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SET BARKER FREE.

We publish herewith a letter from the Minister for Defence which is being sent to those who have passed resolutions of protest in connection with the Barker case:—

Department of Defence.

Melbourne, May 23, 1916.

Dear Sir,—

I have now had an opportunity of considering the representations of yourself and others in connection with the prosecution and conviction of Mr. T. Barker, Printer and Publisher of "Direct Action," in respect of certain matter published in that paper on 14th February, 1916, and, as there would seem to be considerable misapprehension of the grounds for the action taken, I would invite your attention to the following:—

Prominently on the front page of the issue referred to appears in displayed form the crucifixion of a figure in military uniform, while at the foot of the cross which surmounts a smoking cannon, sits the grinning figure of "Fat," grasping a skull-mounted bowl into which drips the blood of the crucified. A wealth of other revolting detail helps out the obvious purport of the cartoon, which is accompanied by the following letterpress:—

"Fat" (intoxicated with patriotism):
"Long live the war. Hip, hip, hooray! Fill 'em up again!"

and a reference to the flotation of a further War Loan of £10,000,000.

In the same issue the following paragraph also appears:—

"Prime Minister Hughes has offered another 50,000 men as a fresh sacrifice to the modern Moloch. Politicians and their masters have always been generous with other people's lives."

I feel confident that you will agree with me that the above cartoon and paragraph must necessarily hamper recruiting, inasmuch as they engender an erroneous idea of the sacrifices which we are making, and the Government cannot allow to pass unchallenged anything which imperils our cause and helps that of the enemy.

Mr. Barker was accordingly prosecuted in respect of this cartoon and paragraph, and, as you are aware, a conviction was obtained. This was appealed against, but the appeal has been dismissed.

I only wish to add that the Government, recognising the unusual power conferred by the War Precautions Act, and being desirous of conserving that freedom of speech and expression which has been so dearly won, have provided this safeguard: that the Military Authorities cannot of their own accord institute proceedings under the Act, but in each case the papers must be submitted to me, and, as Minister for Defence, I must approve of the prosecution proceeding before any action can be taken.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. F. PEARCE.

Those acquainted with the facts of the case will see that Pearce has not even troubled to stick to truth in his statement of the position. He has given the date of the publication of the cartoon as 14th February, whereas it appeared on 4th December last, nearly four months before the prosecution was instituted; and as we have previously pointed out, it is a strange coincidence, to say the least, that while the cartoon must have evidently been pigeon-holed in the office of the Defence Department for that period, it was not brought to light until the capitalist press began its campaign of vituperation against the I.W.W. for its slow-down propaganda.

Another little item that Pearce's specious pretext for one of the most scandalous prosecutions ever instituted in Australia forgets to mention is, that the paragraph referring to Hughes had no relation to the cartoon and appeared in an entirely different part of the paper. Yet Pearce with the ingenuity of the liar accustomed to half truths, says, "I feel

confident you will agree with me that the above cartoon and paragraph (thereby connecting both, you see) must necessarily hamper recruiting."

What Pearce forgets (?) to say is that the paragraph which inspired the cartoonist, and upon which the publication of the cartoon was based, was taken literally from the prospectus issued by Pearce's Government, which informed those "patriots"—about whose sacrifices we have such an "erroneous idea"—that the War Loan was "a gilt-edged security," offering a much "higher rate of interest than that obtainable in normal times."

Is this the "wealth of other revolting detail" to which Pearce refers? But we would ask Senator Pearce which is the more revolting? THE FACT which the cartoon depicted, or the PUBLICATION of that fact?

It is revolting enough in all conscience that an alleged Labor Government should deem an investment by the capitalist class in a gilt-edged security a "sacrifice." While it is the worker who too realistically depicts the wage-slave at the front giving his life-blood for NOTHING. It is also revolting, nauseating in fact, in the extreme, to hear the need of this Government, which in the past eight months has been responsible for more acts of tyranny in suppressing popular liberties than all the past capitalist governments of Australia taken together, talking about "the freedom of speech and expression which has been so dearly won."

Yes, they have been dearly won; but it remained for a scoundrelly gang of politicians, masquerading under the name of Labor—as Walt Whitman has it, "planners of sly innovations for their own preferment"—to deprive the workers of the advantage of those victories which their forefathers bought with the price of their lives and liberty. Pearce and Co. have proved themselves to be but the too willing tools of the robber crew whose hands are stained with the blood of those who have fought for freedom of speech in the past; and the lying, hypocritical epistle which we quote above is not calculated to increase the confidence of intelligent workers in this traitorous gang as the guardians of "free speech."

No, the workers can't be fooled all the time, as will be seen from further resolutions of protest and extracts from Labor papers which we quote herewith.

The Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Brisbane, writes:—

"At the last meeting of the above branch it was moved and carried 'That this branch of the A.S.C. and J. emphatically protests against the imprisonment of Tom Barker on the grounds that we have always fought for the principles of justice and free speech, and do not believe that he has obtained the first, nor do we care to see the latter, taken away from us by anyone.'"

The President of the Tasmanian Government Employees' Association, forwards the following resolutions:—

"That this council, representing the Tasmanian Government Railway Employees' Association, emphatically protests against the imprisonment imposed upon Thomas Barker, of Sydney, for no other cause than what seems to us the exercise of a right which British people consider their most sacred heritage—freedom of speech, the criticism of public men, and matters of public import."

"That this Council, representing the Tasmanian Government Railway Employees' Association, emphatically protests against the adoption by the Commonwealth Government of the principle of Conscription in Australia, as we consider it to be anti-democratic, and equal to a reversion to chattel slavery."

We have received the following letter from the Australian Socialist Party (Brisbane

branch):—

At a special meeting of the above branch, the following resolution was carried, the same to be forwarded to the "Daily Standard" (Brisbane), "International Socialist," and "Direct Action" (Sydney): "That this meeting of the Brisbane branch of the Australasian Socialist Party, strongly condemns the Prussian tactics of the Federal Labor Party in its persecution of Tom Barker, Ken Leslie, and various other members of the 'Working-class Vanguard,' and also reminds the members of the Labor Party that Prussian Junkerism will never be crushed by establishing a branch of it here in Australasia."

Yours for freedom,

(Signed) ERIC FREDLIN.

Secretary.

The Inter-State Conference of the Australian Peace Alliance has forwarded the following letter to the Minister for Defence:—

Hon. G. F. Pearce,

Acting Prime Minister and

Minister for Defence.

Sir,—

By direction of the Council of the Australian Peace Alliance, I am instructed to write stating, although Judge Murray upheld the conviction of Mr. Tom Barker, my Council can see no reason to alter the resolution carried at the Inter-State Conference of the Alliance:—

"That this Inter-State Conference of the Australian Peace Alliance regards the excessive sentence imposed upon Mr. Tom Barker under the War Precautions Act as iniquitous, in that it is an interference with that exercise of free speech by which the rights of necessary public discussion are conserved and Democracy is alone workable, and this Conference urges upon the Minister for Defence to repeal the sentence."

We therefore, Sir, urge that Mr. Tom Barker be released.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) F. J. RILEY.

Secretary.

The "Navy," of May 16, says:—

THE BARKER SCANDAL.

"Despite protestations from a great number of organised bodies the sentence of twelve months' imprisonment passed upon Tom Barker, and against which he appealed, has been confirmed, and Barker is now one of his Majesty's guests—in gaol. At the other side of the earth another personage, by name William Morris Hughes, has also been a guest of his Majesty. There is a vast difference in the treatment accorded to the two guests: Hughes is welcomed to Buckingham Palace, and Barker (although equally welcome from a police point of view) is a forcibly detained guest in gaol. Which of the two should be most welcome to either of the two Royal establishments mentioned time alone will decide. Meanwhile we have our opinion."

"However that may be, the fact remains that Tom Barker, I.W.W. orator, writer, and working-class agitator, is in gaol for having had the 'half-educated' effrontery to criticise those who are making profit out of other's misfortune. For having dared to say what he and a great many other people are convinced was nothing but the whole truth, Tom Barker is, if an active militant propaganda is not maintained, to spend twelve weary months in gaol. One year of an active, intelligent man's life is to be spent in gaol for daring to criticise the existing state of society and the people who use it to their own mean, filthy, and sordid ends. No greater damning criticism of the present corruptive state of society can be found than the fact that a man is in gaol for having exercised the right of being free to speak and write on matters affecting his mates of the working class."

"Years ago a Labor leader would not be considered worth his salt if he had not at some

time or other run foul of the powers that be, or had been in gaol for too militant propaganda work. Success to the Labor movement, unfortunately brought a sort of sham respectability. A hypocrisy grew up alongside the young movement, and instead of developing into a real healthy class movement, the Labor movement turned into a hybrid which was neither Class nor Socialist fowl, nor yet good Labor red herring. The class war was completely lost sight of, or, worse still, was ignored. Labor in power attempted to act as go-between for Capital and Labor, and failed, as must inevitably happen to any party which parts from principle."

"That were bad enough, but to gaol any person outside their own party for teaching class consciousness and trying to form a virile proletarian movement that would bring the Parliamentary Party back to its runcummental principles is little short of an outrage on liberty."

"Our wishes and sympathy go with Barker. Tom Barker, a worker is in gaol through no fault of his or yours, fellow-worker; it will be your fault and shortcomings that will keep him there. Organise, protest, and agitate for his release. Make your branch act, and do not let us go to sleep while gaol waits for working-class speakers."

The Barrier "Daily Truth," of May 18, in its leading article, says:—

"With very little publicity, but nevertheless savagely, Tom Barker, editor of the 'Direct Action,' of Sydney, has been sent to gaol for 12 months, allegedly because of making statements likely to prejudice recruiting."

"At Barker's first trial before Mr. Clark, S.M., that magistrate said of a certain cartoon in 'Direct Action' that 'it would encourage weak and credulous people to believe that there are a class of people in our midst who positively gloat on the slaughter of our soldiers so long as they can get a profitable investment for their money.'"

"We ask our readers to carefully note these words, because our contention is that Barker has been imprisoned, not because he really did prejudice recruiting, but because in the opinion of the magistrate he hit at, and hit harshly at, and hit deservedly at, the profiteers in our midst, who ever since the war started, have been using it to unscrupulously and materially swell their dividends. . . ."

"We say that the sentence is a scandalous one, is a dastardly one, is an outrageous one. We have no doubt that the workers of Australia will feel all that we deliberately say in this connection, and we have furthermore no doubt but that a fierce agitation will be conducted in order to secure Tom Barker's liberty. The slogan of 'Set Barker Free' should rock Australia. . . ."

"Relative to the prosecutions of agitators under the War Precautions Act, it is instructive to recall that so far no wealthy man has been dealt with. As for statements likely to prejudice recruiting, under the cover of 'patriotism,' they are appearing wholesale in the capitalistic papers. No action is taken against these papers. Of course, we are aware that what is likely to prejudice recruiting is merely a matter of interpretation, and so the ruling class (opposed to the working class) being on top, they are the interpreters, and naturally they interpret the sentiments they do not like because of their class-bias as being detrimental to recruiting; thought at the same time it must be admitted that they are strenuously anxious to keep the war going."

"There is a gentleman in Victoria known as Mr. Herbert Brookes, who is president of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures. Last week he indulged in what the papers called 'a spirited denunciation' of Industrial Unionism. In the course of his speech he said:— 'In the opinion of many members of the cham-

(Continued on page 4.)

DIRECT ACTION



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Is It

A CAPITALIST'S WAR?

We all know that this is a different kind of war to all others which have occurred of recent years. That is to say, the reasons back of it are not the sordid, commercial, and economic reasons which "justified" such wars, for instance, as the Boer War, the Russian-Japanese war, the Spanish-American war, and various others. At least we have been told as much by the capitalist press and the generality of capitalist spokesmen. This is a war for "freedom," "a war against militarism," a war which was specially undertaken, so far as the British Empire is concerned, to "protect poor Belgium." Such gross material things as markets, surplus products, the "capture of German trade," and similar factors, never weighed with the ruling class of Great Britain when war was declared. It was all because the "neutrality of Belgium" had been violated; and who would not fight to protect the helpless Belgians from the armed hordes of the Kaiser.

With such and like excuses the war was justified—at the beginning. Now that these shibboleths have done their work, however, the capitalist press is less inclined to conceal the true reasons for the European holocaust.

For instance from the over-seas edition of the "Daily Mail," of March 18, we gather that:—

"After the fighting in the field has ceased, then will begin a war to the death between the Germans and the British for the markets of the world—and it will be a struggle of intense bitterness and remorselessness, beside which the 'frightfulness' of the Prussian soldiers will pale into insignificance. It is bound to come; for Germany must fight for her existence in the world of commerce even more desperately than she is now fighting on the battlefields of Europe. And unless preparations are made now to enter upon the campaign at once—armed from head to foot—the British manufacturer and merchant will be caught in a state of unreadiness."

The article from which the above (the opening paragraph) has been taken is highly instructive. It is a direct appeal to the manufacturing capitalists of Great Britain to "wake up"; and the author appears to realise that something more than a military victory is necessary if British Capitalism is to retain its supremacy in the world's markets. He says:—

"The plain truth must be faced—namely, that the commercial war in which the British Empire will be forced to engage during the years to come will be a long and straining test of endurance. Unless this is done courageously there is a grave danger that self-satisfaction may undermine the efforts of those who are straining every nerve to meet and beat the Germans in the markets in which they had so firmly established themselves. The age-old reputation which British goods enjoyed unchallenged for so long still re-

mains unsullied—but no longer unchallenged.

"The test shall be a trial by ordeal—and the most serious competitor, also the most unscrupulous, will be Germany, for it is impossible to believe that she will for long be removed from the contest, whatever the result of the war may be. It is all very well to say that Germany will be impotent because she will be beggared. To a certain extent this is true, but the circumstances of half the nations of the world will be changed after the war. Relative poverty will be general, but the contest for supremacy will not be much less keen because the resources of the competitors are limited—indeed, in some ways it will be aggravated."

It will not be difficult for the student of industrial history to understand what effect these wars for markets are going to have upon the working class. Industrial efficiency will be—it is already, as a matter of fact—the watchword of the competing nations, which means that the nation which extracts the largest amount of surplus value out of its slaves will be top dog. In other words, the nation which is successful in compelling the worker to accept the least and produce the most will be the most prosperous from the capitalist standpoint.

Prosperity for the capitalist class has always spelled exploitation and robbery for the worker, with periods of unemployment and starvation, brought about through over-production, thrown in.

This is the ideal for which the world's workers are slaying each other to-day. We have it on the authority of the "Daily Mail" that it is NOT to the military caste of Germany nor to the Kaiser we must look for real causes of the war, but to the fear of British exploiters of losing their control of the world's markets. The article above referred to mentions that,

"During the last twenty years or so industrial Germany has made gigantic strides in every direction, for at the time of the accession of the Kaiser Wilhelm II. she was in her infancy; and it must frankly be admitted that by 1914, when the war broke off the commercial relations between the two Empires, the Germans had become most serious industrial rivals in every market in the world. In many of the most important industries the superiority of British goods was barely maintained; and it is an indisputable fact that even if the insensate class jealousy of the military caste had not precipitated the conflict, a grave crisis could not have been long postponed."

Yes, all the economic conditions that were necessary to engender a world war were present, even if the Kaiser had been a saint and Sir Edward Grey a second Jesus Christ.

The production of surplus products, and the necessity for finding a market were its real basis. Exploitation of the world's workers by a small minority of greedy, soulless, profit-mongers has been the cause of all wars of modern times; and the "Daily Mail" informs us in effect that it is to increase and intensify this exploitation, so far as British Capitalism is concerned, that the workers of Great Britain are to-day being compulsorily doomed in khaki.

The cure for the evil is the appropriation of surplus value by those who produce it. This can only be accomplished by the Industrial organisation of the working class of the world.

When that day is on the horizon we shall hear less of the "psychological factor," the "human factor," the "racial factor," and other alleged "factors," manufactured in the acute brain of the capitalist class and their mental prostitutes in order to conceal from the workers the real cause of war and the other evils which production for profit brings in its train.

T. G.

FREMANTLE ACTIVITIES.

Hall, 35 Phillimore Street.
Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Hall: Lecture night.

Friday, 8 p.m., at Hall: Economic Class.

Saturday, 8 p.m., at Hall: Business Meeting.

Sunday Afternoon, 3 p.m., Esplanade, Perth: Propaganda.

Local 5 has now a library of up-to-date revolutionary economic working class literature at the Hall, and all rebels after some mental dynamite are invited to blow in and help swell the ranks of the rebel army.

Speeding-up schemes are put forward in the interests of the boss. You and he have nothing in common.

Sentenced For Life.

In Australia, and elsewhere in the British Empire, we have been accustomed lately to hear that those who take a prominent part in strikes or in fighting for better conditions for the workers are in the "pay of the Germans." Of course the object of these libels is obvious. The "patriotic" wage-stiff, whose mental pabulum consists of what he reads in the day-lie press, is taught to believe that those who are fighting the interests of his class have ulterior motives in view.

This little expedient of exploiters, however, in attempting to silence those who oppose the game of plunder is not peculiarly British.

News by labor exchanges from Europe informs us that Dr. Erik Heden, of the Social Democratic Party of Denmark, Ivan Oljelund of the Young Socialist Party of Sweden, and Z. Hojlung, manager of the paper "Syndicalisten," have received sentences of life imprisonment for endeavouring to bring about a general strike of transport and munitions workers in their respective countries in the event of the latter joining hands with Germany. So far as can be gathered from exchanges—without a proper translation—it appears that a conference was called representing various organisations when a certain course of action was decided upon in case of war being declared. After the conference was over the men referred to were hauled out of their beds in the middle of the night; no time was lost in bringing them before a tribunal where they received life sentences. The Capitalist press, like its prototype in other countries in like cases, assiduously circulated the statement that they were in the "pay of the Russians."

It is significant that no word of the matter leaked out in the cable news or by mail. It is very evident that a general strike against a declaration of war is repugnant to the feelings of the plutocrats and their press, even when they have everything to lose from such a declaration from the military view-point. Exploitation always comes before patriotism. The British Capitalist press, rather than see the workers of any country successful in a general strike, would infinitely prefer to see the Kaiser on the throne of England. Witness the declaration of Brooks, President of the Employer's Federation, the other day, when he stated that the rule of Germany would be preferable to the "tyranny of Unionism." My word! The rule of Germany like the rule of Britain stands for profit and plunder, and the general strike, or what Brooks calls the "tyranny of Unionism," is the greatest menace to these objects.

We extend our congratulations to the rebel working class of Denmark and Scandinavia, who up to the present, at least, would appear to have been successful in holding back their rulers from engaging in the murder business. The fact that three of their best have braved the terrors of a dungeon for a life-time rather than become the tools of the war-mongers, like so many alleged "labor" leaders elsewhere, is the best proof that there is still hope for a real international working class movement.

How many "leaders" of Unionism in Australia are prepared to follow their example in the event of Conscription???

IS YOUR INCOME OF BRITISH ORIGIN?

The "Argus," in an issue of last week gave the following illuminating report of an incident in the "Ouse":—

"During question time in the House of Representatives yesterday Mr. Fowler (W.A.) directed attention to the utterances of a person in the public parks, who, speaking with a strong American accent, talked thinly-veiled treason. This person called himself a member of the I.W.W. (Independent Workers of the World). He (Mr. Fowler) believed there were other gentlemen of the 'same kidney' at the 'same game' throughout the Commonwealth. 'Would the Acting Prime Minister have inquiries made as to the source of livelihood of those gentlemen?' The particular gentleman he referred to did not look like a millionaire, but he did not do any work."

The Speaker (Mr. McDonald): Order! The hon. member is now going beyond a question.

Mr. Fowler: It should at least be discovered whether his income was of British origin.

Mr. Finlayson (Q.): Hear, hear, The I.W.W. is the greatest curse of any country.

Mr. Tudor said that if the informa-

tion was supplied to the Defence department inquiries would be made."

The "honorable" Fowler, apparently has a special set on those people whose income is not of "British origin"; and Labor Member Finlayson would appear to be realising that the I.W.W. is endangering his sweet job and those of his labor pals in the "Ouse."

The gents of course would repudiate the suggestion that their income, while it may be of "British origin," does not arise from any useful function they perform in society. It would, however, one imagines, be rather awkward for certain high and privileged people if this "patriotic" twain push their inquiries into the origin of incomes too far. Not long ago "Reynold's Newspaper" informed us that King George V. derived a portion of his income from a little investment in the flesh and blood of the wage-slaves from Southern Europe who are employed twelve and fourteen hours a day at starvation wages in the steel mills of Pennsylvania. Rumour has it also that His Majesty derives a little pocket money through the ownership of certain slum property in London, the starving tenants of which are no doubt proud of the fact that this part of His Majesty's income is so characteristically British. Then we have the "heroic" King Albert of Belgium, whose income in a large measure is stained with the blood of tortured slaves in the Congo.

It is invidious, however, to mention names. British Capitalism, generally, had its origin in murder, plunder and rapine. As Henry Labouchere wrote:—

"Wherever are savage races
To cozen, coerce and scare,
You'll find the vaunted ensign—
The English flag is there."

It is from the stolen products of Labor which sweated and exploited slaves of all climes produce under the folds of the robber emblem "on which the sun never sets" that political parasites of the Fowler-Finlayson type derive their income. Is their income then of British origin? Of course; and by that fact they stand exposed as the receivers of plunder.

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 centreing 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.

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.

NOTICE.

All communications regarding literature not controlled by the Press Committee should be addressed to the Literature Committee, Box 98, Haymarket P.O., N.S.W.

State Socialism.

A POLITICAL CONFIDENCE TRICK. A. Mack.

The striking feature of our labour conferences is the simplicity with which the great bulk of the delegates appears to be convinced that State control of industry is Socialism. They pass resolutions urging the Labor Government to nationalise this or that industry, with the impression that the wages system will crumble away and the bright paradise of the worker be realised. No doubt, the intentions of these delegates are good, but they are painfully ignorant of the real position, and appear incapable of learning from experience, for if there is a working class anywhere which should refuse to be fooled by the State Socialism-ery, that branch should be in Australia.

We have had years of State control experience and not in any case are the workers in the State industries any better off than those who grind out their lives for private profiteers.

The tendency is in all modernised countries for the Governments to control the chief industries—and this development is taking place in countries where there are no Labor parties in command.

In fact, there seems little doubt, with the workers remaining as apathetic as they are, that the next phase of civilization will be a State managed Capitalism.

Unbending trust in the scheming unscrupulous politician has been a curse to the working class of this continent, for they have quietly submitted to the vote catcher's superior knowledge for 25 years and now find themselves without the grit to think for themselves. State ownership or State socialism, as its champions call it, is merely a catchword; the reality is State management of Capitalism—an advanced method of conducting the wage and profit swindle.

Under the old capitalism the capitalist controlled the industry and the Government, but under the new order the control of the Government alone will be necessary; the wages system will still reign on, only more relentlessly than before, and the Governments chosen by the worker will be his taskmaster.

This is quite as clever a move as that made by an earlier generation of capitalists when they discovered that if they "held on" to the job there was no need to own the workers too; because as these owned none of the earth they must forever follow the "job."

This State "socialism" will yet prove the deadliest whip of slavery and tyranny yet wielded by the master class and will occupy the pedestal of efficiency in human exploitation. Herbert Spencer once expressed a belief that Socialism would triumph eventually and be the greatest slavery the world has ever known. If he had in mind the Socialism of our Labor politicians it is easy for anyone who has experienced State management to agree with him. Governments are merely the bells of the Capitalist electric switch, they cannot carry on without financial support and, well, "the man who pays the piper calls the tune."

The international financiers control Governments and being desirous of extending their fields of operations are encouraging State "Socialism." The pressure of the money-lords to invest their growing billions is bringing squalls from the small capitalist element, for naturally they object to join the ranks of despised labor; but the protests will avail them nothing—money-bags must invest his billions, and when bent on this class of pleasure he cares no more for the shrieks of his small brothers than he does about deluging a continent with working-class blood.

State Socialism is but another phase of the Trust Development, and the sooner the workers of the world realise the fact the better it will be for themselves, for under it their conditions are not improved but strikes for improved conditions are harder to win. Yet this is the state of society that Labor politicians have been "palming off" on a credulous working class as Socialism.

These same politicians to-day stand before a group of labor delegates and unblushingly declare, "We are Socialists." THESE are the Socialists who starve working class recruits into the army to fight the wars of Capital; THESE are the Socialists who fool the workers and crush the iron heel of tyranny through their faces; who persecute and gaoled working class men for daring to criticise the actions of the masters; and THESE are the Socialists who travel round the world to grip the blood-smeared hands of Labor's life-long foes!

The "way out" for the worker will never lie through the medium of parliaments or politicians; there can be no material betterment of working class con-

ditions while the wages system lasts; the logical movement then is to prepare to abolish the wages system, and no politician will assist in that, he fools the workers but belongs body and soul to the masters. Scientific industrial organisation first, with revolutionary determination afterwards can alone achieve our object.

'Evil Vapourings.'

Thus the Melbourne "Argus," of May 18—

Just before he left for London the Prime Minister referred to certain "foul parasites" which sought to "take up their abode in the vitals of their hosts and to speak in the name of the Labour party." These parasites, for whom no other name has yet been suggested—probably because no better is possible—are still active. They have no settled home, but like all other pests, seem to be disseminated by every evil wind. Usurping the title of workers; they scorn work as something only for "fools and horses." Having, as Mr. Hughes said, no nationality and no religion, they claim the world as their sphere—no doubt because any particular portion of the earth would repudiate them and their detestable doctrine. The representatives of this cancerous growth in society are moving about Melbourne now, recommending shirking and sloth to a people at present specially impressed with the duty and the necessity of conscientious work. At a time when each man and woman appreciates the dishonesty and the degradation of idleness and skulking, some perverted creatures are issuing such notices as these:—

"Slow down on the job. The slogan of the I.W.W. Duncargers and long-handled shovels for menial work for capitalists, paupers, politicians, landlords, and other undesirables. Join to-day."

"If you are unemployed, it is because some bonehead is doing two men's work. Unemployment means more competition for jobs, less wages, slum life, and gaols. Only fools and horses work hard."

Such men are, in truth, parasites. They know with the instinct of the parasite, that in a healthy state of society their degraded ideas have only a moment's life. Exposed to sunlight they die. So the people who circulate them adopt covert methods, and insinuate their cunningly into the notice of people who they hope to influence. Wretches skulk round at night and paste on walls notices containing such sentiments.

It is difficult to determine whether the folly or the malevolence of such doctrines is the greater. The notion that each loafer can by loading contributions to the general bagging and prospecting cannot for a moment commend itself to a sound and wholesome mind. If there were truth in it, then every "dead-beat" in the public parks, every derelict who is the perplexity of the civil magistrate and the despair of the social reformer, would not only find some comfort to himself, but a valuable asset to society. If it is good to "slow down on the job" and produce little, then it should be even better to stand still, or to sit still, on the job and do nothing. It is not true that all wealth is produced by wage-earners. Labour, organisation, managerial direction, capital, which is stored up production—are all factors in the production of wealth, out of which the final division to each is made. If the wage-earner is incompetent or unscrupulous, if management is lax or organisation poor, if capital is stinted or crippled by unfair burdens, then production in the industry suffers. The injury does not fall on one, but on all. These facts are known, of course, to the great majority of honest workers who have a lively apprehension of the advantages of being employed in an establishment where capital is sufficient and where organisation and management are good. Between such opinions as these and the evil vapourings of the syndicalists there is, as Mr. Hughes said, "a gulf as wide as hell."

The members of the I.W.W. are apparently not the only people who get on the nerves of the "Argus." The "dead-beats in the park" and the "derelicts who are the despair of the social reformer" are also appear to be worrying its philanthropic soul. These people, it says, should be valuable assets to society if the "slow down" doctrine had any validity. Well, so they are, at least they should be, according to capitalist philosophy. The difference between the "dead-beat" in the park and the "dead-beat" in the club is only apparent from the slimy veneration of the "Argus," for the one and its hypocritical loathing for the other. Derelicts, too, "who are the despair of the social reformers" are, according to all trustworthy accounts, pretty numerous amongst the class of people who—haw—speak with a lisp.

The cause which produces these anachronisms at both ends of the social scale is hard—too hard—work for the great mass of mankind. It enables the parasite at the top by legalised methods of plunder to maintain his position in the club while purchasing the brains of mental perverses like the editor of the "Argus" to do his dirty work. The dead-beat in the park is generally the unfortunate victim of both. He has been robbed in the past of the fruits of his labor by the one, which in itself can be traced to the fact of his imbibing the scoundrelly "morality" taught by the other—namely, hard work for somebody else's benefit.

"It is not true that all wealth is produced by labour," always squeals this type of mental prostitute. We have heard that so often before. "Organisa-

tion, managerial direction and capital are factors." Are they? Then what the hell is the "Argus" waiting about? Why doesn't Organisation, Managerial Direction and Capital go to it? They surely can make up for any little losses incurred through the "parasites" who slow down. Capital is stored up production, we are informed. By whom produced? Managerial direction—direction by whom? The dead-beats in the club; the stock exchange swindlers, and the syphilitic derelicts in the gambling halls of Europe, presumably. And then, "organisation." Who organises production if not the producers? The "Argus" of course knows all this, which is why it spits its venom at those who want to disorganise production so that the dead-beats, the gamblers, the skulkers, idlers, and mental prostitutes in high places will be compelled to do some useful labor.

On the whole, the "evil vapourings" of the "Argus" is just about on a par with the rotten, smelly system for which it apologises.

CASEY ON THE BAND.

Since the days when a number of us, young rebels against peace and quietness, rent the atmosphere by squeaking through tissue-paper tightly stretched over purloined combs, I claim to be an authority upon Bands.

I therefore proceeded to give my friend Casey a few pointers about the Band before us.

"That man there—him with the baton, Casey, is the conductor. His job is to give the time to the band."

Six months' if they stay too long on the bar; and three for not meeting the sergeant on the beat," sez Casey.

"See that little twiddle, instrument there? That runs up the scale, and comes in on the measure as though it had been merely around the block."

"It's the weigh of it," sez Casey.

"Now this big trumpet here is more for the playing of the accompaniments, ye understand?"

"Did ever you hear of the lady who saved her life by being a musicianer?" sez Casey.

"I never did," sez I.

"There was a flood up country, and her husband escaped floating on the chest up drawers."

"And how did the lady escape," sez I.

"She accompanied him on the piano," sez Casey.

"D'ye know the song the band's playing, Casey," sez I.

"I do not," sez Casey.

"'Tis 'Thump, thump, thump, the boys are marching,'" sez I.

"'Twould get an encore at the Concert au Europe," sez he.

"That do ye think av the band, Casey," sez I.

"Is it not playing sweet?"

"Golden syrup isn't in it for sweetness," sez Casey.

"Phwat band is it?"

"'Tis the I.W.W. Band, Casey," sez I.

"Well, they may say you won't work, but be jabbers! they must admit ye can play," sez he.

"Casey, your'e a man and a brother," sez I.

"Put it there!"

"Yoy!" sez Casey, sez he.

A. E. BROWN.

SOUTH COAST NOTES.

A correspondent writes under date, May 20th—

The bricklayers working on the duplication of this line went on strike on Friday, May 18th, for a camping allowance of 1/6 a day. Their award says that men engaged in Sydney for country work are entitled to this pay, but local men are not. About 50 or 60 bricklayers are out, five of whom were engaged in Sydney, and get the extra, but for some time past, men applying for work at the Sydney office were told to come here and get put on, thus getting classed as local men.

Their strike is a good example of craft unionism. The bricklayers' labourers can't work without the brickies, but are making no demands for themselves, and the navvies are still working. The most urgent brickwork is about finished. Whereas two weeks back there were 3 or 4 culverts waiting for the bricklayers with a set of flagmen on each to slow trains down and flag them across. £21 a fortnight for culvert flagmen's wages besides delay to trains would have been a good argument for the brickies, but their opportunity is past now. South Bull mine was idle for two days, the wheelers objecting to a new system of time-keeping. The manager of this mine is reported to have told the men that they had an advantage over him now, but that when the war was over he would crush them like a ton of metal falling on a mouse. Their strike is broken now, as half of them returned to work.

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