

Miners' Special Edition.



VOL. 3, NO. 88.

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

SYDNEY, September 16, 1916.

ONE PENNY

On to Freedom.

To every member of the I.W.W. in Australia the advent of this issue of "Direct Action" should be an occasion for thoughts of the most pleasant character, for it is issued to mark the beginning of a new era of achievement so far as industrial organisation in Australia is concerned.

The first Local Industrial Union ever organised in Australia is now making its entry into the field of industrial strife, armed, for the struggle towards emancipation, not alone with words, but with the most formidable weapons in the armory of labor. Armed also with the invincible spirit which pervades the I.W.W. wherever it is established, the spirit that won the Lawrence strike, the spirit which has kept the good ship of Industrial Unionism afloat during all the days of its stormy past, and will enable it eventually to weather the long stormy voyage towards its goal—Industrial Democracy.

The I.W.W. is the most virile labor union in existence, and perhaps the reason for this may be that there is no room in the I.W.W. for any but bona-fide workers and bona-fide fighters in the interests of the working class—no room for self-advancement at the expense of others; no fat salaries or soft jobs to stifle the feelings of the discontented. The I.W.W. is the only organisation capable of bringing about working-class emancipation, because it is the only union which recognizes, both in theory and in practice, the absolute identity of interest of the whole of our modern industrial slaves.

But, although these are my opinions and may well be those of most readers of "Direct Action," there are, in addition to the capitalist class, our natural economic enemies, those in the ranks of the Labor (?) movement who regard any advancement of the I.W.W. with unfavourable eyes. I refer to the Hughes and Holmans, and their less notorious followers, whose name is legion. Economic Determinism is the law of life, and not even these august personages are exempt from its influence. They know that once the logic of the I.W.W. penetrates the minds of the workers, their occupation, like Othello's, will be gone.

On the other hand, the working class have nothing to lose but all to gain by organisation under the banner of the Industrial Workers of the World. The whole labor movement of Australia, outside the I.W.W. to-day, lies hopelessly broken on the rocks of political opportunism. During the brief period of its existence in Australia, the I.W.W. has been preaching the fallacy of Labor representation in Parliament and now time has proved the truth of its teachings, for we are witnessing to-day the ludicrous spectacle of a Labor Party, placed in power to represent the working class, threatening to force the further burden of conscription upon the already overburdened toilers. The only left the working class is the I.W.W.—direct action on the industrial field.

The Labor politicians, ostensibly in power to further the interests of the workers have been forced by economic pressure to obey the dictates of the real rulers of Australia—our Industrial Masters.

It is our claim, as Industrial Unionists, that any organisation, in order to fully represent the interests of the working-class, must, in addition to gaining shorter hours and better pay, present the final solution to the labor problem, and abolish the class struggle. The I.W.W. claims to have this solution in the methods and object of its organisation—world-wide control of industry.

As members of the I.W.W. we look upon the mammoth industrial machinery of to-day as the means whereby we can gain emancipation. Forced by economic necessity, the workers have built these machines, but have hitherto allowed them to be controlled by the capitalist.

The average worker educated (?) in capitalist schools, filled with capitalist morality, taught always to be subservient to his masters' laws, is blind to the potentialities of his class. He does not understand that just as his class, organised in the interests of the capitalist, has created all the wonderful machinery of to-day, so, when awakened to class-conscious organisation in their own interest, they can gain for themselves the ownership and control of the world and all therein.

For years Socialist and Labor politicians have preached to us that "Labor is entitled to all it produces," until the thing has become almost a platitude. The newer, more virile spirit of the working class is found in the slogan of the I.W.W. "Labor is entitled to all it can get." Parliamentary representation has failed to generate sufficient power to do anything for the workers.

Workers of Australia, you have raised up unto yourselves gods, in the shape of Labor politicians, and behold events have proved that their feet are but of clay. Let us get together again, let us see if we cannot do what the gods have failed to do. We live in an age where organisation spells success in every sphere of activity. Every great industrial concern can attribute its success to one thing—organisation. But the organisation of industry in the past has always been for and for the capitalist class. It is up to us to organise ourselves in order to control industry for ourselves; this is the object of the



I.W.W.

We have been told that our ideas are impracticable; that the workers have not the education or ability necessary to the attainment of Industrial Freedom. Applied to a great majority of the working class this indictment is true; Industrial Democracy is not yet, but every day brings its realization nearer, for every day sees the propaganda of the I.W.W. spreading over an ever larger field, every day sees the ranks of the I.W.W. growing larger. Every new burden placed upon the workers is serving to drive them slowly but surely to accept the doctrine of Industrial Unionism.

Proof is not wanting that the slow-down propaganda is being put into action in the fields, factories and mines of Australia, for we have only to turn to the daily and weekly mouthpieces of capitalism to see the perturbation that has been produced amongst our masters by the adoption of I.W.W. tactics. Every effort is being made to discredit the I.W.W. in the minds of the workers; but all their ravings about the folly of sabotage only serve to stimulate interest in the minds of the apathetic.

Fellow-workers, the world is ours when we are strong enough to take over the control of industry, and the only way to develop working class power is to bend all our energies to the perfection of working class organisation. We have to build up an organisation to control industry for ourselves. When we have done this there will be no need to ask our "National Assemblies" to make them ours by law, or to arbitrate with the capitalists concerning the ownership thereof. In that day industry will be ours, because we will have the power to take for ourselves the full product of our labor. The surplus value upon which modern plutocracy thrives will have disappeared, and those who to-day live on our labor will be compelled to come in with us and do their share in the process of production.

In building this organisation we are forming the structure of the first rational system of society the world has ever seen, and laying the foundation for the future development of the human race; we are realizing the historic mission of the working class. By building this organisation we are bringing about the downfall of the last form of class society, capitalism, and establishing in its stead a society in which there will be neither masters nor slaves, but men and women. Men and women who in the future will look back upon the era of capitalism as the darkest page in human history.

Humanity, as yet, has hardly emerged from the primeval savagery of its infancy, nor can it advance any further upon the road to progress until the economic conditions of life are in accord with the needs of the masses of the people. Capitalism makes gods of the few and

slaves of the many. Industrial Democracy will make real manhood and womanhood possible for the whole human race. Fellow-worker, if you want to be a man and not a slave, get into the I.W.W. and do your share in the Fight for Freedom.

FRANK F. WARD.

Eureka Stockade.

Sunday, December 3, 1854.

"Remember that Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Looking back through the long vista of 62 years between now and then, there are memories in the mind of this writer which no duration of life, however long, can possibly efface.

But this article is not meant to be a narrative of the stirring events of the past, but is an endeavour to co-relate them with the conditions of the mining industry of the present day, and thereby show that the disabilities of the workers, who are the vertebrae of the gold industry of Australia are in no wise different to the troubles of their fellow workers of 62 years ago.

The diggers of Ballarat had imposed upon them a system of direct taxation to an extent in the first instance of £18 per annum; later on, it was increased to £36, and was at times reduced or increased, at the pleasure and caprice of the Squatocracy, who exclusively constituted the Government of the day.

Be it understood that this impost on the diggings community throughout Victoria was the only taxation, and the wool kings, who were the taxing power, refused every suggestion of land or income tax.

The diggers were the most potent producers of wealth, the promoters of all the trading and commercial activities, and the diggings the great magnet that was attracting population from all parts of the world, and were compelled to bear all the cost of the administration of affairs.

The license fees in 1852 aggregated a total of £500,000, and the rapidly increasing population was constantly augmenting the amount. Deputations with petitions, some with 5000 signatures, from all the many goldfields were waiting on Governor Latrobe, asking for a reduction of the license and a cessation of the ever-increasing brutalities of the police. His answer invariably was "that he would refer their request to the Legislative Council," and that was the final stage of the diggers' plea for consideration.

This enormous tax on the whole of the goldfields adult population was levied and collected at the point of the sabre and pistol, and frequently by members of Captain Darras' black troopers (Australian aboriginals), organised long prior to the gold discoveries, and all the excuse of the Government was that the maintenance of law and order on the diggings should be paid for by the mining community.

As to the pretext of law and order, this scribe has often been associated with from 10,000 to 20,000 of a population in various new rushes to a fresh gold find and has never been a witness of anything but peace, social order, and general amity of feeling pervading the community.

Only when a Commissioner was appointed to the new location, and arrived with a force of police to collect the obnoxious tax, by the most obnoxious and brutal methods, only then did disorder make its appearance. So much for law and order as a plea for taxation.

In the first year of the digging industry in Victoria the gold yield was 145,137 oz., or a value of £580,548; the following year 1852 it rose to 2,738,484 oz., or £10,954,936; in 1853—3,150,000 oz., £12,600,000; and in 1854 (Eureka year) it declined to 2,392,000 oz., or £9,568,250. This decline in the yield was consequent on the increasing worry of the diggers by being driven from their work by armed and mounted police out on "digger hunts" making continuous work an impossibility. It is very questionable if during 1854 two-thirds of the diggers' industrial energy was put into operation.

To be courteously accosted as a son of anything but a woman and a man, to be ordered with aggressive impudence to "show your crimson license," and to be "sanguinary quick about it," was the standard of police etiquette in addressing "gay dogs of diggers."

Any remonstrance against such language was construed as a refusal to produce the demanded license, and out came the handcuffs, one of which was locked on the prisoner's right hand, the other locked into the saddle ring of the trooper's horse, and a quick move made to the camp, the site of the "Logs," so-called from the primitive order of structure that formed the prison for diggers. Should the prisoner object to the entertainment of his captor by a trotting match with the horse, a swinging canter was the reply given to the objection, and the victim could keep up or be dragged along. Any protest, mild or emphatic, on the part of the victim only made his plight worse, for out would come the sabre, and the poor devil got a thrashing with the flat of it, his brutal captor caring little if at times it fell edgewise. One man, Arnold, whom I knew personally, after a run like this, arrived at the police camp more dead than living, with a gash in his left shoulder, his left arm cut to the bone, and a terrible scalp wound. This particular case raised the goldfields and metropolises to indignation. Even the "Argus" and "Herald" denounced the brutal tyranny of goldfields officialdom.

Proceedings of this pleasant and enlivening nature (from the police point of view) were termed a "digger hunt." The next morning at ten the accused filed in quick succession through the court, the chief official recording a fine of £5 against each offender, and £10 against those who had resisted the police in the "execution of their duty," or one or two months' imprisonment.

During all this reign of terror there were a majority on the diggings who urged constitutional modes of redress—just as now.

Miners of Australia: What is the difference between your position to-day and that of the Ballarat diggers? Remember the gold they won was their own! Can you say as much? They were exploited at the most out of £36 per annum, a flea-bite compared with your enormous exploitation. Take the gold output of Australia and the number of your class engaged in mining; add to

Continued on Page 4.

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.

"ENTRENCHED."

All the editor wishes to say in connection with this issue is to offer an apology to the many contributors who have sent in "copy" which lack of space prevents us from publishing; and the need for One Big Union in the mining industry has been so clearly pointed out in the articles which we publish that little can be added by way of argument.

In no other industry does the robbery of the working class stand out with greater clearness. In manufactures the difference between the paid and unpaid product of labor, between wages and surplus value, stand out less clearly, but the cost of production to the capitalist in the mining industry is so infinitesimal that a glance at his own statistics at once furnishes proof of the robbery.

The ever-increasing exploitation of the workers in Australia, who are engaged in this health-dreary and hazardous occupation, is at once apparent from the statistics dealing with the subject. The total values produced in proportion to the amount of wages paid and the number of workers employed, are increasing year by year. Here is where we must look for the true test of the efficacy of working class organization; not in the failure or success of a strike here and there, nor yet in any improvement which may be apparent in the workers' condition over a certain period of time. The degree of success or failure of a working class organization, and of the working class movement generally, is measured by its success in curtailing the surplus values of the capitalist class; in other words, by the ratio of wages to profits.

Measured by this standard, working class organization in the mining industry—and, indeed, in all other industries—has proved itself hopelessly impotent. Not alone has the rate of exploitation increased by leaps and bounds during the past few years, but the unions have been compelled to act merely on the defensive, and in so acting have miserably failed to maintain a wage schedule commensurate with the increase in the cost of living.

This is not alone applicable to Australia, but to every capitalistically developed country in the world; and encouraged by the failure of the working class movement to take up an aggressive attitude, and its impotency in defence, the international capitalist class is to-day taking certain steps which, given the present organisation of the workers, can have only one result: the rivetting of the shackles of slavery more firmly on the workers' limbs, with a future as dark in its outlook for working class progress as any epoch in the blood-red history of capitalism.

But the I.W.W. refuses to take a pessimistic view of matters. We know that the capitalist class in its every effort to increase exploitation is but digging the grave of the capitalist system. The development of that system is fast making the futility of trade unionism more apparent than any theoretical arguments on the subject. It is because of this the I.W.W. comes on the scene with its torch of hope and its rallying cry of One Big Union—not merely in the mining industry of Australia, but in every industry and every country where capitalist exploitation reigns. In its greed for profits, wrung out of the flesh and blood of the working class, capitalism knows no national boundaries, and the workers therefore require an organisation as large and as wide as the capitalist system itself; an organisation that is at once virile, disciplined, and educated. Educated in a knowledge of the class struggle on which any genuine working class movement must rest; disciplined not from above, but from an inner consciousness of the historic mission of the work-

ing class; and virile, aggressive, and defiant, because it is only by continual struggle and self-sacrifice can ultimate victory and emancipation be achieved.

With this issue of "Direct Action" the I.W.W. has "dug itself in" in one of the basic industries of Australia. It will go on, despite all opposition, continuing its entrenchments, until the ramparts of capitalism have been razed, and the industries of Australia and of the world are owned and controlled by those to whom they rightfully belong, the world's working class—the Industrial Workers of the World.

THE MINING INDUSTRY.

Past and Present.

"If political society, in whatever form, has still made the many the property of the few; if it has introduced labours unnecessary, vices and diseases unknown, and pleasures incompatible with nature; if, in all countries, it abridges the lives of millions, and renders the lives of millions more miserable and abject; why shall we still worship so destructive an idol, and daily sacrifice it to our health, our liberty and our peace?"—Burke.

There is, perhaps, no industry in Australia so bristling with interest, so full of strife and tragedies, or so remarkable in capitalistic development as the mining industry. Suffice it to say that such a happy hunting-ground for the boodle-bugs and financial leeches of the world provides food sufficient for thought and reflection for a work equal in size to the Encyclopædia Britannica.

Away back in the early fifties, and for some considerable time after, when the mining industry was in its embryonic stage, and when the work of raising the ore and extracting the precious metal was performed by a primitive method, the mine owner's harvest was not so bountiful as at the present day.

But a great change, so great as might be termed a revolution, has taken place in the operations and development of this, as well as all other industries, while the unthinking, apathetic, candlelight slave remained indifferent, and unconscious of the cancerous growth that was every day getting its nourishment from his energy and ignorance, which must inevitably result in his own physical and moral destruction.

In those days the accumulation of the mine-owner's surplus value was hampered by the primitive methods of mining, hauling and milling, which necessitated the employment of more manpower, more handling, a lesser percentage of extraction, and, consequently, less profits over and above cost of production.

The ore was broken by hand labor; the boring was done by hammer and drill, two men working together, irrespective of the nature of the ore. The quantity broken in eight hours was infinitesimal compared with the amount broken to-day by the aid of the machine; and, besides, high explosives for blasting were an unknown quantity, powder, rock-a-rock, and an inferior quality of dynamite being mostly in use. The hauling was invariably done by the "whim," whip, or what is recognised now-a-days as an out-of-date steam winch.

Before the ore was finally dealt with, that is, from when it left the miner's pick till it reached the tailings dump, it was handled ten or twelve times.

The timber necessary for mining was all cut out by hand, the cross-cut saw and the axe; saw-milling plants did not exist on the mines as to-day.

Another important phase of the subject is that the men worked easier, did less work, and, in many places, forty-four hours constituted a full week, and dismissal from employment was less prevalent than it is to-day.

But now, behold the change—the development of labor-saving machinery, with its sweeping effects on the industrial field, completely revolutionising the system of production in but a comparatively few years, the owning class piling up huge fortunes, and a new lease of life given to their powers of aggression, enabling them to hold full and complete economic power, to the disadvantage of the landless multitude, and, at the same time, wielding a tremendous influence and authority over the State.

All institutions of public importance, whether they be of Church or State (formalities of legality disregarded), became useful and important factors in their crusade for plunder and power, and for the enslavement and continuous exploitation of the toiling masses. The triumph of the machine, the speeding-up system, and an overstocked labour market, now constitute the three divine rights of the God of Mammon; the working class robbed of their heritage, their means of life; their right to live and work.

To traverse too much ground in showing how the capitalist profited by the advent of the machine in every conceivable manner, would be superfluous and boring for my readers, so I will content myself with a few illustrations of a noteworthy character.

To begin with, the rock-drill was introduced (with its accessory, the air compressor). Huge faces of rock are being drilled and blasted down in a few hours, smashing piles of broken ore ready for the mill, that would have necessitated a few weeks of labour by the old primitive method of the hammer and drill. High explosives, such as blasting gelatine, are in use, and considerably

facilitates the boring out process. The ore is passed into chutes, from which it is trucked to the hauling shaft, brought to surface and automatically tipped into a powerful rock-breaker for reduction, and conveyed thence to the mill by means of an endless insertion belt, automatically passing from one stage of process to another, until the final course of extraction has been accomplished, where another endless belt receives it as tailings, conveys it out of the mill and tips it back down the mine for mullocking-up purposes. It will thus be seen that during the whole of this wonderful performance of conveyance, reduction and extraction, the genius of man has made the machine the principal actor. The hauling is done by huge winding engines of a complex character, capable of hauling as much as 20 tons from a depth of 3000 feet, each revolution of its drum accomplishing 50 feet of space, with the utmost rapidity. These engines are so complete in their make-up and efficiency as to render it impossible for them to be over-wound, thus ensuring the owner against any loss that might otherwise occur through mistake, negligence, or incompetency of the driver.

By such scientific means of production, 1000 tons of ore can be mined and milled daily, as against a paltry 50 or 100 tons a few short years ago, and the wonder of it all is that only about the same amount of labor is required, showing clearly that the use of the machine has benefited the capitalist only, and that it is by no means a benefactor to the worker as it is at present constituted, for instead of making his lot easier he becomes a mere cog in its wheel, and a slave to its ceaseless operations.

Even the steel used in rock-drilling is sharpened by machine process.

Another important development in the interests of the capitalist has been the invention and introduction of scientific methods of treatment of refractory ores, which, in the past, were passed over the mullock dump as unprofitable.

The Golden Mile, in Western Australia, and Broken Hill may be cited as illustrations. Both these places now depend on these ores, as all the oxidised ores on the upper levels are worked out. The Great Boulder mine is consistent in its monthly profits of £27,000, having up to date paid over £5,000,000 in dividends. Other mines on the same belt have a somewhat similar record, especially the Lake View, which turned out 7 tons of gold in 7 consecutive months, its market value at that time reaching £7,000,000, whilst its capital value stood at £36,000, profiters' and market-riggers fattening and battenning on the wealth unearthed by the toilers, whose pay envelope and conditions of life remained the same. Thus this new process of cyanide treatment availed the worker nothing, but, on the other hand, had a demoralising effect on his health and well-being, due to the perpetual contact with its poisonous fumes.

On the Broken Hill mines millions of tons of low grade and partially treated ore lay at grass for years, and was regarded by the companies as worthless, and fit only for mullocking-up purposes, but scientific experimenting in chemistry again brought grist to the boss' mill, for, at the present moment, as I write, the extraction from these enormous great dumps is paying the working expenses of all other parts of the mines.

The coal mines of Newcastle district, famous for the quantity and quality of coal produced annually, have to-day all the latest appliances for facilitating production. Electric coal-cutting machines are in use underground, and, like the other mines referred to, once the coal is filled into the skips below, it is not handled again, for it is hauled to the surface and automatically tipped into railway waggons; these waggons are drawn up alongside the ship, picked up bodily by a powerful crane, and tipped into the ship's hold. It is surely no wonder that the canny Scotchman, Jimmy Brown, who landed in Sydney with 7s. 6d. in his pocket, soon became one of the biggest money hogs in Australia, and the faster he accumulated wealth the greater the tyrant he became to his slaves.

So much has been said about private ownership that perhaps it is as well to turn our attention to a few mines now under State ownership and control.

All the copper mines in Ravensthorpe (W.A.), which were once owned and worked by the Phillips River Gold and Copper Company, are now being worked by the Western Australian State Government. The same old conditions prevail. The rock-drilling is done without the use of jets, the trucks are just as big, and the tally board hangs on the plat. The men in the smelters have the same amount of work allotted to them; night shift is being worked as before; in short, the speed-up system is in evidence just the same, and the Labor Party boasted of the profits of its State-owned concern, although the hours of the slave were no shorter, or his pay envelope any larger.

Not long ago, the writer worked on a mine in W.A., owned by the W.A. Labor Government. A slave had the misfortune to fall down the shaft and get killed, leaving a widow and orphans. Their friends came to the rescue, but, like private ownership, the State made no attempt to provide for, or compensate, them for the loss of their bread-winner. The same Government some time after granted the Great Fingal Company at Day Dawn the sum of £15,000 to sink a new main shaft, notwithstanding the fact that the mine has paid hundreds of thousands of pounds in dividends during the last two years.

While all this profit-grinding and plunder goes on—What is the lot of the workers? Those of them who are married, and have families, live in

shacks, composed of about five shillings worth of timber, hessian, and some second-hand iron; no music to make life a little cheerful, or no garden fence or flower beds to beautify and adorn his habitation. Through bad health, miner's complaint, or accident, he is compelled to take his boys from school at an early age, and put them to work in the mills, and send his girls to slave in the sweating shops of the city. The single men who follow the mining industry, for the most part, recognise the hard lot of their fellow workers who have families to maintain, and so prefer a life of celibacy; they are usually old men at an early age, a big percentage of them ending up in sanatoriums.

The mining industry in Australia is not without its long chapter of accidents and disasters; as instances, Mt. Kembla, Bulli, Mt. Lyell (Tasmania), and the thousands of accidents that occur annually through explosions caused very often by faulty fuse, falls of earth, and a thousand and one other ways, the most of which could have been avoided if proper safety appliances were provided; and after every accident the law speaks with the usual verdict—no blame attachable to anyone.

Behold the toil-stunned multitude in the mining industry!! Behold the death-roll of the mines!! Behold the widows and orphans robbed of their bread-winners; behold their tears and hear their cries; the wash tub or the teat for the mother, and the orphanage for the children. But the boss' profit all the while continues to roll in.

Behold, the great illusion—State ownership—a money-power practising every art of duplicity, growing more arrogant and despotic as it robs and crushes the workers, building its fortifications of their bones, and its palaces out of the profits of its piracies.

There is but one issue for the workers; the overthrow of the capitalistic system and the emancipation of the working class from wage slavery. The capitalist may have the tariff, finance, imperialism, and other dust-covered and moth-eaten issues entirely to himself. The rattle of these relics no longer deceives the working men whose heads are on their own shoulders. They know by experience and observation that the gold standard, protective tariff, freetrade, and imperialism all mean capitalist rule and wage slavery. Their eyes are open, and they can see; their brains are in operation and they can think. The very moment a working man begins to do his own thinking he understands the paramount issue, parts company with all capitalist politicians, and falls into line with his own class on the industrial battlefield.

The industrial solidarity of the working class means the death of despotism, the birth of freedom, and the sunrise of civilisation. As long as the workers remain divided, and at cross purposes, instead of closing up the ranks and acting together, they will have to pay the penalty of defeat and humiliation and slavery with all their attendant brood and festering evils.

Strike the fetters from the slave, give him liberty, and he becomes an inhabitant of a new world. He looks abroad and beholds life and joy in all things around him. His soul expands beyond all boundaries. Emancipated by the genius of Liberty he aspires to communion with all that is noble and beautiful, feels himself allied to all the higher orders of intelligence, and walks abroad redeemed from animism, ignorance, and superstition, a new being throbbing with glorious life. The industrial dungeon will become a temple of science; the working class will be free and all humanity, disenthralled.

The workers are the saviours of society, the redeemers of the race, and when they have fulfilled their historic mission, men and women will walk the highlands and enjoy the vision of a land without masters and without slave, a land regenerated and resplendent in the triumph of freedom and civilisation.

E. McLOUGHLIN.

POPS.

Just at present there is a difference of opinion between the master class of the several nations as to who owns the mine-workers, and there is quite a lot of blood being split over it.

What about you mine-workers putting in a claim to own yourselves, and no blood need be shed at all.

It is said that the only time the miners look and feel healthy is when a strike is on. Conditions in the mines must be damnable. Order up a strike as a refresher!

A miner's lot is not a happy one, because he allows himself to be a minor consideration.

The mine-workers to-day attend to their job in the interest of their employers because they are not organised properly. Organised industrially, and they will use the job to gain their industrial freedom.

Take from a man the results of his toil and what have you left? A mine-worker.

Shift Boss: What is wrong with you this week, Sam; you have only pushed out five trucks, and last week you pushed out twenty?

Sam: Me no understand English.

A recent report had it that prosperity prevailed in a mining centre, as the majority of the mine-workers had taken up shares in Block 20. The report did not consider it worth while to mention that Block 20 was the bone yard.

Broken Hill.

Somewhere in the year 1844 the explorer Sturt, pushing his way across the arid stretches of sand and saltbush which were abundant in the western portion of New South Wales, came across what was known as the Barrier Ranges, which were destined to be the scene of some of the greatest mining operations that the world has ever witnessed. But, however, the sublime tranquility of these plains was not to be disturbed until about thirty-two years later, when a man by the name of Paddy Green chanced upon a little piece of earth which he christened Thacker- inga, and which at the time gave signs of mineral deposits calculated to transform the discoverer into a modern Croesus. These discoveries were responsible for a rush being made on the part of the working class, which, owing to the force of economic conditions, are compelled to rush hither and thither in search of employment. The population of this field very quickly amounted to some three hundred inhabitants, all of whom were more or less bent upon making their fortunes and bidding farewell to the sordid struggle for existence. But as Dame Fortune appears to have willed it, Thacker- inga was doomed to sink into the depths of oblivion so far as the mining history of the Barrier was concerned. And not until Silverton was found and surveyed did the Barrier field show any real signs of fulfilling the earlier dreams of its discoverers. As a result of this event, business houses, hotels and dwelling places sprang up with the rapidity that has characterised the untiring activities of man through the ages.

Silverton, which in earlier times was known as Umlerumberka, according to the census taken in 1884 had a population of 1745 people, and in that year it became generally known that large bodies of rich ore existed in the district, with the result that working people and others fairly flocked towards this modern Kimberley. The population of Silverton subsequently reached three thousand. Various companies were floated, and as could only be expected under a system which has for its main object, robbery, many of them were spurious. Such is, then, a very brief outline of the state of affairs that existed in Silverton in the very early days. Perhaps a summary of the activities of the shows that surrounded this centre, and which made possible the discovery of Broken Hill may prove of some interest to the reader. The first and most prominent among them being the Umlerumberka mine, which was situated about two miles from Silverton itself, and which was floated by an Adelaide company having a nominal capital of £20,000, of which it is reported that less than £3000 was subscribed. In the year 1882 over five hundred tons of ore was raised from this mine, which, being sold in England, realised £7000. This appears to have been about the limit of the productivity of the Umlerumberka mine, and the Barrier may possibly have been forgotten had it not been for the existence of the Day Dream, which lies about 14 miles west of Broken Hill, and which rose to importance in the year 1884, with a population of some 500 people. This mine raised 9,600 tons of ore before being floated into a company, and after having had that operation performed upon it it was responsible for four dividends of 1s. 6d. each. The company carried on operations for some four or five years before closing down, when its principal assets were purchased by the Proprietary Co. Purnamoota came next on the list, and among the many claims pegged out in this district was the Lubra. It was then said to be the richest claim on the Barrier. But the treasure suddenly became famous owing to the production of a solid mass of the richest ore then seen, which measured approximately four feet in diameter.

At this period the Pilgrim mine with another adjacent claim was responsible for the production of a parcel of ore weighing 70 pounds, which on being sold at the Melbourne Mint gave a return of 8,000 ounces. Three shares in the Goat Hill mine changed hands at a thousand pounds a piece. On the 22nd August, 1884, the Barrier Ranges Mining Association met in Melbourne and purchased from the North Mining Co. thirty-two claims for £35,000. Up to the end of September, 1884, 28 of the shows which had been, or were working, had produced 5,115 tons, which realised a gross value of £116,600. While these activities were proceeding a boundary rider by the name of Charles Rasp, employed on the Mount Gipps Station, became enamoured with the appearance of "Broken Hill." Rasp mentioned the matter to his boss, George McCulloch, who was then manager and part owner of Mount Gipps Station, with the result that the two of them pegged out claims 13, 14 and 15. Two more blocks were applied for to the north of No. 15 lease (now lease 16), and thus having secured nearly two miles of the then line of lode, a syndicate was formed consisting of George McCulloch, Charles Rasp, Phillip Charley, Davy James, George Urquhart, James Poole and J. A. M. Lind. Each of the fore-

going contributed £20. Shortly afterwards, it appears, Lind and Urquhart dropped out of the syndicate, which was then re-formed into one of fourteen shares. Block 7 was then pegged out, and subsequently became the property of the North Mine Co. Then followed Blocks 6 and 7 (South Mine), and then Block 9 (Central Mine), and the Broken Hill Junction was at that period leased by Penglaese and Carson. For a short time the prospects of the new company appeared to be not at all bright, and many of the shareholders tried to sell their shares, but owing to the lack of buyers they were compelled to retain them. An event which none of them have been sorry for occurring.

The highest assay for Broken Hill then was only sixteen ounces, but twenty miles away the Purnamoota yielded thousands upon thousands of ounces per ton. However, things quickly began to look up from the shareholders' point of view, and, of course, to go down from the point of view of the wage slave. It is stated that shortly afterwards a meeting of shareholders of the B.H. Mining Co.'s buyers could be found for a 1/14th share at £1500. Advances received from London in 1885 revealed the following state of the metal market in regard to Barrier metals, the net prices in the open market being:

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| First | £1,496 per ton. |
| Second | £554 per ton. |
| Third | £86 per ton. |
| Fourth | £81/10 per ton. |

Later on a 1/14th share was sold for considerably over £2,000. Two shares changed hands on May 16th, 1885; a twenty-eighth brought £2,000, while a fourteenth brought £4,500.

During the month ending June 13, 1885, 961 tons of silver ore were entered to the Silverton Court House for export at a declared value of £6,922.

Speaking of two smelters which were being erected, E. K. Brodribb, writing to his father in London, remarked that they would be capable of treating 100 tons of ore each per day, which, giving a return of £10 per ton of ore treated, would equal £1,000 per day, or £365,000 per year.

During the six months ending September 30, 1885, the Umlerumberka mine despatched 433 tons 3 cwt. 3 qrs. 121 lbs. of ore, the value of which totalled £10,421. The value of the ore exported from the Barrier silver field during the two months ending October 31, 1885, was £44,270. The total revenue collected by the Silverton customs for the one month ending November 30, 1885, was £2,039 19s. 9d. Exports for silver, pig bullion and wool amounted to £46,598. The second dividend of the Broken Hill Proprietary of £1 per share, or £16,000, was paid on October 27, 1886, and the third dividend on November 24, 1886, which brought the total amount of dividends for that company to £48,000 at the end of their first fifteen months' operations. But, however, since then they have installed new and more up-to-date machinery, brought about a higher state of efficiency, and are now in a better position to exploit the worker for larger dividends.

One writer in the "Lone Hand" (November 11, 1907) observes that "There are great prospects north and south, but that little patch pegged out by Charles Rasp, the Mount Gipps boundary rider, in twenty-two years has given the company which he and his mates formed, in dividends and bonuses, £11,156,000. In the last twelve months it gave a net profit of £622,500."

Such has been the development of Broken Hill from a capitalistic standpoint. What has it been like when viewed from the point of view of the wage slave?

As could only be expected that while the Barrier was progressing in the foregoing manner some form or other of union organisation should take place, so it was that the A.M.A. and other organisations of a craft character sprang into existence, and after having felt the iron heel of despotism for a number of years, and after having endured the autocracy of the merciless taskmaster to the point beyond which it was impossible to endure, it came about that the Barrier became the scene of one of those many battles that have eventuated in the history of the working class and which stand like mile-posts to indicate the march of progress on the part of the toiling masses.

In other words the workers of that place decided to strike for better conditions and higher wages. Many weeks of hard and bitter fighting did the toilers and producers of Barrier wealth experience, but the chaotic state of the union movement in Australia revealed itself in a hideous manner, with the result that police scabs and thugs were imported for the purpose of quashing the strike. Drawn into the city by union railroad men, they were successful in their nefarious mission, and once again the workers beheld the regrettable spectacle of having been beat, not so much by the master class as by those of the working class that were prepared to betray them.

For the next seventeen years it appears that, a reign of industrial stagnation set in, and it

was not until the masters attempted to reduce the irreducible minimum wage that anything like a protest for better conditions was put up. Already the miners had decided that not one single post that had been gained should be lost in the great class struggle. So, again the starvation tactic of the master, was employed. Again police were brought to the scene of the conflict for the purpose of intimidating the strikers, and if possible cause them to do something that would justify the hirelings of capitalism in shooting them down. Nothing having been accomplished by that tactic, the mining companies signified their willingness of taking the whole dispute to the Arbitration Court, and amid the stultifying atmosphere of that chloroform factory they were able by means of the miserable bribe of a few paltry pence per day to gull the workers into signing an agreement to the effect that they would be of good behaviour for the next two years. At the expiration of that period they were again content to renew that manhood-destroying document for the next four-and-a-half years. But in the year 1915, having been unable to better their conditions in anything like an appreciable manner for the preceding 23 years, it was resolved by those that had to work in the veritable hell-holes underground that when the mining companies made their paternal offer that they were agreeable for the same state of affairs to continue for the duration of the war and for six months after, that they (the diggers) were going to have a reduction of hours in the working week from 48 to 44, and as a means of gaining this they decided to miss the Saturday afternoon shift until such time as the 44 hours week was an established institution on the Barrier.

The mining companies, when all other methods had failed, decided to again utilise the lockout in order to defeat the diggers, and accordingly they started by sacking those that missed the Saturday afternoon. It was then that the 90 per cent. of the men on the line of lode realised that it was necessary for them, come what might, to stand shoulder to shoulder with their working class comrades. Thus began the first strike that had occurred on the Barrier for the last 23 years. And although 44 hours was gained for those that were prepared to fight for it, it may be said that had these strikers received the assistance that they were entitled to, a greater and a grander success would have crowned the efforts of those that fought in the conflict of 1916. One thing certain is that had they received a few more pounds in financial assistance, they would have been able to relegate that antiquated institution of injustice—the Arbitration Court—to its proper place—the museum of antiquities.

Many pages could be written on these three upheavals, but limitation of space sternly forbids any such transgression, so we will content ourselves by briefly outlining the conditions under which the workers exist while producing the mammoth fortunes for their masters. Living in wood and iron shacks, miniature pocket editions of hell, which the Rockefellers and the Vanderbilts would not permit their pet dogs to inhabit, some 8000 people drag on through life's weary way. Never when they leave home in the morning can they look forward with any degree of certainty to returning home alive in the evening. Already two cemeteries are filled with those who have been sacrificed as offerings on the altar of profits, either as a result of preventable accidents, or else as victims of one of many diseases that are peculiar to the mining industry, and which are prevalent on this field. Scarcely a day goes by but what the black flag waving half-mast from the Trades Hall tells that another member of the working class has bid farewell to the grim realities of life, and occasionally the red streamer announces that just one more member of the A.M.A. has been the victim of a fatal accident. Thirty-three of these accidents have occurred in the brief space of one year, and so far there has been nothing done to prevent this wholesale slaughter of the members of our class, with the exception that the men have decided that when one of their mates are done to death they will miss one shift, thus causing the closing down of the mine, costing the master that much that it will be unprofitable to him to have men killed without any effort being made on his part to safeguard their lives.

A stroll down one of the streets will provide sufficient proof, if any were needed, of the poverty existing in this place. Nearly every second window that is passed bears the inscription "Beds to let," or "Vacancies for boarders." These houses are kept by working class widows whose husbands have been done to death by the cruel system, and they are now forced to earn a living by any means that may present itself to them. Some of them take in washing or sewing and thereby endeavour to make an honest living and educate their children as well as possible.

But of course this state of affairs is not peculiar to the Barrier; it can be seen in any town or country that the burning breath of capitalism has scorched. So it is that I would, counsel all those who have been condemned to

the galling yoke of wage slavery—who are wage slaves—so make one determined effort for liberty and freedom.

Is there in the whole world one man or woman alive who, when he or she sees these modern-day atrocities that are being perpetrated by capitalism, does not feel a surging sensation in their bosoms which clamors for justice?—does not feel the hot blood of revolution tingling in their veins? If such there are, then to them I would say for the sake of humanity and for the sake of civilisation, please be kind enough to commit suicide.

But to the greater masses of men and women who have feelings, passions and desires, which alone serve to distinguish them from the beasts of the forest, I would say, "Awake! Arise!" For the time to make a final stand for freedom against your lifelong antagonists has arrived. No longer can you adopt an attitude of neutrality—the time has come for you to say on which side you stand. Either on the side of tyranny, autocracy and despotism, or else on the side of freedom, fraternity and civilisation. Too long have you permitted others to do your thinking; you alone are capable of doing your own thinking, and you alone must emancipate yourselves, and the emancipation cannot be done individually, hence the necessity of an organisation. An organisation of a truer and a grander form than has hitherto been known—an organisation that will make itself felt in the land, and that will be capable of successfully carrying on the class struggle to its logical conclusion—the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Already we are able to see the first scintillating rays of liberty illumining the eastern skies of freedom; already our legions are gathering for the final conflict, and we appeal to you to take your place in the vanguard of the world's greatest movement, to stand shoulder to shoulder with the members of your class, resolved not to falter in the great fight, and above all, not to swerve from the principle of solidarity, and if need be to die for the revolutionary watchword: "Freedom and Fraternity."

—PLOTINUS.

The Shearers.

THIRTY-FOUR SHEDS STARTED.

At Increased Rates.

"Moree News," in an issue last week, has the following:—

Up to date about 34 sheds have conceded the increased rates demanded by the shearers and shed hands. Since our last issue the following additional sheds have conceded the rates demanded:—

| |
|------------------------------|
| Combadello, 38 men. |
| Gill Gil (Bogamild), 25 men. |
| Teralba, 16 men. |
| Bullestana, 15 men. |
| Currawee, 8 men. |
| Wenna, 8 men. |
| Boonal West, 6 men. |
| Innisfail, 6 men. |
| Corossa, 5 men. |
| Richmond, 3 men. |
| Springfield, 2 men. |

Two sheds (employing 40 men), at Cobarr, have conceded the full rates, and four sheds (about 50 men), at Bourke. At Compagore (Bourke), besides paying full rates, the owners are paying £3 per week for musters.

Shearers are arriving in Moree from all quarters, the local supply of men having been exhausted. Yesterday fifteen shearers arrived from Walgett.

The reports from the sheds are very satisfactory. In every case the men have agreed to levy themselves 10 per cent. of their earnings each week for the Dispute Fund.

AN ULTIMATUM.

The local committee this morning discussed a motion to the effect that any sheds due to start during September, and which do not agree to pay the increased rates will, on and after October 1, be called upon to pay 35s per 100, £3 10s for shed hands, and 9d per cwt. for pressers. The proposal will be discussed at the various centres.

J. Hartley, chairman of Strikers' Executive at Moree, writing under date September 6, says:—

Fellow Worker,—Can you spare us a little space in your working class paper to report our shearing position?

We have formed a Central Executive here in Moree to conduct our business. And now we have everything on a good basis for controlling funds to carry on this struggle for a livelihood against the pastoralists of Australia. Yes, we have gained a few good victories in the face of tremendous odds and misrepresentations that have come from our highly-paid officials. But we intend to go right on with this dispute until we have a state of conditions acceptable to our fellow workers who have remained loyal to us in this struggle.

All receipts for money and the way in which it will be expended will be carefully accounted for. The books will be audited monthly by impartial auditors and published through your paper from time to time.

And I can assure you we of the "Woolly West" are beginning to take a tumble.

One Big Union.

THE NECESSITY FOR INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM IN THE MINING INDUSTRY.

(By Alex. George.)

Broken Hill, the so-called hotbed of industrial revolt, sounds once more the clarion cry for the One Big Union of all workers in the mining industry throughout this continent.

Hundreds of militant and intelligent slaves, disgusted with the old craft unions as factors to add to their fight against the companies, have decided to organize under the banner of the Industrial Workers of the World, and form a local Industrial Union of Mine-workers to take in all actual wage-workers whose records are clean, employed in and around the mines. The I.W.W. realizes that existing unionism in the mining industry here, and in every other field in this country, has been unable not only to gain more of the wealth for the toilers, but also to maintain the previous standard of living, which has been greatly lowered during the past few years.

According to Knibbs, the Commonwealth Statistician, the increase in the cost of living for the past two years amounts to about 50 per cent. Have your wages—you, the slaves in the mines—increased in the same ratio? No, you know only too well that they have not. Never before in the history of this country has the price of metals been as high as what it is to-day. Lead, zinc, tin and copper are about 50 per cent. higher than what they were two years ago. Have your money wages increased in the same proportion? Again no.

It should also be noted by mine-workers that the cost of production of metals is much cheaper now than it was a few years ago. With the discovery of the new processes of mining, the introduction of efficiency schemes in the mines, and the contract and bonus systems, a displacement of labor of anything from 50 to 100 per cent. has followed.

This displacement of labor necessarily means that the displaced workers must compete with their fellow-workers in the mining and other industries for jobs. The result is that wages in every mining field throughout this country, to-day are just on the bare subsistence level. Why is this so? Why is it that the mine-workers in spite of the great cheapening of the cost of production of metals and the consequent large profits of the exploiter have been unable to protect themselves? Why is it that our real wages, i.e., the amount of food, clothing and shelter which they will purchase for us, have decreased by about 50 per cent.?

Why is it that the mine-workers have made no real progress during the past twenty-five years? That 48 hours still constitutes a week's work in the majority of districts?

The only answer to the above questions is: Because the mine-workers are not organized in perpetuating their present trades unions, which fetter and encourage the idea that in order to progress the working class must turn and appeal to a greater power than their own. That power, according to trades unionism, is the State and its institutions, namely, the Courts, the Arbitration Courts. The I.W.W. teaches that labor, in order to accomplish anything for itself, must have power—organized power.

It lays down a sound, constructive programme for the organization of all workers in the mining industry, miners, truckers, mill and smelter hands, surface men and mechanics, into One Big Union, so as to be able to act in unity against the employing class. It requires every intelligent slave, no matter what creed, nationality or color, to join.

Such a movement would be all powerful, and in a position to dictate its own terms to the master. Under modern industrial conditions, brought about by the development of machinery and the concentration of industry, it is no longer possible for the miner to organize in small groups with much chance of success. The form of organization of the I.W.W. conforms to modern methods of production, and its principles require some study on the part of the workers. It would not be to fight the battles of the voluntary organizations, which does not seem to force any worker into its ranks against his desired wish, we are securing an intelligent membership, who understand what they are joining, who know what they want, and the correct method of attaining it.

Realizing the tremendous growth of the new unionism of the I.W.W., an endeavor is now being made by certain interested officials of miners' unions to link up or amalgamate with other unions in the mining industry throughout the country and form a new One Big Union.

The I.W.W. points out that this proposed amalgamation scheme, even if adopted, is no improvement on existing sectional unionism: it is not Industrial Unionism and cannot develop into anything better than what it is to-day.

It would be merely an undisciplined mob, who have not been taught the true principles of genuine Industrial Unionism, and it would be an easy matter for designing individuals and would-be politicians to use the movement for the advantage of their own interests, and it would achieve exactly the same division of the forces of labor as now prevails under craft unionism, only in a different form. It would divide the mine-workers according to districts, and keep them from taking united action by district preamble and agreements, duly signed with the bosses.

Just as the A.W.U., with its cry for amalgamation and One Big Union, has failed to solidify the ranks of the mine-workers of Queensland, and has been unable to bring the same conditions of their members in that industry, or to even maintain certain privileges previously gained, so also must this new one fail.

The history of Trades Unionism in every country is full of instances of the failure of such movements to accomplish anything for the workers.

We will refer to one near at home, namely the United Federation of Labour of New Zealand, which was organized only about three years ago. Its promoters, comprising all the political and industrial labor interests, and they heralded it forth that they had succeeded in launching the One Big Union of New Zealand wage-workers, and that it was as useful as the I.W.W. One Big Union could be. It looked well on paper, containing, as it did, a revolutionary preamble and constitution. But the movement had its parliamentary wing, just as is proposed under the new amalgamation scheme here. The result has been that the unscrupulous political

opportunists who bossed it were able to use it as they thought fit, and instead of developing into a fighting organization, it is merely a big electoral machine, registered under the Labor Arbitration Act, to be used for the purpose of sending its leaders into Parliament. As a fighting organization it is dead.

As all craft unions to-day are recognized by the Labor Arbitration Courts and the State as legal, it logically follows that under their new name they must still be legal.

Therefore, as the State and all its institutions are controlled by the employing class, then this class agrees to recognise and endorse the unions for the reason that they pledge themselves as organisations to settle all disputes in regard to wages, shorter hours, etc., by the process of legality, or, in other words, to place their case in the hands of the institutions which the capitalist class have created for that purpose.

If, then, during the past few years Trades Unionism has been unable to raise the standard of living of the working class, is it likely that under their new form, and using their old tactics, they will be able to do so in the future? Especially when we take into consideration the fact that at the end of the war there may be a long period of industrial depression, and large numbers of returned soldiers belonging to this and perhaps others of the present warring nations, dumped on to the labor market to compete for jobs.

The I.W.W. points out that the old form of craft unionism must be thrown on the scrap heap. Just as the mine-owners relegated to the rear the antiquated process of hand-mining to give way for the new machines, so must the old method of the mill and smelter to make way for the newer and more modern inventions, so will the working class have to do likewise in regard to the old unions. The mining companies did not bother about attempting to patch up the old unions, they took it as easy on the whole as they would be, but threw it out, lock, stock, and barrel.

So will we, the slaves in the mines, take the same course and grasp hold of the newer and up-to-date form of Industrial Unionism as outlined by the I.W.W. The employing class has no body against the workers, and we cannot compete against their solidarity with a craft union, or an amalgamation in which various sections in the mining industry in the different States enter into agreements and awards, all expiring on a different date.

How is it possible to develop the necessary solidarity of the working-class, which is the real basis for success in our fight against the boss for more industrial control?

The I.W.W. is developing a greater power than that of the masters of industry. That power is the Industrial Workers of the World, already well on its way to successfully organize the workers of all countries in the One Big Union. It is the new International Labor movement, wherein no signed award or agreement binds the workers' hands, forcing them to scab on one another; wherein no districts act alone, but the entire workers in the industry, or in all, if found necessary, wage the fight against the exploiter. This organization is the Local Industrial Union, which would organize all workers in the mining industry in a given locality into one body. For instance, every mining locality in the country would have its Local Union. These would then be brought into the National Industrial Union of Mine-workers. To transact its business and maintain unity of action between the Locals, it elects its officials, holds national conventions, and deals with national matters through the referendum.

The Local Industrial Union is not governed by the officials, but has the power to act on its own initiative and judgment, provided it is in accord with the principles of the movement.

In case of a dispute in Broken Hill, the whole of the National Industrial Union of Mine-workers would be brought to bear on the companies in order to compel them to come through with the goods.

With Trades Unionism in existence it is impossible to bring this result about. Look at the numerous strikes and lock-outs participated in by the miners' unions during the past 20 years. What about the number of time certain fields on strike have been isolated and left to their fate by their own union? Remember the late trouble in the Broken Hill.

With the Industrial form of organization in existence, which recognises that an injury to the workers of one locality is an injury to all, there could be no recurrence of such a glaring case of trades union scabbard as that which was perpetrated by the Broken Hill miners.

Not only is the I.W.W. organization available into the One Big Union, but in all countries as well. It should be closely understood that this step of organizing internationally is of the greatest importance to the workers.

There are many instances on record of late years where the strikes of miners of one country have been nullified or broken by the action of their fellow-workers in the same industry in another country producing the required metal coal, which has been shipped to the country where the strike is on.

Look at the big strike of the Welsh miners of a few years ago! The main reason why these men were compelled to accept a compromise was that the miners of Canada and other countries were ordered by the companies to increase their output so that they would be in a position to meet the temporary requirements of the British manufacturers. The same thing applies to the Newcastle miners' strike of 1909. After standing solidly together for 18 weeks, they were beaten, because of the fact that the capitalist class of Australia were able to secure from Japan supplies of coal required for their industries. The Japanese miners, like their fellow-workers of Newcastle, knowing the importance of the international solidarity of labor, increased their output in order to supply the Australian manufacturer.

With the I.W.W. form of organization prevailing, no such organized scabbing could take place, as the Japanese miners would be linked with the whole of the I.W.W. of Mine-workers, embracing every country in the world.

It must not be overlooked that the capitalist class of this and every other country in the world have an up-to-date One Big Union, namely, the Employers' Federation. When any member of this gigantic union embarks, as it does, the whole of the manufacturing, industrial, and financial capitalists, is engaged in a dispute, his One Big Union is notified and does everything in its power, both legal and illegal, to defeat the workers. For instance, if on strike, the boss of a given locality or mine are on strike, the boss of the whole of the country company involved does not lose to any great extent.

They tax themselves according to their rules

and thus make up the loss accruing to the company as the result of the strike.
(To be continued.)

Read and then Act.

Mine-workers.

In bringing this appeal before you, the purpose is to explain the need for a better form of organisation amongst the mine-workers. After many years that you have linked up in your several unions, and viewing the results in your various activities, surely it is quite time to question the usefulness of such unions.

Is it sufficient to claim that your living conditions are at least equal to those of the workers outside the mining centres?

But is this so? Can your unions show that their power has been great enough to demand even this?

No, most emphatically NO. Select any mining centre and there you will find absolutely the worst conditions prevailing.

And why? The reason is not far to seek. Mining centres are invariably populated by members of the working-class, and because of this it is not the working-class, and because of this it is not the place habitable. You pit your health against all the abominations that it is possible to mention, and your unions are powerless to alter matters.

You know the dangers and you have a strong desire for them to be swept away. It is not necessary for you to be told that your life is one continual drudge. You know it well and often-times you curse the day you saw the mines. Be honest to your convictions, and you will admit that it is a mine-worker's lot in damnably worse than that of the slaves of old could boast of greater freedom than you. That you are utterly ashamed of having to submit to exist under such miserable conditions.

Mine-workers, a straight talk, and a solid one is far better than hoping that something exceptional will happen that will allow you to leave the hell-holes for ever. Miracles may be performed for some, but never for mine-workers. Look at the whole thing fair and square, and recognise that if you are not prepared to do something, you can but continue the many disabilities that you and your families are burdened with to-day. More than being ashamed, determine that it is a disgrace falling upon you and your fellows that you are satisfied to work and live as you are, and then try to understand that it is really possible to sweep away the many miseries that you have allowed yourselves to become accustomed to.

Be firm and resolute and you never again will sell yourselves for the mere pittance that is doled out to you. Then ask the question for you: Why are you in a union? Because you are a miner or a trucker? No. Because you are a mill hand or a fireman? No. Because you are a carpenter or fitter, or a moulder, or a blacksmith, or a sailor, or your mate? Not at all. Because you follow one of the preceding occupations, and you have a fear against the fellows who follow the other occupations? No. Then what is it that compels you to organise? The reply is a simple one. Because you are a wage-slave for wages.

And why do you organise because you are a working-man? Again the answer is quite easy to find. Having to work for wages in order to procure a living, you see the necessity of combination to secure the best wages.

Your demands from whom? The miner from the fitter? The carpenter from the fitter? The blacksmith from the heavy hammer swinger? And so on. No, you organise to secure your demands from the men who employ you, the men on the mines are in a union to safeguard themselves against the same individuals—their employers.

This being so, then why do you not organise as working-men instead of having unions according to the job you do? Conditions prevalent in the mining industry reveal the awful fact that your unionism has not been able to do for you what you expected. It has not safeguarded you against your employers. Indeed, there is abundance of proof that members of one union have been used to defeat the members of another.

Being organised separately it is impossible to fight the boss on the straight-out issue. Under such a form you lack power; you have not the real understanding, and you cannot gather together the necessary force to gain a victory. Your activities are but writhings and twistings under the damnable burdens that you are carrying.

Your sectional unions, too, are more concerned about preparing for you when you are dead than about preparing for you when you are a decent and comfortable living. The life struggle is too much for them. To see that you don't commit a nuisance when you are dead seems to be the nature of the work they are fit for.

The folly of perpetuating the present form of unionism, the uselessness of which has been pronounced, compels you to take your place in an organisation that has within it the necessary machinery that allows it to function towards gaining of Industrial Freedom.

The struggle between the working class and the employing class is ever raging, and in the fight you cannot be too well prepared.

Industrial Unionism appeals to your intelligence, and the Industrial Workers of the World is the only organisation that can transform the now weak and puny working-class movement into an active and militant body of working-class men and women.

It is the only organisation to-day that has a claim upon you, because it is the only one that meets your every need in the battle of industrial supremacy for the workers.

To you workers in the Mining Industry the call for action is sounded. Cease to be divided in sections according to the occupation you are engaged at. Let not the locality in which you reside be the boundary of your unionism.

The workers are spread all over the world, and a world-wide organisation can alone suffice. Come, together, the mine-workers, build up industrial unionism through an organization that enrols the workers of every industry into their several industrial unions.

All the workers of every industry in the one organisation, the Industrial Workers of the World, and all the workers of each industry thoroughly organised to become a controlling body of that industry, is the unionism of the

future. All the workers in each industry fighting to gain working-class supremacy within the industry, and the workers of one industry coming to the assistance of the workers of the other industries is the working-class struggle simplified.

Mine-workers: What say you? By controlling the mining industry you, not the boss, fix the size of your pay envelope. You determine the least of the working-day. You regulate the speed at which you will work. You are the one on the job that claims consideration in everything pertaining to the job. As a matter of fact, you are just it.

Convinced, are you not, that these things are worth the small trouble and pay it will cost you? Such industrial changes bring along the goods to your homes, and your social life is correspondingly improved.

Worth it, isn't it? Come along, mates. Link up and get a move on, and ere long our battle-cry of industrial freedom will be echoed from every corner of the earth.

The world and the goodness thereof belongs to the workers.

E. MOYLE.

Continued from Page 1.

your miserable wages the per capita share of all gold you won, less working expenses, and thus get an idea of how you are fleeced. The men of Ballarat had a minimum of accidents, not an iota of your perils and risks. No miners' deadly phthisis in the fresh air of shallow workings. As to the police persecution they had to endure, you have it spread out over every attempt to better your conditions; and if in despair of any betterment, worth the name, you in your desperation acted as they did you would fare so much worse, that the early dawn sheet of musket flame, at Eureka, and the clash of bayonets and pikes, would be eclipsed by the mighty holocaust of your slaughter under the militarism of modern times.

Let us therefore read aright the lesson taught at Eureka. It is that not by arms on the field of battle, not by the tender mercy of the State, present or to come, can you build the hope of your deliverance from wage slavery and exploitation of your labor. No! Only by wise organisation on the field of industry, where your wrong is perpetrated. There it must be rectified, nowhere else, and by none other than yourselves. Already a military power is drawing its toils around you. If you are enmeshed therein, abandon all little hope you yet cherish. Your politicians are giving you into its fell clutch. Follow the lead of the stalwarts of Broken Hill. Resist the impending militarism that threatens you; believe in the sublime truth foretold by the great Frenchman, Mirabeau, who predicted the international strike in these words 130 years ago:—

"The people do not know that to strike their enemies into terror and submission they have only to stand still; that the most innocent and invincible of all powers is the power of refusing to do."

Miners of Australia, you have never yet tried your power on this line of simply "ceasing to do"—all together. There would be no suffering; you would never reach the hunger line; a week's holiday would win your demands.

MONT MILLER.

"MORE HONOR."

Following upon the convictions against Larkin, Reeves and Grant, of the I.W.W., in the Central Police Court last week, with having used abusive words towards Prime Minister Hughes, and against which an appeal has been lodged, Larkin and Reeves were again served with fresh summonses last week-end, and are to appear in court on Wednesday, 13th inst.

The former is charged under the War Precautions Act "with causing disaffection to His Majesty's subjects," by virtue of a speech made by him in the Sydney Domain on Sunday, 3rd instant, while Reeves is charged with practically the same offence as that upon which he was convicted the previous week.

The I.W.W. motto is, however, "More prosecutions, more honor," and we venture to think that before the sentences dealt out have been served the "culprits" are not going to be the loudest squealers.

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

88.

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE RENEW. DO IT NOW!

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

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

Printed and published by T. Glynn, of 19 Queen-street, Sydney, for the Industrial Workers of the World, at 403 Sussex-street, Sydney.