BARKER DEFENCE FUND.

The following additional donations to the above fund have been received:—
J. Morris 5s, A. Wyar 2s, F. Rocks 10s, S. West 10s, Tom Singer 2s 6d, Socialist Party (Melbourne), £4 3s, Melbourne I.W.W. £2, J. W. Carey 5s, H. Peterson 2s 6d, Tom Pope 10s.

F. W. Doll 5s, P. Cannon 5s, W. Beatty 5s, Federated Clerks, Melbourne, £5, Mrs. Kenna 2/6.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

To week ending April 29th, 1916.—G. Barker 4s, H. Cohen 4s, G. Gates 2s, W. Haberley 2s, W. Hayward 2s, G. E. Hird 1s, W. Jones 1s, Joseph Laverick 4s, J. Lynn 4s, T. Laverick 2s, H. B. Ligge 2s, Linton Moore 2s, J. Nelson 4s, M. Simson 4s, S. Thornton 2s, J. Wilson 2s, W. Woltenholme 2s, W. Muller 4s, T. Clarke 2s, J. Stenham 2s, R. Torpein 4s, Jack Henderson (England) 5s, J. Patoka 4s.

Press Fund.—H. Cohen 6s.

Industrial Unionism means enough of everything and not too much of anything, including work.

The P.L.L. Conference

The P.L.L. Conference now sitting in Sydney has been the scene of some very animated discussions. At times it looked as if general riot was going to break loose amongst the delegates present. Insanuations, personalities, insults, and coarse motions were hung around in lavish style, and things generally waxed hot and wrathful.

At one point of the proceedings a couple of delegates went staggering out into the balcony locked in each others embrace. Owing to the efforts of the peace party the miniature warfare ended without any damage. At times the whole conference was in an uproar and the chairman could be seen standing on his hind legs, plunging his bell and shouting for order.

It was good to see our political saviours expending a bit of energy for once. But why the cause of this wild behaviour? Was it for the working class? Oh, no! Their parliamentary jobs were in danger, and they were worth fighting for. On this occasion the Labor politicians proved themselves fighters.

Most of the commotion could be put down to political jealousy. The "ins" are sitting too tight on their jobs, and the "outs" can't get a chance. The parliamentary jobs being limited, and not being enough to go round, the out-of-work legislators are using the Conference and the existing discontent to advertise themselves and endeavour to crawl to power and fame upon the backs of their fallen comrades. To what depths some men will sink in order to get a politician's job!

Numerous censure motions adorned the agenda paper. Some dealing with individual Ministers, others "severely censuring the Holman Government for refusing to carry out the Labor platform."

During the debate upon the censure on the Government, great excitement prevailed amongst the delegates, and much interest was displayed by the visitors present.

Mr. W. Holman, Premier of N.S.W., took the platform in defence of the Government. He was given "unlimited time to reply," and in a speech which lasted over an hour, he innocently exposed the whole game of political action by telling the delegates how impossible it was for the Government to have done more.

Mr. Holman spoke as only a politician can speak. He slobbered and slined, defied and challenged, became sentimental, and then got indignant. He appealed to all delegates to think what they were doing. If the motion of censure was carried, it would divide the Party and mean their defeat at the next election in December. In a mournful, pleading tone he said: "The present Ministry cannot do any better. We have done our damndest. We have just put in eight months of steady, bullocking work."

"We have done our bit, and done it to the utmost of our ability. I say this quite frankly. We have done our best, it may be a poor best, but it is our best. . . . If you want us to resign and make way for another group of men, none would be more happy than I."

If ever Mr. Holman fought for his political life before, he did on this occasion. His whole speech was like a plea from one who had wandered from the path of rectitude, and was willing to do penance for his mis-deeds. But his plaintive cry did not move the hard hearts of the jobless legislators. There were sweets and spoils in sight, and all Mr. Holman's eloquence and emotion could not throw his opponents off the track.

Mr. J. McGowan, the ex-Labor Premier of N.S.W., who gained considerable notoriety a while back by calling for scabs during the gas-workers' strike, next came forward in defence. "Wowser Jim" put up a piteous mournful lament as to what would happen if the censure motion was carried. With a trembling voice he cried: "Are you out to kill the Labor Movement? If you carry this motion you will kill it."

The speech of our ex-Labor Premier sounded like the wail of a lost soul in Hell. He was full of tears for the future of the Labor Party, but his pathetic appeal was wasted upon the mal-contented.

This is no sentimental question, but a grim, bitter, material struggle. Parliamentary jobs cannot be picked up every day, and Jim and his cobbers were hanging on too long and giving no one else a chance. That is the whole bone of contention.

Some of the Government supporters began to snarl and bite, others cried and groaned, a few became defiant, and there were those who were too sad for words.

Mr. Blakeney, one of the opposition, went so far as to threaten to form a new party. He said: "For my part, I do not want him (Holman), and I ask him to resign. . . . If we cannot get what we want we will form a new party. . . . If we form a distinct party we will be able to get four or five members in and then we will be able to get more legislation than we have got up to the present."

Does the foregoing statement look like a scramble for jobs? The whole thing is too plain to need comment. It is a struggle between the "ins" and the "outs."

After a long and heated debate, the motion of censure on the Government was put and carried by 105 votes to 68. Nearly every woman

delegate present voted for the Government and loyally supported it all through. If it were not for the support of the petitions, and the sheep-like devotion with which they followed their leaders, the supporters of the Labor Ministry would have looked a sorry few. In summing up the position, Sydney "Truth" says: "As no one is barred from running for Parliament, there is no reason why one Lib-Labor should jump the seat of another Lib-Labor, and a tender week is not to be sneezed at these hard times."

Despite the fact that the commotion at the P.L.L. Conference is only a scramble for jobs among the "heads," nevertheless, there are some of the rank and file who are honestly up against the Labor Party for its inactivity, and really believe that the formation of another political party would be advantageous to the working-class.

The whole cry of the discontented section is that there has not been enough industrial legislation.

The call for industrial legislation proves that many reforms are urgently needed in the industrial arena, but they cannot be secured per medium of Parliament. Parliament is a capitalist institution, where all must conform to the customs and morality of the Capitalist class. Parliamentarians are a committee of the master-class, and they must all do the bidding and obey the behest of plutocracy or they are quickly silenced. Politicians must of very necessity become respectable and conservative; they could not hold their jobs if they did not. How many fire-breathing agitators have gone to Parliament, only to become, after a few months, as tame as Mary's pet lamb.

The Holman Government may have been able to do more, or it may not, but it is apparent to all who have any knowledge of events, that another party can only go as far as the master-class care to allow them.

Parliament to-day is controlled by the industrial kings of the country. It is the industrial state that runs and rules the world. If there fore behoves all working men anxious for reform to steer clear of the rotten, corrupt, and contaminating effect of politics.

The only sure and speedy way of getting reforms, is by an industrial organisation agitating on the industrial field. It is in the industries where we are robbed and maimed: it is there we should organise.

The I.W.W. believes in organising at the point of production—on the job, and keeping up a continual agitation against the boss right where he feels it most—on the job. One Big Union of the working class will finally win the day for Labor and put an end to all the parasites and pests which now infest the earth.

NORMAN RANCE.

CONSCRIPTION.

To the Editor.

What I would like to know from you or from any of your readers is: Why do the British Government conscript the alleged free citizens of Britain when it owns 300,000,000 pure slaves in India. The Britisher, generally possessing the Parliamentary franchise, is said to have an equivalent in social and legal rights; but the Hindoo, having no political rights whatever, is deemed to have no social or legal rights. It seems a strange thing to me that Bull should drag into the trenches people who can constitutionally protest against conscription and pass over those who cannot constitutionally protest.

No doubt the conscription law of Britain will be dodged effectively by the upper classes, like every other unpleasant law, but in Britain even a common worker is said to have legal rights, because he has political rights.

Is it that the plutocracy, who really govern Britain through the permanent public servants, want to get rid of an increasing white proletariat that might outvote them? Or does the British Government fear the probable sabotage of the Hindoo slave more than the constitutional protest of its free constituent? It surely should be an easy task for a press gang to yard up say 10,000,000 Hindoos in India and drive them to the front. Such a force would simply overrun the Germans on the Belgian front and speedily put an end to the war.

H. S. TAYLOR.

SYDNEY LOCAL.

Meetings, &c.

Street Propaganda at Bathurst and Liverpool Streets every Friday and Saturday Evenings, at 8 p.m.; also Sunday Evening, at 7.

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Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Economic Class.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Saturday Evening.—Speakers' Class.
Also Public Meeting every Sunday Afternoon in the Domain.

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

Printed and Published by Tom Barker, 330 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, on behalf of The Industrial Workers of the World.