

DIRECT ACTION



VOL. III, NO. 92.

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

SYDNEY,

October 14, 1916. ONE PENNY.

No Conscription.

'A Scrap of Paper.'

News and Notes.

FACTS FOR DOUBTING BONEHEADS.

The question that is at present agitating the minds of the workers of Australia is that of Conscription. Each one of us must decide immediately what course of action we will adopt in order to frustrate the efforts of the master class to further shackle the workers with the most tyrannical form of slavery the workers in history ever had to endure— Militarism applied on the job. Under the cloak of the Flag, the Empire, Our Country, National Honour, Scraps of Paper, and other incomprehensible symbols the Federal Labour Party and other intoxicated patriots positively demand that we shall provide by the end of October 49,000 able-bodied men to deliver ourselves up to the nearest recruiting depot in order that we may be drilled, disciplined, organised, and shipped 13,000 miles away to fight Germans, Austrians, Turks, and Bulgarians. The question which we "wide awakes" are asking ourselves, "for what reason?" We are called upon to make more sacrifices on behalf of "THE EMPIRE," and it will rest with the working stiffs of Australia whether they will make any further sacrifices. The question of Conscription has been reasoned out from many standpoints, and we of the I.W.W., consider our point the only logical one, and that is from the point of view of interests, we consider that the working class movement of Australia will be cast into industrial oblivion should the workers allow the political tools of British capitalism to bluff them into accepting Conscription. These gentlemen are showing a remarkable spirit of camaraderie, and their newly-found affection for the workers and "his cobbers in the trenches" is astonishing. It is an astounding fact that it is the old sweating gang, the Black Laborites and the Bullenors and Fatteners on Child and Female Labour who are imploring us not to desert "our cobbers in the trenches." They use our colloquialism and to many well-intentioned people the appeal sounds reasonable and fair. Mr. Lloyd George states that Conscription is not required as a military necessity but for the sake of control in the workshops. If Conscription is unnecessary for an army in England where a population of 40 millions is at the very seat of war, it cannot be said to be necessary in Australia where we have a population of 4 1/2 millions only. There are 20 million Russians yet untouched, and the other day Roumania threw another million into the field. There are 250,000 officer's servants at the seat of war compelled to act the man "Friday" 10 miles behind the trenches, while we are asked to denude ourselves of our manhood. Little William has stated that single men are required and that 140,000 eligibles have not yet volunteered. This means, at the most, 80,000 will pass medically fit to proceed to the front. We know well 80,000 men from Australia will not very much effect the outcome of this titanic conflict in Europe where 30 million men are engaged in deadly contest, and 80,000 men from Australia is only one three hundredth and sixtieth part (1/360) of the total.

So you may now see the fallacy of the argument for Conscription. It is plainly evident to any working man or working woman who will just pause and think for a moment that the British politicians are in desperate straits, and the Labour-controlled Commonwealth, by adopting Conscription might be the means of their salvation. Conscription is not required for military purposes, but to further enslave us, and we will be robbed of the little liberty of conscience and freedom of speech that has been purchased at the price of Torture, Persecution, and the Martyrdom of our ancestors. We will be imprisoned, brutally assaulted and sentenced to death on the flimsiest of charges, as has been the

From Long Bay.

Greetings from Long Bay Prison to all "Direct Action" readers and working class people. We are now a dozen inside. May it be the signal for dozens of thousands to rally to the banner of the One Big Union on the outside.

The accession of the much prosecuted "J.B." to our ranks was hailed with cheers by the boys. He, too, is charged with Treason.

Treason!

If it be treason to give the best years of one's life to the cause of the working class, then I am sure J. B. King will gladly and proudly plead "guilty" to the charges.

And come what may, so say all of us!

So far we have nothing to complain of in our prison treatment, and prison officials of all ranks are, for the most part, courteous enough. Oh, yes, there are exceptions. The fight of the working class is not with officialdom, inside or out, but with the class who rule.

And it is precisely because the I.W.W. thoroughly understands this fact, that we are here.

However, the workers built the gaols, did they not? They will one day assuredly be abolished when the word TREASON has a different meaning for their ears; when the word LABOR fails to mask those who are traitors to their class; when the satyr-like grin of the capitalistic tools stands exposed to their class-conscious gaze. Into what hideous bloodhounds, to be sure, some "Labor" puppies have grown!

We wish to congratulate all Reds on the outside on the fight they are making, and to thank them for their efforts in our defence. Our one regret is that we are not out to participate in the conscription struggle.

While we know that the economic solidarity of the working class is the nightmare of our enemies, rest assured that goal will not disturb our equanimity, or our dreams.

All hail to the One Big Union!

"ONE OF THE DOZEN,"

NOTICE.

All unsigned contributions to this paper are collated or written by the Editor, J. A. Kinman, 403 Sussex Street, Sydney.

WANTED, 10,000 SUBSCRIBERS.

The authorities are attempting to stifle this paper by gaoing the Editor and Printer. We want all lovers of liberty to rally to our assistance. Collect subs., donate to the Press Fund, and increase your bundle order. Do it now, and do it often!

There is only ONE working class, logically there should be only ONE union. That is the I.W.W.

If you don't believe in slowing down, then you must logically be in favour of speeding up.

Our inequality materialises our upper class, vulgarises our middle class, brutalises our lower class.—Matthew Arnold.

case in other countries which have adopted Conscription. Conscription will result in the most brutal, terrorising, and demoralising form of Government in existence, namely, Government by military caste. Conscription enslaves the noblest of mankind, intensifies oppression and cruelty, invests absolute power in a military tyrant, makes the woman a manual labourer, and encourages child labour, starves the poor, fattens the rich, and bloats the sweater.

The Crisis has come! The calamity of war with all its horrors and affects now threatens us with a new tyranny—Conscription. Think! Workers who say NO forever deserve gratitude of their fellow-workers. We say with all the passion of our manhood, "No man shall go against his will," and what shall it profit the workers if "the ALLIES" gain the whole world and crush our individual liberty in the process.

W. JACKSON,

403 Sussex-street, Sydney.

The jingo press lately has poured the vials of its wrath on the I.W.W. "What with the vipers in Granny's bosom, the campaign of lies reflected in the "Mirror," the sentimental slobber of "The Sunday Chimes," and the abusive references to treason-mongers in "the sickly sun," it is clear the capitalists who own and control various mental brothels, are alarmed at the spread of Industrial Unionism. The fact that the circulation of "Direct Action" is increasing rapidly, and the workers have started to boycott certain plutocratic papers, shows clearly that the public recognise these slimy sheets as slanderers.

The members charged with treason were before the court to-day (Tuesday). The Crown prosecutor, in outlining the case, explained that the charge was really arson. As the case will probably last some time, and "Direct Action" goes to press on Wednesday morning, it is impossible to deal with the matter in this issue.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to limited space, we are holding over some articles. Writers should send in manuscript by Friday if they wish their matter to appear the following week.

WHY YOU SHOULD READ "DIRECT ACTION."

1. Because it prints the latest industrial news (both foreign and local). Critical articles dealing with all phases of Industrialism are a speciality.
2. D.A. prints cartoons and poems that no other paper in Australia publishes.
3. D.A. panders to no political party. Being non-political, it exposes political piffle.
4. D.A. has no space for sentimental stories or racy gossip. It is out to deliver the goods, that is, the scientific knowledge.
5. The fact that D.A. has been more abused and persecuted than any other paper in Australia is sufficient testimony to the esteem in which it is held by plutocrats. This is because plutocracy knows that D.A. knows and will let the workers know those things plutocracy does not wish them to know.

"The organisation to which I have the honour to belong has sent over two thousand men to the trenches."—William Morris Hughes at a bun-fight in the Sydney Town Hall prior to his pilgrimage to Buckingham Palace. William hasn't got the honour now.

The members of the Melbourne Local have already taken the matter of the TREASON charges up. They are publishing a manifesto to circularise the unions, arranging big protest meetings in the Guild Hall, and generally taking the initiative in securing publicity towards the end of getting our fellow workers free from the clutches of the John Law. Fellow-workers J. R. Wilson and Norman Jeffrey will welcome all assistance and suggestions at 197 Russell-street.

Mr. Hall, Minister for Justice, in reply to Mr. Fitzpatrick, M.L.A., "During the next few weeks . . . the fullest liberty of speech will be allowed, but not sedition." That is "liberty of speech" is allowed as long as it suits Mr. Hall and his company. When it does not suit them it becomes sedition, for THEY interpret what is, and what is not, sedition.

"Gentlemen," said the captain, walking into the cabin of the ship and addressing a Methodist and Baptist preacher, "I beg you not to alarm the passengers, but pray for us, for the ship is in a dangerous condition and, unless the storm abates, we will all be in heaven within the hour."

"My God, captain," cried the 'called,' "Can't you do something to save the ship."

Treason! Treason!! Treason!!! In democratic Australia, glorious "white" Australia. In the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixteen. With a Labour Party in power. With woman suffrage. With arbitration laws. Go on! Puddin' head politician, tell it to the 'orse marines.

The Russian workers should note the fact that the Russian literature was taken during the recent raid by the police. The literature and address book of subscribers to the Russian paper is also in embargo. Subscribers should forward their addresses to Box 98, Haymarket.

On Sunday evening, the Bathurst Street meeting was broken up by some patriots who had fought for liberty elsewhere, but strongly objected to liberty here.

Later a mob of the hooligan element made a demonstration in front of the I.W.W. Hall. After some argument and the arrival of the police, the hooligans marched away. Comrade Johnson then gave an address in the hall, during which the chairman asked the women and children to leave, as information had been received that the mob were returning to wreck the hall. Many left, while over a hundred remained to defend the premises, which were immediately barricaded.

The raid never eventuated, as the police charged and defeated the rioters at the junction of Goulburn and Sussex Streets. The only damage done to the premises was one window pane broken by a small stone.

During the week the local propagandists have been very active. Extra meetings were held during the week, and "Direct Action" printed a special edition on October 3rd, which in spite of the rain sold well. Judging by the way the public rushed the special edition, they are evidently tired of the capitalistic special war editions, which frequently have nothing better to report than the fact that a German sausage blew up in King Street.

DIRECT ACTION Echoes From the West.

Broken Hill Notes

Statement of Principles.



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

Office: 403 Sussex Street, Sydney,
Australia.

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.

Maltese Labor.

The unionists of Australia have recently been much concerned at the arrival in Australia of Maltese labourers. It is said that shiploads of the Maltese are on the water, and there is a suspicion that most of them are indentured labour. Although Ministers in the 'Ouse have made statements that the batch of immigrants came here at their own expense, and have not been hired by the Government, and further have no connection with the Norton-Griffiths contracts, considerable hostility has been displayed in unionist circles to these men, who were probably like other immigrants lured to Australia under false pretences. Of course, if it can be proved that these men are indentured labour, or are being used to lower the standard of living of the Australian worker, the unionists are quite right to kick against those responsible for this state of affairs.

Unfortunately, in at least some cases, there can be no doubt there is a good deal of racial hatred at the bottom of this cry against the Maltese.

In the first place we have to remember that Malta is a small island, and the Maltese a conservative race. Under the most favourable conditions it would not be possible to transfer more than a few thousand Maltese to Australia, and it is questionable if many of them would stay long. The wages paid in Australia are certainly higher, but so is the cost of living, indeed it is an open question if the Maltese labourer on 1/6 a day is not better off than certain classes of labour here which receive much higher wages.

It is said that the Maltese race have uncleanly habits. Viewed from our hygienic standpoint this may be true, but here again we have to remember that the climatic, sanitary, and housing conditions are different. It is natural and inevitable that people reared in different surroundings should have different habits and tastes. The writer, who lived in Malta for some time, was astonished to notice the large number of English residents who fell sick because they failed to adopt their style of living to local conditions. As a matter of fact, the Englishman is the last person in the world to do in Rome as Rome does. He is an Englishman all the world over, and demands his beer and beefsteak in Malta, no matter how flat the beer or how bad the beef, and irrespective of the fact that these things are unsuitable for the climate.

The vexed question of Maltese labour will not be settled by boycotting a few Maltese because they happen to be Maltese. The only logical solution seems to be to accept the Maltese as fellow labourers, provided they are prepared to stand out for the same conditions. There is little fear of them refusing to do this, as the Maltese, although lacking our superficial education, is at heart a unionist and have a better spirit of comradery than many pence card unionists who fail to realise that the real danger of alien labour lies in the East, not in the West. That danger can best be met by industrial organisation, and not abuse of a few unfortunates who were lured here by the lie at the lips of the immigration agent.

AJAX.

Sunday, September, 17th.

The Esplanade presented a striking contrast to the previous Sunday afternoon, when the usual attendance had marched to the Trades Hall in the wake of OUR Defence Department's gallant defenders of the peace and liberty of Australia, who on that occasion were breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the anti-conscriptionists.

Having no more Trades Halls to conquer the same batch of doughty warriors were in full attendance when the I.W.W. meeting was started under the chairmanship of T. W. Armstrong, of Freemantle, who, after opening with a short address, called on F.W. Miller, who gave an expository speech on the great advantage and power of the I.W.W. method of making the industrial field the battle ground in every contest with the exploiting class, and when the authority of law took sides with the capitalist class, meet them conjointly on the same field of vantage ground for the workers, by the direct action of the general strike, which will be the inevitable weapon of victory. Once the workers are organised on the plan of the I.W.W., with its six great divisions all moving at once on to the field of passive resistance by the simple tactic of ceasing to produce the means of individual life and national existence. The widespread confusion and disorder to society by the one class on which it depends, for all sustenance, taking a respite from toil for a week, or two at the most—was set out in detail. The capitalist class, said the speaker, fully cognise all the possibility of these events transpiring in the future, should the I.W.W. mode of organisation and tactics come in for general adoption by the working class in this and other lands. It is this sense of danger by the lords of wage slave production that actuates all their hatred and bitter persecution of our movement; and all the past and present attempts to gag our freedom of speech, a free press, and an open propaganda by right of public meeting.

All these disabilities imposed by our oppressors are the best testimony of the potency of the I.W.W. to abolish wage slavery, overthrow capitalism, and give a full emancipation to the great working class, and, concluded the speaker, no such testimony has capitalism ever awarded to sectional unionism.

F.W. Mrs. Westbrook, in response to the call of the chairman, took the platform, and was in full swing with one of her glowing diatribes against the injustice of capitalism and the sufferings of workers, especially women workers, and was just getting into the pith and marrow of her speech when one of the arch-disturbers and wreckers of the Trades Hall meeting arrived at the I.W.W. gathering, with a backing of bat-eyed and ox-bruised boneheads, and tried to down and out our sister rebel with interjections and abusive accusations, whilst the evident intention of breaking up our meeting, but the regular audience of the I.W.W. got indignant, and fairly roared and howled against the opponent of their popular woman speaker. After a protracted wrangle, the would-be wrecker accepted his discomfort and moved off to an adjacent seat, and using it as his stump, commence to harangue the crowd who followed him, and soon had to take one of his own physio per medium of the count out. Meanwhile the I.W.W. meeting settled down to orderly attention and received in return of their loyal backing of the speaker, a glowing and impassioned speech as ever fell from the lips of women in W.A. The one pardonable mistake of our F.W. being, that she spoke to the point of exhaustion, and retired amid the heartiest ovation of applause of the (by this time) immense audience that had been drawn to our meeting by the contest of swashbuckler bulleydom with a woman's spirit of courage and fluency of speech. It was a splendid moral victory for the woman and the I.W.W. propaganda, and the sale of "Direct Action" and "Solidarity" was in advance of any weeks past.

Efforts are being made to secure rooms for Sunday night meetings, and club purposes.

Hope to be able to report on success of same at an early date.

M.M.

NOTICE.

Any local or fellow workers having sent in orders for literature are requested by the Literature Secretary, Sydney Local, to communicate again with him, as all correspondence is at present in the hands of the police.

Broken Hill locals are still alive, growing and preaching the gospel of Industrial Unionism to the multitude of slaves, who, drawn from the four corners of the earth, have found a temporary resting (1) place in this city of the desert. And the work of our propagandists is not in vain, for the membership of our locals are constantly being augmented by the best and most militant of the workers in this centre.

On Sunday last, F.W. Donald Grant spoke in the Trades Hall on "Patriotism" to a crowded and enthusiastic audience, and showed in his usual vigorous and convincing style just what patriotism means to the working class, how it has been used in the past to keep the world's workers divided, and emphasised the never patriotism of the workers—patriotism to the working class as against the master class.

F.W. Grant's visit to Broken Hill has not been in vain, for he, in conjunction with other speakers who have visited here from other centres, has served to show that the whole of Australia is seething with revolt against the modern juggernaut of Capitalism—Conscription.

At time of writing, F.W. Grant is in duration vile in Broken Hill gaol, having been arrested on a charge of treason, just as he was about to leave Broken Hill on Tuesday night, the 26th inst. On appearance before the S.M., Grant was remanded for eight days, bail up to the present, being refused.

Messrs. Brookfield, Sinclair, and McLaughlin were again before S.M. Shaw on Monday morning last, on charges arising out of speeches made from the platform of the anti-Conscription Party (late Labor's Volunteer Army). Of course all of them were found guilty, and sentenced to various penalties against which they have appealed, and are now at liberty until the appeal cases are heard.

While the aforementioned cases were being heard a crowd of several thousand gathered in the courthouse yard, and in the street in front, and showed their disapproval of the persecutions by singing almost all the songs in the I.W.W. song book.

After the cases were heard the prisoners were removed round the rear of the building to the cells in the adjoining police station. On the crowd learning this they went round to the back of the police station and sang songs to the prisoners, who looked out through the bars of their cells. The police eventually drew their batons and dispersed the crowd. In the melee, which resulted from this action, four men were arrested, and subsequently convicted and sentenced. William Henry Jewell, for riotous behaviour, to be of good behaviour for twelve months, in default, six months imprisonment. Charles Martinsen, for assaulting the police, to three months imprisonment without the option. Thomas John Oates, for assaulting the police, to three months imprisonment; and Edward Hogan, for riotous behaviour, to be of good behaviour for 12 months, in default, six months imprisonment.

It need hardly be said that none of the above cases would have taken place if the police had adopted any other tactics, and that the evidence upon which they were convicted was nothing but a tissue of lies and misrepresentation. All the sentences were appealed against, and the convicted men subsequently released on bond. The feeling here against conscription is very strong, and if conscription ever becomes an accomplished fact the blame will not lay at the door of the workers of Broken Hill.

F.F.W.

CLERICAL GANT.

Thank God for a strong public opposition to the pestilential Peace Cranks who are doing their best to stop the War. Christ would, we feel sure, turn in fierce anger and righteous wrath upon these decadent portnoos and lash them with his scourge of divine punishment and military imprisonment. If we read the New Testament we shall find an answer to every argument which these dangerous Peace-mongers may bring forward. Let the Church be of good cheer.—"Christian Commercialist."

Write it in letters of fire, shout it from the housetops: THE LOWERING OF THE STATUS OF THE WORKING CLASS BY THE COMPETITION OF INDENTURED LABOR IS THE REAL PURPOSE AND OBJECT OF CONSCRIPTION IN AUSTRALIA.—J. A. Kinman, 403 Sussex St., Sydney.

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 centring 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 allows 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.

HOW WASTE TIME HAS BEEN UTILIZED.

Baxter wrote his Saint's "Everlasting Rest" on a bed of sickness (1615-91).

Hloomfield composed the "The Farmer's Boy" in the interval of shoemaking (1766-1823).

Bunyan wrote his "Pilgrim's Progress" while confined in Bedford gaol (1628-1688).

Burvitt (Elihu) made himself acquainted with ten languages while plying his trade as a village blacksmith. His father was a village cobbler, and Elihu had only six months education, and that at the school of his brother.

Caney, the missionary and Oriental translator, learned the rudiments of Eastern languages while employed in making and mending shoes (1761-1834).

D'Aguesseau, the great French Chancellor, observing that Mde. D'Aguesseau always delayed ten or twelve minutes before she came down to dinner, began and completed a learned book of three volumes (large quarto) solely during these "waste minutes." This work went through several editions (1668-1751).

Franklin, while working as a journeyman printer, produced his "Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity, Pleasure and Pain (1706-1790).

Miller (Hugh) taught himself geology while working as a mason (1802-1856).

Fellow workers take a line off these men, and see what they have accomplished. Study your position as a wage worker in society. Read, analyse and investigate for yourselves the same as the men above have done. Do not let the politician do your thinking, believe in the maxim of Lord Byron, "He who would be free he himself must strike the blow." Too long have the workers been led, refuse to be led any longer, organise as a class, join the "One Big Union" and emancipate yourself from wage slavery.

A WAGE SLAVE.

There can be no doubt that the War will prove the divinity of Christ in a way which will baffle the Agnostics, Atheists, and Freethinkers. The War will prove the tremendous uplifting power of Christianity and fill the infidel with dismay. Through Christ alone can peace and progress come. . . . We are glad to see that the Conscription Bill is now certain of success. Those laggards who refuse to fight will now be compelled.—"Christian Adventurer."

CASH IS WANTED.

For the legal defence of Fellow-workers Glynn, Larkin, Reeve, Grant, Bessant, McPherson, Hamilton, and Brice. Champions of the working-class MUST not sit in gaol for the want of the necessary.

Militarism.

Melbourne News.

Political Prevarication.

The I.W.W. Press.

Much ostentation vain of fleshly arm
And fragile arms, much instrument of
war
Long in preparing, soon to nothing
brought.

Luggage of war there shown me-
argument.
Of human weakness rather than of
strength.

Oh what are these!
Death's ministers, not men! who thus
deal death.
Inhumanity to men, and multiply
Ten thousand fold the sin of him who
slew
His brother; for of whom such massacre
Make they but of their brethren, men of
men!

For in those days might only be admired
And valour and heroic virtue called—
To overcome in battle, and subdue
Nations and bring home spoils with
infinite.
Manslaughter, shall be held the highest
pitch
Of human glory and for glory done,
Of triumph to be styled great conquerors,
Patrons of mankind, gods, and sons of
gods—
Destroyers right ever called, and plagues
of men.

—J. MILTON.

AMERICAN CAPITALISM.

My country! 'tis of thee,
Great-land of slavery,
Where cash is king;
Land where the babies toil,
Land where the millions moil,
For holy Standard Oil,
Of thee I sing!

The eagle I adore,
The double eagle more,
It is a bird;
I love thy banks and tills,
Thy dimes and dollar bills,
By bonds and stocks and wills,
My heart is stird!

Almighty Dollar, Thee,
Author of boodery,
To Thee we sing;
Let all thy act acclaim,
Forever sound thy fame;
All hallowed be thy name,
Great God, our King.

—Covington Hall, in "Rebellion."

WOMEN CHEAP.

THE NEED FOR ORGANISATION.

The following remarks by Melinda Scott, an American woman, are applicable wherever Capitalism holds sway:—
"The cheapest things in the labour market to-day are women and children. It is just because women are so looked upon by the employers of labour that we, the organised women, must appeal to our organised brothers to help us by understanding us and our sincerity in the great labour movement. They can begin with the women folk in their own homes. We find very often that the wives and sisters of the brothers in our trade unions know nothing of the trade union movement, and we must work together until we get women as thoroughly organised as men are; together we will see to it that child labour is abolished; there shall be equal pay for equal work, and a work-day shall not bring to the workers physical and mental exhaustion and starvation wages. Women must organise into trade unions, for organisation among all the workers has come to stay. They must not take any substitute for industrial organisation. We find that the manufacturers are willing to give us everything under the sun but justice and the right to demand a living wage, shorter hours, and decent conditions."—"Barrier Truth."

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

For

"DIRECT ACTION"

Enclosed please find P.O. for \$4., for which please send "Direct Action" for one year to the following address:—

Name.....

Address.....

Fill it in NOW!

Truly the Gods are conspiring against us. On the week when we expected to hold one of the largest crowds ever seen on the Yarra Bank, the windows of heaven were open with the deluge of sky juice, which is still pouring down seven days after it started. So the report for last week is like the sky—dull.

Besides having to forego the Yarra Bank meetings, we also had to abandon our usual Friday night's meetings at South Melbourne and Collingwood. But in spite of the weather, we had an exceptionally enthusiastic lecture at our hall on Sunday evening. Fellow-worker Bert. Wall delivering a stirring address entitled "The Industrial Basis of Conscription." Fellow-worker J. R. Wilson took advantage of an overflow meeting at the Guild Hall on Sunday evening, and held forth to thousands of people in the lower hall.

During the meeting Senator Lynch bogged his frame in and wanted to put the case for conscription. Jack, not having the opportunity to meet politicians looking for him to debate, gladly gave the Senator half-an-hour and then Jack replied. The Senator was thrashed, his arguments were sieved to such an extent that it was found he had no case, and the crowd howled with delight, and finally howled him out of the hall. He proved conclusively that the conscriptionists have no case as far as the working class are concerned.

Fellow-worker Norman Jeffries, and a few other rebels, still keep the propaganda up to the wage plugs of a dinner hour.

We expect to have one of the largest crowds ever seen on the Yarra Bank next Sunday. Fellow-worker D. Grant will be with us that day, and with our other speakers we intend to hold a large portion of the crowd from two platforms.

The wage plugs are getting very restless here, looking for a way out of the wilderness that their political Moses has led them into. By the size of the meetings, and the enthusiasm shown, things look very optimistic. They seem to be straining at the leash for the word "go." As reports from Broken Hill, and other industrial centres, seem to be the same, Little Billie has kicked over a hornet's nest, and is surely going to get stung. We will have a big healthy report next week. We'll get ready for the fray.

JAMES POPE.

There can be no greater satire on our boasted democracy than the recent attempt to gaul an idea by prosecuting people under an obsolete medieval law. The priest class, when in power, fabricated a charge of heresy against those whose ideas were dangerous to superstition. The State, likewise taking advantage of political superstition, denounces intellectuals as seditious because the class state founded on exploitation and ignorance relies on force. No legal quibbling will alter that fact. This is the tragedy of the ages Law said Socrates was wrong, and must die. Socrates died, but the truth he stood for grew in spite of tyranny. Bruno was burnt at the stake for enunciating scientific truths, but the truth prevailed in spite of persecution. Joe Hill died, but his songs ring true, and the time will come—it has already come for some—when the voice of the people will say with Swinburne:—
"We have done with the kisses that sting;
The thieves' mouths fed at the feast,
The blood on the hands of the king,
And the lie at the lips of the priest."

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

We regret that owing to the recent raid we are temporarily unable to locate some subscribers. As soon as possible their papers will be sent. We trust that those thus inconvenienced will understand that circumstances over which we have no control are responsible for the non-livery of "Direct Action."

WAGE-WORKERS alone can join the I.W.W. There is no room in the I.W.W. for capitalists, parsons, politicians, landlords, or other undesirable citizens.

Melbourne Local of the I.W.W. wishes it to be announced through the columns of "Direct Action" that they are now established in new quarters at 197 Russell-street (corner Little Bourke-street).

Mr. Archibald's speech, in the Federal Parliament, September 20th, 1916.—

I know as much about party organisation as does the hon. member, and I know that all party organisations with which I have ever had anything to do leave a man free, that is to say, pledge to constituents to exercise his own judgment to return to them the trust which they have reposed in him, and to allow no individual to come between them and him. There is another aspect to this question to which I think attention should be called, namely, that to-day we are fighting one of the greatest military powers in Europe. We know that Germany has freely expended money in espionage, in corruption, mendacity, and indeed in every infamy in the calendar. In the interests of Germany it is very undesirable that this bill should be passed. From a German standpoint, it was a mistake that any Australian ever went to the front. We can readily understand, therefore, that there are in our midst men who, whilst they are not Germans, have not hesitated to accept German gold. I ask hon. members to look around and see what is going on. We know what German agents have accomplished in America and Ireland.

Mr. Fowler: They did not overlook Australia!

Mr. Yates: They overlooked South Australia. The hon. member for Hindmarsh cannot urge the point he is making against the Labour Party in South Australia. There is no Industrial Workers of the World denomination there.

Mr. Archibald: That is what I am leading up to. We know what the policy of Germany has been, and do the hon. members imagine that the age of miracles has passed? Do we not know that German agents will be very anxious to learn what is going to occur here during the next two months? There is in our midst an organisation called the Industrial Workers of the World, which is a Yankee organisation; it is like a good many things which came from America; the less said about it the better. How was that organisation originated? Hon. members know that some time ago, when trouble occurred in Colorado, the Pinkerton men and the coal owners of the State banded themselves together for the purpose of coercing the miners there. Eventually, the miners chased them out of Colorado; it was these Pinkerton men who formed the Industrial Workers of the World. When an hon. member sees certain individuals very flush of money he is at liberty to draw his own conclusions. It is a singular fact that owing to the machinations of these men a strike is engineered here, and another labor disturbance somewhere else. Nearly all the leading members of this organisation are Americans. Why we should permit all the rubbish of America to be shot in our midst I do not know. Hon. Members laugh, but this is no laughing matter, because I am absolutely certain that we should regard these people on all occasions as our enemies. What is there to prevent us from deporting them—from sending a ship load of them back to San Francisco.

Mr. Page: That is what the squatters wanted to do with the Hon. Member and myself in 1891.

Mr. Archibald: I am sorry if the Hon. Member cannot draw a distinction between Industrial Workers of the World and Labor men. That sort of interjection will read very well in the "Worker," but where is there any analogy between the extreme Laborite and the Pinkerton man from Colorado? The Hon. Member should have a bit of common sense.

Mr. Page: I have sufficient common-sense to know that the squatters of 1891 advocated what the Hon. Member is advocating to-day.

Mr. Archibald: But the men who organised the Labor movement never had anything in common with these vermin. I do not thank the Hon. Member for instituting such a comparison.

Mr. Page: It is strange that the hon. member is advocating what the squatters advocated in 1891.

Mr. Archibald: At any rate I have made my view of this matter pretty plain, and I am content to leave it. We ought to see that organisations like the Industrial Workers of the World are not allowed to carry on their machinations in our midst to the detriment of the peace, and order, and good government of the Commonwealth.

(The above extract is a fair sample of the malicious abuse and invidious insinuations heaped on the I.W.W. by politicians. Calling people Pinkertons, foreigners and German agents, does not cut any ice, it is at best an attempt to inflame the mind of ignorance against Industrial Unionism.—Ed.)

"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.

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SYDNEY LOCAL Meetings, &c.

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

Meetings in Hall:

Sunday, 8 p.m.—Propaganda.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Economic Class.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Business Meeting.
Saturday Evening.—Speakers' Class.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers and members can now obtain a complete file of the 2nd volume of "Direct Action." The volume contains from number 21 to 55, inclusive, and dates from February 1st, 1915, to the same date in 1916.

The complete file will be forwarded to any part of Australia upon receipt of money order for 3s, which includes postage.

From an historical standpoint, as well as from an educational standpoint, the volume is essential. All the information re the Newcastle free speech fight, the poster and stickers case, the hundred and one strikes of the year, are contained within the volume.

It also includes "Cresset's" satires, Nicholl's cartoons, West's Ballad of Maitland Gaol, "General Strike," "Arbitration Court," and "The Interrupted Snooze," as well as dozens of first-class articles and criticisms upon matters industrial and political.

An early application is necessary, as the supply of files are limited. There are no files of the first volume left.

WANTED, Recruits, male and female, for the Industrial Workers of the World. Must be determined, unscrupulous, and unafraid of gaol or death. Apply to-day at the nearest I.W.W. Recruiting Office.

The Will to Power.

INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.

By Ajax.

Life is strife for every man,
For every son of thunder;
Then be a lion and not a lamb,
And don't be trampled under.

The most significant factor of last century was the rise of industrialism. The numerous inventions in machinery and increased facilities for transport, not to mention other factors made industrialism the king of society. Production in the past had always been the sustaining and driving force of society, but numerous other factors to a large extent obscured the issue until the commercial activities of the nineteenth century demonstrated clearly the supremacy of industrialism.

During this era it was found necessary to reorganise education, as the meagre curriculum taught to working class children was totally inadequate to prepare them to take their places as skilled slaves in industry. The improved educational facilities, although ushered in to the cry of "free education" were, and still are, education on class lines, that is to say, only those ideas were taught that suited the upper ten. This fact to a large extent explains the backward psychology of the people compared to the advance of science and invention.

Production has advanced beyond the handicraft and feudal era, but the workers to a large extent, cling to feudal conceptions. Every day one notices illustrations of this fact. The worker goes after a job and finds that the onus of fitness is thrust on him. There is no question of trust or belief. He goes to prove if necessary, that he is the best man in the world for that particular work. He accepts this state of affairs without a murmur, yet if a politician asks him at the election to give him a three years lease of a soft job without any guarantee of competence, the same workers will help to elect this individual. The same thing occurs with other professional gentry. Lawyers require heavy retainers and doctors demand large fees for services which in many cases are indifferently performed and barren in result. Thousands of workers daily perform services, which are more difficult, dangerous, and of greater benefit to society, and complacently accept a bare subsistence wage in return. These inequalities of service and reward excite no comment. Workers who have been taught the great importance of brains and the unimportance of manual labour in capitalist schools don't suspect anything is wrong. They just acquiesce, believing that these things are right. The large profits gained from the industry by the employers by virtue of their ownership is a glaring instance of the slavish attitude adopted by the workers. Most of the strikes are caused by the increasing rapacity of the owning class lowering the wages to a point when the workers are forced to strike to maintain their relative poor standard of living. These strikes are mostly badly organised, and proceed not from any aspirations of the mind, but are mere outbursts caused by the hunger pangs of the belly.

Although unions and associations have done a little to improve the lot of certain sections of workers, no material betterment of the mass can be expected until the psychology of the unit is higher and the form of industrial organisation based on scientific facts. As units the workers believe too much and think too little. As a mass their mental activities are not in harmony with their industrial functions.

The most pressing need of the workers is power—economic power. They can talk about rights till the cows come home, dream dreams of coming of socialism or vote for political Messiahs till the second coming of Christ. All the protesting and voting is mere hot air unless they have the might to back up their wishes. As a class the workers are only entitled to that which they can take and hold; this law affects all classes and is written in letters of blood across the pages of industrial history. That only which appertains is constitutional, that only which can be maintained by force, is legal.

If the employers can force the workers to work a ten-hour day for tenpence that will be both right and legal. If the workers can secure a two-hour day for two pounds that also will be right and constitutional. It is at basis a question of power.

The only place where the workers can effectively develop and exercise power is at the point of production. The law courts are a place where they cannot be, need not be, never were and never will be represented. Besides if arbitration tribunals can give them anything they can also take

it back. The same thing applies to Parliament. These institutions function in the interests of the class that is master of production. The captains of industry have the economic might to bend or break all judicial institutions. The latter bow to the will of the former because they have to, not that they like it, and if the workers gained industrial control the priests, politicians and lawyers would play the tune when labour called the piper.

There was a time when the employer was the manager of the business, and in some cases his organising ability was a useful adjunct to industry. To-day industry is no longer individualistic, but collective, and even the managerial part is done by workmen. Already the workers perform every useful function in society and are fast developing the necessary administrative abilities formerly supposed to be a special monopoly of the owning class. The owning class driven to desperate straits to justify their position have to fall back on the last ditch of capitalism, ownership. Their dictatorship of society is the direct expression of industrial ownership.

To-day the workers control the wheels of industry and operate production in accordance with the desires of the commercial class, and not in conformity with the economic wants of society. This is responsible for glutted markets, unemployment, disease and poverty. It is not so much that the capitalist is rapacious, the politician treacherous, or the law unjust, it is the fact that the workers as a class have not yet developed the will to industrial freedom. The evil although apparently economic is at basis psychologic. Much mud has been thrown at the monied man by labour journals, but the labour men fail to realise that the capitalist could not oppress the worker if he were not ignorant. The ignorance of the working class is responsible for its own oppression, nobody else.

Blind and slavish obedience to the dictates of those who are supposed to govern is the main psychological cause of the degradation of labour. This slavish adherence to established customs and conventions is essentially immoral, for nature commands all organisms to grow and develop their highest powers. Whatever is done to develop power and organise labour to emancipate itself is moral and just, for all freedom rests on power. All power in the past has flowed from people who had the spirit to think and act for themselves. It is not the votes of majorities, but the attitude of minorities that have determined social changes. Along the line of history the men whose ideas and actions were in advance of their time were the people whose aspirations were the impetus that heralded social changes. What the workers particularly require is action—action that will develop power. It was action that forced Magna Charta at Runnymede. Action established feudalism on the ruins of chattel slavery. It was revolt by the trading class which overthrew feudalism and ushered in capitalism. The present capitalist class now professedly a class pledged to "law and order," "religion and right," was then a revolutionary class which became the controlling class because it was class conscious and developed the will to power. In the struggle with the feudal barons the traders flouted every authority and precedent, used every weapon and subterfuge to gain their ends. At first the odds were against them but the virility of the roundheads surmounted all obstacles.

Once the dominant caste, the traders legalised their own acts, established their own constitution, and subordinated all institutions to their will. Since that time much water has run under the bridges and the class struggle now is essentially a fight for the control of industry.

It is in industry that the workers power is greatest, and the capitalist power weakest. The workshop concerns the worker at least six days a week while he functions in politics only one day every three years. The vital point around which the activities of the workers function is production. The wail of want is of far greater importance than the whine of wowers. Poverty has a far greater effect on the masses than politics and the will of labour is of much greater importance than the word of law.

It is not by tinkering with revision and reform, or by supporting bourgeois institutions that the workers can hope to improve their position.

The hope of the workers is to think and organise, as a class developing their own ideas, and creating their own power. No other class can or will lead the masses out of bondage. The workers alone can emancipate themselves, they must be their own leaders and soldiers in the battle against vested interests.

The important point is power—economic power—which must be obtained by any and every means. Labour contains

within itself the power to do all things. For centuries labor has hung upon the cross of slavery and knew only ridicule and oppression from the parishes of capitalism, but to-day a new labour is arising, a new social consciousness is developing, a labour that is imbued with the spirit of class-consciousness, a labour union that is buoyed up with a new ideal that is begotten of the will to freedom and the thirst for power, a labour that is beginning to realize that it has the power to right every wrong, for labour produces all and can conquer all.

Treason.

THE TREASON OF INDUSTRIAL

UNIONISM.

(A. Maek.)

The organisation known as the Industrial Workers of the World is striving to so organise the world's working class along the lines cut out by the march of machine production that they will eventually bring about the collapse of the present class state and raise in its place social order based upon the co-operative ownership and control of all the resources of the world.

This is claimed to be the historic mission of the working class, yet no other organisation of the workers makes any pretence to accomplish this result; the craft unions claim merely to secure for the people a "fair day's pay for a fair day's work," still with this mode of programme they are by no means successful, the reason being that the machinery of craft union is obsolete, for in them the workers are grouped about the shadows of the crafts just as they were a century ago about the crafts themselves. These unions then maintain their primal forms even though the craft has disappeared, or is rapidly doing so.

The "Industrial Workers of the World" have persistently pointed out the anomaly of trying to represent modern industrial labor by the outdated craft organisations, and the agitation and education carried on by them during their four years of activity is beginning to have an effect upon the psychology of the working class.

Already the walls of the craft union fortress have commenced to crumble and they threaten at any moment to come apart and oust the Trade Union secretaries who had, as they believed, "ding themselves in" to a comfortable position for life.

Consequently in organising the army of labour for the overthrow of the system we are fully cognisant of the fact that we must be prepared for a desperate struggle, not only with the capitalist class but also with the opportunist politicians and the reactionary craft union secretaries; the passing of the "good job" is ever a matter of deep concern to these latter gentry and the organisation which tends to enlighten the people must expect to face a campaign of hate and slander. Understanding the position, we are not surprised that vigorous attempts are being made to keep many members of the advanced working class behind prison bars on a "frame up" charge of treason.

The crime for which men of our class are being tried is the crime of teaching the necessity for the One Big Union on the industrial field, for the masters realise—at present more clearly and keenly than the majority of the workers—that such a scientific organisation spells disaster for themselves, hence it is precisely for the purpose of silencing the propaganda of Industrial Unionism that our fellow workers are at this moment wasting in prison cells.

Their alleged treason is built on a supposition that they did wickedly compass, imagine and intend, etc., to levy war upon His Majesty the King, within his dominions. Now the only foundation the "powers" have for their supposition is that the men were spokesmen of an organisation with declared intentions of abolishing the wages system, that is, the capitalist system and the capitalist class.

This action of the authorities reminds us forcibly that the uprooting of the capitalist class is an illegal and criminal act, also that any preparation for the purpose is criminal and treasonable. It is well to keep this in mind.

It is complimentary to the Industrial Workers of the World to know that though but four years in this continent it is the only body the boss considers a menace to his continued piracy and prosperity; but don't forget that our fellow workers are being starved and brutalised in master class gaols for building up this menace to the capitalist system. The masters are "doing their bit," what are you workers going to do about it?

The Treason Charge

By this time, most of the advanced and intelligent working class are cognisant with the seriousness of the charges that have been levelled against our fellow workers who are at present in gaol. Already stalwart fighters for freedom are starting on a nation-wide agitation for the release of our members.

Publicity is required. Everyone who considers himself or herself a live wire should get busy. In places where there are several such, committees should be formed to collect funds, and place the matter before the working class. Handbills, and manifestos based upon the circular of the Workers' Defence Committee should be published and distributed. Union meetings be circularised and addressed.

Funds are urgently required. These men have to have the best legal assistance possible. Top-notch barristers demand top-notch rates. Our duty to our fellow workers insists that we give the very best help to them in the fight against the machinations of the master class.

Several of our fellow-workers are married and have families. Duty implies that the Defence Committee must provide for them in the absence of their breadwinners.

To all militant workers we appeal with confidence. We have never appealed in vain. The I.W.W. has never turned other workers down when they have been fighting the employing class. We have never failed in agitational work.

All the MEN who are in gaol are tragical members of their class. Some of them have already been gaoled for opposing the ruling class, for fighting for liberty of speech. They are men down to the finger-tips. I know them, have fought with them, and will fight for them.

I want to see a million more.
We want Funds!
We want Publicity!
Because eleven MEN'S liberty is at stake.

TOM BARKER.

"He who giveth quickly, giveth twice." was well illustrated all over Australia when the clan heard that the Sydney local had been raided, and the boys arrested. Fellow Worker Hartley, chairman of the Moore shearers wired £25 from the shearers in that district. At a stop work meeting in the Protestant Hall, of the A.S. of Engineers, on Wednesday, 4th September, a sum of £11 was collected for the Defence Fund. Fellow Worker Tom O'Loughlin, of Coff's Harbour, sends along a list of £5 16s. collected from those in the vicinity. Boys, we thank you in the names of the MEN in gaol.

Fellow Worker Peter Larkin was to have spoken in the Guild Hall, Melbourne, on the Wednesday following the Saturday after he was arrested on the "Historical Basis of the Irish Rebellion." In his absence, Mr. Pat Hickey, late of N.Z., and now organiser of the Victorian Railways Union, Miss Pankhurst, Miss Grant, and J.R. Wilson, held the platform to a crowded house. All the proceeds, including profit on sales of literature over and above expenses, amounting to £11 17s was forwarded to Sydney for the use of Mrs. Larkin during the incarceration of her husband. The generous action of the meeting was highly appreciated by both Mrs. Larkin and the members in Sydney.

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.

Subscribers who do not receive their 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 for the General Executive Board of the Industrial Workers of the World, by Tom Barker, at 403 Sussex Street, Sydney, N.S.W.