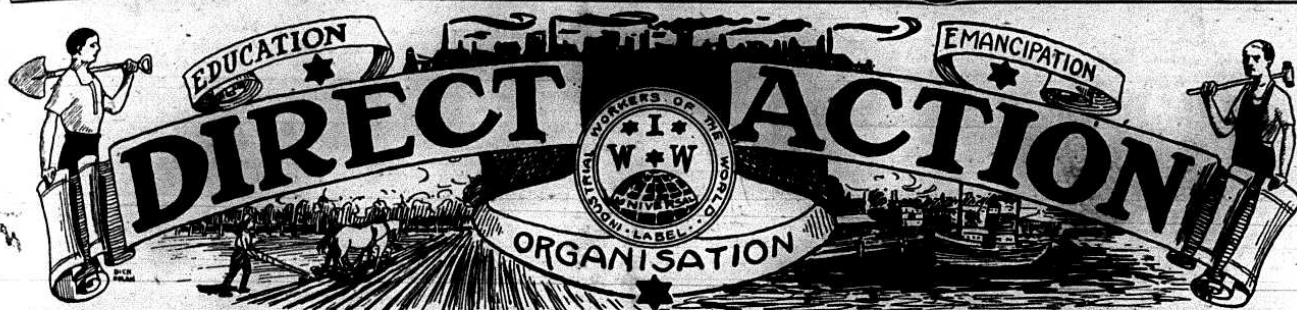


Gaol is Not an Argument.



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Our "Movement"

THE I.W.W. IN PARLIAMENT.

By TOM BARKER.

During the recent censure motion on the Government, the I.W.W. was frequently mentioned by the politicians. One of these persons, Mr. Arthur Griffith, who has recently resigned from the Ministry, who was a strong conscriptionist, and who has become remarkably wealthy since he entered the questionable atmosphere of Parliament, had the following to say, according to Hansard, page 2500:—

"I have said at every meeting that the P.L.L. had no relation or connection with the I.W.W., that the bitterest enemies the Labour movement have are the I.W.W. That organisation does not believe in political action at all—it believes in carrying out its propaganda by criminal methods, and any suggestion, here or elsewhere, that the I.W.W. have any connection with the P.L.L., is contrary to fact, and is a very gross libel on the Labour movement, to which I have belonged for many years, and to which I still belong, notwithstanding illegal resolutions for my expulsion. . . . No member of the Executive could be a member of the I.W.W.—that no I.W.W. men could be even a member of a Labour League, because he would have to make a statement that he believed in the principles of the Labour movement, and the I.W.W. people admit that they do not.

Here to-night I want to repudiate, on behalf of the Labour movement, any connection with the I.W.W., and to state that it is an antagonistic organisation, desirous of destroying the Labour movement in Australia. . . . The principles of the I.W.W. are based on criminal actions."

Then Mr. Griffith goes to tell us of the days when his well-beloved "Labour movement" was unpopular, and he, with other discredited conscriptionists of to-day, fought until they had popularised it.

Now, we have had twenty-two years of Mr. Griffith's "Labour movement" politics, and the results are so depressing that, even a bonehead, leave alone a "criminal" I.W.W. man, must have lost all faith in politics and politicians as a result of the illuminating efforts of Mr. Griffith and his colleagues. After 22 years of talking the Liberal Party to death, the coal miners have to resort to the strike in order to obtain the Eight Hours that Mr. Griffith and Co. celebrate with the assistance of Big Dingo every year.

But, bless you, if you don't favour a "Labour Movement" based upon a servile trade union voting herd, and a gang of new rich politicians, then, you like the I.W.W. are "criminal" in instinct, and "antagonistic" in the view of the "Labour movement." If you attack the political superstructure, and show to an awakening working class, the futility of asking others to conjure the millennium out of a ballot-box, and proving to them that political action only emancipates the politicians, who stagnate and become conservative as their bank balances grow.

Besides, the term, "Labour movement" implies motion of some kind. We of the I.W.W. certainly want nothing to do with a "Labour movement" that has lifted Mr. Griffith from the rut and placed him in the position of being one of the masters, and make him anxious to perpetuate the system of private property, and legalised robbery that is a reproach to a country like Australia. The I.W.W. wants to have nothing to do with a "movement" that is stagnant and whose noteworthy products are conscriptionist politicians, who would shackle the limbs, as well as the brains, of the working class in the barracks and in the factory.

And because the Industrial Workers of the World have smashed the political superstition and ballot-box idolatry, we are to be termed outlaws, to be branded "criminal," while our membership lives in continual hope or dread of being flung into gaol. In less than two years the Labour Government, of which Mr. Griffith was a Minister, threw me into Long Bay Gaol on two occasions, once for selling industrial literature without a

permit, and once for telling politicians, persons, capitalists and other undesirable citizens that they were needed in the trenches. When "Labour movement" does that for me, you can hardly wonder at the I.W.W. showing up the political game.

And the I.W.W. isn't kicking any more at Griffith and Company than we shall when the industrialists come along and repeat the far-fetched tales that have served Mr. Griffith and Holman to such good purpose. After all, the years of the "Labour movement," the employing class are more strongly entrenched, their profits are greater, their lives are more splendid and extravagant. Likewise, the wages of the workers are based by a "Labour movement" Arbitration Court upon the bare cost of subsistence, and sometimes actually below it. After all, Mr. Griffith's self-sacrifice and strenuous jawing, the workers are relatively worse off than what they were when Mr. Griffith found himself on the comfortable cushions for the first time. We still have child-slavery, unemployment parades, gaols (for I.W.W. men), prostitution, food adulteration, charity homes, starvation wages, slums, and all the other things that existed before the "Labour movement" started out to emancipate Mr. Griffith and his partners.

A "Labour movement" of that kind is merely a bunco-steering business. While they howl about "criminality" by the I.W.W., I say that the great bulk have been for years drawing liberal salaries under false pretences. They have filled their own pockets, and then, when a real Labour movement committed, not to "criminal" or "antagonistic" acts, makes its appearance, they use every repressive institution in their control to hamper and oppress the apostles of the New movement.

We not only challenge Mr. Griffith to debate the question before a working audience to justify political action as a weapon of, and for, the workers, but also the industrialists, who are so anxiously waiting for Mr. Griffith and his "Labour movement" to quit.

The I.W.W. has no connection, and never will have, with any political party. The struggle is an economic one. It is within the workshop that the real Labour movement must take its beginnings. "Democracy," "self-government," and "sovereign rights of the people" are bunkum peddled by either knaves or fools. When the Governor has to protect the rights of "democracies" and self-governing communities" from the designs of Mr. Holman, of the "Labour movement," and Mr. Wade, also, we presume, of the "Labour movement," it is time to sling platitudes overboard and get-down to bedrock.

Mr. Griffith's "Labour movement" has been all right—for Mr. Griffith. But its "movements" are uncertain, and spasmodic. But by instinct, its nose is directed towards Potts Point and Park Lane. For it has already achieved its millennium. Directed by the competent and capable hands of Messrs. Hughes, Holman, Spence, Lamond, Griffith, and others, and assisted by Messrs. Cook, Irvine, and Wade, it will sit in judgment upon upstarts like the industrial-politicians, or the non-political I.W.W., shake its hoary locks, lift up its proletarian voice and howl "I.W.W.," "Criminals," "Ballot Box Smashers," etc., until One Big Union arrives and presents them with the business end of a No. 4 Shovel.

PROTESTANT HALL.

Castlereagh-street, Sydney.

MUSICAL EVENING AND LECTURE.

MONDAY, 20th NOV., 1916, at 8 p.m.

FELLOW-WORKER P. LAIDLER, OF MELBOURNE, LECTURES.

Chair: TOM BARKER.

Proceeds for Workers' Defence Fund.

Come Early. Doors open 7 p.m.

Tickets, 6d. Tickets, 6d.

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

Lest You Forget.

WORKING CLASS HEROES.
TO AUSTRALIAN WORKERS.

"Society can forgive murder, adultery and swindling, but it never forgives the preaching of a new Gospel."

—Harrison.

Members of your class are wasting in prison cells because they dared to preach a NEW GOSPEL.

Your fellow-workers are being sacrificed upon the Altar of Class Hatred, in order to satisfy the ruling class lust for vengeance.

Men who fought for your FREEDOM now need your assistance. Are YOU going to help in the fight for THEIR LIBERTY?

REMEMBER, KING, GLYNN, GRANT AND LARKIN.

Their fight was YOUR fight. Their cause is YOUR cause. They belong to YOUR class.

An injury to them is an injury to you. FIGHT FOR THEM! WORK FOR THEM!

If these men remain behind prison walls, the loss and the shame is yours. They need stay in gaol no longer than you wish.

What will you say when your children read from history, and ask you what YOU did in the BIG WAR against working class freedom?

REMEMBER REEVES, TEEN, HAMILTON, AND MOORE.

Money and still more money is needed for the defence of these working class heroes.

Your assistance is necessary—not to fill the gaps, but to assure that there be no gaps to fill.

POUNDS are urgently needed.

SEND THEM ALL!

Wake up! GET A MOVE ON! COME AND HELP! In the fight for the men who fought for YOU!

REMEMBER FAGIN, McPHERSON, BEATTY AND BESANT.

THE TRUMPET CALLS, and if you have a soul that revolts at outrage; if you have a heart that beats for Freedom; if you have a spirit that is worth a DAMN, it is "up to you" to ENLIST AT ONCE in defence of your working class brothers now being railroaded by a savage and relentless master class.

If YOU do not want to see these men CRUCIFIED you will DO YOUR BIT to get the money required to save them.

A. MACK.

I.W.W. in the West.

SCIENCE OF SABOTAGE.

PERTH W.A., Friday.—At the Perth police court the eleven I.W.W. members arrested in connection with the sabotage cases were charged with conspiring with E. M'Loughlin and J. P. Daly, of Broken Hill, Thomas King, F. W. Reeves, and Thomas Glynn of Sydney, and others to raise discontent and disaffection amongst and promote ill will and enmity between the King and his subjects.

The accused men were Michael Sawtell, Montague Miller, Alexander Sarr, Alexander Awarat, Alexander Horrocks, Francisco Sidoti, William Johnstone, John O'Neill, George William Hanscombe, Fredk. Hugh Lunn, and John Goller. O'Neill was the only man on bail.

Mr. Pilkington, K.C., who prosecuted for the Crown, explained the I.W.W. methods and read explanatory extracts from "Sabotage," which the accused received with "hear, hears." He said evidence would be given from which it was inferred that the society had caused destruction by fire, had promulgated the doctrine of "going slow," and had contemplated the destruction of one of the largest public works in the State.

Stanley Reid, constable at Boulder, described the I.W.W. meeting addressed by Sawtell and James Benjamin King. Some 30 men, mostly Austrians and Italians, were present. Sawtell

told the men that they should only half fill the trucks, then sit down till the boss came along. The railway trucks could be sent to the wrong destination by changing labels. Sawtell sold copies of "Sabotage" and "Direct Action." King told the miners that if they came across any gold they should "freeze" to it, and said that in the New Zealand strike he had advised the use of strychnine against the police.

Detective Dempsey stated that a letter from P. J. Daly, Broken Hill, to Horrocks urged him to impress the fact that on the first conscript being called up there must be a general strike throughout Australia. A letter from Sawtell called upon members at Boulder to put the boot into the boss and remember sabotage. There was a card with a drawing thereon and worded "Don't you dare go down that mine till I come back or you will all get killed." A letter from M'Millan, at Corinthian, to Lunn said, "After Christmas we will organise an invasion and invade Boulder, and make things that plain and warm that all honest unionists must flock to our standard." A letter from P. J. Daly to Lunn urged the latter to get up a strike on the wood line and declared, "We have got the slow-down method much in evidence in this little mine (the Corinthian) and the bone heads take kindly to it. If a few will not slow down we sabotage them and they wonder what the hell is the matter; even machines sometimes have the habit of revolting."

The case will occupy several days.

— "Daily Telegraph."

News and Notes.

Dictator Fraser.—The methods of the Railway Commissioner in sacking I.W.W. men are beneath contempt. According to the press reports, Fraser admits they were sacked because they were I.W.W. men. Fraser is employed to manage the Railway in a business capacity, yet seems to think that his position warrants him in setting up a political dictatorship. Possibly, if allowed a free hand in due course, he will be an ecclesiastical inquisitor, and victimise all who do not subscribe to the ethics of Fraser. The ethics of the Railway Commissioner can be summed up in one word—Victimisation. As long as the men do their work, their private political opinions have nothing to do with the Department. Moreover, if Fraser thinks he will stop the I.W.W. men working on the railway by victimising a few individuals, he is very much mistaken. They will get there just the same, and some day, when the railway workers are a little more intelligent, perchance Fraser himself will be sacked, for it is glaring obvious that no autocratic person of political bias should be allowed to manage industry.

The Referenda.—Wilhelm Maltese 'Ughes, speaking on the Referenda in Melbourne, climbed down somewhat from that jingo transfiguration to which he had been elevated during the conscription campaign, and proceeded to lay the blame for the defeat of the Referenda on the I.W.W. We have received so much abuse from conscriptionists that a few allegations and insinuations, more or less, does not trouble us. Apart altogether from the various charges levelled against the I.W.W., there can be no doubt the campaign against conscription waged by the I.W.W. long before the "Lead, Kindly Lighters" stepped into the political arena, laid the foundation of the anti conscription victory in New South Wales.

This paper has no particular desire to poke its nose into the business of the big insurance companies of Australia, but nevertheless, it would be advisable to keep a more than ordinary strict eye on the good business people of this continent since the alleged chemical incendiarism of the I.W.W. has come to light. To the capitalist type of human a vista of easy money opens up for the business payer of premiums when things are slumped financially by means of chemically-soaked waste—Brisbane "Worker."

Direct Action "Bulletin" Bosh. As Others See Us. Public Meeting.



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.

The Oath.

From various parts of the country news comes that men have been sent to gaol for refusing to take the oath. In a country that is supposed to be democratic and with a Labor party in power, the idea of sending a man to gaol for six months because he refuses to take a military oath, sounds drastic. Coming on the defeat of the conscription campaign at the referendum, the sentence savors of Prussianism, if not actual malice.

There was a time when oaths were said to be of social value, but with changing conditions they have lost their supposed significance. Every day in the week oaths are broken, and contracts violated. Numerous cases might be quoted where the co-respondent in a divorce case is guilty, and, as a matter of course, swears on oath he is not. Statesmen, rulers, and capitalists frequently find it convenient to ignore their oaths or break their promises, and they can hardly expect that their example will be ignored by other classes. The stupidity of forcing a called-up man to take an oath against his wish is glaringly apparent. Even if he can be forced at the point of the bayonet, or in any other way intimidated into taking an oath, of what value is such an oath? Intimidation begets resentment, and tends to breed contempt for an oath taken unwillingly, which, under the circumstances, the individual is hardly likely to honour, and can scarcely be expected to do so. To send such an individual to gaol because he refuses to do an action contrary to his moral ideas is a relic of feudalism incompatible with modern ideas.

Further, it is difficult to see what benefit to society accrues in sentences of this character. Apart from the fact that such action is bad socially, morally, and economically, there is the grave danger—a danger that some politicians are slow to admit—of civil rights being superseded by a military despotism lurking in the background.

Not only do these sentences savor of brutality against individuals, but they are a reflection on the intelligence of the community, which allows such travesties on justice to be perpetrated in a democratic country in the twentieth century.

THE WAY TO FREEDOM.

We must destroy all which in the present school answers to the organisation of constraint, the artificial surroundings by which children are separated from nature and life, the intellectual and moral discipline made use of to impose ready-made ideas upon them, beliefs which deprave and annihilate natural bent. Without fear of deceiving ourselves, we can restore the child to the environment which entices it, the environment of nature in which he will be in contact with all that he loves, and in which impressions of life will replace fastidious book learning. If we did no more than that, we should already have prepared in great part the deliverance of the child.—Francisco Ferrar.

A NEW SONG BOOK.

Is under consideration by the Press Committee. It will contain 60 songs, and sell at 6d. wholesale, 4s 6d per dozen, and £16 a thousand. Orders should be placed now.

There can be no doubt the capitalist press love the I.W.W. For the past few weeks they have repeatedly referred to us with endearing epithets such as criminals, assassins, German spies and a host of other aspersions which only goes to show the slimy slander in the sink of which snobbish sheets wallow. Even the "Bulletin," once supposed to be a working-class paper that was always denouncing the fat capitalist, goes out of its way to abuse the I.W.W. in this fashion. "The police raided the I.W.W. quarters in Sydney last week and seized the society's printing plant and there seemed nothing else to do. Muzzling people is poor business, as a rule; for every reform has started with a handful of men, and the handful, as a rule, has had bricks heaved at it. But these people are different. Frankly, they are out first to destroy before they start to build; and a State which has been at a lot of pains to build is entitled to say a word when anybody proposes to use a firestick. And an Australian Government is all the more called upon to put in the plug and stop the flow of I.W.W. poison because the thing appeals here to nobody but defectives. The I.W.W. consists in Australia of only three classes: (1) Foreigners, who rule it; (2) Mental weaklings, who have the idiots' itch for destruction; (3) Perverts and constitutional criminals."

As the "Bulletin" says, every reform has had bricks heaved at it, and on the strength of that this capitalist sheet proceeds to heave another brick. It is incorrect to say we are out to destroy before building up. If the "Bulletin," before making a random statement, just took the trouble to read the I.W.W. preamble, it would find it distinctly stated: By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old. That is distinctly constructive, and has nothing to do with the "Bulletin's" firestick. Again, the preamble says: The army of production must be organised to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. This shows clearly that the I.W.W. is out for industrial control in the future, and is attempting to build up an organisation which will be in a position to administer industry when capitalism shall be on its deathbed. This standpoint has been demonstrated economically sound, and has never been seriously disputed even by the "Bulletin." The whole preamble is constructive in nature, and by no stretch of the imagination can it be termed "an idiot's itch for destruction." If the thing is poison which appeals to nobody but defectives, then why is the "Bulletin" so anxious to stop the flow? Why hysterically call on the Government to put in the plug unless the defectives for whom the "Bulletin" barracks are seized with the idiot's itch for destruction of the I.W.W.?

The misleading statement that foreigners rule the I.W.W. has been time and again disproved. Either the "Bulletin" is woefully ignorant on this matter or is wilfully and maliciously attempting to heave another brick with the object of prejudicing ignorant jingoes against the organisation. Calling people mental weaklings and criminals, especially when no proof is forthcoming, is at best vulgar abuse, ill becoming a professedly respectable journal. The fact is, the "Bulletin" has become too respectable. As the advertising columns of that sheet grew it has lost caste. Opulence frequently does breed mental weaklings, and thus we see the once virile "Bulletin" that posed as the friend of democracy and the foe of the sweeter booming the conscription conspiracy, and in other ways toadying to Tories, in fact, it is doing the "Bulletin" no injustice to say it has degenerated into a jingo journal, whose ideas are but the reflex of the economic interests of its advertisers.

AJAX.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT.

Last week the writer took a trip through the navvies' camp on the Picton to Mitzon railway job, and besides holding two good meetings, the navvies came through with practical support to the amount of £4 17s 6d at the Barco Camp, and £6 0s 9d at the 11-Mile. Rep. Fred Watson carried through the collector's job at Barco, and Mr. Tooby worked hard and successfully at the 11-Mile. The I.W.W. thank the men for their contribution towards the fighting fund, and recognise the feeling of solidarity which accompanies any donation from a navvies' camp.

R. J. F.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY. MENACE OF THE I.W.W.

In the course of his address at the 10th annual meeting of the Pastoralists' Union of Southern Riverina, held in Melbourne, the president (Mr. J. A. Campbell) referred to the intrusion of the I.W.W. element into the working of the pastoral industry, when dealing with the new claims made by the A.W.U.

Mr. Campbell said: "The 1911 Arbitration Court award has now expired, but it is still to remain in force until a new award is made, but the shearing troubles in the past few months in Queensland and northern parts of New South Wales have shown us that the Arbitration Court award as interpreted was a farce. The A.W.U. officials were desirous that its members should loyally abide by it, and officially notified them to this effect, but they were unable to control a certain section of their members who advocated direct action and who adopted the despicable and dishonourable course of refusing to abide loyally by the award or by their union and took advantage of the scarcity of men, caused by so many men going to the war, and the adverse conditions that faced the sheepowners. The Arbitration Court, though appealed to, could grant no relief, on the ground that the award rates were minimum rates, AND THAT THERE WAS NO BREACH OF THE AWARD IN A MAN REFUSING HIS SERVICES AT THOSE RATES 'as it was all a matter of contract.' Unless the Arbitration Court will in the future fix a standard rate of wages, and not a minimum wage, to be paid by employers in the industry that will bind both sides, the pastoral industry throughout Australia will be thrown into such a state of chaos and unrest that it must prejudicially affect not only the pastoralists and their employees, but the whole country at large, the prosperity of which depends to such a large extent on the successful conduct of our own and other primary industries. Recent events in Sydney and other parts of New South Wales must surely open the eyes of the respectable and decent-minded members of the A.W.U., who must be in a very large majority, to the goal that a certain section of its members, who dub themselves I.W.W., are aiming at, and it is quite time that they expelled this disreputable and disloyal section from their union, or they will end by destroying it, as the dastardly and criminal actions of these men will raise the hand of every respectable, law-abiding man and woman in the whole community against them. Notwithstanding ominous indications of trouble, shearing in Riverina has been completed without incident."

Mr. R. O. Blackwood said that the trades unions were probably making greater efforts now than ever before to undermine not only the pastoral industry, but all other industries in Australia. The I.W.W. had rendered matters very acute. Whether or not it was going to prove a bad thing in the end was open to question. The same force, now marshalled under the banner of the I.W.W., now seemed to be casting off all who were not extremists, and their actions, in this time of war, were so disgusting many people, including thousands of unionists, that he thought an endeavor would be made before long to get rid of them. LEST THEY WRECKED UNIONISM. THAT OPINION WAS HELD BY MANY UNION SECRETARIES AND PRESIDENTS WITH WHOM HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION. If that were true the extreme actions of the I.W.W. would prove a blessing in disguise. The aim of the I.W.W. was the confiscation of property, and to make it impossible for those now holding it to earn interest, eventually wiping out capital value in the hope of becoming owners themselves. THEN GOD HELP AUSTRALIA!

—Sydney Morning Herald, 8/11/16.

THE DOOM OF EMPIRES.

The traveller standing amid the ruins of ancient cities and empires, seeing on every side the fallen pillars and the prostrate walls, asks why these cities fall, why did these empires crumble? And the Ghost of the Past, the wisdom of ages, answers: These temples, these palaces, these cities, the ruins of which you stand upon, were built by tyranny and injustice. The hands that built them were unpaid. The backs that bore the burdens also bore the marks of the lash. They were built by slaves to satisfy the vanity and ambition of thieves and robbers. For these reasons they are dust.

Their civilisation was a lie. Their laws merely regulated robbery and established theft. They bought and sold the bodies and soul of men, and the mournful wind of desolation sighing amid their crumbling ruins, is a voice of prophetic warning to those who would repeat the infamous experiment, uttering the great truth, that no nation founded upon slavery, either of body or mind, can stand.

R. G. INGERSOLL.

On Monday, Nov. 6th, a very successful meeting was held in the Protestant Hall. The meeting was organised by the I.W.W. for the purposes of giving publicity to the treason trial and to raise funds for the defence of the stalwarts in gaol.

As the Protestant Hall is opposite the fire station, timid people had no occasion to get alarmed over alleged I.W.W. fires, and consequently the public rolled up in large numbers.

The I.W.W. band ably rendered several selections in front of the hall at 7.30. The literature sellers were also active amongst the crowd. A little before 8 p.m. Miss Nelson played the piano inside for the benefit of the waiting audience, which had now fully occupied the basement, and were beginning to utilise the gallery.

Punctually at 8, N. Rancie (Chairman) opened the proceedings. T. Barker gave an interesting lecture, which was greeted with rounds of applause. J. Wilson followed, and in the course of a lengthy address showed up the motives underlying the persecution meted out to the I.W.W. both here and in other States. While he was speaking a shower of unsolicited coins were thrown on the stage. At the conclusion of his speech, three cheers were given for the men-in-gaol.

The meeting was very enthusiastic throughout. "Direct Action" sold well, and there was a good collection.

THE STADIUM FIGHT.

To the unknowing it might seem strange that a young, healthy, lusty, fit boy like Les Darcy should prefer his liberty, and a sound constitution, rather than take part in the war, when his King and Country need him.

I was up at the Stadium fight the other night and took notice of the keen interest displayed in the fights there. I also noticed the number of fine-strapping, healthy Johns that would be quite capable of stopping a bullet instead of loafing round in a conspicuous manner.

Strange it is that the large number of exempts, misfits, degenerates, and other parasites should how loudly at the Stadium exhibition. Puff the average misfit conscriptionist in Les Darcy's place, or in the place of any one of the boys that toe the mark in the Stadium ring, and he would be a cold corpse in the space of three minutes. Yet, they loudly denounce a clean fighting sport, of which they have no conception.

I was comparing the tactics exhibited in the ring to the tactics exhibited by the Parliamentary shufflers, per Hughes and Co.

To the clean, above-board fighting qualities of the average pugilist, and the miserable, hypocritical, lying, under-handed scheming of the plutocratic politicians.

Foul play and dirty tricks are condemned at the Stadium. Yet these things are the very elements of the politicians.

When muscle is knit to train, when the whole body from head to foot tingles with the glow of health and fitness, when grit and staying power are the necessary factors, when manhood, capacity to take punishment, and real fighting qualities are essential, then the real press, the pulpiteres, the politicians are so much scurvy dregs that stench in the nostrils of clean-minded men and women in comparison.

What the clean, fighting boys in the ring are doing in the physical field, the I.W.W. is doing in the social atmosphere, sweeping away the degenerates and the unfit. The merciless mercenary profit hunters who bring about a condition of things where men are slaughtered by machinery in droves and thousands are so much cattle or waste, ought to take a lesson from the ring, which their craven souls would never enter.

Fancy calling a boy like Les Darcy, with innumerable others, a shirker.

WYATT JONES.

DEFENCE FUND.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following amounts for the above fund, per F. W. Clark:—

- J. Clark, 10/; Mrs. Clark, 5/; C. Clark, 5/;
- T. Williams, 2/; W. Bunting, 1/; C. Bains, 1/;
- H. Smith, 1/; F. Hayes, 1/; F. Towns, 2/6;
- A. Blackler, 1/; F. Grant, 1/; P. King, 2/; G. Sykes, 1/; H. Bowman, 2/; F. Garrick, 1/;
- G. Cowell, 1/; S. Hayes, 2/; G. Larsen, 1/;
- E. Ferrier, 2/6; J. Tumely, 1/; C. Shears, 1/;
- Ryan, 2/; T. Scully, 1/; E. Galvin, 2/; W. Coleman, 2/; R. Barry, 1/; J. Rowan, 10/; total, £3/3/.

STANWELL PARK CONSTRUCTION NOTES

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums per Mr. B. Scully local treasurer of the above fund. Many thanks:—

- Gang No. 14, £1/5; Gang No. 11, £2/8/6;
- Gang No. 12, 14/6; Gang No. 7, £1/9/6; Gang No. 1, £2/8/6; Gang No. 13, 11/; Gang No. 10, 1/2/; Gang No. 6, £1/13/9; Gang No. 4, £1/7/;
- Gang No. 6, 3/; Gang No. 5, 9/; total, £13/0/0.

Labour in America.

On November 11th, 1886, several workers were judicially murdered. They are known as the Chicago martyrs. The following article by A. Berkman in "The Blast," shows that although forty years have elapsed the capitalist leopard has not changed its spots.

The big mass meeting in Dreamland Rink, on the eve of the trial of Warren K. Billings, was a significant and timely expression of the attitude of the workers of San Francisco in the cases of the labor men accused of the "dynamite conspiracy." No intelligent man in that vast audience could fail to realize that there is indeed a sinister conspiracy under way. But the labor defendants are not of the conspirators. These latter are to be sought in other quarters. The mask was torn from the face of the prosecution and the ugly catbait exposed to public gaze when Bob Minor, in a voice solemn and impressive, declared:

"I want Mr. Fickert's servants here to-night to repeat this to him: a man can be murdered as easily and more safely with a legal rope than with a bomb. And, Mr. Fickert, whether it be dishonesty or whether it be stupidity, try to understand that these men are not to be and cannot be lynched."

1886 and 1916! It was in 1886 that seven men were condemned to death for having initiated the eight-hour movement. The Citizens' Association of Chicago, composed of Board of Trade men, bankers and other open shop advocates, had raised a big fund to kill the demand for the shorter day and stifle the voices of its chief spokesmen, the Chicago Anarchists. They contributed 100,000 dollars to reward the prizes that sent our comrades to the gallows.

Now, thirty years later, an attempt is made to repeat the heinous performance. In the year of the Lord 1916, the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco has raised a million-dollar fund to exterminate organized labor and turn San Francisco into an open shop city. Now again a conspiracy is being hatched to crucify the most active labor elements.

But in vain! 1886 is past, and with it have gone the conditions that permitted our noble comrades to be sacrificed on the altar of greed and corruption. As Bob Minor so well said, in 1916 the labor prisoners "are not to be and cannot be lynched." The country, the workers, have made some progress since the perpetration of that blackest crime in the annals of American history, the judicial murders of 1887.

Four days before the great eight-hour strike of 1886, and only one week before the Haymarket tragedy, the New York "Times," organ of the railroads and banks, said editorially:

"The strike question is, of course, the dominant one, and is disagreeable in a variety of ways. A short and easy way to settle it is urged in some quarters, which is to indict for conspiracy every man who strikes, and summarily lock him up. This method would undoubtedly strike a wholesome terror into the hearts of the working classes. Another way suggested is to pick up the leaders and make such an example of them as would scare others into submission."—N. Y. "Times," April 25, 1886.

Other expressions were:—
"The best policy would be to drive working-men into open mutiny against the law."—N. Y. "Tribune," April 25, 1886.
"Give them the rifle diet and see how they like that kind of bread."—Tom Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

"The simplest plan, probably, when one is not a member of the Humane Society, is to put arsenic in the supplies of food furnished the unemployed."—Chicago "Tribune."

Thus the press in the days of the Haymarket. Would any newspaper to-day dare express such sentiments? I doubt it.

We have advanced. The Chicago Anarchists were hanged because they were Anarchists. They were not charged with the throwing of the Haymarket bomb, nor even with any knowledge concerning it. They were condemned because they were social heretics, and because they served labour faithfully and initiated the eight-hour movement.

To-day, in 1916, thanks to the efforts of the martyred Chicago Anarchists and other friends of labor—to-day the President of the United States begs the workers to accept the eight-hour day.

The world do move.

Seldom have the workers been so openly and brazenly tricked as were the New York car men in the settlement of their strike of a few weeks ago. Taken by surprise and being unprepared, the Interborough agreed to recognise the union, and the men returned to work on the solemn promise that their other grievances would be discussed by a conference of the representatives of the company with those of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Railway Employees. Should these be unable to come to a settlement, the matter was to be submitted to arbitration.

But no sooner did the men return to work than the company began to eliminate the active union men. It organised a "union" of its own, forced its men to sign individual contracts not

to strike for three years, and then refused to deal with the Amalgamated.

When these developments became public, even some of the most conservative papers of New York branded the proceedings as perfidious. A general strike of all rapid transit workers of New York is now on, and it is to be hoped that the Amalgamated will profit by the example of the Railroad Brotherhoods. It is not to the point, in this connection, what the new Congressional eight-hour law may or may not do for the men. Its significance lies in the demonstrated power of solidaric labor to force an issue and to bring the industrial magnates, as well as the government, to their knees.

Of course, no one doubts the sincerity of the Chamber of Commerce in its widely advertised stand for "law and order." We have been informed on reliable authority that Koster and his gentlemen of commerce also "have a heart" and that their hearts are bleeding for the widows and orphans of the bomb tragedy. We do not doubt it. Have they not asked the public to raise thousands of dollars for the bereaved families? They have even made personal contributions.

Only one family seems to have escaped the humanitarian notice of Koster and Co. No tears were shed by the Commercial Chamber for the widow of Olson and her five orphans so cruelly robbed of husband, father and supporter. No fund has been raised, and not a penny contributed by Koster and Co. for this bereaved family. Is it possible they were overlooked in the general scramble to get press notices for the Chamber of Commerce?

We feel confident that it is only necessary to call the attention of the gentlemen of the Chamber to this sad case, to secure their immediate interest and support. For surely no one will be so mean as to believe that Widow Olson and her fatherless children were so pitilessly neglected by Mr. Koster only because Olson, the longshoreman, happened to be killed by Homer Waters, the negro ex-convict employed by Koster's Law and Order Committee as a gunman during the recent Longshoremen's strike.

Waters shot and killed Olson in cold blood. Surely the Law and Order Committee would thoroughly investigate the matter, if they were informed about the case. Surely they would take drastic measures to have the unprovoked murder punished!

Yes, they already have. One of the ablest and most expensive criminal lawyers of San Francisco, R. Porter Ashe, was retained by the Law and Order Committee—to prosecute the murderer, as they prosecute the culinary pinks, for instance? Oh, no. The Chamber hired Ashe to defend the murderous gunman. The least experienced assistant of the District Attorney's office was selected to prosecute the case and strange to say—Waters, though convicted by the jury, is to be turned loose on probation. While in jail he was receiving a weekly cheque of 12.00 dollars.

The moral of the story is: The murderer of strikers earns the support of the Chamber of Commerce.

WORKING CLASS AUDACITY.

HOW A STRIKE STARTED.

DARWIN, Thursday.—The steamer Houtman arrived from southern ports to-day with a large general cargo. The work of discharge proceeded so satisfactorily, but this evening the work was held up without warning.

This is the dispute:—In landing a sling of cargo a wharf laborer, a young Russian, was knocked out of a truck against the side of the steamer, and he was subsequently picked up from the water slightly injured. The captain of the vessel saw the accident, ordered a stretcher and pillows, and had the ship's doctor in attendance immediately. When the man had been attended to the captain was stated to have been heard to remark that it served him right. The captain denies, however, that he said this, or anything approaching it. He says that he remarked that the accident was the man's own fault.

The wharf laborers, however, held a meeting, and decided that unless the captain apologised for his remark that it served the man right they would cease work. The captain firmly declined to apologise for a remark which he states he did not make, and there the matter stands. The captain is on his first voyage to Australia, and expresses much surprise and concern that such a matter should cause a vessel of over 5000 tons to be held up while laden with a heavy cargo for overseas ports and carrying a large passenger list. There are about 900 tons of cargo still in the steamer to be discharged here.—"Daily Telegraph."

SUPPRESSION OF THE TRUTH.

All truth is safe, and nothing else is safe; and he who keeps back the truth or withholds it from men, from motives of expediency, is either a coward, or a criminal, or both.—Max Muller.

WANTED

A file of Volume I. of "Direct Action" is wanted at this office. Forward price of same.

A Woman's View. Our Growing Press

MR. STOREY AND THE I.W.W.

During an interview with Mr. Storey (member for Daley) I was amazed to hear him say that he was led to believe the I.W.W. was on a par with the Black Hand Society of America. That their doctrine was to murder assassinate, burn and destroy property, so long as the perpetrator thought it would benefit the society. Also that the oath of membership was so binding that there was no escaping it. He also stated there is a movement on hand to deport every member, as once a member always a member. As my visit to him was entirely on business, and other persons were waiting I felt it would be a breach of etiquette to start an argument, but I felt I would like to introduce him to Fellow-workers Wilson and Farrell. I told Mr. Storey in the highest of esteem, and have found him to be generally broadminded, and it was a setback to learn that he had gathered his knowledge of the I.W.W. from the capitalistic press or some slave driver, whose aim it is to abolish the organisation. He mentioned the recent fire, and I suggested that the master class were not above doing that sort of thing to gain insurance. He agreed that possibly a lot of them would trade on the I.W.W. It is likely that Mr. Storey, being a busy man, has not had time to give the thing a thorough study, and will later form other ideas. It is really astounding to find the number of people who have the same idea, but the majority of such do not read anything but the penny dailies. They have no intellect, and no ambition to raise themselves above the daily routine of sweating and starving to put profit into the masters' pocket.

Some years ago, in the Western districts of N.S.W., when the A.W.U. was weak and struggling, the members were accused of all the crimes imaginable, burning woolsheds and haystacks, poisoning water tanks, etc., etc., but that don't happen now. The A.W.U. is an established fact, and the squatter fears it. You cannot gull all the people all the time, and no doubt the I.W.W. will also survive the cowardly attacks of its infancy. It would be an injustice to pack the crimes of each wharf labourer on to his union, and the I.W.W. demands as fair a deal.

Each of our members committed for treason had not a previous conviction (except for agitating), or an alias tacked on to his name, but some people are conveniently blind at times. A lady said to me, "Most of the members of the I.W.W. profess no religion, and men who are not God-fearing would do anything." My answer was I, myself, profess no religion, but I am God-fearing. I do not believe in sweating in a factory all day to give my money to any one religious body, but still I'm a Christian. As for deporting our members, if each man and woman is deported it will arouse the interest of the whole of Australia, and the seeds of enlightenment and truth already sown will bear fruit in abundance. When I went to record my vote on the 28th a man was propped up against a post reading a copy of "Direct Action." I felt so overcome with joyous emotion at the unexpected appearance of our paper (in big black letters, too) that it was an effort to keep myself from embracing the reader. We are, indeed, to be congratulated in having a man with such grit and dogged persistence as Tom Barker.

MAY HOUGHTON.

CONSCRIPTION.

AMALGAMATED COACHMAKERS' SOCIETY, SYDNEY BRANCH.

On the motion of Messrs. Mowbray and Ritchie—"That we notify congress that the Coachmakers' Society guarantee to pay their share of the expenses of the defence of its members re the Proclamation, and that we, as an industrial body, stand by our members in solidarity." Carried unanimously.

The benefit concert and dance organised by Fellow-worker Brice's work mates, for the benefit of Mrs. Brice, was held at the Oxford Hall, 27th October, and was very successful. The hall was packed by an appreciative audience, while the programme was of the best. The sale of tickets resulted in a profit of £60, which has been handed to Mrs. Brice.

IMPORTANT.

Correspondents sending all important communications, or monies, should register their letters. The use of sealing wax is recommended on ordinary occasions.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

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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 posters and stickers case, the hundred and one strikes of the year, are contained within the volume.

It also includes "Cresset's" satire, 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 volumes left.

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.

Spasms.

(By Tom Barker.)

The Newtown Branch of the Australasian Socialist Party has passed a resolution strongly condemning the proposed action of the Holman-Wade National Party in prolonging the life of Parliament. They say that it is a grave interference with the rights of a democracy. We opine also that it is a grave interference with the aspirations of new political parties. The only way that we can see out of the difficulty is for the Newtown branch, as "a political organisation," to send a deputation to Comrade Sir Gerald Strickland, and ask for his assistance in the matter. He has the power to declare government by proxy, remove the present administration from office, or declare martial law.

The management who are producing Brieux's famous play, dealing with the red plague, "Damaged Goods," at a Sydney theatre, issued a card to the patrons, asking for their opinions. One Ada Holman, in her reply to the question, stated that venereal disease was not a matter for the dramatist, but rather for the scientist and legislator. Our opinion is that while dramatists and scientists may be of invaluable assistance in dealing with the plague, our legislators (which is only a toney name for phonographs) will be as ineffective, as they have been over every other social question, except that of lining their own pockets.

William the Frantic is giving his little throat a rest, and allowing his brain to have a turn. Politicians are usually of two classes, one frothy, superficial and noisy and the other dumb, silent and backward. The last-named has learned the lesson that people who know nothing should be quiet. Then they get the reputation of being strong, and men of few words, and usually have the laugh of the windbags in the long run.

The coal strike is still on. The "Herald" is talking "civil war" on the miners. This dinky old marm is the prize "sooler on" in Sydney town. She loves a fight—when she looks on. Anyway the miners can afford to grin at the old hag with the yellow fangs. If you put the editorial staff into a mine to get coal, you wouldn't get enough coal to cover a politician's soul.

While the miners are out on strike, and coal has been declared "black," any one travelling along the South Coast railway can see hard-working members of various other unions handling and loading the coal. If you suggest for a moment that they are scabbing, out will come a union card, and the information that their union is not out on strike. As Oscar Ameringer says in "Union Seals and Others," "My dear brother, I am sorry to hang you, but I know that will please you to know that the scab-fold was made by union carpenters, the rope bears the union label, and here is my union card."

There are three kinds of seals. The first variety generally consists of deadbeats, college students, solicitors, sky pilots and other undesirable citizens. The second variety generally are skilled and unscrupulous and scab as a business and get a good living out of it. The third seal is the scab that don't know that he is a scab, and he carries a trade union card, which he produces on every available occasion. Mr. Haynes, M.L.A., in a strong indictment of the present Parliamentary administration, called attention to the way in which the Holman Government was bringing its own laws into disrepute. He showed that it would be as impossible to stop the L.W.W. movement by gaozing them under outworn laws, as it was for the Wade Government to smash the miners' strike by gaozing Peter Bowling. Said also that he belonged to the L.W.W.—the Macquarie-street section. The Macquarie-street section are expelled from now on.

The daily press are nervous over the result of the conscription campaign. The frantic howls of Lamond and Company and the childish rubbish of the "Mirror" are, fortunately, missing. The politicians have backed the wrong horse, being politicians. The sky pilots and fire escapes were also disappointed. The workers are getting wise to the bunco-steerers and spell-binders whose ideas would give an anthropoidal ape lockjaw and D.T.'s.

The "Globe," a highly respectable penny dreadful emanating from the chaste office of the "Sunday Chimes," has made the horrible discovery "that the L.W.W. intends to confine the employing class in the cellars of hell." No, "Ma Globe," we have a worse punishment for them than that. We would lock them up in the smoke-room of the Hotel Australia and give them a copy of the "Globe" to read.

William the Frantic has again lifted up his melodious and entrancing voice. After again evoking the wrath of the Gods on the L.W.W. he stated that all men called up under the Pro-

clamation were to be disbanded after serving a month. That will serve the purpose of displacing thousands of males from industry and introducing women and girls in their place. The working men should keep their weather eye upon William and all his clan. And trust him as far as they can throw him. Alas, William, the Silent!

A musical evening with a lecture thrown in will be celebrated at the Protestant Hall on Monday, the 20th November. Fellow-worker Percy Laidler, of Melbourne, is down for the talk, and Tom Barker is in the chair. The L.W.W. are going to enjoy themselves. Come early. The tickets are sixpence each, and the profit goes to the legal defence of the lads in Long Bay. The last turn-out brought in £30, and we hope to improve next week. Motor-cars 10.5 p.m.

A lecture was delivered at Coledale on Friday evening, 10th November, by Tom Barker. There was a fairly large audience, who started operations with the "Red Flag." Mr. D. McGhee, president of the local lodge, was in the chair. The lecture was well received, and some questions answered. Other lectures are to follow fortnightly. A propaganda local is in the process of formation at Coledale and Scarborough.

Send in the dough for the new press. Don't forget to register it. The address is 28 Francis-street, Sydney. Box 98, and 403 Sussex-street are Honkus.

"Direct Action" is alive. Want some subscriptions and bundle orders. Say, you, Red, out back, let's see your trail. The L.W.W. don't quit. It's a bad habit. Get your hand in. People are curious to see "Direct Action." It is the only paper with a history in this country. Send in your money, L.W.W.'s. Put yourself on the map.

The Coal Strike.

It is just seven years since the famous coal strike in which Peter Bowling was bludgeoned under Wade's coercion act took place, but although the strike was a failure and the miners' grievances were temporarily lost sight of by the public the economic causes of that great upheaval remained and have forced another coal strike which unless quickly patched up threatens to assume serious industrial chaos.

Yesterday nobody thought about the miners, like the slaves of antiquity, they were looked down on as hewers of wood and delvers of water. The public was too busy deciding how they would vote on the referendum. People were greatly interested in a political crisis. Some were busy reading the reports on German atrocities, others were speculating on the chances of horses in the Melbourne Cup. Many were deeply interested in the latest society scandal, the doings of Darcy and other trifles, till suddenly the miners struck and the mugs woke up. The press pretended to be shocked, society was amazed, and the ignorant wondered whether German influences were at work. What is it that has induced thousands of men to risk unemployment and starvation? Just this, the miners want an eight hour day, a thing which is supposed to be law in Australia, an ideal that shortly the unions will celebrate with banners and processions. For years the miners have tried by constitutional means to obtain this very modest request. Governments have promised them it, law has made a feint at legalising it, the coal barons have pretended to arbitrate on the matter, but all to no purpose. As long as the miner toiled and moiled in the bowels of the earth for the thing that is the life force of commercialism and the sustainer of civilisation, nobody cared what perils he faced or what hardships he endured.

Sidetracked by the politicians, fooled by the law, and tricked by the proprietors, the miners were forced to take drastic action. Sick of political trickery, legal procrastination and the damnable economic conditions that forces men to burrow like rabbits to coin untold wealth for the mine magnates, while only receiving a bare subsistence for their labor, the miners in just resentment flung down their tools and put out their lamps. Could any reasonable person blame them? Their demands were very modest, their patience prolific and their cause just. Not so, thinks the capitalist press, which is full of the atrocities supposed to be committed by the Prussians, but has never a word to say about the atrocities that take place in the mines. What of the numerous mining accidents due to the refusal of the coal barons to provide proper safety appliances? What of the ill-

ness caused by badly ventilated mines? What of the thousands of men who are sent to an early grave by miners phthisis? What have the organs of fat to say about these things? The capitalist press is strangely silent ament these matters, instead it has only abuse and insinuation for the miners. Some go further, and with the malice begotten of greed and mental prostitution denounce the miners in frenzied language. According to so-called "righteous defenders of legitimate business against mob rule," the miners are a bad lot, who are taking advantage of the position to bully hard-working coal barons who frequently spend their time not digging coal, but running after fast horses and faster women. The old bogies ament public opinion and the community are trotted out, but not a word is said re the real causes of the strike.

As time goes on factories close down, transport services are curtailed, prices rise, unemployment increases and industry languishes and a wail from many public persons goes forth "settle the coal strike." Unimportant people vainly trying to appear important suggest ways and means to stop the coal famine, but meanwhile the mines are idle, we realise that coal is king, and that labour power and labor power alone can solve the problem.

Who but the miners can settle the business equitably. Not the Government, for the Government is the executive of vested interests. Not the church even if it would, for the church has long ago sold itself body and soul, blood and divinity to him that hath and renounced all ideals of social righteousness when wealth occupied the pews. Not the daily press, for the press is only the spokesman of plutocracy. Not the law, for the law has never attempted to rectify the miners' wrongs, and has become the instrument of class tyranny garbed in the cloak of Justice. Before the power of organised labor the protestations of politicians, the prayers of priests, judicial judgments and the arbitrary decrees of coal barons are mere leaves scattered by the winds of industrial revolt. Today coal is King, Wilhelm of Potsdam or Wilhelm of Pymont cut a sorry figure in this crisis. The miners are the men that count. It is no use unthinking people blaming the men, for if they are human they could not have acted otherwise. The public are themselves to blame, for as long as they allow a few magnates to own the mines there will always be a conflict of economic interests. If a national commodity is to be the prerogative of individuals, then it should belong to the miners. The coal to those who delve for it. Further, if the public has no consideration for the miners it cannot expect the miners to consider it. If the miners have no rights they can have no duties. It is well to bear this in mind, because society sheets speak as if there was a third party—the public—who is a principal in this dispute. There are really only two parties, the robber and the robbed. There is only one party who has a right to regulate the conditions governing the mines, that party is the miners. They are the only people who understand mining, they are the only people who are in a position to judge. They are the men who, year in and year out, toil with the shadow of disease and death hanging over them in dark pits, surely no one will be so mean as to deny them decent conditions, or to assert that they should be denied a little of life's sunshine.

In fighting for better conditions for themselves they are indirectly benefiting society for shorter hours, means better health, less accidents, happier homes and higher intelligence among the men concerned, a state of affairs which, sooner or later, reacts on the community. The miners, consciously or unconsciously, are also taking another step along the road of progress that leads to the goal of human freedom.

AJAX.

LIBERTY OR DEATH.

Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.—Patrick Henry.

WHAT HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN.

Everywhere the strong have made the laws and oppressed the weak; and, if they have sometimes consulted the interests of society, they have always forgotten those of humanity.—Turgot.

All unsigned articles are written or collated by the editor, J. A. Kinman, 403 Sussex-street, Sydney.

Why?

Poor Jean, for fifteen francs per week, Did plough, and plough, and plough. The wherefore he did ever seek— He knows the wherefore now. He knows, although he ploughed and ploughed, To reason he was not allowed.

Poor, honest Jean—he dwelt in France— Nigh on the German borders. A Frenchman, with no earthly chance Than do his master's orders: He pushed the plough and ploughed the sod, And prayed unto his master's God.

Big Hans—one hundred yards away— Did also plough and plough; He ploughed for two mere marks per day; He knew not why nor how.

And yet there was—although unseen— A boundary line unseen, between.

A boundary line—where was that line? They neither knew, nor cared. Did you or I traverse that land We had their mystery shared. They merely knew "something was wrong," So sang together Labour's song.

Let History, which never fails To measure, or to weigh— Tell the Gospel of the ancient times And the Logic of to-day, For came to Hans that sergeant bold—"Go shoot that Frenchman," he was told.

And came to Jean, the sergeant too— A huge thug, bound in gold; "Go slay that dog—that friend of thine, As the days of old." So Jean slew Hans and Hans slew Jean— No Christian to stand between.

Yet Hans and Jean were ever friends; And ploughed they side by side; They knew no boundary nor lands— No matter what betide; They had no quarrel—yet they die. Who dare assert the reason WHY? S. W.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Treason Trial.—Next Monday the stalwarts who have been rotting in jail for some weeks are to be tried. The charges, which have been changed, now shorn of their legal jargon, amount to conspiracy and arson. These cases have aroused a good deal of interest in the Commonwealth, and they will probably go down in history as an important event in Labour circles. It is injudicious to make any comment at this stage on the matters leading up to the trial. The affair, whatever the result, is likely to be a costly business, and funds are needed to defend these men and provide for their dependents. The secretary will be pleased to accept donations to the Defence Fund, which will be duly acknowledged.

We not print any Inter-State news this week, having received none. We are not quite sure whether our correspondents are "going slow," or the post office has taken to sabotage.

The usual week-end activities were indulged in by the propagandists in Sydney. The weather was somewhat unkind on Sunday, but still a large crowd attended the Domain meeting. In the evening N. Rancie lectured to a packed audience in the Hall on Victimisation. "Direct Action" sold well, and collections for weeks were good.

If you saw a dog going down the street backwards, the tail wagging the dog, you'd think it the funniest sight you ever saw. A few capitalists controlling a great mass of producers is just as funny, but you haven't caught the joke yet. And when you do see it you are going to be too mad to laugh. The capitalists are very patriotic. They are willing to sacrifice the lives of a million of their wage slaves to uphold "national honor."—"Scott County Kicker."

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

DEFENCE FUND.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums from some of the boys at the railway shops:— J.W. 7/6, A.F. 2/, T.R. 1/, W.R.G. 1/4, R.S. 1/, J.T. 1/, T.B. 1/, G.C. 1/, C.S. 1/, M.H. 2/6, P.C. 1/, J.S. 2/, J.W.E. 1/, W., O'Brien 1/6; total, £14/4/6.

Published by Tom Barker of 28 Francis St., Sydney, for the Industrial Workers of the World, at 403 Sussex St., Sydney, and printed by H. Cook and Co., 200 Castlereagh St., Sydney.