

Hark! the 'Herald' Angels Sing: 'Slowing Down' Is Not the Thing!



VOL. 3, NO. 83.

Registered at the General Post-office Sydney, for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

SYDNEY.

August 12, 1916.

ONE PENNY

The Shearers Strike.

THE FALLACY OF ARBITRATION.
AN APPEAL FOR THE SHEARERS.

There can be no greater exposure of the fallacy of Arbitration Courts than the present shearers and shed-hands' strike.

Some thousand or more shearers and shed-hands are, at the time of writing, standing out for better rates of pay.

These men are bound down by the Arbitration Award issued in 1910, which sets the rates at 24s per hundred for shearing, and for shed-hands, 37s 6d per week.

This award, like all others, was based on a living wage for that period, and takes no account of the enormous increase in the cost of living since that date, estimated at the very lowest to be 50 per cent.

The officials of the A.W.U. wish to keep the men to their 1910 agreement, although the squatters are receiving an enhanced price for their wool, 20 per cent. at least over pre-war rates.

These officials justify their scabby tactics by asserting that to break the present agreement will endanger their next "dividing up" with the exploiter before the arbitration court.

The men are determined, however, that an increase of pay is both justifiable and opportune; and are demanding 30s per hundred for shearing; 43s per week for shed-hands; and 7d per cwt. or 24s per week, with keep; for wool-pickers.

The men have appealed to their officials for assistance, but have been turned down. Efforts have been made by these latter to supply scab labour, and misleading statements made to that end.

It is up to all believers in Direct Action to support these men in the attitude they have taken up. Once again the fallacy of Arbitration Courts has been clearly demonstrated.

If these men are to win out, financial aid must be forthcoming at once. We all know the shearer, and the undaunted courage with which he fights, but these men are now up against it. The only assistance they have received up to the present is £20 from the I.W.W. to those on strike in the Moree district, and £32 so generously donated in the Sydney Domain on Sunday last. Twenty pounds of this has already been used in fighting the bosses in the capitalistic courts over broken agreements. Only £32 now remains and that will not go far among a thousand odd men.

This fight is your fight; there are only two classes in society to-day—the workers and the parasites. Unite for a victory over the "patriotic" squatters; remember Dr. Johnson's definition of a patriot: "the last resort of a scoundrel." Come, working men and women; show the squatters and their pals, the A.W.U. officials, what we think of their brand of patriotism.

Send along some funds; anything, however small, will swell the total. You must have a bob or two to spare; send it in.

If you are passing the I.W.W. Hall, 403 Sussex-street, drop in and give in your odd pence and half-pence; you will find the shearers' treasurer or someone else who will take charge of it.

It is for the fighting shearers and shed-hands. Address your donations to Mr. P. Monaghan, Treasurer, Shearers, 403 Sussex-street, Sydney.

T. O'C.

A PROTEST.

TO DIRECT ACTION.

Having noticed in your issue of the 24/6/16 a letter from E. Gill, Bourke to the effect that the A.W.U. delegate had said he could lay his hands on three individuals connected with the recent pastoral trouble here in Queensland, in the employ of the P.U., we, the A.W.U. members of Teleton, give the assertion an emphatic denial. We have called upon the officials to name the members referred to, and in our opinion the delegate at Bourke was making a malicious, lying misstatement, which we defy him to substantiate.

The Queensland strike was engineered en-

tirely by A.W.U. members, and in opposition to most of their weak-kneed officials, and was entirely a rebellion of the rank and file, who too long had waited for a rise in wages to compensate them for the increased cost of living.

Members had realised the worthlessness of waiting for arbitration, and had decided to use the more effective weapon of Direct Action to try and get a little more of the product of their labor.

We feel we are deeply indebted to Direct Action for the outspoken and able manner in which it fights for the working class, and in conclusion wish the paper every success.

GEO. BINCE, Chairman.

My Holiday.

By TOM BARKER.

At 6.30 a.m. on Thursday morning last, the manager of the Government Hotel at Parramatta got tired of my company and showed me into the street, where I found a motor-car waiting for me, in charge of some of the rebel clan. An hour later I was sitting before a table that was decorated with something more substantial than the angels' food of pure water and fresh air; that is the staple diet in our "hard Labour" Government's establishments in this State.

Needless to say, I was very glad to get out, although I have taken very little harm during my incarceration. I feel fit for a few more rounds with the big-bellied brigade. I was much impressed by the progress made by the I.W.W. during my absence. Evidently a man in gaol now and then is a good thing.

I have nothing to complain of in my treatment. I was treated with courtesy as far as the rules allowed; I asked for no favours and was offered none. There are many things, however, that could be altered for the better, but it is hardly likely that our present administration would alter anything for the better, excepting their own salaries.

I found, notwithstanding other reports, that Parramatta Gaol was much better than Long Bay. The last-named is merely a reception gaol, while Parramatta is a penal establishment. And the longer your sentence the better they treat you. I was at Long Bay for a fortnight! Although I was made to work in the wash-house, I was only given food enough for a prisoner who is not at work.

Subsequently I was sent in charge of an escort to Parramatta. There were seventeen prisoners altogether, and we were all manacled into three parties.

Whatever our various opinions or lack of opinions, may have been, we agreed all right.

We were kept out of the public eye until we got to Parramatta, where the population turned out to admire us on the station. I guess we looked a pretty sight with our ugly clothes and our unshaven faces. If ever I felt proud of the liberty that Senator Pearce was so anxious to safeguard for me, it was then.

One of the public on this occasion was quite offensively curious, giving by his attentions the impression that he was a cattle buyer. One of the prisoners glanced at him laconically and said: "Hello, Bill! Looking for yer father, eh? He's not in this escort. You can expect him up with the next one." Needless to say, "Bill" disappeared in a violent hurry, followed by the sulkers of public and prisoners alike.

I hope in a few days to get a photograph of this public exposure of prisoners, which we will have published in "Direct Action" to show how N.S.W. goes about reforming the prison system. At Parramatta I was put to work in the bookbinders, where I was engaged in making police envelopes for the remaining period of my sentence. At some early date I will write at fuller length about some of the things that want adjusting in these gaols. The food question is a very serious one. Also the habit of heartless magistrates in sentencing old men

of 70, and upwards to long sentences for not having any means of support. Some of these men literally die upon their legs. This, however, is not so much due to the gaol administration as it is to magistrates and the department of justice.

Sunday is a day that is hated in the gaols. All the food rations are reduced substantially, sometimes as much as 35 per cent. The prisoners, instead of being allowed to be in the exercise yards for the forenoon and afternoon, are given a short hour at each end of the day. The rest of the time is spent in the cells, which during winter are frightfully cold. Sciatica and rheumatism are pronounced complaints, among men who have served long sentences.

The authorities are not content with piling all the shortcomings on the prisoners, but also work the officers scandalously long hours. Everything is done in a rush, which would be obnoxious to the authorities would not be so parsimonious with their cash. N.S.W. certainly, despite all the glowing reports of the comptroller-general, has got a great deal to learn in reforming the derelicts and outcasts of the hellish society under which we exist.

On the first day of July I was called up to the governor's office, where I was acquainted that my sentence had been reduced to three months.

On being invited to pay the remainder of the £25 fine, I politely refused, saying that I wouldn't pay twenty-five pence.

During my imprisonment I received many letters from organisations, and individuals written to encourage me. My hearty thanks are due to all who have worked so hard for my release. May all our fights of the future be as successful as this one. The howl set up by the capitalist Press is a sign of their appreciation of our growing power. Howling will, however, no more settle the I.W.W. than it will win the war.

And I suggest in all seriousness that Mr. Hughes and Mr. Pearce get the dentist to examine the teeth of their Bengal tiger. People are beginning to suspect that this tiger's natural food is thistles and carrots, and not men at all.

I am glad to be back in the firing line again with the fighters for freedom. My recent trouble is probably to be a mere flea-bite in comparison with the troubles that are going to eventuate in the future. But then we are the I.W.W., we are here for good, whether the boss, the patriot and the politician like it or not. Thanks again. Hope to see you all soon.

"The man who does not give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay is a miserable hound," said Oily Hoyle, the other evening, at a banquet at the Hotel Sydney. Amongst the guests were the Governor of New South Wales and other highly-paid parasites. They must have felt grossly offended at Hoyle's plain speaking. Seeing that a politician never works, by the way, either fairly or unfairly, perhaps Hoyle would define that type of genus homo as a miserable mongrel.

MINERS' SPECIAL EDITION.

A Special Edition of "Direct Action" dealing with conditions in the mining industry will be issued on September 18th next. Writers from the various mining centres throughout Australia will deal with the subject in all its aspects, and the need for One Big Union in this department of industry will be dwelt upon. Rebels in the mining industry who desire to have something to say on this matter should immediately apply their talents in the addressed to the Editor, Box 98, Haymarket, Sydney, marked "Miners' Special Edition." We look to members in those mining districts where there are no I.W.W. locals to take bundles of this issue either for distribution or sale. Write at once and let us know what your order will be.

Don't bar back for peace. Demand an industrial system that will guarantee it.

Watch out for the Miners' Special Edition of "Direct Action" on September 18.

Long hours and short wages are the cause of most of the workers' troubles.

Broken Hill Notes.

BARRIER ANTI-CONSCRIPTIONISTS.

We received the following telegram from Broken Hill Local on Saturday afternoon, the 5th inst.:

"Anti-Conscription meeting mobbed; organised by business people, supported by several hundred from Adelaide. Our hall attacked in absence of members. Holding meeting to-night; prepared, writing particulars."

The above telegram throws a different light on the trouble at Broken Hill during last week-end to the version of the matter dished up by the capitalist press. The particulars referred to in the telegram have not arrived at moment of writing, but we gather from other sources that the meeting held on Saturday night was a splendid success, the militant section of Broken Hill having rolled up in force, on seeing which the "heroic" window-smashers of the night before slunk away like curs.

The Barrier workers of Broken Hill are to be congratulated on their stand against Conscription, and the action of the rowdy element will but strengthen the determination of all workers to fight the matter to a finish.

The following telegram received in connection with the above, as we go to press, refers to the meeting held on Saturday evening of last week:

"We held best meeting ever held here. Great victory. Thousands sang Solidarity. Things more than well."

SYDNEY NOTES.

Last Sunday's meeting in the Sydney Domain was certainly "one of the largest ever." The I.W.W. band "discussed sweet music" between the hours of 2 and 3 p.m.; and after that, until the last speaker had finished, thousands remained assembled round the platform.

The occasion was chosen as an opportunity for making an appeal for financial assistance for the shearers and shed-hands now on strike, and what the working-class of Sydney thought of the treacherous behaviour of the A.W.U. executive in refusing aid to its own members may be gathered from the fact that over £32 was taken up in the collection.

By the way, stickers posted round Sydney for the past week calling upon the shearers to stand solid and give the warm weather and blow-by a chance! appear to have considerably perturbed the squatters' representatives and the capitalist press.

The secretary of the Pastoralists' Union, one Allen, feels confident vide "Daily Telegraph" report of August 7 "that the A.W.U. would not support, nor would genuine bush workers follow, such outrageous and despicable instructions."

The blow-by, however, is quite a respectable product of nature, compared to the scabby bunch of union officials in whom Allen has such confidence.

Barker received a rousing reception on mounting the platform in the Domain, the large audience responding enthusiastically to the call for three cheers made by the chairman, Fellow Worker Grant. Many well-known Labor politicians were present in the audience, and it is to be hoped they will convey, to Pearce, Hughes, and Co. that the workers of Sydney can smell Prussianism even when disguised under another name.

The meeting in the hall in the evening was up to its usual standard, Fellow Worker King being the lecturer. "D.A." was completely sold out, thanks for which may be partly due to the splendid tribute paid to its propaganda by the "S.M. Herald" during the previous week.

Look out for the Miners' Special Edition on September 18.

DIRECT ACTION



WEEKLY
OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF
THE WORLD.
(Australian Administration)

Office: 403 Sussex Street, Sydney,
Australia.

Editor: Thos. Glynn.
Manager: J. B. King.

Subscriptions: 4/ per year; New Zealand,
6/ per year; Foreign, 8/ per year.

HEADQUARTERS, I.W.W. (Australia)→
403 SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS: 164 W.
Washington Street, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A.

PROSPERITY AND SLOWING DOWN.

Mr. Theodore, Acting Premier of Queensland, recently stated that "no country" could survive if the "Go-slow Policy," as advocated by the I.W.W., was carried out in practice. Theodore, it is believed, was at one time known as a Socialist, but seeing that the word socialism is capable of such wide and contradictory definitions these days this may count for nothing so far as Mr. Theodore's loyalty to socialism is concerned.

What we are concerned with here is to analyse just what is meant by the word "country" in the sense in which Theodore used it. It has become a common practice with many labourites who call themselves Socialists, to follow the lead of capitalist spokesmen and use the word country in a biological sense. The idea which it is desired to convey is that "the country" is an organism in which all units co-operate in harmony and that, therefore, unharmonious elements are detrimental to its well-being.

In a system of society where all co-operate for the advancement of social welfare this definition might be justifiable, but when applied to the existing system its absurdity becomes patent. The intermetrically opposed, and when he speaks of those sections of people whom Theodore includes in the word "country" are diametrically opposed, and when he speaks therefore mean the prosperity of one section or the other.

Is Theodore really ignorant or does he know that those countries which are, in popular, or ruling class language, called the "most prosperous," are in reality those countries where the exploitation of the working class has reached its highest limits, and where robbery of the producers, therefore, is looked upon as necessary to "prosperity."

"The ruling ideas of every age are the ideas of its ruling class." It has become quite an unquestionable idea in these days that that country is the most prosperous which extracts the largest amount of surplus value out of the class which produces its wealth, but it is an idea which so-called socialists and others who profess to stand for the interests of labour should at least be expected to doubt. Far from this being the case, however, we find the members of the various State Labor Governments, as well as those of the Federal Government, engaged in a campaign of slander and persecution against those who advocate slowing down as one method of preventing the robbery.

Last week the offices of "Direct Action" were again honored by a visit from detectives, who, in pursuance of instructions received from the Crown Law Office—over which Labor-Minister Hall, we believe, has control—desired to know who was responsible for the publication of the paper. This visit, it is well known, resulted from a desire on the part of the Labor Government, openly prompted by the capitalist press, to track down the individual, or individuals, responsible for the slow down propaganda.

Things are coming to a queer pass in this "labour-governed democracy," when those who call upon workers to resist exploitation are subjected to the inquisitorial methods of the detective depart-

ment on the instructions of Ministers whose public utterances, when speaking to trade union gatherings, would lead one to believe that their sole ambition in life is to lead the workers out of the capitalistic vale of tears.

The I.W.W., however, is not going to be bluffed or intimidated in the propagation of slow down tactics, or any other tactics calculated to cure the rapacity of exploiters.

The robbery of the working class at the point of production is a fact of which Pearce, Holman, Theodore and Co., are just as well aware as those who announce it from the I.W.W. platform and press. Unlike this traitorous crew, who, in service regard for the interests of the robber class, encourage the workers to increase the swag of stolen plunder, we call upon the workers in field, factory, mine and workshop, to produce as little as is possibly compatible with the holding of their jobs. Our ideas and ethics are opposed to the ethics of those who thrive on robbery and exploitation. To hell with the "prosperity of your country" while it spells for the workers laborious hours of toil and increased loot for exploiters. PROSPERITY FOR THE WORKING CLASS is what the I.W.W. aims at. We want more of the good things which labour produces, and until the workers as a whole are organised to take it, in the elegant words of "friend" Holman, we mean to do our "damndest" in seeing that the capitalist class gets less.

On with the Slow Down propaganda, fellow workers. THE MASTERS FEAR IT. You who believe in its efficacy may be still in the minority, but to-morrow will bring thousands of recruits to our ranks. Conditions, not politicians, dictate working class tactics, and the conditions in the near future will make it imperative necessary to reduce systematically the output of labour and make room for thousands of unemployed.

On with the PROSPERITY OF YOUR CLASS, and damnation to the boss and his mental prostitutes.

T.G.

STUNNING STUPIDITY.
MY GOOD MASTER.

(By a Wage Slave.)

I work at a big factory and I make thousands of tins of jam. But, of course, it does not belong to me. It belongs to my boss. My boss is a fine man. Only last year he gave a donation of ten pounds to the patriotic funds. My master, of course, believes in everyone going to the war, but of course he cannot go himself, as he may singe his eyebrows. My boss has two sons—they are lovely boys—so robust, sleek and healthy. I also have two boys; but, alas, they are different to my boss's sons. One is at home, sick, and I have no money to bring a doctor, as I only get £2 a week from my boss. I asked my boss for a rise, but the dear man got very angry and told me that I was a very greedy man and I did not get the rise. At one time we worked nine hours a day, but now we only work eight and three-quarter hours a day, so you can see how nice my master is. Since the shortening of hours, however, the price of jam has gone up, but our boss cannot help that—he says, that we must make some sacrifice for our country, and do without jam, for there is plenty of dripping to live on. But, of course, my master does not have dripping (he does not seem to like it) for he has champagne, poultry and oysters. I am growing very old now (but I am only fifty)—it must be the foul air and hard work that is making me grow old. My boss says that I am getting lazy, there is a younger man after my job who will work for less pay. I have been given a week's notice, but my boss is so kind, surely he won't sack me.

There is an organisation which will relieve the worker from all slavery and turn the boss out to work—It is the I.W.W.

BROKEN HILL ACTIVITIES.

Hall: 316 Argent 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.

Secretary-Treasurer, E. J. Kiely, 316 Argent Street, Broken Hill, N.S.W.

One Big Union in the Mining Industry. Issue of September 16 will tell you all about it.

Scientific Organisation.

NEEDED URGENTLY BY WORKING CLASS.

Craft Unionism organises, for defence against exploitation, but not for the overthrowing of the capitalist system. "Defence not defiance" is the motto of craft unionism. It is for this reason that it is unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the capitalist class. In a scientific form of organisation all distinctions between crafts must be eliminated, and workers must act as a unit in one or all industries. This organisation must be international, for the working class throughout the world is one and indivisible.

Thus organised, spontaneous action in industrial disputes becomes possible. No intimidation of a stoppage of work is given to employers, and no time is given the latter to make preparations to break the strike. One section of workers cannot be pitted against another for all make common cause, and are prepared to act as a united body.

Not only so, but arrangements are made to guard permanently the advantages gained. A tactic that may be adopted with advantage when workers are scientifically organised is the irritation-strike. At a given time, on a certain day, all workers suspend work suddenly. The employer, thinking a strike imminent, makes preparations to break it. After a week's idleness, the workers return to their posts, as if nothing had happened. The employers, thinking the trouble over, cancel their arrangements. Again, at a moment's notice, the workers cease work, repeating these tactics until the employers accede to the workers' demands. Many irritation-strikes have taken place in America.

Another method adopted with advantage is that of strict obedience to rules and regulations. This is known as "passive action."

A highly successful method of resisting the encroachments of capitalism is found in Sabotage. In some methods of sabotage inferior goods are turned out, time is taken up with getting goods repaired, and repair work is delayed.

Another demonstration possible to a form of scientific organisation is that of the General Strike. A General Strike means a suspension of work by all workers in a given district or land. Some think that the final action of the workers in their struggle for emancipation will take the form of a general strike.

A notable tendency of the scientific strike is to move the scene of conflict to the workshop itself. While staying in the workshop workers refuse to function until grievances are redressed and demands acceded to.

Irritation-strikes, passive action, sabotage, and other methods are evidences of solidarity on the part of the working class; and, continued, must lead to the final conflict, when the exploiters will be turned out, and the Industrial Democracy ushered in.

A. E. BROWN.

OH, DEAR!

Massage writes:—

I have before me a cutting from an American paper; it must prove to you beyond all doubt what the master-class think of you, the workers. They speak of you as mere dirt. Get busy, slaves, and help us remove them off our backs. "Seattle, Wash., May 20.—A new doctrine of birth control, by which women of the wealthy classes would be relieved of childbirth and this duty confined to "sturdy peasant stock," was discussed in Seattle women's clubs, following the visit to Seattle of Mrs. Robert Liggett, of Duluth, Minn.

"Educated, refined, cultured women should not be permitted to become mothers," said Mrs. Leggett. Their heritage of nervous temperament and physical development makes propagation of life by them more dangerous than to women of the lower classes."

"Mrs. Leggett declared the old-fashioned notions of the sacredness of motherhood the greatest 'bosh,' and advocated the selection of the lower type women for breeding purposes. She predicted that the problem would become national in the near future."

MELBOURNE ACTIVITIES.

Local No. 8, 243 William Street.
Monday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting.
SPEAKERS' CLASS: WEDNESDAY, 8 p.m.
Friday, 8.30 p.m.—Propaganda Meeting, Brunswick, corner Sydney Road and Victoria Street.
Sunday—Propaganda Meeting, Yarra Bank.

The rooms are open to all workers every night. All working class papers on file. Good Library. A welcome to all the "disobedient ones."

WORKERS' WEAK TACTICS.

The railway employees of Victoria have a grievance over the small wage that they receive and the long hours and conditions under which they work. They, perhaps, more than any other craft union, have the power to enforce any demands which they make. Their course is clear. They need only stop the huge wheels which convey the boss's property from one commercial centre to another, and the boss's fat hands, dripping already with the sweat and blood of the workers, will turn clammy with the perspiration of apprehension.

If the strike weapon does not appeal to them, they have other methods, such as that of sabotage, which all tend to the betterment of working-class conditions. But no, the craft union members are being tricked by their secretaries and by politicians, who tell that to use such methods as sabotage or the strike in war time would be unpatriotic. But the capitalist can use any method he likes, war time and peace time alike. It does not seem to strike the politician that it is unpatriotic for the capitalist to lower wages or to raise the price of necessary commodities in war time. Indeed the boot-factory owners in Melbourne have a form of industrial conscription which says that if an employee leaves one factory without his late boss's consent he cannot get a job in another boot or shoe establishment.

The workers have their hands tied—and tied tightly, too—by their patriotism. When the railwaymen voiced their grievances no effective measures were taken whereby they could ensure that their demands would be granted. All they did was to send their secretary, Frank Hyett, to voice their grievances to the Liberal faction in Parliament. Though Hyett put his case before the Liberals, no action has been taken, and the railwaymen are still waiting. What are the Labor politicians doing to help those whom they are supposed to stand for? Nothing. Only to pocket their salaries. It only tends to show that political action is next door to futile.

Workers of the world awaken. Join the Industrial Workers of the World, which is the only working-class organisation that can ultimately break the chains which make the workers the victims of one huge scheme of exploitation and slavery.

SEJAM (a Boy Rebel).

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.

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.

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

THE PRODUCTIVITY OF LABOUR. WAR PROBLEMS

By Ajax

Shortsighted people who have not studied social problems when told that society can be run on a four-hour work day, if every person worked who is capable performed some useful function, ridicule the idea of reduction in hours as preposterous. They assert that these ideas are only vague and impracticable theories that emanate from labour agitators.

Hard facts educate where logic fails to convince, and the war is a revelation as to the productivity of labour and the possibilities of the future. We need not go further than the statistics given forth by the capitalist press to emphasise this point.

The population of Germany on the eve of the war was about 65,000,000, at least half of which was composed of people too young or too old to engage in production. It is estimated that nearly 13,000,000, or about two-fifths (containing the most skilful in industry) were removed from production and mobilised for war service. The three-fifths which are mostly women children and aged men are now called upon to keep the 65,000,000.

Further we have to remember that these 19,000,000 workers are not skilled or even experienced workers. In the rush and disorganisation of industry engendered by the war it is probable that many mistakes were made, and most of the workers were unfitted or totally ignorant for the various jobs they were suddenly called upon to perform.

Moreover, owing to the blockade and other factors the Germans have been forced to experiment with substitutes for raw material and new machinery. It is true the scientists have risen to the occasion, but still that 19,000,000 workers comprising the weakest physically, the least skilled and suited to industry, are working at a great handicap.

The statistics for France show a similar state of affairs. Owing to the German invasion and conquest of industrial France, the French have been compelled to build new factories, sow and plant fresh soil and reorganise production. They are labouring under even greater difficulties than the Germans, yet they have kept industry going, and we are up against the astonishing spectacle of two nations in the throes of bloody war manipulating all the throes of production with thirty per-cent of the population. That is to say that in these countries for the past two years only three out of every ten persons of the population minister to the economic needs of the rest. It might be mentioned that during times of peace when industry was running smoothly and the workers demanded a slight reduction in hours, the capitalists of both countries howled through their press "the thing can't be done; industry will be ruined; and capital flee from the country."

No matter how patriotic the workers engaged in war service may be, it is obvious that only modern machinery makes possible the support of large armies at the front, and the upkeep of the nation at home, by a small minority of the population.

These gigantic machines and modern labour-saving devices have increased the productivity of labour to an extent formerly not thought possible even by the avaricious capitalist.

Industry is now carried on with an enormous saving of labour time. The revolution of industry predicted by advanced thinkers has already taken place, despite all the talk of professors, editors and capitalists to the effect that "the thing is preposterous; it can't be done." IT IS DONE. The alleged impossible has become an established fact. Unfortunately this important economic change has not been accomplished in the interests of the workers and society at large. Instead of a shorter work day we have a longer work day for the few and unemployment for the many.

Within a short time the productivity of labour will increase so enormously that the markets will be glutted. After the war there will be keen competition between national groups of capitalists for the world's markets. As the capitalists cannot sell these products to the penniless workers at home who are being rapidly displaced by machinery and child labour, they will endeavour to use this surplus man power to capture new markets. This is the reason why conscription is advocated in neutral as well as belligerent countries. They require a strong force to bludgeon the workers at home and to extend their commercial piracy abroad.

If during war time when science is prostituted to militarism, and literature to imperialism, a small percentage of the

people can minister to society's wants, how much easier it would be in peace to make the machine become the toiler for the human race? If the workers owned and controlled the machines of production there would be no necessity for them to rush hither and thither obsessed with the idea of work. The productivity of labour would guarantee to all "the right to be lazy."

To-day is fashionable to denounce people who preach the "Go slow policy" and advocate "A shorter work day" as crazy dreamers and wild revolutionaries who wish to tear up society by the roots, all bad men whose theories are generations in advance of the time, and whose policy is not compatible with the needs of industry. In view of the present and potential productivity of labour we are faced with one of two alternatives.

First the needs of the profit system will force the capitalists to improve their methods of production and enlarge and cheapen the output to such an extent that economic and military wars will become a necessity, in which the workers are mere pawns in the game of economic supremacy, to be sweated in the factories to produce surplus products, and to be driven like sheep to the slaughter to conquer markets for the sale of these commodities.

Secondly, the workers will take and hold the tools of production and instead of sending the flower of manhood to be food for powder this enormous waste of life and energy will be used in industry. According to scientists if every adult worked 47 minutes a day this would be sufficient to keep society. Two hours work a day would provide an abundance of luxuries for everybody, provided society was organised on a social and not a class basis.

In view of the ever increasing productivity of labour and scientific knowledge, not to mention the enormous possibilities of the future, it is a grim satire to rail at men pleading for a six-hour day. Their proposal is not revolutionary at all, rather is it conservative, in fact a feeble attempt to rectify a great wrong. We have already seen that two nations at war can keep themselves, provided thirty per cent work. That means that all necessary work and a lot of unnecessary toil could be done if everybody worked a little over three hours a day. Theoretically the time is much less. The savage lives well on about two hours work a day, and we with our productive labour and machinery, according to scientific knowledge, should be able to manage with ONE. Really these "I Won't Work" men are very conservative and only seem revolutionary to those who are so conservative (having worked so hard and thought so little) that they are only just beginning to whine about "A Right to Work Bill," while the productivity of labour has reached a stage when it is advisable that society should let the machine do the world's work and the workers demand "the right to be lazy."

MELBOURNE NOTES.

Just steady progress and signs of increased activity and general improvement all round is the latest to be reported from Melbourne. Our out-door meetings are improving on the Yarra Bank; if they continue to show the same sure growth two meetings will be held. But at present the main object will be to build up the present usually successful Sunday afternoon.

New ground has been broken with our Friday night meeting, North Melbourne now being the venue of I.W.W. activity. Brunswick was given up because of the distraction speakers had to endure through the noise made by numerous passing trams. If the inaugural meeting is any criterion, then North Melbourne promises to be a good week night meeting.

On Sunday afternoon week a fairly successful meeting was held on the Bank, Fellow Workers Farral and J. R. Wilson being the speakers. Last Sunday another successful meeting was held, Fellow Worker Jeffery being chairman; Fellow Workers Wilson and Farral again were the main speakers. A special appeal was made for subs. Four quarterly subs were received as an answer to the appeal, and others promised to send theirs direct to Sydney. A half-yearly sub. was handed in at the end of the meeting, making a total of five subs. altogether. This sub-getting will in future be a special feature of all future out-door meetings.

During the week Melbourne was again visited by Broken Hill delegates Considine and Reilly. The former had quite a lot to say about a proposed Labor

Army—which seems to be assuming concrete form on the Hill—to fight against Conscription. It is not known, however, how far he is prepared to go, as he is going to give Jabez Wright a strong fight for the "meal tickets" in N.S.W. Parliament.

Trades union officialdom in Melbourne got quite a shock when the military, acting under orders from Pearce, raided the Trades Hall, and "Labor Call" printing office, and seized anti-conscription pamphlets. The raid only goes to prove the contention of the I.W.W. that the prosecutions against the I.W.W. agitators was but a prelude to a general attack on working-class organisations right throughout the Commonwealth. Perhaps now, even some of the Trades Hall brigade will realise what a politician really is, no matter what brand he may be. Pearce is going strong to outdo his jumping-jackass mate, Billy Hughes, in being a traitor, and scab on the working-class. Anyhow, his latest action proves him to be just as malign and venomous as his pal of "Bengal tiger" fame.

The "Age" and the "Argoosie" still continue to fulminate frothy condemnation against the I.W.W., but so far nobody has lost any sleep over them. One fellow worker has, however, gone to his last sleep. Tom Hogan, late of Broken Hill, a victim of miners' "pthisis," a good rebel, and member of I.W.W., passed away a few days ago. All who knew him liked him. He was one of the numerous victims who went down before the grim industrial disease. Once again has Capitalism driven another nail in its own coffin. Everybody will regret the "untimely death" of our fellow worker, and all friends are asked to note same.

Melbourne Local is awaiting full particulars about Tom Barker's tour; he is sure to get a tremendous reception in Melbourne. Good luck and best wishes to all the boys.

WONTHAGGI, VIC.

THE FAILURE OF TRADE UNION

METHODS IN THE WONTHAGGI STRIKE.

The nine days' wonder of the Wonthaggi Strike is ended, demonstrating very obviously the futility of trade-union methods again, and showing the economic necessity for class unionism amongst the toilers of the coal-mining industry.

Nine days ago the engine-drivers, working in the State mine decided to come out on a starvation strike to try and get an increase in wages to the extent of 33 per cent. One section came out; the other section stopped in and gave the boss three days' notice. These men were the most important as they operated the pumps, and if they cease work they would have flooded the mine. Of course when they decided to strike their masters had made preparations, and with the assistance of the staff kept the pumps going, knowing full well such law-abiding workers were too spineless to jeopardise their position for very long. The fighting courage behind this union may be gathered from the remarks of Mr. Harris, the president, the morning the strike was declared, when he addressed the coal-miners' union, where he received a very good reception, when he said, amongst quite a lot of other servile dope: "I am sorry to say the engine-drivers are forced to strike, but such is the case; as you are aware, we are hostile to strikes; that is due to our early training in the gold-mines of Victoria, where the managers and men would all have their crib together; they would sympathise with us in our trouble, and we would do the same with them in theirs."

Now, is it any wonder that we find this same Mr. Harris, after a conference with the commissioners, recommending to the members of the union to compromise with the boss and go back to work, pending an Arbitration Court decision. Of course the result was to be expected: a secret ballot and then back to work immediately. Thus ended the strike of the "aristocrats of labor."

It has become almost an accepted fact that all Arbitration Court decisions are based according to the determination exhibited on the industrial field. But I sincerely hope that this case will be an exception to the rule, because, to correspond with that line of reasoning it would mean death to the engine-drivers through starvation.

There is but one hope, resist it how you will, and allow your class to be exploited. It is class or industrial unionism.

Start right now and acquaint your-

The I.W.W. Press.

"DIRECT ACTION."

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

"SOLIDARITY."

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

"A BERMUNKAS."

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

"ALLARM."

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

"SOLIDARNOSC."

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

"DARBININKU BALSAS."

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

"HET LIGHT."

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

"IL PROLETARIO."

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

"EL REBELDE."

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

"RABOCHAYA RECH."

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

"A LUZ."

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

ADDRESSES OF I.W.W. LOCALS.

Adelaide Local 1.—Secretary-Treasurer, S. G. Drummond, 43 Charles-street, Unley, Adelaide, S.A.
Sydney, Local No. 2.—Secretary-Treasurer, T. Glynn, 330 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W.
Broken Hill, Local No. 3.—Secretary-Treasurer, E. J. Kiely, Palace Buildings, Sulphide-street, Broken Hill, N.S.W.
Fremantle, Local No. 5.—Secretary-Treasurer, C. T. Reeve, 18 South-street, Fremantle, W.A.
Brisbane, Local No. 7.—Secretary-Treasurer, G. E. Bright, Redfern-street, Woolloom-Gabba, Brisbane, Q.
Perth, Local No. 10.—Secretary-Treasurer, A. Westbrook, Victoria Park, East Cairns (Russian), Local No. 12.—Secretary-Treasurer, W. Yudneff, Box 201, Cairns, N. Q.

Slow down on the job and don't scab on the unemployed.

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

NEW STICKERS.

Numerous enquiries have been received of late for Stickers. The Press Committee is now getting out a brand new, up-to-date article. The colour and design are original, and will command attention everywhere. In view of the expense involved, however, for blocks, etc., the price will be 4/- a thousand. You can send

yourself with the organisation, an organisation that has entered into an uncompromising fight with the master-class, a movement that will demand full value of what you produce, with one bargain, the complete control of industry by and for organised Labor.

TOM CHERRINGTON.

Economics of Despair. News from America.

"R.J.C." a well-known writer, in the "Australasian Worker," repeats in "R.J.C.'s" own style the usual capitalist objections to what is now popularly called the "go-slow policy."

The real capitalist objection to that policy of course, is that it curtails the profits of the capitalist class, but the one usually served up for working-class digestion is that it only hits the workers by increasing the cost of production, and, therefore, the prices of commodities.

We should expect a journalist who has some reputation to maintain as a writer on labor matters would investigate the truth or otherwise of this reasoning, which may be found any day in the columns of the capitalist dailies, but "R.J.C.'s" economic knowledge does not seem to be much deeper than that which the hacks on the capitalist press usually exhibit. Here is how he states the case:—

"Now let us see how slowing down works out. Obviously, if twice the time is spent on the production of an article, its production cost is multiplied by two. Consequently, when the wage-earning producers go to buy that article back, as in order to live they must buy it back, they find that the extra time-cost involved in its production is added to the price—and perhaps a bit more for luck."

"In other words, the workers pay out of their own pockets for the slowing-down, the boss still gets his old normal profits."

"This is a fundamental economic objection which seems to invalidate the whole policy of slowing-down. But the objection is wholly economic and is quite detached from the ethical phase."

A labor journalist should know that the value of an article is not determined by its cost of production to the capitalist. If it were so commodities of equal utility would be selling on the market at various prices. All the capitalists engaged in the production of a certain commodity have not the same costs of production to meet, and if prices were determined by the arbitrary will of the capitalist, he who would have high costs of production (say, because of obsolete machinery) would charge a higher price for his commodity (if he could) than his more up-to-date competitors.

The value of a commodity, and ultimately its price, are regulated by the amount of labor time necessary to produce it on the average under given social conditions. The capitalist's cost of production is only a component part of this labor time. The commodity, labor-power, is no exception to the rule. The theory of sound economics, as well as practical experience, proves that wages are determined—apart from pressure exercised by organization—by the cost of subsistence of the laborer. This portion of the capitalist's cost is produced under modern methods in from 2 to 4 hours of the day's work, but "R.J.C." apparently would not have the worker relax his efforts during the remaining portion of the day that he works for the capitalist on account of the high prices bogey.

If "R.J.C." would look up the facts of industrial history he would find that it was precisely that period during which the workers were obliged to put in long hours of surplus labor-time that their economic condition was at its lowest. A little reflection might also suggest to his mind that prices in themselves are no criterion of working-class prosperity. Prices are lower in Great Britain than in Australia, but are the British workers better off on that account?

It may be said that if the go-slow policy is universally practiced prices must ultimately rise, as the labor time necessary for the production of commodities in all branches of industry is increased. Even this argument is untenable, as gold itself being a commodity, its production in a smaller quantity in a given period would have a decided influence in lowering prices.

The average advocate of I.W.W. tactics, however, has a more practical answer to this contention. It is simply this: When the workers as a whole, or a large percentage of them, are intelligent enough to realise that increased-surplus value means increasing their own slavery, they will be intelligent enough to counter the methods of organized Capitalism to lower their standard of living whether by means of higher prices or by other methods.

Finally, the way in which "R.J.C." pictures the "workers paying out of their own pockets for slowing down" is worthy of bourgeois economy at its best. Slow or fast, their wages are always "paid out of their own pockets" for the means of subsistence. One would imagine that the workers had some magic resources to which they could continually resort to meet the demands of the capitalist price raisers.

"R.J.C.'s" economics, in a word, are the economics of despair, so far as the working-class is concerned. If his argument is sound, it applies with equal force to any demands for higher wages, shorter hours, or other conditions on the job calculated to increase the cost of production to the capitalist. The class war is a myth, and all the workers have to do is to make the economic path in life of their exploiters more easy. By and by commodities may be had for nothing when the cost of production is nil. Selah!

I.W.W. AND STEEL TRUST

IN DEATH GRIPS.

Latest papers by mail from the United States contain accounts of what will probably prove to be the largest and most important strike ever waged by the I.W.W. Sixteen thousand miners—slaves of the Steel Trust, the most powerful capitalist organisation in the world—were in revolt in the State of Minnesota, and latest advices state that the strike is still spreading.

The usual tactics of the capitalist class in the United States are being employed without effect in the endeavour to force the miners back to work. Gun-men are being imported into the strike areas, strikers are being arrested on all kinds of charges, and goaded on the flimsiest of evidence, the Steel Trust assassins have once more dipped their hands in working class blood, but notwithstanding the reign of terror which they have sought to institute, the I.W.W. still "holds the fort," and steps are being taken to have blood for blood while the strike lasts. All workers will wish the I.W.W. success in this titanic conflict with the ruthless and bloodthirsty parasites at the head of the Steel Corporation, an institution responsible for more exploitation and robbery, and more crimes against the working class than any other organisation, ancient or modern.

We give herewith a few excerpts from the latest issues of the "Industrial Worker" (organ of the I.W.W. in the Western States), which give some indication of the importance of the struggle:—Issue of June 17 says in part:—

MONSTER STRIKE ON RANGE; STRIKERS JOIN I.W.W.

THOUSANDS OUT AND OTHER THOUSANDS GETTING READY FOR INDUSTRIAL WAR; THREE LARGE I.W.W. LOCALS ESTABLISHED; I.W.W. MOBILIZING FOR TITANIC STRUGGLE; STEEL TRUST PREPARING FOR GOVERNMENT BY GUN-MEN; 14 STRIKERS ARRESTED; THEIR LAWYER PROBABLY KIDNAPPED.

A letter from Aurora, Minnesota, and a wire from Walter T. Nef, at Minneapolis, say that forces are being massed for what may prove the greatest struggle in the history of the Steel Trust. Thousands are on strike and other thousands are but waiting the call to come out. The strikers were unorganised, but in a few days over one thousand have joined the I.W.W., and three great strike locals are established.

The Steel Trust has shipped in carload after carload of gun-men, and a wage war that has already assumed great proportions, and may equal the Lawrence strike in its significance to the Labor movement, is on. Arthur Boose, I.W.W. organizer, and thirteen other workers, have been arrested by the Steel Trust's Law and Order gang, and their lawyer has probably been kidnapped by the Trust's tools.

The following are some extracts from a special article on the matter in the issue of June 24:—

VIRGINIA ORDERS OUT STRIKERS. BIG STRIKE IS SPREADING; STRIKERS HAVE OWN POLICE FORCE; CERTAIN OF VICTORY.

VIRGINIA, Minn., June 16th:—Virginia, the heart of the Iron Range country and metropolis of the great Minnesota Empire of the Steel Trust is in an uproar. The lackeys of the Steel Trust, which have for years been dominating the life of this city, have decided to illegally drive the strikers out of Virginia, and have issued an ultimatum to the strikers that they must leave to-day, or be forced to leave. The strikers are decided for a show-down, and will refuse to obey the illegal mandates of the bosses of Virginia. June 15th a meeting of the people of Virginia who wear the Steel Trust collar, was held and a resolution drafted.

It objects to the miners because they are "carrying on public demonstrations and congregating in public places; and are likely to cause strikes, riots, and other breaches of the peace." That is, the city of Virginia has declared it illegal to strike; and aim to illegally drive the strikers out of Virginia to-day.

On July 1 the paper tells us that:—

STEEL TRUST GUN-MEN TAKE WORKERS' BLOOD.

COURTS GRINDING OUT SENTENCES FOR STRIKERS; MURDERER STILL AT LARGE; KILLING BUT MAKES SIXTEEN THOUSAND STRIKERS MORE DETERMINED; MINNESOTA IRON MINES CLOSED TIGHT; STRIKE SPREADING; CALL FOR ORGANISERS AND FUNDS.

Every mine on the Mesaba and Iron Range is closed, in the gigantic and significant grapple of the workers against the Steel

Trust, entrenched for years in its monopoly of steel and its steals from the workers. The miners of Northern Minnesota are determined. Now is the time, when, all members and those who believe in the ultimate triumph of the working class, must put into action our fighting and winning motto: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

This strike is a greater key to industrial control than Paterson. It is a great forward step, in the movement of the workers, toward the ultimate goal of Industrial Freedom.

The miners of the Mesaba and Iron Ranges are now fighting for their very lives, and the hoveis they call homes.

Already the Steel Trust has had fifteen workers imprisoned and one has been murdered. This territory is no longer under the laws of the United States. It is under the rule of the Steel Trust. Gun-men—men who would sell their mother for a drink of whisky—are the virtual judges, juries, and executioners. Private detectives are as common as lice. All the mining companies have regiments of them warring against the workers, and given every governmental protection, under laws that deem property of far more value than human life.

Fifteen members of the I.W.W. have been arrested for unlawful assemblage, while the Steel Trust can have all the gun-men it wants, armed with guns.

Fellow Worker John Allar was shot and killed by a gun-man employed by the Oliver Mining Company, a part of the Steel Trust. Fellow Worker Allar was standing on the road that leads to the mines, when a number of the gun-men came along and ordered the men to move on. They did not move fast enough to suit these paid assassins, and they shot at the strikers. At the first volley, the Fellow Worker fell, shot through the body once, and twice through the head.

John Allar, murdered needlessly and ruthlessly, coolly as no beast of the jungle, infinitely superior to gun-men, kills, died saying: "My goodness, my poor wife and children!"

While, however, the strikers advocate peaceful methods, there is a natural boundary at which peace will cease. Fellow Worker Sam Seafelt voiced the sentiment of the strikers yesterday when he said: "If we are deported, others will return. Then this strike becomes a violent strike. I want to say to those who are advocating the shanghaiing of the leaders of this movement and thus openly advocating violence, that if any committee or anyone else in Virginia starts violence, the strikers will finish it." The strikers stand for the peaceful pursuits of the right to strike; but there is a sentiment present that for every strikers shot down by a company gun-man, summary revenge will follow.

ECHOES FROM THE WEST.

Sunday, July 23 our esplanade propaganda meeting clearly proved that there are soldiers and soldiers—the turbulent and rowdy element of the previous Sunday being quite out of evidence, though the attendance of uniformed militarists was in much greater proportion in our audience, and evidently with much greater sense and courtesy, as both F.W.'s Messrs. Westbrook and Miller received a most attentive and impartial hearing during the progress of the meeting.

Our movement here is feeling the depression caused by the all-absorbing events of the great European carnival of barbarous butchery.

And all we can hope for while the cursed distraction continues is to keep our meetings going, till the ripe fruits of war's bitter experience can be garnered into the storehouse of the One Big Union.

Your "Direct Action" appeal that all who possibly can should secure the paper yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly subs. should result in a marked increase in the income of the paper. "D.A." is our most potent means of education, and helps with a far wider dissemination of the truth and justice of our ideas than all the propaganda meetings throughout the whole of Australasia.

The effect of your appeal, so far as this old scribe is concerned, is that it shall, in and out of season, be blazoned forth of every meeting to all and sundry, till they think and act directly on the sub. line.

We hope to send in first results with the next "Echoes of the West" report. Meanwhile papers are selling well at all meetings, and literature is gradually moving off.

M.M.

"The worker cannot afford to have too many feelings for the community till the community develops feelings for him; till then, it is even good that the consumer should sometimes suffer for the injustice he allows to go on. The consumer is not the innocent third party he is often represented as being; he is the exploiter's accomplice before the fact."—G. D. H. Cole.

An excuse to introduce cheap labor is at the bottom of the Conscription campaign.

Books I have Read.

II.

"WHAT EVERY MOTHER SHOULD KNOW."

"What every mother should know" is that this book is sold by the I.W.W., price is 2d. It is a charming book on the sex question, as relating to young people. Although not dealing directly with the economic problem, it nevertheless makes for that healthy manhood and womanhood which the revolutionary movement demands. Sooner or later, sex curiosity awakens in every boy and girl, and for want of a little timely knowledge on sex matters, they may be led into self-abuse or the one part, or dissipation on the other.

The authoress (Margaret H. Sanger) endeavours to answer that question which the awakening intelligence of the child leads him to ask: "Mother, where did I come from?" By lessons from the flowers, and the simple forms of animal life, the children are led to the subject of man's development. Nutrition and reproduction are the two most important essentials of any form of life.

The authoress advises that children be familiarised with the various parts of their own structure, and that when very young they be accustomed to seeing the naked body. Let them bathe together or with mother. There need be no mystery about the sexual truths, impress upon the children the sacredness of the process of reproduction. Teach them that there is one beautiful time to come to them—to look forward to and hope for—that time when they can look into a tiny baby face, clasped two tiny baby hands, and feel this wonderful and beautiful creation a part of their own being—the expression of their souls. Teach them to keep their minds and bodies clean for this wonderful gift.

Be natural, simple, interesting, and informal in giving this information, and so strengthen the child's ideals of manhood and womanhood.

The book should be of great interest to mothers and all who have the care of young children, and combined with information on industrial and economic questions, ought to guarantee strenuous participants in the great cause of working class emancipation.

This book, "What Every Mother Should Know," is certainly what every mother should read, it is worth far more than the modest price asked, and cannot fail to be of benefit to every working class woman. I recommend it warmly.

A. E. BROWN.

RIVAL UNIONS.

TO "DIRECT ACTION"

In reply to "A Scabby Unionist," under the heading "Rival Unions," in your issue of last week, he only partly states the truth, which very often is as bad as a deliberate lie. What I have stated are facts, because I have applied at various places for work, and have acquired the hours and wages, and when told have refused. As to "Nonpacted Builders," I have to inform him I have worked and got 11s and 44 hours; that was before the 12s came into force; by demanding same before I started. This quoting of figures, 1s 11d to 1s 13d per hour, only strengthens my argument on Trades Union scabbary.

What he says about the Federated Builders' Laborers not being a model union I agree with, as some of its own members scab on the award by working 48 hours, but it is also a good hunting ground for the legal fraternity, as he says.

I did not attack any individual member. What I was referring to was the system of scabbary which Trades Unionism upholds, and his own figures prove it.

Now, Mr. Editor, I must apologise for taking up so much space.

I look forward to the day when the "Building Industry" will be a branch of the "One Big Union," not a mass organisation, but intelligent and educated up to modern tactics.

FED. BUILDERS' LABORER

Subscribers are requested to watch the number of their paper. Post Office regulations will not allow us to mark issues "Expired" as hitherto.

THIS IS NUMBER

83.

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE RENEW.

Printed and Published by J. B. King, at 403 Sussex Street, Sydney, on behalf of the Industrial Workers of the World.